

FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC:



Dear friends,

As Charles Dickens wrote more than 160 years ago: “It was the best of times and the worst of times ...” Dickens’ words are true again today. In the last three months, the Paulists have been blessed by two priestly ordinations, and as you see in this issue, the diaconate ordination of our brother Evan Cummings, C.S.P. We also have welcomed three talented novices to begin their formation.

The Paulist community has gained the approval to begin the construction of a new Paulist House of Mission and Studies in Washington, D.C. This new building, located next to our former seminary, will form outstanding Paulist Fathers to serve you in the future. It also will be a center of outreach for the never-ending Paulist task of bringing people to a love for Jesus and his Holy Spirit. We believe, as Dickens might, that these items I’ve listed above are “the best of times.”

In the midst of all this positive news and activity, we have been confronted by new revelations of sexual abuse of minors and its cover up in Pennsylvania, as well as sexual abuse allegations against Archbishop Theodore McCarrick. These have caused tremendous dismay among the People of God, putting new salt into the very deep wound of violence and trauma in the Body of Christ.

Paulists across the country have sought to listen to the anguished voices of the faithful searching for answers about these “worst times.” So, I have asked my brother Paulists to be agents of reconciliation. Our task is to highlight Jesus’ ministry of justice, peace and healing and to live that ministry in our lives today. We Paulists pledge again to be ever more vigilant in ensuring that all with whom we minister are safe from abuse of any kind. I invite you to share your thoughts, feelings and concerns with us on this horrific issue, as we search together for real and lasting solutions.

At this unprecedented time, I ask for your prayers for the Church and its healing. The men who are now preparing for Paulist priesthood need your prayers. They also need your financial support so that we can build a home for them. That home also will be a place of mission. The mission is to lead Jesus’ Church into a new age of care and compassion.

May the peace of our Risen Savior be with you all.

Blessings,  
*Fr. Eric*

Fr. Eric presents the Paulist Mission Cross to Evan Cummings, C.S.P.

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



P.S. To make a gift at this time, please use the enclosed envelope or visit paulist.org/give



NEW from Paulist Press!

The Paulist Biblical Commentary is a comprehensive, one-volume commentary on the books of the Bible designed for a wide variety of readers, especially those engaged in pastoral ministry. The volume consists of a commentary on each of the 73 books of the Catholic canon of the Bible along with 12 general articles.



Please visit paulistpress.com for details.

