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## President's Message

### 'Acts of God'

Recent weather eruptions have caused great alarm, prompting fears that they mark a new climate pattern. Extreme hurricanes, melting Alpine glaciers, extended droughts which cause failed harvests and wildfires, multiple super tornadoes: all these and more make us wonder what is happening. We are fascinated by weather extremes even as we are horrified by the sight of many, including children, killed by their fury. Sometimes the most catastrophic ones are termed "acts of God"!



Rather we hope for a summer of warm weather when we can have our backyard barbecues (if we live in suburbia) or block parties (if we are in an urban area) or a bicycle ride along the river (if we are so situated). Predictable weather. That's what we plan on and what we long for.

Predictability brings tranquility and, frankly, tranquility suits me just fine. It might even reflect what I want of my spiritual life.

But is tranquility the promise of our life in Christ?

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PT/Stefani Manowski

Of the many Paulists gathered for the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Mass May 19 were Father Steven Bell, CSP (far left) associate director at Busted Halo, New York City; Father Ed Nowak, CSP, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin; Father John J. Kenney, CSP, scholar in residence, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Father Kevin Devine, CSP, senior ministry, Paulist Fathers New York City; Father Steve Bossi, CSP, associate pastor St. Peter's Church, Toronto; Father Tom Ryan, CSP, director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue, Washington, D.C.; and Father Ron Roberson, CSP, associate director for the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

## Centennial celebration

### *Paulist community gathers for 100th Anniversary of St. Paul's College*

By Stefani Manowski

One hundred years ago, the cornerstone was laid for a building that would be the foundation of a legacy of faith for many generations of Paulists. And so Paulist priests, students, alumni and friends gathered May 17-19 to celebrate a milestone in Paulist history: the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

"For most Paulists over the last 100 years, St. Paul's College was the place where they learned what it means to be a priest, to be a Paulist, to be a brother," said Father Michael B. McGarry, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers. Father McGarry was the main

celebrant and homilist for the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Mass May 19, Pentecost Sunday.

"There they absorbed Hecker's vision of a mission to North America and there their roots were nourished," Father McGarry continued. "Finally, as an educational institution, St. Paul's College gathered generations of Paulist faculty who taught philosophy, theology, history, creative writing, missiology, public speaking, and the myriad skills required for a Mission to Main Street. What a rich blessing for us, what a blessing for the American Church!"

The anniversary weekend began on the evening of May 17 with a keynote

*Continued on Pages 4-5*





Photo courtesy St. Philip Neri Church

Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry (center with hands raised) celebrates the May 22 Mass that closed the 100th anniversary year at St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore. Also on the altar are Father Ricky Manalo, CSP (from left); Father John Hurley, CSP; Father Ted Vierra, CSP; Father Les Sieg, former pastor; Father Steve Bossi, CSP; Father Rich Colgan, CSP; Father Charlie Brunick, CSP; Father Tom Dove, CSP (behind Father Brunick); Father Jim Kolb, CSP; and Father Jim McCauley, CSP.

## Spiritual 'acts of God' help us live life to the full

*Continued from Page 1*

Indeed, there are times when I "go to Church" because I just want to chill out, center myself, clear my head, and have a few uninterrupted moments to myself. But is that the promise Jesus made to his followers?

A cursory reading of the Gospels reveals that Jesus did not say, "I came that they might start going to Church for a restful hour without distraction"! Rather he came that we might have life, and life to the full.

American essayist Annie Dillard captured, in her *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, a bit of what I'm trying to get at here. Reflecting on the experience of American Christians "going to Church" and the pulpit message they hear, Dillard observed, "Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely invoke? ... [In our Churches, as we file in, we] should all be wearing crash helmets, ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares. They should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return." If she's right – and, in a profound way, I think she is – those jolting "acts of God" we encounter might not be about weather outside the church but the Holy Spirit's profound reorientation inside us and inside our communities.

