

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. RENÉ

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the past two months, I have had the opportunity to visit with and spend time listening to some very inspiring individuals in Chicago, Grand Rapids, and Columbus who shared with me their experience of being transformed by our Paulist presence and mission.

"When I am at Mass, I feel that I am in God's time and God's world."

"I come to this parish because I feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging."

"Serving the needy and vulnerable at the outreach center is central to who we are as a Paulist parish."

These statements reflect what is at the heart of being church – the People of God on a common journey to fullness of life, with the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter. We find here two primary aspects of Christian community: relationship and belonging. Through our worship and liturgies, through mutual communal support, and by living lives of service, we manifest God's unconditional love to the world.

The Paulist Fathers will continue being relational priests as expressed in our 2022 Paulist General Assembly resolutions. These resolutions are the product of listening and working sessions that started in the Fall of 2021 with our lay partners in mission, Paulist Associates, Paulist Deacon Affiliates and Paulist Fathers. The resolutions that emerged from the General Assembly held in June, in Washington, D.C., underscore how despite the challenging field of mission in which we find ourselves, we remain people of hope because we are not doing God's work on our own. We are in this together and we are guided by the Holy Spirit!

To read the resolutions, please visit: [paulist.org/resolutions](http://paulist.org/resolutions).

The Paulist mission will not be squelched! Wherever we are, we continue to be witnesses of the Gospel when we call others to the love of Christ, remind them that they too are loved and worth it, and affirm that they too belong to God and to God's Church.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. I thank God every day for you, our partners in mission.

In Christ,

**Very Rev. René Constanza, C.S.P.**  
President, The Paulist Fathers

*Pictured: Paulist Fr. René Constanza is installed as president of the Paulist Fathers on June 7, 2022, during a Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.*



**PAULIST FATHERS**

415 West 59th St.  
New York, NY 10019



### DEACONS POD DEBUTS

We are pleased to announce the launch of "Deacons Pod" created by three Paulist Deacon Affiliates: Deacon Tom Casey, Deacon Drew Dickson and Deacon Dennis Dolan.

It's a podcast for everyone! But, it's especially being created to inspire two groups: people who are thinking about going to Church and people who are thinking about leaving Church.

New episodes debut every other Tuesday! Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts. Please learn more at: [DeaconsPod.com](http://DeaconsPod.com).

