



INSIDE:	THE WORD: Paulists discuss preaching in D.C.	2	BIG SHOW: TV special shines spotlight on Paulists ...	4
	DEDICATION: New altar, center blessed in Texas	3	STEWARDSHIP: Online giving is focus in 2014	6

President's Message

Talking the talk

Part of our Paulist rhythm of life is to review our leadership, both on the national level and on the local level. For the former, we Paulists look forward to a new president this coming spring: Father Eric Andrews, currently president of Paulist Productions in Los Angeles.

On the local level, we Paulists look at all our foundations and their leadership through a process we call a "visitation." Two members of our national leadership visit each place where Paulists minister and there we have a conversation, not only with them but with local leadership. This is not to evaluate or hand out report cards, but rather quite consciously to have a conversation between our national vision and how it's being carried out on the local scene.

Our Paulist national vision, inspired by Father Hecker, has three directions: *First*, to invite those who have no religious commitment to find in Christ the answer to their human and religious yearnings. *Second*, to reach out to those who may be nominally Catholic but have long since stopped worshipping with us. Indeed, a very large percentage of Catholics under age 30 fit in this group.

Continued on Page 2



Meet the President-elect!

*Father Eric Andrews, CSP,
will be installed in May*

By Stefani Manowski

From serving in a variety of parish, campus and media ministries, Father Eric Andrews, CSP, admits he is a "jack-of-all-trades." Well, make that a "Paulist-of-all-trades." And Father Andrews plans to use all of his diverse experiences as the new president-elect of the Paulist Fathers. He will take up his new post during the Paulist General Assembly this spring.

"I am honored and humbled by the support of the community," said Father Andrews, 48, who has served as president of Paulist Productions in Los Angeles since 2009. "I thank current Paulist President Father Michael McGarry, Vice President Father Sean Foley and First Consultor Father Larry Rice for their good work on behalf of the community. I hope to build on what they have already accomplished."

The Paulists have always brought the best of the Catholic faith to the people of North America, Father Andrews explained, and the Paulists under his leadership will continue "to find new ways to communicate the Catholic faith so it may resonate with our culture."

"We need to continue to open the doors to people searching for a spiritual home, to use the media and technology to bring the best of Gospel values to our culture," he said. "In addition,



PT/file

Father Eric Andrews, CSP., will leave Paulist Productions to become president of the Paulist Fathers.

Pope Francis' emphasis on mercy and compassion to all resonates with the charism of the Paulist Fathers."

And what Father Andrews himself has been doing for many years, as well. After his priestly ordination in 1995, Father Andrews first served at the Paulist mother church, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan from 1995-1999.

Continued on Page 7



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Father Thomas Kane, CSP, professor of homiletics and liturgical practice at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, gives the keynote presentation for the preaching workshop held Jan. 6-9 at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

PT/Stefani Manowski

The 'P' in Paulist

Preaching is focus in D.C.

More than 30 Paulist priests, students and novices gathered at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C., Jan. 6-9 to discuss a core element of Paulist mission: preaching.

The workshop included presentations, discussions, exercises and a sharing of preaching resources.

"I can't remember the last time the Paulists talked about preaching even though we all agree preaching is fundamentally important," said Father Frank Sabatté, CSP.

Preaching good homilies is a precious Paulist value

Continued from Page 1

And, *third*, to reach out in understanding to our Protestant and Orthodox brothers and sisters to work for the unity Jesus prayed for on the night before he died. Similarly, but with a different goal, we reach out in understanding and cooperation to our Jewish, Muslim and other religious brothers and sisters.

These three directions unite in two ways: *First*, each illustrates how Paulists relate to persons who are not in a Catholic Church. Good parishes and good priests everywhere seek to build up the Body of Christ by taking care of their own; we Paulists always have our religious peripheral vision on those who are not in the pews. *Second*, each involves communication and speaking. Father Isaac Hecker, the founder of the Paulist Fathers, was a marvelous preacher, and he expected nothing less than excellence from those who would join his band of missionaries.