Far from gathering as a Christian community as we might prepare for an hour in the spa to be massaged and made to relax, we gather as Jesus' followers so that the Holy Spirit may ignite us, set us on fire to engage the coming week – especially in the week's deadly corners and traps. After lively worship that engages one another, feeds us with the Word of God and nourishes at the table of the Lord ("The Mass is

ended, go forth and be a sign of peace!"), we bring Christ's very life to those, for example, who mourn the death of a parent, to those whose heart is broken by a relationship rupture, or to those who have had their hearts set on a particular job only to be handed one more rejection slip or to those working for a just wage in the marketplace. Our gathering around the table of the Lord is not so much to insulate ourselves from the pain of the world, but precisely to make us even more sensitive and committed to alleviating it.

(Yes, I know that there are times when we ourselves need to be comforted at the Eucharistic table: to comfort the afflicted is one part of the message, for another time; to afflict the comfortable is this issue's column.)

Since Pentecost, we recognize that in our Christian lives, we may well be exposed to new "acts of God" which, far from tranquility, may shake us in the direction of surprising new ways of bringing life and life to the full to our families, our co-workers, our fellow students, our neighbors, or our fellow subway riders.

We Paulists commit ourselves to bringing Christ's full message, both because we are committed to Christ and his Church, and because we love our fellow Americans. It may, at its best, be a wild ride, but this "act of God" will most certainly bring life, and life to the full.

**Very Rev. Michael B. McGarry, CSP**  
*President of the Paulist Fathers*



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# ‘Hope and inspiration’

*Third reconciliation symposium draws hundreds to Boston*

By Patricia Watson

It was Friday, April 19, and the City of Boston was on lockdown. It was soon after the horror of the Boston Marathon bombing, and the mayor had ordered citizens to stay indoors. Yet, after smoothing many logistical wrinkles, Paulist Reconciliation Ministries board members met in a guest room of a locked hotel with police sirens screeching regularly outside.

As the manhunt for the bombers wore on and the lockdown remained in place, the viability of the biennial reconciliation symposium to be held on the Newton Campus of Boston College the next day was called into question. The lockdowns were lifted on Friday evening, and the conference – titled “The New Evangelization: Renewing the Church” – went on. Co-sponsored by the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and Paulist Reconciliation Ministries, the symposium attracted some 250 people from the East Coast and Midwest.



Courtesy Paulist Reconciliation Ministries

Hundreds gathered April 20 at Boston College for the third Reconciliation Symposium. The event’s theme was, The New Evangelization: Renewing the Church, and was co-sponsored by the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and Paulist Reconciliation Ministries,

A highlight of the daylong event was a plenary presentation by Father Anthony Gittins, CSSp, professor emeritus of Catholic Theological Union, speaking on “Mission, Evangelization, and Discipleship.” He named four aspects of “integral evangelization” – evangelization as Jesus does it – through proclamation, witness, dialogue and liberation. Participants also were able to attend two 75-minute breakout sessions covering a wide range of specialized areas beneath the broad umbrella of evangelization. These sessions included best practices for evangelizing returning Catholics; youth and young adults; the dynamic of mutual evange-

lization when ministering to those at life’s end; evangelizing through the liturgy; and embracing the cultural and linguistic diversity of parishes.

When participants were asked, “What will you take away from this conference?” the responses themselves were inspiring: “The need to make evangelization organic—living and breathing the power of God.” “Not to take anything for granted; cherish others and life.” “The Church doesn’t have a mission but the mission has a Church, including me.” “Reinvigoration...great insights...opportunity to meet new people.” “Hope, inspiration, and practical ideas.”



## Catholic fever hits California

An epidemic of faith hit the University of California as the Berkeley campus hosted hundreds of students for the first University of California Catholic Conference. The event was held earlier in the spring semester, and conceived and hosted by student leaders at the Paulist-run Newman Hall-Holy Spirit parish in Berkeley. The event featured fellowship, worship, workshops, activities and intellect building for students from all University of California campuses.





PT/Stefani Manowski

Father J. Bryan Hehir, the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, gives the keynote presentation during the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Celebrations May 17.



PT/Stefani Manowski

As part of the May 18 St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Celebrations, Paulist student Stuart Wilson-Smith shares a little bit about what Paulist formation is like today.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Sister Mary Johnson, SND, a sociology professor at Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C., speaks on trends in the contemporary Church that have implications for the formation of priests and religious in the future on May 18 during the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Celebrations.

