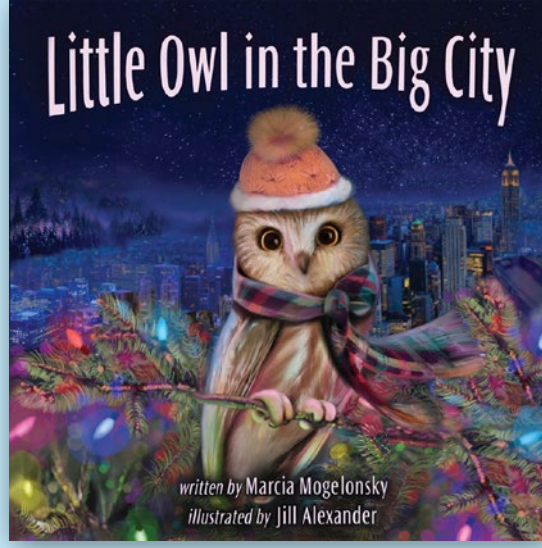


Little Owl in the Big City

Story by Marcia Mogelonsky;
Illustrated by Jill Alexander

"Little Owl in the Big City" is based on the true story of a Northern Saw-Whet owl found in the boughs of the Christmas tree transported from upstate New York to Rockefeller Center in 2020. According to the author, "When I first heard about the little owl hidden in the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, I was convinced that this was no accident. Little Owl intended to get to the Big City to see the lights, hear the noise, and experience the excitement. I wanted to share Little Owl's adventures with the children who are also thrilled by the wonder of the season."

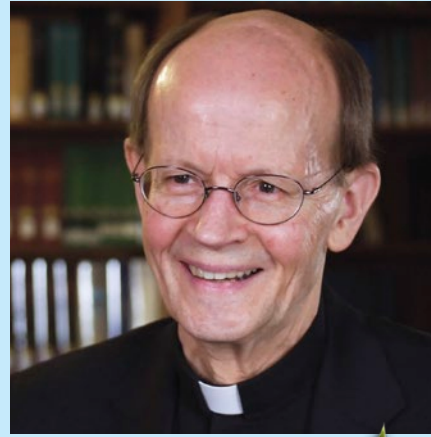
For details on this and other Paulist Press books, please visit: paulistpress.com.



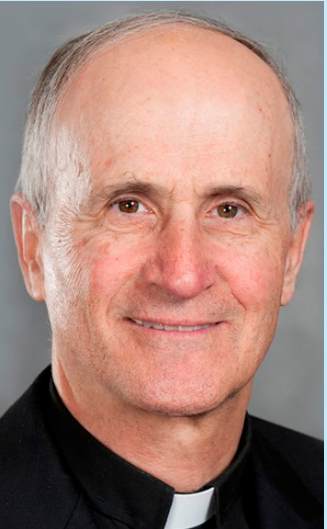
Transitions

We salute these two Paulist Fathers who recently entered senior ministry:

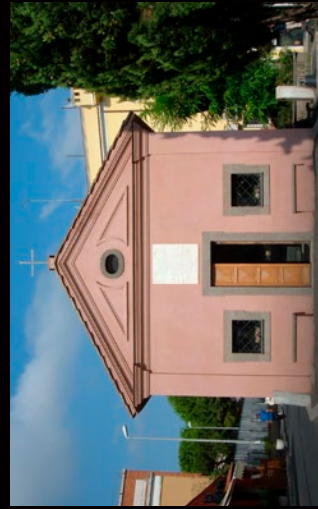
Paulist Fr. Ken Boyack has retired from his role as Vice President of **Paulist Evangelization Ministries** (of which he also is a past president). Fr. Ken will now be President Emeritus of PEM and will continue to assist on some of its initiatives. He has moved from Washington, D.C., to Berkeley, CA, where he is in residence at UC Berkeley's Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish.



Paulist Fr. Tom Ryan has retired from his role as Director of the **Paulist Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations**. He will continue to stay engaged regionally in New England, residing at the Paulist Center in Boston. The national office is now led by Paulist Fr. James DiLuzio.



