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*President's Message*

## A new spin on resolutions

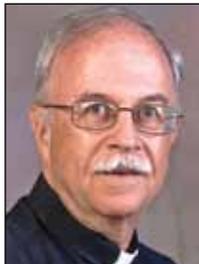
New Year's resolutions. What are those?

Good ideas for the future? Or, as a friend of mine dubs exercise equipment gathering dust in the corner, "a monument to good intentions"?

A waste of time ... I'll simply break them and then feel guilty?

Or are they an expression of hope?

That is, I am not defined by my past, the future can be different, and I can be a tool of God's will for a refashioned world.



It's been a few weeks since we started the New Year. Perhaps we thought we had relieved ourselves of guilt by not making resolutions – "We won't keep them anyway" – and so now there is nothing to fret about. No resolutions. No guilt. No problem.

But I would like to suggest going back to the New Year and its resolutions. Now is the time, now is the moment.

Many of us have heard this story in some form, but I remember it as follows:

*Continued on Page 2*

## Hallmark premiere!

*Paulist Productions celebrates 50 years with new film on CBS*

*By Stefani Manowski*

Paulist Productions is celebrating 50 years of faith in film with the premier of *The Lost Valentine* starring Jennifer Love Hewitt (*Ghost Whisperer*) and the legendary Betty White. The project, created in collaboration with Hallmark Hall of Fame, will air on the CBS network Jan. 30 at 9 p.m. EDT.

"We are thrilled to be commemorating Paulist Productions' 50-year legacy of producing incisive and meaningful television with the production of *The Lost Valentine*, in association with Hallmark Hall of Fame," said Father Eric Andrews, CSP, president of Paulist Productions. "Hallmark Hall of Fame has an unparalleled reputation for bringing high quality productions to television, and we are very pleased with the opportunity to work with them."

The film, based on the novel by James



*Courtesy Father Andrews*

Hollywood legend Betty White poses with Father Eric Andrews, CSP, during the filming of *The Lost Valentine*, a Paulist Production in conjunction with Hallmark Hall of Fame.

Michael Pratt, is set during World War II, when Lt. Neil Thomas says goodbye to his wife, Caroline, and their unborn child at Union Station. Lt. Thomas' plane is shot down over the Pacific and is declared missing in action.

A devastated Caroline (played by Ms. White) never gives up on her love for her husband, returning to Union Station each year on the anniversary of her loss for the next 65 years.

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PAULIST FATHERS  
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# Message of film not lost

*Continued from Page 1*

A TV journalist (played by Ms. Hewitt) happens upon the heart-wrenching story and wants to find out what happened to Lt. Thomas 65 years earlier. Caroline is encouraged to cooperate by her and her missing husband's grandson, who falls in love with the reporter.

"I thought, 'Valentine ... love story ... Naval hero. Hallmark would be the perfect home,'" said Barbara M. Gangi, vice president of production and development for Paulist Productions and producer of *The Lost Valentine* who brought the project to Hallmark Hall of Fame. "My instincts were right. They loved the story! After years of pre-production and development, there is much excitement at Paulist Productions as this film comes to fruition."

Founded in 1960 by the late Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser, Paulist



*Courtesy Paulist Productions*

Jennifer Love Hewitt (left) and Betty White star in *The Lost Valentine*, a Paulist Production-Hallmark Hall of Fame movie scheduled to air on CBS Jan. 30.

Productions and its "sister" company, Paulist Pictures, create films and television programs that entertain and enlighten. Spiritual values are at the

heart of each production.

For more information about *The Lost Valentine* or Paulist Productions, log on to [www.paulistproductions.org](http://www.paulistproductions.org).

## Action! Make your New Year's resolution today, this week

*Continued from Page 1*

One time, a certain ruler was surveying his kingdom. Noting that a good swath of land was barren of fruit or wheat or trees, he said to one of his aides: "Why is nothing being grown in that field?" "Well, your majesty, we just haven't gotten around to it. And besides, we can put off planting fruit trees for a while as they will not bear fruit for years." "Is that so? Well, in that case, I want you to plant the trees in that field immediately. We cannot wait another day!"

Our Paulist mission is for the long term. Indeed, some of our work will not see fruition for many years. So we cannot delay for a moment.

Therefore, I suggest that, since harvest is many years away, we – that is, you and I who share the Paulist mission – start immediately and not wait for Lent or for the next New Year for a resolution. We start today.