# Celebrating

## Hundreds gather to cele

*Continued from Page 1*

presentation titled "The New Evangelization Recommendations" by Father J. Bryan Hehir of the Practice of Religion and Public Life at Harvard University.

"Evangelization has to be a mix of words on to explain that the New Evangelization is those participating in the church, to invite those who have left the church, and to share the faith with others."

The next day, participants were treated to a presentation given by Father Paul G. Robichaux.

"St. Paul's College is where the legacy of a Paulist education is instilled in the Paulist students of today as they prepare for the future."

Then, Michael Hennessy spoke on the Paulist tradition, which was followed by six Paulist students, each speaking on a different formation: Ryan Casey, CSP, human formation; James Olague, CSP, intellectual formation; Stuart Wilson-Smith, CSP, liturgical formation; and Michael Hennessy, CSP, spiritual formation.

After lunch, the group went on a stationing in the college dining room, where bread is shared with a prayer and blessing in front of the main college entrance.

The evening featured the celebration of Father Bill Dougherty, pastor of Old St. Mary's in Chicago, celebrating his 50th anniversary. The anniversary celebrations concluded with the opening of the 100th anniversary of the Paulist Fathers in America.

Alumnus Jerry Travers studied at St. Paul's from 1954 to 1958, giving him with the education that led him to later become a Paulist.

"I dread to think what would have happened if I had not gone into my Paulist education," Mr. Travers said.

Although St. Paul's ceased to be a degree-granting institution, it remains the house of formation for the Paulist Fathers in America.

And as St. Paul's looks to welcome the new students in the summer, they will no doubt only add to the Paulist community and the Church.



# St. Paul's

## Celebrate St. Paul's 100th

...n and the American Context: Reflections and  
...r, the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor  
...t the John F. Kennedy School of Government

...s and witness," Father Hehir said. He went  
...s three-dimensional: "to deepen the faith of  
...back the 30 percent of the congregants that  
...with the culture at large."

...o a special presentation on the history of St.  
...haud, CSP, Paulist historian.

...ll of the Paulists seminarians of the past are  
...ey prepare for their future ministry," he said.  
...st year he has spent as a Paulist novice. He  
...eaking about one of the six pillars of Paulist  
...tion; Steve Petroff, CSP, spiritual formation;  
...tuart Wilson-Smith, CSP, pastoral formation;  
...Matthew Berrios, CSP, communal formation.

...al pilgrimage around the campus, beginning  
...broken and stories are shared, and ended  
...statue of St. Paul the Apostle outside of the

...ulst Jubilarians: Father Michael Kallock, CSP,  
...ng 40 years of Paulist priesthood, and Father  
...riz., celebrating 50 years as a Paulist. The an-  
...fficial 100th anniversary Mass and brunch.  
...rom 1960-66, and credits St. Paul's with provid-  
...earn a doctoral degree in chemical psychology.  
...ned if I hadn't been blessed by all that went

...e-issuing institution in 1971, the college re-  
...ts, whose students study at The Catholic Uni-

...xt class of Paulist novices toward the end of  
...o the legacy of St. Paul's College, the Paulist



PT/Stefani Manowski

Father Kevin Devine, CSP, shares a memory during the chapel stop of the stational pilgrimage held May 18 as part of the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Celebrations.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Many of those gathered for the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Celebrations May 17-19 pose on the front steps of the original college building. The cornerstone was blessed and laid in 1913.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry delivers the homily during the St. Paul's College 100th Anniversary Mass May 19.

# Securing the future

## *Meet Jackie Thomas-Suggs, the new Paulist development director*

When Jackie Thomas-Suggs was first learning about various ministries of the Paulist Fathers, she was captivated by the breadth of work carried out by the community.

"We have artists, historians, missionaries, campus ministers, parish priests," said Ms. Thomas-Suggs, who began her new position as executive director of the Paulist Office for Financial Development in April. "The more I know about the Paulists, the more I realize how important it is to preach the importance of vocations and increase the visibility of the many gifts the Paulists bring to the Church and the world. Broadening awareness will result in increased financial support. People give to what they value and know about."

