

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC:

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."  
(Luke 2: 10)*



Dear friends,

This announcement given to the shepherds more than 2000 years ago lifts our hearts again today.

Despite the many trials and challenges of our time, the annual celebration of Jesus' birth can give us hope and allow all of us – rich or poor, healthy or ill – a time to rejoice. God has sent his Son to us, a sign of His great love for humanity and our world. Never again would we be separated from Him. This is a Christmas gift beyond all imagining!

Just like the shepherds who glorified God after encountering the Christ Child, the Paulist Fathers – and all those who partner with us in our mission – seek to bring the joy of the Gospel to all we encounter. In a special way, we seek to reach out to those **beyond the pews** who are searching for meaning in their lives, as well as those who have left the active practice of the faith.

Your prayers and financial support help to make this work possible. We are so grateful to you!

As you consider your year-end financial contributions, I hope you will again find us worthy of your support. As you know, your support is essential for the formation of our seminarians and novices, the care of our senior Paulist Fathers, and much more.

To make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope or visit [paulist.org/give](http://paulist.org/give). Gifts of all sizes are precious to us.

The New Year holds special promise for us as we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth on December 18, 1819, of our founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker. In 2019, we also hope to break ground for the construction of the new Paulist House of Mission and Studies in Washington, D.C. We look forward to celebrating these wonderful events with you!

On behalf of all the Paulist Fathers, 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



**PAULIST  
FATHERS**  
415 West 59th St.  
New York, NY 10019



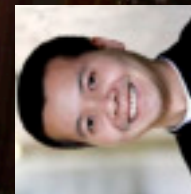
# Come & See

**VOCATIONS RETREAT**

Do you know someone who is discerning a call to the priesthood in religious life? If so, please tell him about our next **Come & See Vocations Retreat** being held **February 22 to 24, 2019**, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Washington, D.C.

**February  
22 - 24  
2019**

For details, please contact our vocation director, Paulist Fr. Tran, at **(212) 757-4260** or [be@paulist.org](mailto:be@paulist.org).



Questions or Comments for the Office of Mission Advancement?