So I share with you these thoughts, not so much to let you know what I'm thinking but rather to spark some thinking, or better, resolutions, on your part. To live our faith differently, more deeply, less individualistically, requires resolutions and action.

What action? Let me suggest a few.

There is a young man in your parish or your office who you

think would make a wonderful priest. (One good personal test: "I would like to see him as a priest in a parish where my children would live.") Tell him that you think he would make a good priest and a good Paulist. Send me his name and address, and I will send him a packet of materials for him to get to know us better. Today. This week.

You have been meaning to invite someone in your workplace to your parish. This person left the church a while ago, but recently has been asking about your faith experience. You say, "Would you like to go to Mass with me? We can have a coffee afterwards and talk about it, if you would like." Today. This week.

You have been meaning to make a will, but you have put it off. And you would like to make sure that, when (not if!) you die, your assets go to your family, your favorite charities (e.g., the Paulist Fathers) and your college. Today. This week.

These are some post-New Year's resolutions worth thinking about, even more so worth acting on. Today.

**Very Rev. Michael B. McGarry**  
President of the Paulist Fathers



## PAULIST TODAY

Published by  
**Missionary Society**  
of St. Paul the Apostle  
Office for Media Relations  
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Washington, D.C. 20017

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# Serata gives aid to needy of Rome

By Stefani Manowski

Rome. One of the most glittering and romanticized cities in the world. It is easy to get caught up in the history and grandeur of the Eternal City and not give a second thought to the city's countless refugees, homeless and unemployed.

"You have no idea how many people come for help," said Rosanna Shedid, secretary of the church of Santa Susanna, the Paulist-run American church in Rome. "Rome is a city full of poor. It is sad to see so many in need."

Following a decades-old tradition to aid the less fortunate of Rome is Santa Susanna's St. Nicholas Charity Serata. The serata (Italian for "evening") is part of the parish's commitment to outreach to the poor and homeless of Rome held near the Dec. 5 feast day of St. Nicholas, patron saint of the poor.

The grand ballroom of Marymount International School was transformed into a sparkly winter wonderland Dec. 4 as more than 250 guests browsed the hundreds of live and silent auction items, purchased raffle tickets and danced to soft rock tunes and Christmas songs.

Approximately \$32,000 was raised from the serata and distributed to nine charities that help those with AIDS,



PT/Stefani Manowski

Father Gregory Apparcel, CSP, rector of the Church of Santa Susanna in Rome, greets Sister Michaeline O'Dwyer, RSHM, of the Marymount International School, site of Santa Susanna's 60th annual charity serata Dec. 4.

refugees, the homeless and the hungry.

One of the charities that benefits from the serata, The Di Liegro Foundation is working to prevent bullying and addiction by boosting the emotional intelligence of youth directly in the schools through student education and teacher training.

Of course, it takes money to fund such worthy endeavors, and that is

why Gina Di Liegro is so grateful to Santa Susanna.

"This is very important to what we do," said Ms. Di Liegro after bidding on some silent auction items. "It means so much to so many people."

The serata, in its current form, began in 1997, said Father Gregory Apparcel, CSP, rector of Santa Susanna, but the tradition has continued to evolve over the past 60 years.

"However, for many decades the Santa Susanna Ladies Guild held a Christmas bazaar at about the same time of year," he continued. "There were crafts, food and an auction. Lots of money was raised for the charities and for Santa Susanna."

The charities not only use but depend on the funds raised by the serata, according to Father Apparcel.

"The Joel Nafuma Refugee Center said 25 percent of their budget is from what we give them each year," he said. "Why are the services of the various charities so needed in Rome? I'm not so sure how to answer this question. It would be the same question asked of anyone raising money for those in need in any city."



PT/Stefani Manowski

Cardinal Edward Egan of the Archdiocese of New York addresses the crowd assembled at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan Dec. 15 for the launch of *Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.: A Model Theologian*, the most recent offering from Paulist Press.

# Paulist Center helps healing

By Stefani Manowski

The clergy abuse crisis, parish closings and the church-wide issues of homosexuality, divorce and the role of women have left many people hurting, disillusioned and disenfranchised.