I began by talking about Paulist rhythms of life. One of the most gratifying experiences for me as president has occurred during visitations. There to visit our houses, both officially and unofficially, and, almost without exception, lay members tell me how much they appreciate the consistently good homilies the local Paulists prepare. Perhaps such Paulists had already heeded Pope Francis' words:

"The homily is the touchstone for judging a pastor's closeness and ability to communicate to his people. We know that the faithful attach great importance to it, and that both they and their ordained ministers suffer because of homilies: the laity from having to listen to them and the clergy from having to preach them! ... The homily can

actually be an intense and happy experience of the Spirit, a consoling encounter with God's word, a constant source of renewal and growth."

I firmly believe that we Paulists, like some other communities, hold preaching good homilies as a precious corporate value. Indeed, preaching is a seminal priestly work. So don't let us off the hook by saying, "Well, he can't preach very well, but he's very holy." That's akin to saying, "Well, my doctor is not very good at surgery, but he has a great bedside manner."

Recently many Paulists braved the January arctic air to gather at St. Paul's College, Washington, D.C., to reinvigorate our commitment to good preaching. We wondered together what might be distinctive about Paulist preaching. How do we preach in specific circumstances? Do we have something special to offer the wider North American Church? We taught and coached one another. We heard some great preaching, and we inspired one another to recommit ourselves to preaching the Gospel with energy, integrity, and power.

We Paulists seek to be good preachers, not only for the sake of you whom we serve, not only for the sake of our three mission directions, but also for the sake of being priests faithfully-on-fire with the message of Jesus Christ ... which deserves nothing less.

Father Michael McGarry, CSP
President of the Paulist Fathers



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PT/Stefani Manowski

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of the Diocese of Austin, Texas, presides over the dedication Mass of the new altar and Linda Finn Family Life Center at St. Paul the Apostle in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

‘Milestone’ reached in Horseshoe Bay

St. Paul the Apostle dedicates new altar, family life center

By Stefani Manowski

The year was 1972, and Father Walter J. Dalton, CSP, was celebrating Masses in the homes of the faithful of Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Some 41 years later, hundreds of parishioners of what became St. Paul the Apostle Parish gathered to dedicate a new altar in the church and the Linda Finn Family Life Center in November.

Pastor Father Rúben Patiño said the project’s completion “is truly a milestone for us. We are happy. We still have some things to accomplish, but we are doing well.”

The view of the sun setting over Lake Lyndon B. Johnson provided a spectacular backdrop as the lights in the church were turned off and the Knights of Columbus proudly stood at attention down the main aisle of the church.

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of the Diocese of Austin said he was grateful for the ministry of the Paulist Fathers, and told the congregation they were to be “commended for all of the hard work

and dedication it took to bring this project to completion.”

Referring to the Scripture readings, Bishop Vásquez said, “This place is truly a gateway to heaven.”

The Rite of Dedication and Anointing took place after Bishop Vásquez’s homily. After an invitation to prayer and Litany of Saints, a first-class relic of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was deposited in the altar. The altar was then anointed and incensed. Members of the building committee came forth to wipe down the oils on the altar as a symbolic gesture that the renovation project was complete. The candles around the church and altar were lit; it was only then that the church lights came back on.

After the Mass, the congregants gathered for a reception in the new Linda Finn Family Life Center, named after a longtime St. Paul parishioner and philanthropist.

The project took approximately three years to conceive, plan and complete. Construction took about 12 months, and the parish has already

raised all but \$1.2 million of the approximately \$3 million budget.

The renovations included new double-paned windows that maintain the breathtaking view of the lake but will keep out heat and cold and won’t rattle with the wind. There is also new stained glass, new pews and, of course, the new altar. The tabernacle is now in the main worship space.

Behind the liturgical scenes are spaces for the parish administration, a sacristy, Reconciliation room and religious education classrooms.

The Linda Finn Family Life Center features a catering kitchen and space for 500 to sit auditorium-style or about 200 at tables for social events, wedding receptions or funeral gatherings.

Bill Bedortha, pastoral council president, said more families are steadily moving into the parish, so the renovations “mean everything.”

“We can have our parish Christmas party here instead of having to go somewhere else,” Mr. Bedortha explained. “This says we are a parish with life.”