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

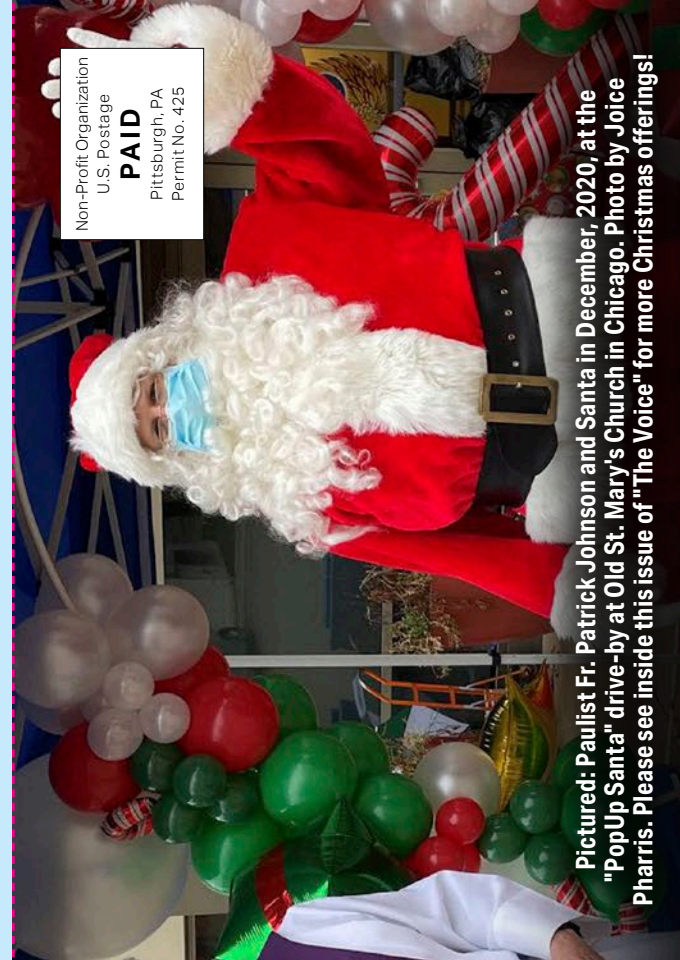


PAULIST PILGRIMAGES has a small number of open spots for its 2022 pilgrimages!

Reservations are still being accepted for "Ignatius in Rome" (June 26 to July 2) and "The Splendors of Eastern Europe and Oberammergau" (September 17 to 27).

For details, please visit: paulist.org/pilgrimages.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT?
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Pictured: Paulist Fr. Patrick Johnson and Santa in December, 2020, at the "PopUp Santa" drive-by at Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago. Photo by Joice Pharris. Please see inside this issue of "The Voice" for more Christmas offerings!



the Voice

Christmas
2021

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



FROM THE DESK OF FR. ERIC

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, 1996

Dear Friends,

Twas the night before Christmas and all through my chamber, the jazzy sounds of Billy May's Christmas tunes made a captivating clamor.

Should I keep this joyous noise to myself, I wondered, or ought I share it with far greater numbers?

The Pastor had left the Midnight preaching to me, thinking I would not dare to be that carefree.

But, the Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer Mambo beat would not let me go, so I approached the pulpit that snowy night, a boom box in tow.

Arise from your pews, I invited the crowd,

let us try something new, a Cha Cha to the Christ Child, paying homage, as modern shepherds might do.

As I pressed the play button, I offered a prayer, hoping this effort would not end my career.

And 'twas to my delight I was so blessed to see, parishioners old and young dancing with great glee.

First to the manger was Kathleen, nearly 80 years old, then her friend Rita who didn't need to be told;

the choir quickly followed, not to be outdone,

and then most of the congregation joined in on the fun.

Yes the local superior was confused and dismayed,

by the sight of these Yuletide worshippers in this most unusual parade.

Like the Magi who came from afar to offer their gifts,

so too did we give fitting reverence to the Child Jesus that Christmas of 1996.