Since graduating from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a bachelor's degree in political science and English from Howard in 1978 as well as a master's degree in special education in 1984, Ms. Thomas-Suggs has been a fundraiser in the United States and Europe working for the USO. She comes to the Paulists from the American Lung Association, where she was vice president for major gifts.

"I saw this job listed online and thought it would be so cool to work for the church," said Ms. Thomas-Suggs, "because it is important that we have the people and the resources to address the needs of people who are search-



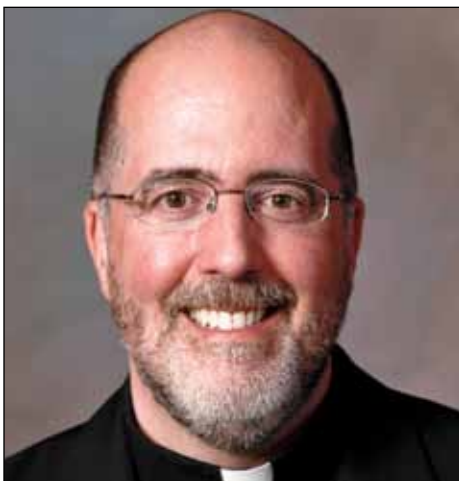
PT/Stefani Manowski

Jackie Thomas-Suggs is the new executive director of development for the Paulist Fathers.

ing. And Paulist ministries do exactly that."

By building a culture of philanthropy among future donors Ms. Thomas-Suggs hopes to engage and educate young adults ministered to by Paulists on major university campuses around the country and through ministries like Busted Halo, a Paulist Web site, Facebook and social media sites that are geared toward spiritual seekers in their 20s and 30s.

"My goals are to build a diverse fundraising and friend building department that will be flexible and responsive to our donors, and to ensure the department will increase support to enable the Community carry out the Paulist Ministry now and into the future," Ms. Thomas-Suggs said.



## Rice named vocations director

His own call to a priestly vocation came in a thunderbolt moment while a student at Penn State University. Now, Father Larry Rice, CSP, has been named the vocations director for the Paulist Fathers.

As vocations director, Father Rice will have the three-prong task of promoting awareness of the Paulist Fathers to attract vocations prospects, helping men discern their call to the Paulist priesthood and, if all goes well,

to guide them along the application process to the Paulist novitiate.

Father Rice, who celebrates 25 years as a Paulist priest in 2014, will use his experience in communications, social media and as director of the St. Thomas More Newman Center, which serves the students and community at The Ohio State University in Columbus, to seek quality candidates for the Paulist priesthood.

"We need to use every tool at our disposal because we need to reach men who are not only willing to consider the priesthood, but also priesthood in community and then priesthood in a community that has the specific missions of evangelization, reconciliation, and ecumenical and interfaith dialogue," Father Rice said.

Father Rice will also continue his duties as the first consultant on the Paulist leadership team and director of St. Mary's on the Lake, the Paulist retreat center on Lake George, NY.

## Ensure the future of the Paulist Fathers

If you are looking for ways to reduce your estate's tax liability, please consider making a charitable bequest to the Paulist Fathers through your will. Options include bequeathing a specific dollar amount, designating certain properties (real estate, stock or bonds,

etc.) or giving a percentage of your total assets.

It may be as simple as adding a codicil to your will, but it is always wise to consult an attorney, accountant or tax advisor for advice.

Have questions about giving to the Paulists? Call 1-800-472-8547.



# Papal honor

## *Father John Geaney receives Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal*

By Stefani Manowski

It was in the sacristy of the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids, Mich., during Holy Week when the bishop broke the news to the cathedral's rector, Father John Geaney, CSP.

Bishop Walter A. Hurley told Father Geaney that despite resigning the papacy and moving from the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI "still had time to send you a papal honor," Father Geaney recalled.

"I had no idea this was coming," he said. "It was a total surprise."

And so, Bishop Hurley officially presented Father Geaney and Ed Carey, chancellor of the diocese, with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal during Mass at the cathedral on April 21.