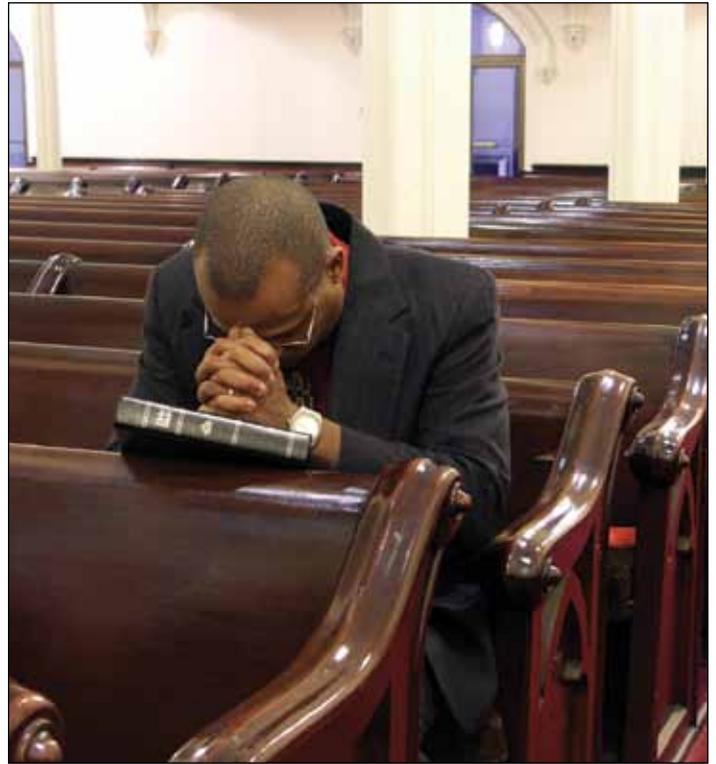
At the Paulist Center in Boston, the city that served as the global epicenter of the 2002 clergy abuse crisis, the pain can still be very raw.

Offering a potential spiritual balm for the people of Boston is the Paulist Center and the variety of dialogue sessions it offers to help people heal and reconcile with the church.

"We create a faith space with these dialogue sessions that offer a safe and comfortable place for conversations, questions and the seeking of spirituality," said Bob Bowers, the center's director of outreach and reconciliation.

"The sessions are very much in the spirit of [Paulist Founder] Father Isaac Hecker," he continued. "This is a place where people feel accepted and acceptable, where they can ponder what it means to be a Catholic in today's world."

There are currently three dialogue groups whose participants meet monthly at the center: one for homosexual Catholics and their families; one for women and their role in



PT file

Dialogue sessions at the Paulist Center in Boston are helping people reconcile with the church.

the church; and one for young adults.

"We ask the young adults why they are Catholic and why they remain Catholic," Mr. Bowers said. "They are at an age where they are critical thinkers and are asking tough questions. It is a great relief for them to be in a place where they can do that in a healthy manner."

The Paulist Center's efforts have received great support from the Archdiocese of Boston, especially the vicar general and assistant vicar general, according to Mr. Bowers.

"They have been very responsive, and have even attended sessions," said Mr. Bowers. "They have expressed a great deal of gratitude that these sessions exist, and to have their support has been wonderful."

The center has even taken the dialogues on the road to Boston area parishes and church facilities, and Mr. Bowers said the center has definitely reaped some benefits.

"The community here is enriched because we are asking the people to open themselves," he said. "We are constantly challenged as a community to reveal ourselves as a welcoming place of action, not just words."

## Reconciliation symposium set

Paulist Reconciliation Ministries will hold its second Conference on Reconciliation March 31-April 2 in Boston.

Participants will gather for dinner at the Paulist Center in Boston at 5:30 on March 31, followed by an evening of reflection with Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry.

Morning and afternoon workshops on April 1 will focus on developing skills for reconciliation ministry and ministerial sharing from the Paulist foundations. A Paulist Reconciliation Board meeting will convene at 2 p.m. These events will be held at the Paulist Center.

A full symposium titled "Healing God's People: Practical Approaches and Practical Skills" will be held April 2, hosted by the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry and Paulist Reconciliation Ministries.

Margaret O'Brien Steinfelds, co-director of the Fordham University Center on Religion and Culture, will be speaking on "Restoring Trust," and Robert C. Bordone, clinical professor of law at Harvard Law School will address the topic: "Understanding and Managing Difficult Conversations."

"With two plenary sessions and morning and afternoon focus sessions, this conference will provide the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics dealing with communal healing, as well as practical skills for working toward healing within faith communities," said Father Thomas A. Kane, CSP, director of Paulist Reconciliation Ministries.