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



# the Voice

**Issue #12**  
Christmas 2018

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement

## Good News of Great JOY!

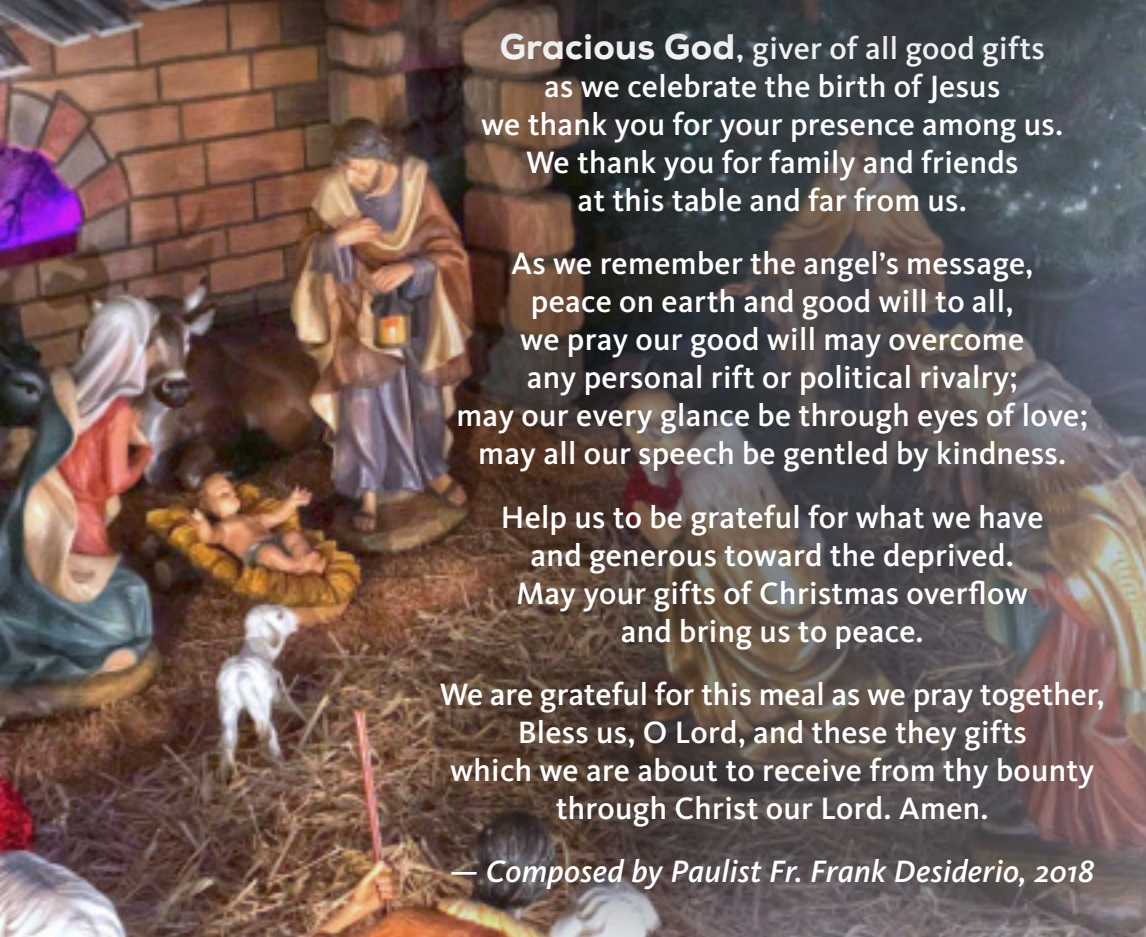


**160**  
YEARS  
PAULIST FATHERS





# MEAL PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS PEACE



Gracious God, giver of all good gifts as we celebrate the birth of Jesus we thank you for your presence among us. We thank you for family and friends at this table and far from us.

As we remember the angel's message, peace on earth and good will to all, we pray our good will may overcome any personal rift or political rivalry; may our every glance be through eyes of love; may all our speech be gentled by kindness.

Help us to be grateful for what we have and generous toward the deprived. May your gifts of Christmas overflow and bring us to peace.

We are grateful for this meal as we pray together, Bless us, O Lord, and these they gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Composed by Paulist Fr. Frank Desiderio, 2018



## Paulist Resources for Small Groups

Would you, your parish or organization benefit from a small-group faith-sharing program? If so, here are three Paulist resources to check out:

**The Journey / El Camino**, from Paulist Evangelization Ministries, helps participants deepen their relationship with Jesus. In small groups, participants come to share their experiences with one another and grow together in their faith. Booklets are available in both English and Spanish for adults. Please visit [pemdc.org/TheJourney](http://pemdc.org/TheJourney) for details.



**Living the Eucharist**, also from Paulist Evangelization Ministries, helps revitalize parish life and mission through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish — adults, teens, and families — grow in their faith and live more fully as missionary disciples of Jesus. Please visit [livingtheeucharist.org](http://livingtheeucharist.org) for details.



**Landings**, from Paulist Reconciliation Ministries, helps parishes welcome inactive Catholics who want to take another look at the Church. Landings trains compassionate lay people to reach out to those who have been away from the Church for any number of reasons. Landings offers a safe place to tell one's story, discern a place in the Church, and find a way home. Please visit [landingsintl.org](http://landingsintl.org) for details.



There also is now a second year in the Landings program! The materials for Landings2 are available by digital download at [landings2.org](http://landings2.org).