The diocesan bishop nominates candidates for the honors and submits their names and biographies to the Holy See at the Vatican. Once the Holy Father confers the honor, the Vatican Secretariat of State issues a document confirming the award. The Pro Ecclesia ("For the Church and the Holy Father") award, first given by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, recognizes the commitment of men and women and their service to the ecclesial community.

"As Paulists, we really are not as accustomed as our brother diocesan priests to receiving papal honors," Father Geaney said, "so this honor is very special. It really reflects the people who have worked with me all these years who worked with me in creating Catholic community."

When announcing the award to Father Geaney, Bishop



*Courtesy of the Cathedral of St. Andrew*

Bishop Walter A. Hurley of the Diocese of Grand Rapids presented Father John Geaney, CSP, rector of Grand Rapids' Cathedral of St. Andrew, with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal, one of the last orders of business for Pope Benedict XVI before his retirement.

Hurley was quick to add that the award wasn't just for the rector's more than two years of service in Grand Rapids, but for his entire priesthood.

"It is an award for all the people involved with me over the years," Father Geaney said. And those people are numerous when Father Geaney's almost five decades of priesthood are considered.

"The cathedral is where the city comes to pray," explained Father Geaney. "We have a unique opportunity to bring our Paulist way to the cathedral. The welcoming edge, charism and spirit of the Paulists are appreciated by the people here."

## Places and Faces



*Courtesy Paige Schweizer*

The Paulist Associates of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, pose after renewing their promises on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Pictured are Frank Trogus (back row from left), Stan Jakubowsky, Jim Jones, Francie Dix, KK Rice, Dick Heilman, Pat Heilman, Joanne Griesbach, Father Ruben Patino, CSP, Bill Bedortha, Mary Kay Bedortha, Cindy Cronin (seated from left), Karen Jones, Rene Pfiffner and Barbara Shields.



*Courtesy Barbara Murphy*

Father Dat Tran, CSP (left) and Janet Hopkins welcome a hungry flock to the volunteer appreciation barbecue at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles held on Memorial Day weekend. From infants to those over 80, everyone had a great time, said Barbara Murphy, parish RCIA director. Other events at St. Paul this spring included an April 21 multicultural potluck.



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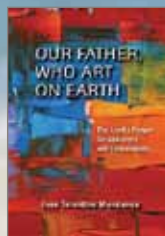
# Beach books

*Five Paulist Press picks for quality summer reading*

**By Mary Ann Carey, Paulist Press**

After polling my colleagues, some things we agree on for the coming months are: sun, fun and a good book. Here are a few of those good books available at paulist-press.com:

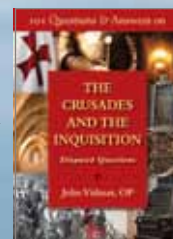
**Our Father, Who Art on Earth: The Lord's Prayer for Believers and Unbelievers** by José Tolentino Mendonça. This is my favorite of the lot. Its cultural, poetic and biblical reflections resonate with each line of the Lord's Prayer.



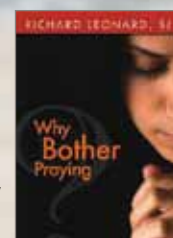
**Genius Born of Anguish: The Life and Legacy of Henri Nouwen** by Michael Higgins and Kevin Burns. Readers never tire of books on Henri Nouwen. The authors' look at this important spiritual writer's life is enriched with the personal accounts of some of the people closest to him: friends, family, and colleagues.



**101 Questions & Answers on the Crusades and the Inquisition: Disputed Questions** by John Vidmar, OP. This book takes an honest look at two controversial events in Christian history, showing in what ways the seemingly different historical events are related and undoing several misconceptions about both.



**Why Bother Praying?** by Richard Leonard, SJ. This accessible volume is for everyone who wonders how to pray, everyone who wonders what happens when you pray, and everyone who wonders if God hears our prayers.



**Hope for the Flowers** words and pictures by Trina Paulus. This is a classic offering profound advice about making your way in a difficult world, finding your calling and taking a road less traveled.