# Taizé: A parable of reconciliation

*[Editor's Note: Ecumenical and interfaith relations are essential elements of the Paulist Mission. Paulist Father Tom Ryan, director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, writes extensively on the state of ecumenical and interfaith affairs world-wide. This past June, Fr. Ryan visited Taizé for several days with a group on a Paulist unity and reconciliation study tour in four countries. This is an excerpt from his recent article, "Taizé Community Marks 70 Years" that appeared in Koinonia newsletter Fall 2010. The full text can be found at [unity.paulist.org](http://unity.paulist.org).*

*By Father Tom Ryan, CSP*

One can only be amazed. Here, on a hilltop in the countryside outside a village so small it is not even on most maps of France, is an ecumenical community that has no confessional identity, no canonical status or juridical constitution. It is not trying to corral anyone. It is not a church, and it even resists becoming a movement. It only wants to be a sign of the church and a way into it. It only wants to witness to the one church that is the secret bedrock of all the churches. It just wants to say that unity is not something to be built but something to be discovered. It simply seeks to embrace the Gospel and live its essential message that we are reconciled to God and to one another through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Its message to all those from different races, cultures, languages and denominations is simply: "Come and see. Christ destroys every separating wall."

But it would be a mistake to think that the reconciliation of Christians is the goal. It would be truer to cast it as a step towards the ultimate goal which concerns the entire human family, not just Christians. The goal is to live as people who are reconciled in order to be a leaven of peace where humanity suffers and where people are in conflict. Thus do a few of the Taizé brothers live among the poor in various countries simply as a sign of God's love. The ultimate goal is the reason-for-being of the church: to be a sacrament of God in the midst of the world offering a communion of love to every human being.

The brothers of Taizé have, over the years, evolved a very simple formula to which they remain utterly faithful. And that formula reflects a central truth for every religion: the experience of God is first.

Such experience occurs in two ways: through prayer and

through action in the world. These two themes are the object of constant reflection and discussion in the meetings at Taizé: inner life and human solidarity. The more our lives become rooted in prayer, the more our eyes are opened to the needs around us and the more responsibility we assume for becoming the change we want to see in the world.

But action in the world is derived from and dependent upon an experience of communion with the Divine. The lynchpin, in other words, is direct religious experience. It is not reserved for an elite few, but is the birthright of all, young and old alike. And in offering an experience of transcendence in prayer and worship to young people within the context of church and Christian faith, the Taizé community is in the vanguard of the new evangelization. Young people who may know little about personal prayer or liturgy are introduced to both.

Today, spirituality – the impulse to seek communion with the Divine – is thriving. Increasingly, people define themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Healthy spirituality, however, leads to religion within whose province falls the concrete

texts, rituals, symbols and sacraments that embody the encounter with the Divine. Generally those who come to Taizé are invited to stay for a week, culminating in the visually rich and powerful celebrations of the weekend where every Friday is Good Friday with prayer around the cross, every Saturday is Holy Saturday with a vigil service by



The Saturday evening vigil service by candlelight at Taizé in France.

*Courtesy Father Tom Ryan, CSP*

candlelight and chanting, and every Sunday is Easter Sunday with a celebration of the Eucharist.

But prayer at Taizé is not just served up as an introduction to the spiritual life for young people. It's the prayer of the brothers' community, and it is this firm spiritual identity which grounds the place and provides a secure foundation from which it can freely open to people around the world. While the sense of the universal is there, at the same time, the identity of each person is preserved. The differences of nationality and church background are an occasion of mutual enrichment and acceptance. This is why Taizé is a parable of community and reconciliation. By their common life, the brothers allow the undivided Church to become visible, not only as a distant memory of the first millennium but as a reality which is there today and needs to be rediscovered and made increasingly visible. This is the best experience Christian faith has to offer: simple communion in love.



*PT/Stefani Manowski*

Denny Marcotte in his office at the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, where he has worked for the past 30 years.

# Spreading the Word

## *Denny Marcotte celebrates 30 years at PNCEA*

*By Stefani Manowski*

The year was 1980, and Denny Marcotte needed a job.

The native of Fairhaven, Mass., had decided to leave the seminary after earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Oblate College in Washington, D.C., two years earlier.

"I didn't want to work in the church," he said. "I hadn't lost my faith, but just needed a break."