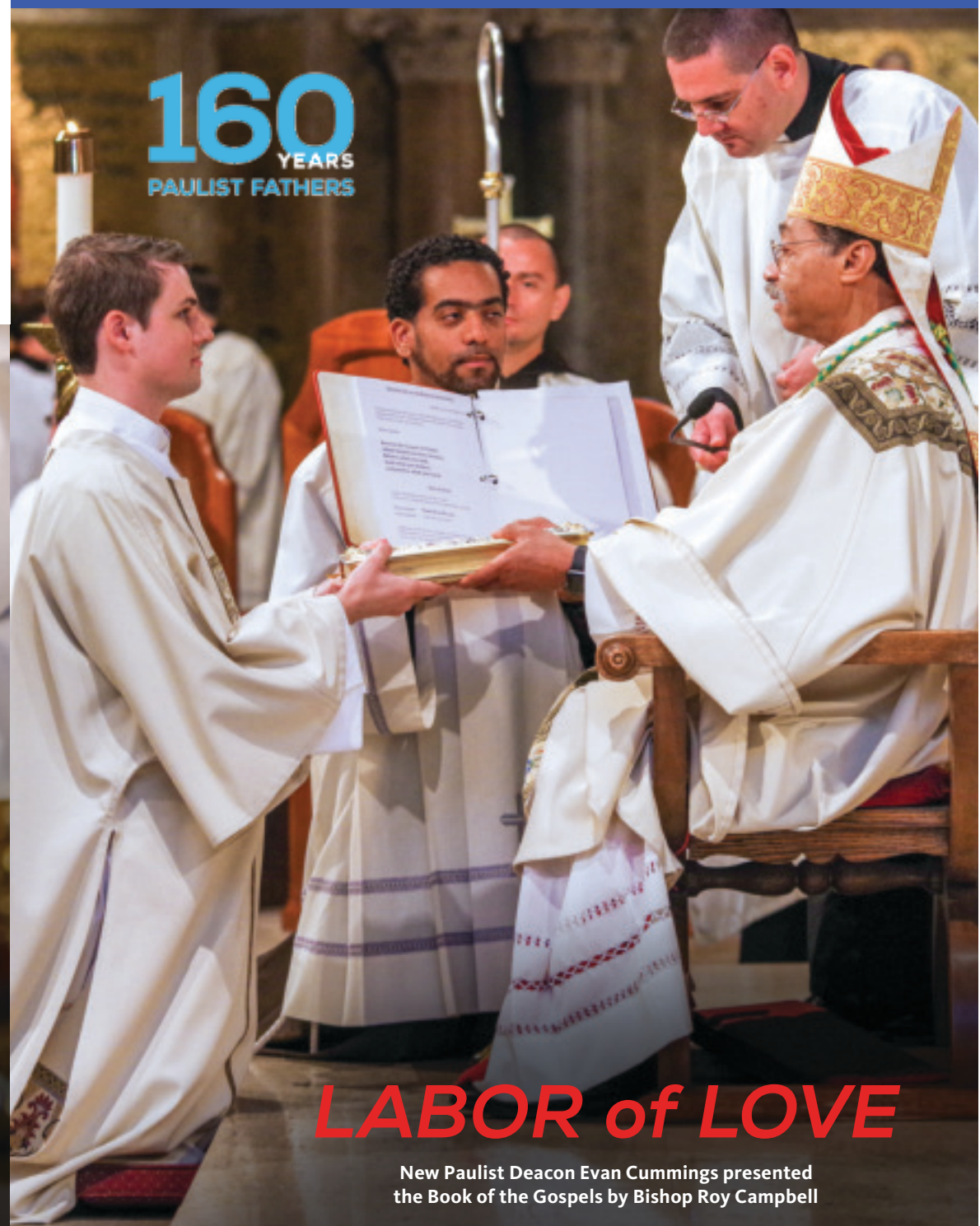
CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?  
SUBMIT YOUR PRAYERS AT:  
PAULIST.ORG/PRAY

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PRINCE FREDERICK, MD  
PERMIT NO. 821

the Voice

Issue #11  
Autumn 2018

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



# LABOR OF LOVE

By Jennifer Szweda Jordan

**W**hile many people celebrated Labor Day Weekend, the Paulist seminarians progressed in their particular labor of love – to prepare to serve God's people through life and ministry with the Paulist Fathers.

"After a five-year period of discernment, prayer and commitment, I have devoted myself for life to ministry and mission in the Paulist Fathers as a full member, which is just an amazing and exciting moment in my life," said Paulist seminarian **Evan Cummings**, who on Saturday, September 1, was ordained a transitional deacon. "I know that this is what God wants me to do with my life. And it just felt so wonderful to be able to say, 'Yes, God. I will do this.'"

Bishop Roy Campbell, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., ordained Evan and three other seminarians from other religious communities during a special Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The applause from the congregation lasted for more than 20 seconds when the bishop said, "We choose these, our brothers, for the Order of the Diaconate."

"Now you are not only hearers of this Gospel but you are also its ministers," Bishop Campbell said. "Uphold the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. Express by your actions the word of God that your lips proclaim."

At the end of his homily, the bishop asked Evan and the other ordinands to face their family and friends in the congregation and applaud them for their support. Evan smiled as he turned to his parents, Kit and Kevin Cummings; his brother, Ian; his Godmother and aunt, Elizabeth Sweeney, and her husband, Kevin; and Evan's grandparents, Margaret and Bernard Kowalski.



"We both feel really grateful that we've been able to be witnesses to this," Kevin Cummings said later. Kevin and Kit have been particularly supportive of the families of all seminarians. They started the blog **seminarianparents.com** to answer families' questions about the seminary process.

Special Paulist touches in the Ordination Mass included Sr. Sara Dwyer, A.S.C., reading a scripture passage from the prophet Jeremiah. Sr. Sara was part of the formation team that guided Evan.

During the Mass, Paulist Fr. Michael Hennessy, who was ordained a priest in May, smiled as he assisted Evan in putting on a dalmatic, the vestment worn by deacons.

