



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 30, 2022**

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## **Paulist Fathers Announce Impending Transition at St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbus, OH**

**NEW YORK** \_ With deep regret, the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, “the Paulist Fathers,” announces the end of its 66-year history at the St. Thomas More Newman Center, the Catholic campus ministry at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, effective July 31, 2022.

The abrupt end of the Paulist Fathers’ dedicated service to the People of God at the St. Thomas More Newman Center follows a decision by the new bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Earl Fernandes, to appoint a priest of the diocese as director of the Newman Center and make substantial changes to the nature of its ministry.

“We have been blessed to serve the students, faculty, staff members, alumni and community members at The Ohio State University in Columbus for more than six decades. We depart this vital campus ministry with great sadness,” said Paulist Fr. René Constanza, president of the missionary society.

“I want to express my deep appreciation to Paulist Fr. Edward Nowak, director of the Newman Center, for his leadership in Columbus since 2018, and to associate directors, Paulist Fr. Evan Cummings and Paulist Fr. Jimmy Hsu, for their innovative ministry efforts at Ohio State,” he added.

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Fr. Constanza continued, “We will be forever grateful for everything that the Newman Center community has contributed to the Paulist Fathers — prayers, financial support, help in the formation of our seminarians and new priests, and fellowship with senior priests like Paulist Fr. Vinny McKiernan, who has served at the Newman Center since 1990.”

“This year is the 65th anniversary of my ordination as a priest. And, I am very grateful to have spent 32 of those years serving in Columbus — and still be working! The people at the Newman Center are wonderful and I am going to miss them dearly,” said Fr. McKiernan.

Paulist Fathers began serving in Columbus on September 8, 1956, at the Newman Center's original home on the east side of the Ohio State campus. The present building was dedicated in 1971. It was rededicated in 2002 after a major project of additions and renovations.

In 2012, the Newman Center was honored with an “Exemplary Award in Campus Ministry for Developing Leaders for the Future” from the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. The center also is one of the original ESTEEM leadership program sites, a prestigious student leadership program by the Leadership Roundtable on Church Management.

“I want the Newman Center community to know they will always be in the prayers of the Paulist Fathers,” said Fr. Constanza. “Despite the sadness we feel, we must remain hopeful that the Holy Spirit will be our guide in this time.”

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