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

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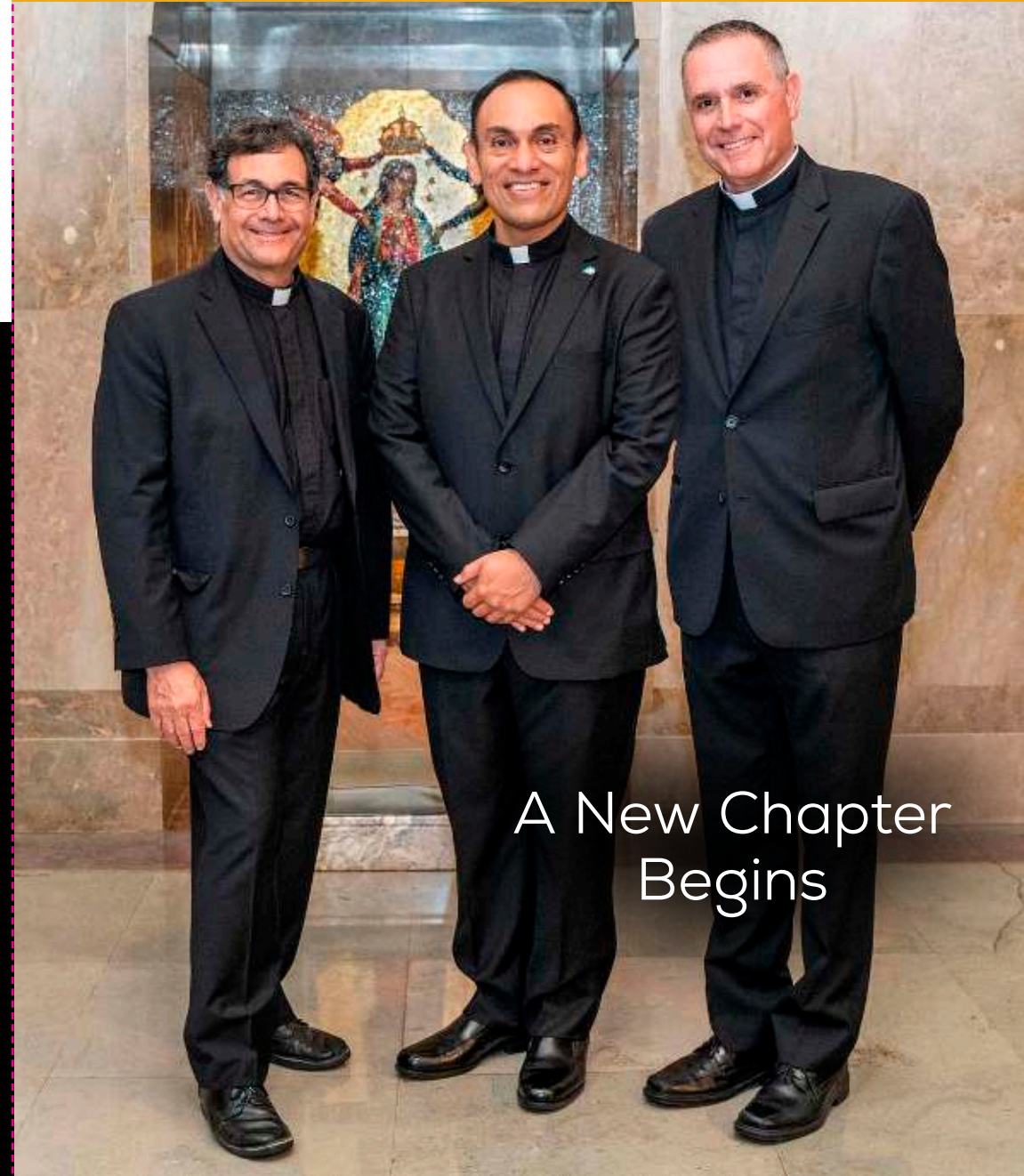
Pictured: Parishioners and friends from Austin, TX, at the celebration in Washington, D.C., following our Presidential Installation Mass on June 7, 2022.

Summer  
2022



# the Voice

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



A New Chapter  
Begins

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

# Paulists Aim To Address Polarization

**A**ddressing toxic polarization will be a priority of the Paulist Fathers for at least the next four years.

That was determined in June at the Paulists' quadrennial General Assembly in Washington, D.C., in a resolution called **"Toward a More Perfect Union: Mission in an Age of Polarization."**

The resolution uses this definition: "Polarization occurs when two diametrically opposed positions emerge and is sustained through the espousing and reinforcement of sharply contrasting worldviews, cultural values and social practices."

It continues: "Over the past 50-plus years, this form of social polarization has been escalating and creating a destructive trajectory, leading to the current landscape marked by: the feuding divisions among family members, friends, colleagues, parishes and communities; the growth and spread of anxiety, addiction, depression, fear, trauma, suicide, and increasing acts of violence; the perpetuation of an illusion that this crisis is intractable, coupled with a loss of hope."

The resolution poses these questions:

- How do we respond to the civic and moral issues of our time (such as abortion, climate change, immigration, gender and sexuality, gun control, racism, and secularization) when toxic polarization impairs constructive dialogue?
- How do we build community life within our own Paulist houses when toxic polarization creates barriers for respecting our differences?
- How can we foster a culture of vocations if toxic polarization negatively attaches ideological labels to our Paulist charism and social image?
- How do we feel safe? How do we care for ourselves and each other spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually?

To address toxic polarization, the General Assembly recommended that:

- A **Paulist National Reconciliation Initiative** be established. "This initiative may create, promote, and maintain a hub for pastoral guidelines, preaching aids, resources, media, bibliography, best practices and proven models available," the resolution indicated.



**"Toxic Polarization impairs our ability to effectively promote, practice, and achieve our well-being and missionary endeavors."**

—from **"Toward a More Perfect Union: Mission in An Age of Polarization"**

- A gathering be held within two years to bring together Paulist Fathers, Paulist Associates, affiliates and partners in mission to explore the issues and dynamics of polarization "and to share and deepen ways we can help each other navigate and carry this heavy cross."
- The Paulist General Council "facilitate a continual conversation within the Paulist Fathers on diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly with respect to racism within the Paulists and the Catholic Church."
- "Toxic polarization be addressed in Paulist preaching whenever possible and prudent, and that resources be made available for this purpose."