"It's a special moment," Fr. Mike said later. "I remember clearly last year when Fr. Jimmy Hsu vested me. It's an intimate moment. It just gets very real."

Paulist Fr. Dat Tran, the Paulists' vocation director, said that a meaningful moment of the Mass for him was when each new deacon was handed the Book of the Gospels. The order of deacons is closely associated with proclaiming and preaching the Good News.

"Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach," the bishop proclaims.

Paulist Fr. John Collins, a full-time Paulist missionary who was at the Ordination Mass, said he was impressed that Evan and the other men moved forward to be ordained during this difficult time for the Church.

"I thought it took a lot of courage, strength and faith. And I think it helped me, it confirmed me," Fr. Collins said. "They were willing to step forth and say, despite everything that is going on, I still have faith in it. And I love what it stands for and, if it brings me to a greater sense of the Holy One in my life and I can share that with other people, then I am willing to take that step today."

The day before the diaconate ordination, on Friday evening, August 31, Evan made his final promise to the Paulist community during a special Mass in the chapel of St. Joseph's Seminary in Washington, D.C.



ABOVE: Paulist Deacon Evan Cummings with his family and Bishop Roy Campbell.

BELOW: During the Promises Mass on August 31.



At the same Mass, **Philip Catalanotto** and **Eric Hernandez** made their first promises to the Paulist Fathers, marking the completion of their novitiate year. The step makes Philip and Eric the latest men to bear the order initials "C.S.P."

Paulist seminarians Michael Cruickshank, Paolo Puccini and Richard Whitney also renewed their promises.

"All of us need to be renewed," Paulist Fr. Eric Andrews, president of the Paulist Fathers, said in his homily. "Not only our commitments that we make as a spouse, as a religious, as a priest, but commitments that are made for us in our baptism."

Fr. Eric shared quotes from recent reflections provided by the Paulist seminarians.

"No matter how ugly things get," Fr. Eric read, "all of us have the God-given ability to change these things, even just a little bit."

"As long as there's a hunger for God's love, I'll keep showing up," another wrote.

Fr. Eric said that the seminarians' reflections helped his journey of faith in the wake of the abuse revelations.

"Ugly can be a part of the religious experience, as well as joy and beauty and goodness and faith," Fr. Eric said. "We are called to be part of this journey of Christ, one that leads to the cross, leads through the cross, and leads to life everlasting." ➡



## New Seminary Building

The **Paulist House of Mission and Studies** will be a new, right-sized home for our seminarians, novices and the Paulist Fathers who live and work in Washington, D.C. As seen in these renderings, it will be built on land adjacent to our former seminary building that was sold recently.



The new building will be just steps from the Catholic University of America, where our seminarians study.

Please visit **paulist.org/NewSeminary** for more details, including ways to support this important project.



## Three New Paulist Novices

We pray in thanksgiving to God for our three new novices who "signed in" during a special Mass on Saturday, August 25, at St. Joseph Seminary in Washington, D.C.

The new novices are: **Chris Lawton**, 33, a Wisconsin native and Harvard University graduate who is a medical doctor; **Dan Macalinao**, 31, a native of the Philippines and Wesleyan University graduate who holds a Ph.D. in cancer biology; and **Moises Pineda**, 36, who grew up in Florida, graduated from Florida International University, holds an M.B.A. and worked in insurance.

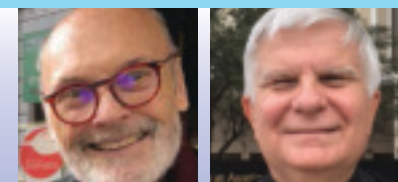
Our new novices are pictured above with Paulist Fr. Dat Tran, director of vocations, and Paulist Fr. Rich Colgan, our director of novices.



## Holy Land Pilgrimage

You are invited to join **Paulist Fr. Thomas Kane** and **Paulist Fr. Bruce Nieli** on a 12-day spiritual journey in Israel. "**A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**" will take place March 30 to April 10, 2019.

Please visit **paulist.org/pilgrimages** for details.



LEFT: Philip Catalanotto and Eric Hernandez.

BELOW: During the Promises Mass on August 31.

