

FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC:



Dear friends,
I pray that you and your loved ones are in the midst of a very blessed Advent. In this season of preparation for Christmas, may God fill your home – and your heart – with joy and peace.

For me, 2017 has been filled with many moments of joy, including the beautiful Mass in May at which three Paulist seminarians were ordained to the priesthood. At the same time, I will remember the past 12 months for the acts of violence and horrible disasters that occurred in our country and in our world.

In times of both joy and hardship, the Paulist Fathers seek to accompany people inside and outside of the Church walls. Our missionary society exists to bring the Good News that the Christ Child entered our world to heal the relationship between God and His people forever.

The movement of the Holy Spirit, aided by your prayers and support, makes it possible for us to do this important work. We couldn't do it without you.

As you make your year-end gifts, please consider a financial contribution to our work. Inside this issue of "The Voice," please read about our ministries that your support makes possible. To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or visit paulist.org/give.

Regardless of your ability to make a gift at this time, please continue to pray for us!

May you and your loved ones have a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Eric

Fr. Eric Andrews, C.S.P.
President, The Paulist Fathers



The Paulist Fathers in Austin, TX.



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Upcoming Journeys with Paulist Pilgrimages:



**PAULIST
PILGRIMAGES**

"The Saints of England," a visit to the religious and cultural sites in London and across England, with Paulist Fr. Thomas Kane, from June 3 to 14, 2018.

"The Loyola Experience," a special retreat-pilgrimage in Spain with Paulist Fr. Thomas Kane and Jesuit Fr. Julio Giulietti tracing the spiritual journey of St. Ignatius Loyola from July 6 to 17, 2018.

Visit paulist.org/pilgrimages for details.

Questions or Comments for the Office of Mission Advancement?
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the Voice

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Christmas 2017

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



We couldn't do it
without YOU!

YOUR GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

paulist.org/donate

Ministry

Media

Your support funds tuition, health insurance, room and board and other needs for each Paulist seminarian – approximately \$75,000 each year.

Your support funds the care of the senior Paulist Fathers – approximately \$53,000 a year for each Father.

Seminarian Education & Formation

Your support funds our extensive Vocations Outreach program – approximately \$325,000 each year. (And, it's working! We ordained three new Paulist Fathers in 2017 and, God-willing, will ordain two new Paulist Fathers in 2018!)

Capital Improvements

Your support funds our ministry for Catholics returning to the Church – an investment of approximately \$70,000 each year.

Your support funds critical repairs and capital improvements to our Motherhouse in New York City, home for many senior Paulist Fathers and our national offices.

We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

As 2017 comes to a close, we pray in thanksgiving for our many friends and benefactors who have supported us this past year and over the course of our 160-year history.

In short: We couldn't do it without you!

When you make a financial gift to the Paulist Fathers, here are the ministries you support.

Openings Ministry for Artists

Care for Senior Paulist Fathers

Vocations Outreach

Parish Missions

Landings Ministry for Returning Catholics

Busted Halo

Cover photo by Richard Termine.

A Special Holiday Blessing for Your Family

As you and your loved ones gather for a Christmas meal, here is an option for the blessing:



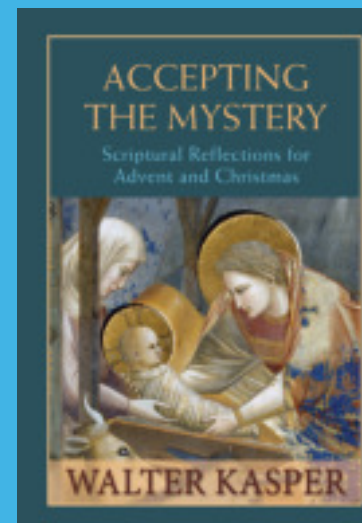
A
God
great
and all
gracious
gave to us
Jesus as one
like us in every
thing except for sin.
Jesus taught us to be
unselfish, to be generous,
to give our own self to others.
And so, we celebrate at Christmas
with gifts great and small but best
of all the gift to each other of ourselves.
This day, Lord, we give you thanks for your
kindness and care in giving us your self in Jesus.
We pray that we may take in your love, and welcome
each other as we celebrate your light living in our midst.
Bless this table of good food and those gathered to feast.
Grant to your people peace on earth and good will towards all.

*We pray this
in Jesus,
son of God
and son of Mary.*

—Paulist Fr. Frank Desiderio, 2017



The God who reveals himself to us at Christmas is not this nameless God, but a personal God who has a heart for human beings, whose heart has mercy on us, whose heart is turned inside out in response to human suffering. He is a God who in Jesus Christ runs after us, who himself became human to experience in his own body all the distress, all the pain and suffering, violence, abandonment, and loneliness, all the helplessness of a small child, the loss of home and country of young parents, the disloyalty of friends, and the hatred of opponents. He is a God of human beings. Someone even put it this way: God is downright crazy about us human beings.



— Cardinal Walter Kasper, from the Paulist Press book "Accepting the Mystery: Scriptural Reflections for Advent and Christmas," which received First Place in Production Design at the 2017 Catholic Press Association Book Awards. To learn more, please visit paulistpress.com.