Gainful employment and a place to live being his two primary objectives, Mr. Marcotte accepted when a good friend offered him a part-time position at the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA), established in 1977 to equip Catholics to share their faith.

"I didn't know anything about PNCEA or what they did," said Mr. Marcotte, who is now celebrating 30 years with PNCEA after accepting a full-time position in January 1981.

"It was God's way of putting me in the office, and God showing his sense of humor in my life," said Mr. Marcotte, now 56 years old and sporting salt-and-pepper hair, eyes twinkling behind his glasses and a warm smile.

In his role as director of production, fulfillment and facilities at PNCEA, Mr. Marcotte is responsible for office management, office leases and contracts, and for handing print bids and working with printers and mail houses.

"We are helping people reconnect with God and their faith," Mr. Marcotte said. "We help give them ties with the church, to a spiritual family that they can grow with."

Mr. Marcotte has spent his life helping people connect with God in one way or another. Consider the six months he spent as a missionary in the mountains in Brazil until health concerns forced him to give it up.

"I loved it; it didn't love me," he said.

Or consider the years he spent as a partner running a Christian halfway house for recently-released male prisoners.

"We had prayer and Mass every day, which was unusual for them," said Mr. Marcotte. "We worked one-on-one with them, which was also unusual in a halfway house."

However, the successful program devised by Marcotte and his partner in the ministry tumbled when the government, which subsidized the house, declared prayer could not be part of such programs.

"That was the key component of the success of the program," he recalled.

Mr. Marcotte enjoys the practical, hands-on approach to ministry and work, "and that is what I get to do [at PNCEA]. I can help turn ideas into reality."

His continued inspiration comes through the example and passion for ministry exhibited by PNCEA founder Father Alvin Illig, CSP, on whose deathbed Mr. Marcotte promised to do everything he could to continue the priest's work.

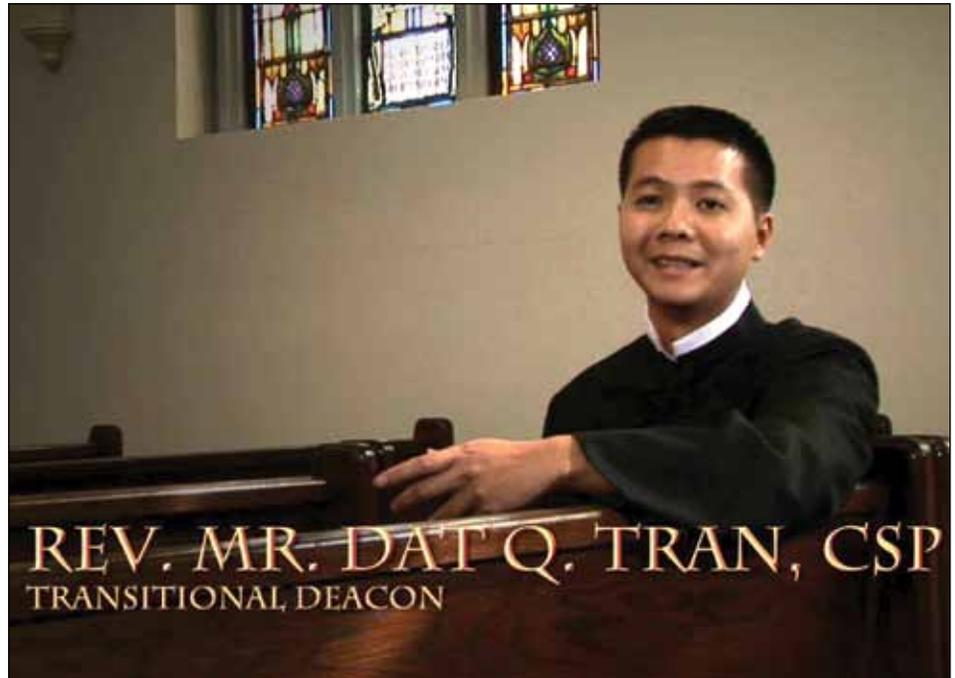
"I find the work fulfilling and like what I am doing," Mr. Marcotte said. "Hopefully we are making a difference in people's lives. If one person is inspired to turn back to God, the whole thing is worth it."

## 'Come and See' the Paulists

Are you discerning your call to the priesthood? Does someone you know have the qualities to make a good Paulist? There are three great opportunities to explore the Paulist priesthood during the 2011 "Come and See" vocation discernment retreats.