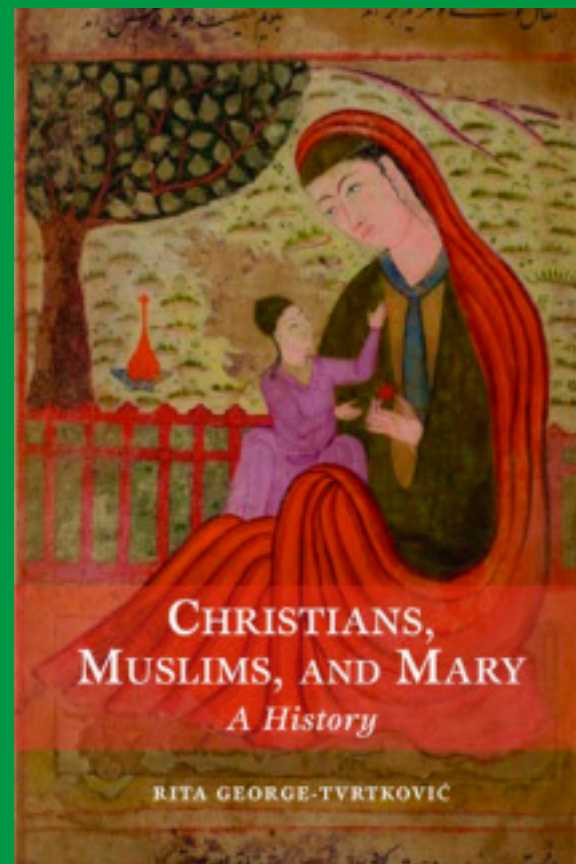
## New from Paulist Press

**"Christians, Muslims, and Mary: A History"**  
by Rita George-Tvrtković

Excerpt:

"... Despite Mary's uniqueness, her exchange with the angel can be seen by both Christians and Muslims as one of the best examples of a *human* (not just female) response to God's call. Her response is exemplary for both female and male believers. And what was the nature of her response? According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary freely and courageously says yes: 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word' (Luke 1:38), using language that might seem 'Muslim' given Mary's clear submission to God's will (submission to God is the meaning of the word *islam*). Her assent came only after some initial hesitation and questions: 'But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be' (Luke 1:29) and 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' (Luke 1:34). Likewise, in the Qur'an, Mary also challenges the angel. In Sura 19:18, she actually tells him to go away (!), and then after he announces God's plan, she wonders how the pregnancy could even have happened, given her virginity (Sura 19:21), using language that is reminiscent of Luke 1:34. An interesting conversation between Christians and Muslims today would be to discuss the nature of Mary's dialogue with the angel: her questions and internal concerns, and her assent (whether explicit or not) to God's plan in both qur'anic and biblical accounts of the annunciation. ..."

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

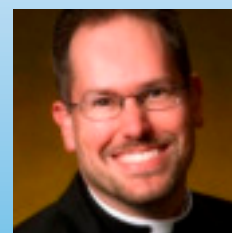
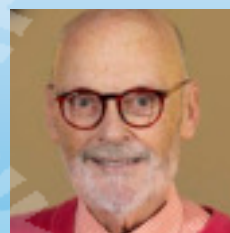


## In The Footsteps of St. Paul: A Pilgrimage to Greece and the Islands

You are invited to join **Paulist Fr. Thomas Kane** and **Paulist Fr. Rich Andre** on a 12-day spiritual journey to Greece that includes a cruise to Mykonos, Rhodes and Crete.

**"In The Footsteps of St. Paul: A Pilgrimage to Greece and the Islands"** will take place May 21 to June 1, 2019.

Please visit [paulist.org/pilgrimages](http://paulist.org/pilgrimages) for details.



As 2018 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.

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

**We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!**



Your support funds our extensive Vocations Outreach program — approximately \$325,000 each year. We ordained two new Paulist Fathers in 2018 and, God-willing, will ordain one new Paulist Father in 2019.

### Vocations Outreach

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

### Seminarians

### Care for Senior Paulist Fathers

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

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

### Openings Ministry for Artists

### Capital Improvements

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.

### Landings Ministry for Returning Catholics

### Ministry

### Parish Missions

To make a gift at this time, please use the enclosed envelope or visit [paulist.org/give](http://paulist.org/give)

### Busted Halo

### Media