

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC:

Dear Friends,

### Summer greetings to you!

As you read this new issue of The Voice, our newly ordained Paulist Fr. Evan Cummings is beginning his first priestly assignment at the St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

It's a worshipping community filled with the Holy Spirit that will be a great fit for Fr. Evan, whose devotion to the third person of the Trinity is long standing. During his ordination, Cardinal Timothy Dolan commented on that directly:

"Evan, today you commence the ministry in intimate partnership with the Holy Spirit ... You will preach, not exercising your wind, but God's breath, the Holy Spirit."

Our newest Paulist Father is clearly in the line of our founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker, whose 200th birthday we celebrate this year. Fr. Hecker wrote: "I hope for a new Pentecost in the Church by directing her children to the interior direction of the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit invites, welcomes, gathers, animates, heals, reconciles, and unifies. These are the qualities you will find in all Paulists, our associates and the communities we serve. We are grateful for the unity we find in diversity, and are overjoyed by the opportunities to collaborate in mission with each of you!

I am grateful for your on-going prayers and financial support. With your help, we can continue to nurture vocations, care for senior Paulists who have given their lives to the mission of Jesus Christ, and create new programs to reach those searching for God in their lives.

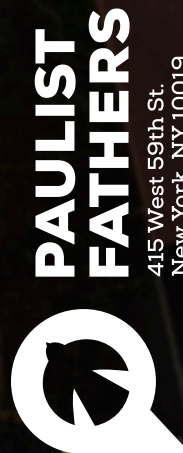
**May the Holy Spirit be with you, filling your heart with the fire of God's love!**

God Bless You!,



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

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Servant of God  
**Isaac Hecker**  
Founder of the Paulist Fathers



**200**  
Years

December 18, 1819 – December 18, 2019

*Birthday Bicentennial*

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT?  
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# the Voice

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement

## Our New Paulist Father

**Issue #14**

Summer 2019





# Born of the Holy Spirit

By Jennifer Szweda Jordan

Paulist Evan Cummings was ordained a priest on the beautiful morning of Saturday, May 18, 2019, during a Mass at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City.

The ordaining bishop was New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan, who stressed the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church.

"Evan, today you commence a ministry in intimate partnership with God the Holy Spirit. You, as priest, will be the agent of the Paraclete," Cardinal Dolan said during his homily. "You will preach not exercising mere wind but God's breath of the Holy Spirit."

The cardinal recalled the late Fr. Theodore Hesburgh's dictum: "I would begin no meeting, sign no letter, make no decision, plan no lecture without three words: 'Come Holy Spirit.'"

The cardinal observed the Holy Spirit is essential to the charism of the Paulist Fathers, and the missionary society's founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker, who was born 200 years ago this year. He quoted Fr. Hecker's words: "From my childhood God influenced me by the interior touch of his Holy Spirit."

In a stirring moment of the Ordination Mass, Fr. Evan lay face down with his head at the foot of the altar while the congregation sang the Litany of Saints — in which many saints' names are chanted with the request to "Pray for us."

That was followed by all of the concelebrating priests praying over Fr. Evan during the Laying on of Hands.

Later, in an interview, Fr. Evan said that touch of the Holy Spirit was evident to him during the Laying on of Hands. "I just felt an immediate presence of the Holy Spirit there being poured upon me for this mission and this service," he said. "That was deeply moving."



It was moving to Fr. Evan's family as well, who were integral in the celebration. Fr. Evan's father, Kevin Cummings, was the lector of the first scripture reading at the Mass. When the cardinal first entered the church, he shook hands with each family member and joyfully pointed to them saying, "You did this!"

Fr. Evan's mother, Kit Cummings, blessed her son after the Mass.

"I put my hand on his heart because I said this blessing was to his heart," she said. "Because he was born of the Holy Spirit. And then of us. (I prayed) that the Holy Spirit would grant him love for the rest of his life to guide him in his ministry."

Throughout Fr. Evan's seminary years, his parents were so supportive that they created a website called **SeminaryParents.com** to virtually educate and encourage other parents of seminarians. Kevin said that it's estimated that about half of those who are interested in being priests are actively discouraged by family.

