

FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC

"With God's first fiat the world was created, but with Mary's fiat God Himself became man and the lost world was saved ... A humble virgin and a poor carpenter for her spouse. Behold the chosen coadjutors of God in the great work of the redemption and salvation of our world."



— Isaac Thomas Hecker, from
"Nineteenth Century Spirituality for our Time" (Paulist Press, 2019)

Dear Friends,

During this Advent season, I am pleased to share these recently discovered words of Servant of God Isaac Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers. Fr. Hecker reminds us of God's profound love for us — in the infant Jesus and the awesome act of faith by Mary, Mother of God, to say "yes" to God, making it all possible.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we respond to God's action in the world with acts of love and thanksgiving. Gift giving, Christmas cards and acts of charity seem spontaneous and natural to us in the month of December, but it is much more than that. "God is charity," Hecker wrote, "for in wishing His own happiness, He wishes the greatest happiness of all. Charity is the most immediate and expeditious means of our union with God."

On behalf of my fellow Paulists, I want to say **thank you** to everyone who has shared their faith and their charity with us throughout 2019. I think, for instance, of the recent 10th anniversary celebration of the Awakening Retreat program at the St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University. There were so many stories of students, alumni, staff, and Paulists whose faith was transformed forever through this life-changing experience.

I also think about the parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle parishes in New York City and Horseshoe Bay, TX, who bonded together when their pastors were diagnosed with cancer. In both cases, they offered tireless prayer and support to their pastors — and stepped up in numerous ways to keep their parishes beacons of Jesus' good news.

These are signs to me that the miracle of Christmas bears fruit beyond the holiday season!

As you consider your year-end financial contributions, I pray you will once again find us worthy of your support. Your support is essential for the formation of our Paulist novices and seminarians; the care of our senior Fathers; and the growth of our many outreach ministries.

This month, we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of Fr. Hecker's birth on December 18, 1819. If your budget allows, you may want to consider making a gift of \$200 on this special day to give thanks for the life of this amazing priest whose spirituality, zeal and vision has transformed so many lives!

On behalf of all of my fellow Paulists, deacons, seminarians, novices, Paulist Associates and our lay collaborators, I wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Eric

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

To make a gift, please
use the enclosed envelope
or visit: paulist.org/give



**PAULIST
FATHERS**

415 West 59th St.
New York, NY 10019

UPCOMING VOCATIONS RETREATS

Do you know someone who would make a great priest?
If so, please share the details of our two upcoming vocations retreats:

- Our **Regional Discernment Retreat** will be held January 24 to 26, 2020, at Summers Mill Retreat & Conference Center near Temple, TX, about an hour outside of Austin
- Our next **Come & See Weekend Retreat** will be held February 7 to 9, 2020, at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C.

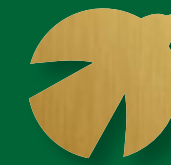
For details, please visit paulist.org/vocation or contact our vocation director, Paulist **Fr. Dat Tran**, at **(212) 757-4260** or **be@paulist.org**.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT?

Paul Snatchko, Director of Communications: media@paulist.org
Development Team: development@paulist.org
(212) 586-2074 paulist.org @PaulistFathers

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 425

Since 2008, Paulist Fathers have
served at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew
in Grand Rapids, MI, pictured here.



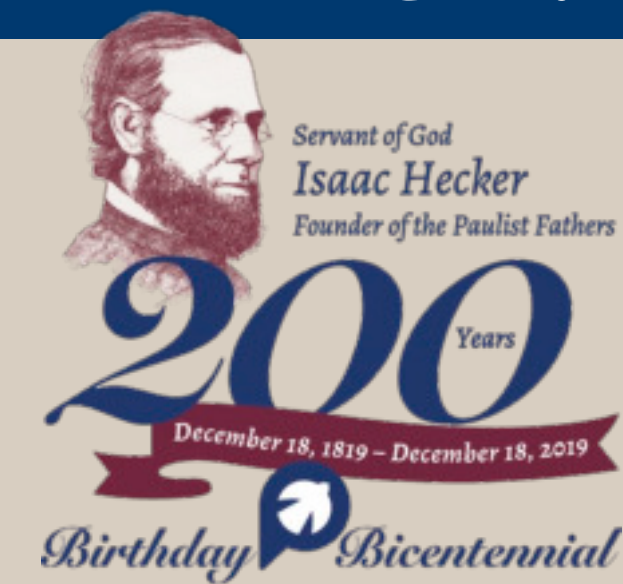
the Voice

Issue #16
Christmas 2019

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



Happy 200th Birthday, Fr. Hecker!



For the past year, we have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Servant of God Isaac Hecker, a son of German immigrants born in New York City on December 18, 1819.

The bicentennial year has been a blessed opportunity to recall the writings and the spirituality of Fr. Hecker, who founded the Paulist Fathers in 1858.

It also has been a chance to

refocus on the cause for Fr. Hecker's beatification and canonization as a saint. The cause was opened by New York's Cardinal Edward Egan in 2008.

Among scholars of Catholic history in the United States, Fr. Hecker is well known. His story also is told frequently at the parishes and centers served by the Paulists.