The resolution also states, "there is actually hope and light glowing within this darkness. At the core of our Christian tradition is faith in the resurrection of Christ who conquered sin and death upon the cross. This single act of love remains the prism through which we are to view our missionary endeavors. It is also where we find our hope."

To learn more, please visit: [paulist.org/resolutions](http://paulist.org/resolutions).



*Pictured: Parishioners and friends from Grand Rapids, MI, at the celebration in Washington, D.C., following our Presidential Installation Mass on June 7, 2022.*

## On The Move

This summer, several Paulist Fathers moved into new roles. Please keep them in your prayers during this time of transition.



**Paulist Fr. Dat Tran** became Rector and Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and Director of the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, MI.



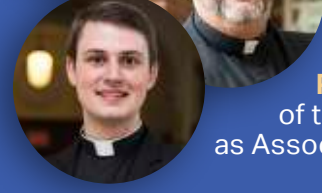
**Paulist Fr. Rich Andre** is now the Director of the Paulist Center in Boston.



**Paulist Fr. Michael Hennessy** became our Director of Vocations, based in New York City.



**Paulist Fr. Ryan Casey** is now Associate Pastor of Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Parish in Berkeley, CA.



**Paulist Fr. Evan Cummings** became an Associate Pastor of the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle in New York as well as Associate Director of our Busted Halo media ministry.

## Promises Mass & Diaconate Ordination

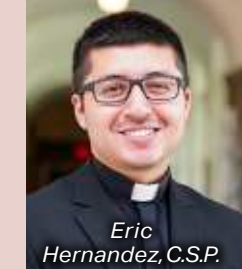
We are pleased to announce that Paulist seminarian **Eric Hernandez** is slated to make his final promise to the Paulist Fathers during a special Mass at 5:30 p.m. on **Friday, September 2, 2022**, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Washington, D.C.

At the same Mass, Paulist novice **James Marquez** is expected to make his first promise to our missionary society, and our other seminarians will renew their promises.

The following morning, on **Saturday, September 3**, God-willing, Eric Hernandez will be ordained a transitional deacon by Bishop Roy Campbell, auxiliary bishop of Washington, D.C., during a 10 a.m. Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Our friends who are convenient to Washington, D.C., are invited to attend these special liturgies in person. The Masses also will be broadcast live. To watch, or for more details, please visit: [paulist.org/promises](http://paulist.org/promises).

**Come, Holy Spirit!**



*Eric Hernandez, C.S.P.*

## Paulist Deacon Affiliates

We received the promises of three new Paulist Deacon Affiliates on **June 7, 2022**, near the conclusion of Paulist Fr. René Constanza's Installation Mass in Washington, D.C.



This trio of permanent deacons with a strong affinity for the Paulist charism and mission are: **Deacon Mark Asselin** of Maryland; **Deacon Patrick Murphy-Racey** of Tennessee; and **Deacon Patrick Ouellette** of Virginia. They are pictured here with Paulist Fr. Frank DeSiano, who serves with the Paulist Deacon Affiliates ministry.

Please learn more at: [paulist.org/DeaconAffiliates](http://paulist.org/DeaconAffiliates).

## A Special Gift in Your Will

Each year, our missionary work is strengthened by bequests in wills. We always feel blessed when we are remembered in this special way.

To make a bequest, a good first step is to speak with your attorney or financial advisor. The basic language to include is:

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath (**insert dollar amount, description or percentage of estate**) to the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, dba Paulist Fathers, a religious organization located at 415 West 59th St., New York, NY 10019, Federal Tax ID #13-1624092, for their general use and purpose."

If you name the Paulist Fathers as a beneficiary in your will, please notify our Office of Mission Advancement. We would like to thank you and recognize your gift.

To notify us, or if you have any questions, please contact Kami Cray, our associate director of development, at **(212) 586-2074** or [kcrary@paulist.org](mailto:kcrary@paulist.org).

Please know that we are sincerely grateful for your generosity expressed in such an impactful and lasting way.

*On the cover: The new leadership team of the Paulist Fathers began a four-year term in June. L to R: Paulist Fr. Frank Desiderio, Vice President; Paulist Fr. René Constanza, President; and Paulist Fr. Dave Dwyer, First Consultor.*