A New York Christmas



Photos: (Above) Television legend Regis Philbin narrates the Nativity story while the Jim Henson Company puppeteers bring the words to life. (Top right) Paulists Father John Foley, Father John Geaney, Father Mark-David Janus, Father Tom Holahan and Father Gil Martinez lead the procession that begins the 2013 "A New York Christmas to Remember" television special taped at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan. (Right middle) The choir and musicians of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle perform during the special. The Fordham University Choir and the National Children's Chorus added to the musical spectacle of the Christmas show.

Christmas to Remember

Paulists take the spotlight with Christmas Eve special on CBS

Written by Stefani Manowski

Photos by Richard Termine

Forget Broadway! In December, the hottest ticket in town was the taping of "A New York Christmas to Remember" at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan.

More than 400 people gathered for the taping of the Christmas special, narrated by Regis Philbin and showcasing the talents of The Jim Henson Company puppeteers, the National Children's Chorus and the choirs of St. Paul the Apostle and Fordham University. The one-hour program aired on CBS on Christmas Eve.

Set in the style of lessons and carols, Mr. Philbin reads the Nativity story while it was brought to life by The Jim Henson Company puppeteers and performers. The choirs added sacred music to the mix, and the result was magical.

The project began in March, when Father Mark-David Janus, president of Paulist Press, contacted Jack Blessington, head of the Religious Affairs Department at CBS who oversees the network's Christmas Eve program.

"Every year CBS offers the hour to various religious congregations to present a celebration of Christmas," explained Father Eric Andrews, CSP, president of Paulist Productions who worked for Jim Henson for three years before entering the priesthood. "This is a joint effort of Paulist Productions, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Busted Halo and Paulist Press. And it will be a wonderful presentation of the Gospel message to a national audience."

Before the taping, Mr. Blessington noted his connections to the Paulists from his childhood in the Bronx and beauty of the show's set.

"Wait until you see what they've done!" he said as his face lighted up with a big smile.

Cheryl Henson, the daughter of Jim and Jane Henson, explained to a small group that the Nativity puppet show had been staged at two churches in Florida, and that "telling the story of the Nativity through puppetry was [her mother's] dream."

And then it was time for the more than 100 people involved in the production to take their places.

The audience fell into reverent silence as the musicians and singers commenced with the opening hymn, and then were enraptured as the story of the Nativity unfolded, culminating in a glorious rendition of "Joy to the World."

"It is a marvelous show, and a great tribute to a story that is so central to our lives presented in a modern way," Father Andrews said.





The Paulist Office for Financial Development is planning to make news strides in online stewardship and communication in 2014

PTIfile

The Hecker Legacy Society announced

The Paulist Fathers are developing a newly-redesigned Planned Giving Program. In early 2014, you will be informed on the many new options and gift structures available for your estate planning. Beginning with a name change, the new name is: The Hecker Legacy Society.

Going forward, the society will have new options for remembering the Paulists in your will or structured gift. The Hecker Society will have a membership structure. This membership will provide a number of benefits and acknowledgements of your commitment to the future of the Paulist Fathers

Look in the next Paulist Today and on the Paulist website (paulist.org) for a detailed article on this exciting new giving option. If you have any questions, please call Gail Reed, director of planned giving in the Paulist Office for Financial Development, at 202-269-2515.



PTIfile

Servant of God Father Isaac T. Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers

Suped-up stewardship

OFD plans online giving overhaul in 2014

From social media postings to business transactions, more of our time is spent online as digital interactions are now a part of everyday life. Although many of us have adapted to the ever-evolving digital world, practices involving online philanthropy have lagged behind.

The Paulist Fathers Office for Financial Development plans to increase our online audience and engage the Paulist community through targeted digital efforts in 2014. Our online efforts will echo the message of our printed material and serve as a place for donors to interact with the Paulists digitally. All printed materials will have the option to be received via email, as well as ways to opt-in our weekly online newsletter and Father Isaac Hecker Reflection series.

The Paulist Fathers' mission is grounded in Giving the Word a Voice. The Office for Financial Development – in collaboration with Paulist ministries, foundations and parishes – will use these modern means of social media, email and online fundraising to push out the

Paulist message to multiple audiences around the country.

You, as part of the Paulist community, are an integral part of making these efforts a success. We ask that you share your interest in the Paulist with your online network, sign-up for a newsletter or make your next donation online. The first step in this effort is to share your email address with the Office for Financial Development. We can assure you that we do not share or sell our constituents contact information.

