

Deeply Reverent Yet Full of Joy

*Three Paulists Ordained
to the Priesthood*

By Jennifer Szweda Jordan

The liturgy was ancient with touches of modernity, formal with great personal intimacy, and deeply reverent yet full of joy.

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the Diocese of Tucson, AZ, ordained Paulist Fr. Matt Berrios, Paulist Fr. Steve Petroff, and Paulist Fr. Stuart Wilson-Smith to the priesthood on Saturday, May 20, during a Mass at the Paulist Fathers' mother church, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, in New York City.

"Called. Immersed in a society. Sent on mission," the bishop began his homily. Then he pointed in a humorously exaggerated way at each of the three men, saying directly to them, "You, yeah you, right here."

Bishop Kicanas explained his reference – Caravaggio's famous painting of "The Calling of St. Matthew" – in which Jesus points to the then-tax collector.

"In the painting," he said, "Matthew's finger is pointing directly at himself as if to say, 'Who me?' But that's

exactly the point of Caravaggio's painting. Matthew, the tax collector, undeserving as he was, was the one picked, called, chosen by the Lord. You men, like Jeremiah, like Isaac Hecker, must ask yourself, 'Who, me?'"

Then with extraordinary detail, without notes, the bishop recounted the questionings and wanderings of each man before him to be ordained. He began with Fr. Steve.

CONTINUED INSIDE



Fr. John Ardis, C.S.P., Senior Director: johnardis@paulist.org
Andrew Shafer, Chief Advancement Officer: aashafer@paulist.org
202.269.2500

Questions or Comments for the Office of Mission Advancement?

Register at
November 10 - 12, 2017
\$479 single / \$449 double occupancy
paulist.org/texasretreat

PAULIST RETREAT WITH
Fr. Steven Bell, CSP
Fr. John Collins, CSP
Fr. Tom Gibbons, CSP

of unlikely followers
KINGDOM

"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.

Visit paulist.org/pilgrimages for details.

Paulist Pilgrimages has two upcoming journeys:

"The Holy Land: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" with Paulist Fr. Rich Andre from Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, 2018.

"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.

You are Invited!

DEEPLY REVERENT YET FULL OF JOY, CONTINUED

"... he entered a religious community, and soon after, left," Bishop Kicanas said. "He felt disillusioned, disappointed. Kind of like a failure. Not unlike the struggle of Hecker himself to figure out who he was and where he was going."

"It was inspirational," Fr. Steve said of the homily. "He spoke not only to us very personally but also to our family and the whole Paulist community."

Paulist Fr. Eric Andrews, president of the Paulist Fathers, recalled that the Paulists once served with the bishop in Tucson.

"To make the liturgy so personal, I think, just warmed up the whole room," Fr. Eric said. "It started with (the bishop) and it just continued throughout the whole liturgy."

At one point, the bishop invited Fr. Eric to stand by his side and to join him during the ordinands' pledges of obedience.

"That generally doesn't happen in an ordination ritual," Fr. Eric says. "He made it just so personal and intimate ... The partnership of the bishop and the religious community was something that was really remarkable."

This intimacy continued as the dozens of Paulist Fathers proceeded one-by-one to lay their hands on the head of each of the kneeling ordinands.

Fr. Matt said he was moved by this.

"Just the sign of fraternal love and solidarity that all the priests showed us through that action," he said. "To be honest, I teared up a bit."

This was made even more dramatic as "Gabriel's Oboe" from the 1986 film "The Mission" played. Throughout the Mass, contemporary music such as "You Gather in the Outcast" paired with older works such as Mozart's "Ave Verum."

Often, a striking moment in an ordination is when the ordinands lie face down, prostrate, before

the altar on the church floor while The Litany of Saints is sung.

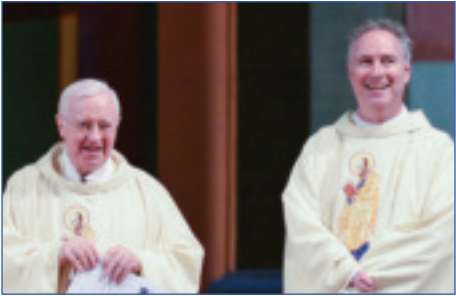
Fr. Stuart described the experience: "I could feel the cold and everything just sort of disappeared and my whole life just suddenly, just swoosh, it was all present," he said. "Just remembering being young and feeling this feeling like, 'What am I doing?' And I knew there was something there – but what is it? And this sense of growing into this moment. So, it was just, my whole life was there and surrounded by family and friends and the saints, the Communion of Saints."

The three new priests each said their Masses of Thanksgiving ("First Masses") the next day, Sunday, May 21, at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle.

This summer, each will begin their first priestly assignments. Fr. Stuart will be associate director of St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. Fr. Steve will now become associate pastor of Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago. Fr. Matt will become associate pastor at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle. ➡



Congratulations to the Paulist Fathers Celebrating Milestone Ordination Anniversaries!



Paulist Fr. John Foley and Paulist Fr. Rick Walsh.

60 Years

Fr. Vinny McKiernan, C.S.P.
Fr. Ed Pietrucha, C.S.P.
Fr. Tom Stransky, C.S.P.

50 Years

Fr. John Foley, C.S.P.

40 Years

Fr. Thomas Foley, C.S.P.
Fr. Thomas Holahan, C.S.P.
Fr. Thomas Hall, C.S.P.
Fr. John Hurley, C.S.P.
Fr. Michael Martin, C.S.P.
Fr. Ron Roberson, C.S.P.
Fr. Terry Ryan, C.S.P.

25 Years

Fr. Rick Walsh, C.S.P.



Paulist Fr. Ed Pietrucha, Paulist Fr. Tom Stransky and Paulist Fr. Vinny McKiernan

From the Desk of Fr. Eric:



Dear friends,

As you can see from this edition of "The Voice," May 2017 will be remembered as a month of great joy for the Paulist Fathers! Truly, we have been blessed by God!

We count you among our blessings, too! Our ministries are galvanized by the prayers and financial support of so many friends and supporters.

If you are able, please consider making a financial contribution to our work during these summer months. With your help, we are able to expand our vocations outreach, strengthen our ministries and care for our senior Paulist Fathers. To make a gift, you may 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! And, know that you and your loved ones are in our constant prayers.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Eric

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

Do you know someone who would make a great priest?

If so, tell him! And, please tell him about the Paulist Fathers!

To reach **Paulist Fathers Vocations**, please contact vocation director Paulist **Fr. Dat Tran** at:

(917) 830-5537
be@paulist.org
paulist.org/vocation
[@PaulistVocation](https://www.instagram.com/PaulistVocation)