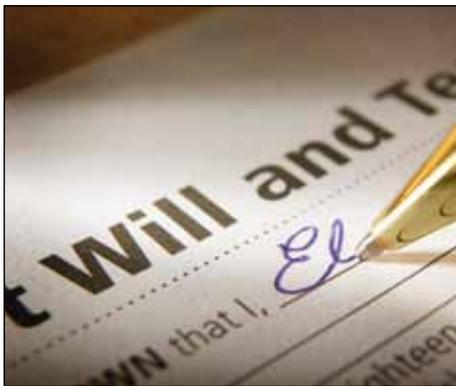
The dates and locations are: Feb. 18-20 at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.; June 3-5 at the Paulist motherhouse (Church of St. Paul the Apostle) in New York City; and Oct. 7-9 at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the vocation discernment retreats, call Paulist Vocations Director Father Dave Farnum at 800-235-3456 or e-mail [dfarnum@paulist.org](mailto:dfarnum@paulist.org).



*Courtesy Paulist Productions*

Paulist seminarian Rev. Mr. Dat Q. Tran as seen in the new video that aims to attract men to the Paulist priesthood through the Internet.



*PT/file*

Bequests in your will assure the long-term future of Paulist ministries.

## Paulists in your will

After providing for your family and loved ones, you may want to put THE PAULIST FATHERS in your will, thus helping to assure the long-term future of their ministries. Bequests are free of estate tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government.

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name the Paulist Fathers as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living.

It is recommended that a lawyer help in drafting or amending a will. Please call the Paulist Office for Financial Development at 800-472-8547 with any questions.

## 'Net' fishing

### *New vocations video targets online audience*

Men discerning their call to the priesthood now have a new video to help them discover and consider the Paulists. The brief 5-minute video can be found online at places such as YouTube and [paulist.org](http://paulist.org), the Paulist Fathers' Web site.

"Most of our inquiries [about the Paulist priesthood] come through some form electronic communication," said Paulist Vocations Director Father Dave Farnum. "This is where we need to be."

The new video "fits the bill," according

to Father Farnum, by showcasing Paulist ministries and especially the diversity in age, geography and ethnicity of current Paulist students.

Prospective novices get to know "what it is really like to go to seminary by hearing from the seminarians themselves ... what drew them to the Paulists, what it is like at St. Paul's College, and what excites them about the ministry," said Father Eric Andrews, CSP, president of Paulist Productions, which created the video. "They also encourage others to give it a try."

Paulists such as Father Farnum, Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry and First Consultor Father Larry Rice introduce viewers to the Paulist mission and what the Paulists are looking for in a prospective novice.

"It really gives people an answer to the question of why one would want to consider becoming a Paulist," said Father Farnum.

## Save the Date!

### *Ordination 2011 scheduled*

Rev. Mr. Dat Q. Tran, CSP, will be ordained to the Paulist priesthood May 28 (a tentative time of 10 a.m.) at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. More details will be provided on [paulist.org](http://paulist.org) and right here in Paulist Today!

# Stewardship is about gratitude

By Adam Dawkins

For years, while settling in for the homily at Mass, I'd become very uneasy when Father would use the word stewardship. "Ugh, Father is going to ask for money again," I'd think, and I'd start thumbing through the bulletin, waiting for the homily to be over. Money can be a touchy subject, especially in church.

So, it's a small wonder that my friends ask how I ended up in the ministry of development. I reply simply that God doesn't always call the prepared, but God certainly does prepare the called.

Stewardship comes from gratitude. If everything in our lives is a gift from God, our stewardship of those gifts must begin with thanking God. We thank God for our faith, our health, our families, a job, for security, for material goods and for everything around us. It's important, too, to thank God for our talents, for opportunities, for the people around us and for the very gift of life. Thank God concretely, not just in passing. For instance, before bed every night, simply pause and think of three things for which you're especially grateful. And when you start with three, chances are, you'll think of a lot more.

Stewardship is also a responsibility. God's gifts in our lives have to be taken care of, so that they don't wither and die. For instance, if you have a talent for music yet you never practice or take a lesson and never do anything with it, you will never be able to fully glorify God with that talent. Being a good steward of God's gifts mean that we use his gifts to us to glorify him and to improve the world around us.