As I recall this Christmas creativity from 25 years ago, I am reminded how much we need creativity today — as we navigate the impact of the pandemic, culture wars, and racial issues on our society and on our faith lives.

In what way will the Holy Spirit bring us together as God's holy and precious children? Will it be through a Church that seeks to be bold and creative and take risks?

Right now, in this holy season, the Spirit is calling us to the manger, mambo if you like, to ponder anew how a little baby, so small and so vulnerable, changed the face of the world and all eternity.

God is calling us to the simplicity of this love, so we can simply love one another — healing the rifts, the pain, and the loss we have all endured for too long.

I am grateful for your partnership in this holy endeavor! Thanks to all who have supported our mission and ministry this year, especially those who are making our "Hope for the Future" comprehensive campaign a great success.

As I celebrate my final Christmas as President of the Paulist Fathers, I give thanks for the gift you have been to me over these past eight years! May every day of the New Year be a blessing to you and your loved ones.

Merry Christmas!

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

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

Right: Fr. Eric at Christmas, 1996



2nd Annual

A PAULIST FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 p.m. Eastern • 7:30 p.m. Central
6:30 p.m. Mountain • 5:30 p.m. Pacific

Watch at our Facebook page, YouTube channel or at: paulist.org/Christmas



An online program with Christmas greetings, music, prayer and more!

Thank You to the Sponsors of our 2nd Annual "Spirit of Hecker" Awards held on November 6!

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Trinity

Trinity University, Washington, D.C.

Silver Sponsors

Dorothy and Deacon John De La Garza
Fr. Thomas Kane, C.S.P.

Bronze Sponsors

Myra Leo and Deacon Billy Atkins
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Tony See
Paul Snatchko



A Homecoming for My First Christmas Mass

By Paulist Fr. Mike Hennessy

I was ordained in May, 2018. So, I have only been a priest for three Christmases, so far.

Looking back and looking ahead, I think it will be hard for me to top my first Christmas as a priest.

That Christmas, I was serving on the parish staff at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids, MI. Normally, we spend Christmas at our parish assignments. But, the schedule at the cathedral worked out that I could go home and be with family in Massachusetts over the holiday.

Once I set my travel plans, the next question was where was I going to celebrate Christmas Mass? I did not know any priests near where my parents lived because, when I was growing up, we lived in Connecticut.

So, I started asking around and calling parishes, to see if they could use some help. But, since it was so close to Christmas, I didn't have luck because parishes usually have their Christmas schedules set weeks, if not months, in advance.

Then, an idea came to me: Maybe I should call St. Denis Parish in

Westwood, MA, only about ten minutes from my parents' home.

In our faith journeys, there are some places - often parishes - that we have a deep spiritual connection to. For me, St. Denis was one of those places. I was baptized there. My parents were married there. My grandparents - on both sides - had long been parishioners there. So, I called the pastor.

First, I introduced myself and then said something about my ordination a few months earlier. But it's what I said next that caught his attention: That I was Claire Hennessy's grandson.

While she had passed away a few years earlier, my grandmother had always remained a parishioner there, and was the only person in my family that the pastor would have known.

His response (in a Boston accent): "Oh, you're Claire's grandson! Of course, we'd love you to celebrate Mass here on Christmas Day. How does the 8 a.m. sound?"

So, that was my first Christmas Mass as a priest of Jesus Christ: at St. Denis Parish, in the same holy space where my parents were married and where I was baptized.

It perhaps is the greatest Christmas gift I have ever received. 🍷

Paulist Fr. Michael Hennessy serves as the Paulist Fathers' associate vocation director. He lives in Los Angeles.

On the cover: Left to right, Paulists Fr. Ron Franco, Fr. Bob O'Donnell, Fr. Tim Sullivan, Fr. Jim Haley and Fr. Don Andrie at Dollywood in Tennessee.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2022 from the Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement!

Matt Kami Mary Pat Ellie
Fr. Eric Paul Brett Linda

Above: Fr. Mike with his grandmothers, Nancy White and Claire Hennessy.