Not only will you receive information quickly, you have the opportunity to archive Paulist materials, Paulist Today and other spiritual guides for reflection at a later date.

Utilizing the electronic option for correspondence, gift acknowledgment, tax credit letters and newsletters will also increase the impact of your gift by saving money the Paulists can use for ministry and evangelization.

As we move forward in 2014 with our digital fundraising goals we invite you to be a part of this exciting new initiative of the Paulist Fathers.





PT/file

Father Eric Andrews, CSP, is president-elect of the Paulist Fathers.

Interesting path

Father Eric Andrews, CSP, has gone from film school to Paulist president

Continued from Page 1

He then moved to Washington, D.C., to become a part of Paulist Media Works, where he was for a year before moving on to serve as associate pastor at Blessed John XXIII University Parish at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 2000. He became pastor there in 2003, and also served as superior of the Paulists in Knoxville. Hollywood came calling in 2009, when Father Andrews became the head of Paulist Productions, which produces faith-based films and television programs. Father Andrews has also served on the Paulist General Council for seven years under two previous administrations.

But how does one go from considering the diocesan priesthood while in film school to becoming Paulist president? The path is an interesting one.

Father Andrews grew up with his sister, Michele, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where his father owned a small, precision sheet metal company and his mother was a registered nurse. At The New York University Film School, Father Andrews also double-majored in philosophy, "which came in handy as I entered the seminary," he said.

Rev. Raymond Rafferty, then campus minister at NYU, first suggested the Paulists to the future priest, but young Eric first decided to take a job with Jim Henson and the Muppets. Three years later, Father Andrews decided to reconsider the priesthood, and entered the Paulist novitiate after attending the Paulist ordination of 1989.

Before taking on his presidential duties, Father Andrews will be busy wrapping up the many irons in the fire at Paulist Productions.

"The media is the way we can reach the most people and have the most impact," Father Andrews said. "I want to leave Paulist Productions in a position where they will not only continue, but thrive."

Places and Faces



Photo Courtesy St. Philip Neri Church

Children decorate the Jesse Tree at St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore.



Photo Courtesy St. Luke University Parish

Bishop David J. Walkowiak of the Diocese of Grand Rapids (right) greets Paulist Associates Regina and Alan Baldrige after celebrating Mass at St. Luke University Parish in Allendale, Mich., at the end of November.



Courtesy Paulist Productions

Lauren Holly (far left) stars in "The Town That Came a Courtin'" co-produced by Paulist Productions. The TV film premiered on UP Television Jan. 19. Check your local listings for encore broadcasts.



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Free flow the H₂O

*St. Austin dedicates
public water spigot*

By Stefani Manowski

It might have been difficult to see, surrounded as it was by the small crowd gathered on the southwest corner of the intersection of Guadalupe and 21st streets in Austin, Texas. But the object of the recent blessing by St. Austin Church was not a plaque to memorialize a generous benefactor or even a saintly statue. It was the recent blessing of a public water spigot.

This may not seem too significant to those who simply stop in a convenience store to buy a bottle of H₂O or have the stuff freely flowing from faucets in our homes. But for the homeless, many of them young, there is not a lot of access to the life-sustaining liquid that is so much a part of the Catholic faith.

"This water source is a gift to all those who thirst from the parishioners of St. Austin," said Father Charles Kullmann, CSP, pastor of the church founded by the Paulist Fathers in 1908.

The lack of access to water was



Father Charles Kullmann, CSP, pastor of St. Austin Church in Austin, Texas, dedicates a public water spigot outside the church building.

brought to Father Kullmann's attention last year by some of the other members of the Micah 6 Coalition, a network of faith communities within the University of Texas area who work together to identify and meet the needs of the homeless and the impoverished in the University of Texas campus area.

The public water source was made available through the generous contributions of an anonymous parishioner at St. Austin as well as Mobile Loaves

and Fishes, a social outreach ministry to the homeless that empowers communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless. St. Austin will provide the regular upkeep of the water source as well as pay for the water used.

"St. Austin's would encourage organizations throughout Austin, especially in the downtown area, to take similar actions to ensure that all have access to a convenient and easily accessible source of water," said Father Kullmann.

Photo courtesy St. Austin Church