Generosity follows gratitude and responsibility. If everything is a gift from God, and we thank God for the blessings we receive, and we take care of those blessings, then we are holding on to those blessings the way Jesus shows us: loosely. Being a good steward of God's blessings in our lives means that we share those gifts with the world around us for the glory of God.

For the Paulists, fund raising is much more than passing the collection plate on Sunday. It is a ministry of development and of stewardship. It is a way of announcing our mission and inviting people to participate in that mission. Fund raising is a very concrete way to help the Kingdom of God come about.

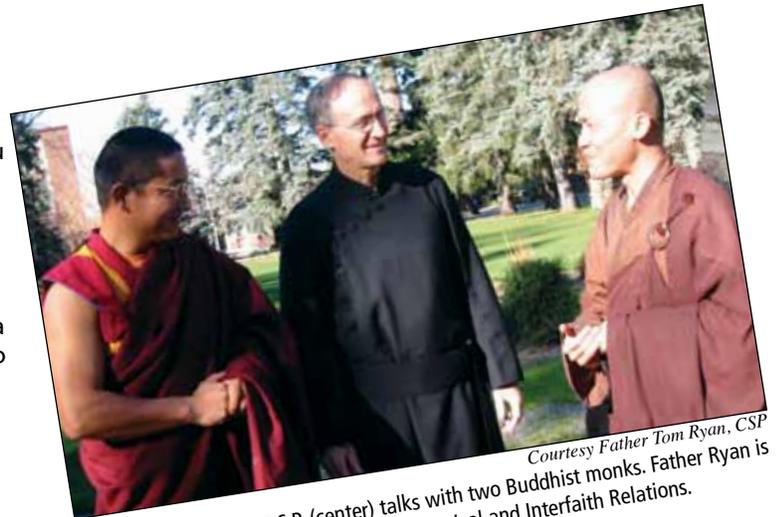
That is the Paulist approach to fund raising. The mission and ministries of the Paulist Fathers would not be possible without the prayerful generosity of so many supporters. Each gift is a share in the important work of the Paulist Fathers, and through your support, the Paulists are able to carry out their mission of preaching the Good News of God's unfailing love and mercy, welcoming back those who have been away from the church, and fostering understanding between Catholics and people of other faith traditions. Every financial gift the Paulists receive is indeed a blessing, and every gift makes a difference.

On behalf of the Paulists, thank you for your stewardship of our community and ministries. God continues to make our mission possible through your prayerful generosity.

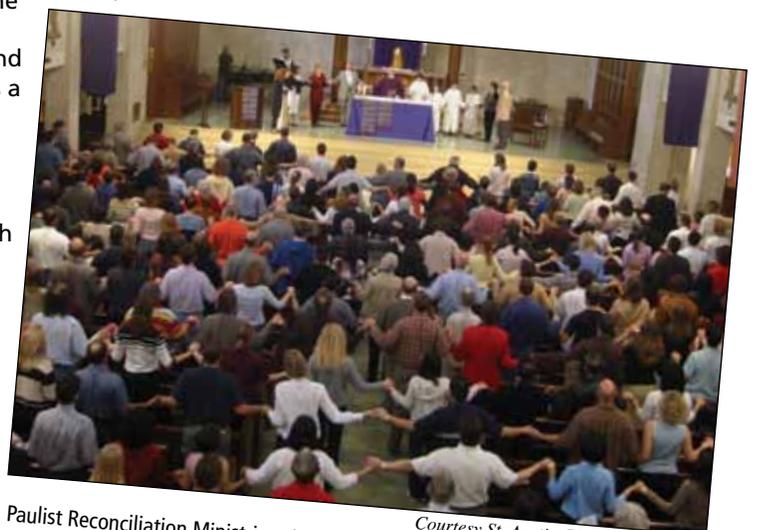
Adam Dawkins is executive director of the Paulist Office for Financial Development in Washington, D.C.



Artist Mark Estabrook stands with his artwork display titled "Popes." Mr. Estabrook was one of 15 artists who displayed their work at "God Doesn't Like Ugly," the third art exhibit of Openings, a Paulist evangelization ministry to artists in New York City at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle. *PT/Stefani Manowski*



Father Thomas Ryan, C.S.P. (center) talks with two Buddhist monks. Father Ryan is the director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. *Courtesy Father Tom Ryan, CSP*



Paulist Reconciliation Ministries aims to reconcile people to God, the church and one another. *Courtesy St. Austin Church, Austin Tex.*