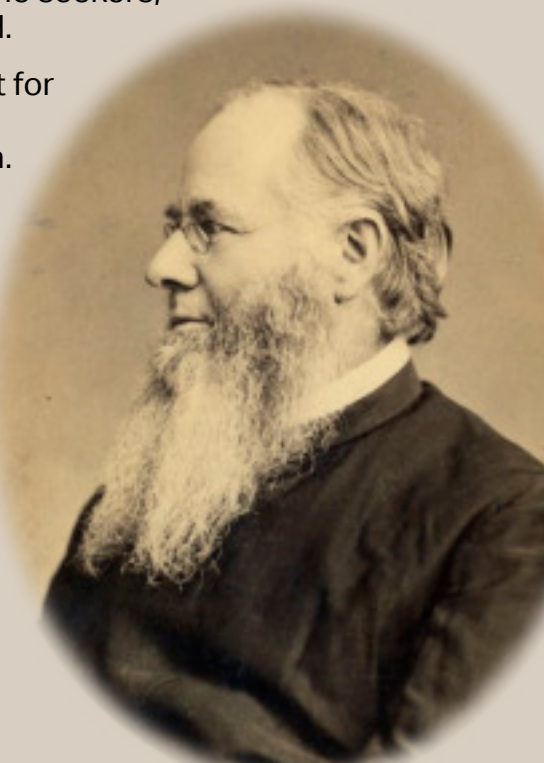
But, for Fr. Hecker to be canonized, more people likely will need to learn about this dynamic priest's journey of conversion into the Church — and his drive to "make America Catholic."

Fr. Hecker would be a patron saint for all those who struggle with faith, for those who work mightily to discern how the Holy Spirit is moving within them. He would be a patron of the seekers, the risk-takers and the misunderstood.

Fr. Hecker also would be a patron saint for those who suffer from blood cancers like leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. It is believed Fr. Hecker died from a blood cancer when he entered eternal life on December 22, 1888.

Would you help us share the story of this unique man of the 19th century? Help us to reintroduce his story and mission in the 21st century?

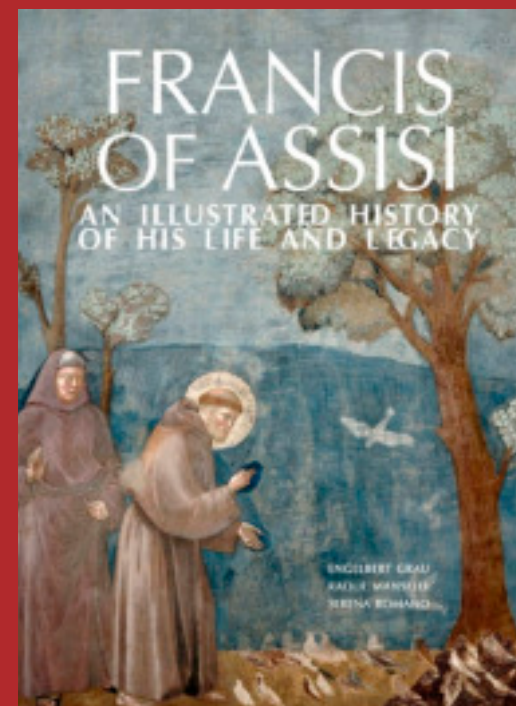
Please visit paulist.org/Hecker for the prayer for Fr. Hecker's canonization, as well as the prayer to seek his intercession for a miracle.



New from Paulist Press

"Francis of Assisi: An Illustrated History of His Life and Legacy"

by Engelbert Grau, Raoul Manselli, and Serena Romano



“

"... In this small village in the Rieti Valley, a living representation of the nativity was staged by Francis for the first time in history. Set in a natural cave, he involved local inhabitants, shepherds, and peasants. According to his biographer, he wanted to perceive with his own eyes the difficulties that the Virgin Mary had to face—to see with his own eyes how God had decided to enter into history not triumphantly but sharing the fragility of human nature."

Please visit paulistpress.com for details.

Meal Prayer for Christmas Peace

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Most generous and gracious God
you gave us Jesus Christ,
your very presence among us,
a light that sustains us in any darkness.

We bring not gold and frankincense
but the best of ourselves,
our attention and kindness to one another;
may the law of love rule over us.

Bless this meal, bless those who are here
and those whom we hold in our hearts.

We remember those who have less
and ask that they too be blessed.

Gathered in the joy of Christmas day
together we pray:

*Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts
which we are about to receive
from thy bounty
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— Composed by Paulist Fr. Frank Desiderio, 2019



We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

As 2019 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 161-year history.

When you make a financial gift to the Paulist Fathers, here are the areas you support:



Your support funds our dynamic ministries such as **BUSTED HALO** and **LANDINGS**.

Your support funds tuition, health insurance, room and board and other needs for the Paulist **SEMINARIANS** — approximately \$75,000 a year for each Seminarian.

Your support funds our extensive **VOCATIONS OUTREACH** program — approximately \$325,000 each year. We ordained one new Paulist Father in 2019 and, God-willing, will ordain one new Paulist Father in 2020.

Your support funds the care of the **SENIOR PAULIST FATHERS** — approximately \$53,000 a year for each Father.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or visit: paulist.org/give