Fr. Evan's aunt and Godmother, Elizabeth Sweeney, was struck by just how much of a family the Paulists are, and will be, to Evan.

"When all the priests came up and blessed him, that was tremendous," she said. "Just the support of the community and the size of the community and to know there's a legacy there for him as well — that he's not alone."

## First Mass

On Sunday, May 19, Fr. Evan celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving, or "First Mass," also at St. Paul's in New York City. His mother, Kit, and brother, Ian Cummings, were lectors. Ian's forearm revealed a tattoo of a former Paulist logo he'd promised he'd get if his brother followed through with ordination.

Fr. Evan's Godfather and uncle, Bernie Kowalski, a home winemaker for 20 years, provided the wine for the Eucharist.

At Fr. Evan's request, Paulist Fr. Dave Dwyer, executive director of the Busted Halo media ministry, preached the homily at the First Mass. Fr. Dave stressed the importance of priests "working alongside and serving the lay people of God."

"It is for you that we feel called to this service," he said.

Fr. Dave also quoted St. Philip Neri's words: "Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if he wants anything of you, he will fit you for the work and give you strength."

Melissa Padrewski, who has attended Mass at St. Paul's for three years, was convinced that Fr. Evan is fit as well.

**Pictured Right:** Paulist Fr. James Lloyd prays over Paulist Fr. Evan Cummings during the laying on of hands at the Ordination Mass. Fr. Lloyd, age 98, is the oldest-living Paulist.

"At first I was like, 'He's going to be a priest, really?' You know, because he seems so young," Padrewski said. "But when you start talking to him, he's so smart, and you just see God working in him."

Fr. Evan grew up at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Layton, UT, which was founded by the Paulist Fathers in 1948 (unknown to Fr. Evan until later in his journey).

He discovered the Paulists on Wikipedia one night during a study break. As a self-described tech nerd, he appreciated the Paulists' emphasis on communicating the Gospel through media and technology. He entered the seminary after finishing his undergraduate degree at Utah State University.

For his first priestly assignment, Fr. Evan will be associate director of St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

Photos by Tobia St. Germain



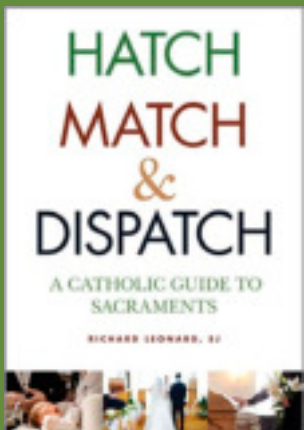
## New from Paulist Press

"Hatch, Match & Dispatch: A Catholic Guide to Sacraments" is the latest offering from the dynamic Australian author, Jesuit Fr. Richard Leonard.

Available in print and eBook editions, it is an accessible journey through the history, liturgy, and theology of the seven sacraments, as well as the Rite of Christian Burial.

"Hatch, Match & Dispatch" expands the horizons of those who have celebrated the sacraments for their whole lives and introduces new believers to the question of why sacraments are essential in the Christian life.

Visit [paulistpress.com](http://paulistpress.com) for details.



## Paulist Fathers Planning Study

The Paulist Fathers are conducting a campaign planning study to get your feedback regarding our plans to build a new Paulist House of Mission and Studies; address deferred maintenance at Paulist homes; and fund the health care needs of our senior Paulists.

Your thoughts will enable us to determine support for these projects, establish a campaign strategy and help identify prospective donors and campaign leaders.

To learn more about the projects and to complete an online survey, please go to [steiergroup.com/survey](http://steiergroup.com/survey). Click on the Paulist Fathers and enter the password: Paulist. Please know we value your time and your recommendations with help us effectively plan for this exciting initiative.

1. Please go to: [steiergroup.com/survey](http://steiergroup.com/survey)
2. Click on: **The Paulist Fathers**
3. Enter password: **Paulist**
4. Give your feedback on our campaign planning study. **Thank You!**