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*President's Message*

# Making new friends for Father Hecker

A few weeks ago, I was visiting with a few diehard New Yorkers across Central Park from our mother church, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle. At one point I gestured towards the southwest corner of Central Park and said, "Did you know that Paulist Fathers are the first community of American priests and we were founded in New York City right over there?" They had no idea.

Sensing I had piqued their interest, I pressed on:

"Our founder was a convert to Catholicism, and he was so fired up about his new-found faith he wanted his new community to go and make America Catholic. Only a New Yorker would dream so brazenly!" They agreed, taking pride in their fellow citizen. "Send me a book on Father Hecker!" my host insisted.

But what I think impressed them most was knowing that the Paulists sought to love and understand our North American culture, so that we could invite people to the Church or welcome them back in a way that resonated with their natural experience of God. I summed it up by saying: "We were Pope Francis before there was a Pope Francis ..."

This is not an isolated conversation.

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Daniel Arthur, CSP (left); Evan Cummings, CSP; Paolo Puccini, CSP; and Michael Cruickshank, CSP, made their first promise with the Paulist community this summer. PT/Stefani Manowski

## First promise quartet

### *Four men make first commitment to Paulists*

What do two financial advisors, a mechanical engineer and a philosophy graduate have in common?

No, you don't have to wait for the punch line of a bad joke. Rather, it is a cause for celebration.

Four men – Daniel Arthur, Michael Cruickshank, Evan Cummings and Paolo Puccini – made their first promise with the Paulist Fathers during a July 26 Mass in the chapel of St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

After spending a year as Paulist novices, the four men promised to live for the next 12 months according to the society's constitution as they begin academic studies for the priesthood at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and continue their Paulist formation. The men will renew this promise each year, making a final, lifetime promise with the Paulists during

the fall before their priestly ordination.

Paulist President Father Eric Andrews, who celebrated the Mass, said he is incredibly proud of the four new Paulists.

"They have shown great pastoral skills, kindness and charity," he said. "I am taken by their genuine love of God and service to others, and their tremendous love of Paulist life. Now, we just have to pray them into the priesthood!"

With his first promise, Daniel Arthur – a 37-year-old financial consultant from Huntington Beach, Calif. – looks forward to "an ongoing commitment to live out the ideals, mission, and charisma of the Paulist Fathers," and knows he will be "supported by a community that treasures my talents and gifts that God has given me."

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# Talking the Hecker talk

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While we may not be a Catholic household name like “Jesuit” or “Franciscan,” when people find out about who we are, they usually want to know more and in many cases make a connection with one of our ministries or Paulists. While it would be nice to be in a community with a famous saint associated with it, in some ways it is more satisfying to reveal the life of Father Hecker and the Paulists to someone who hasn’t heard it. It’s often like unearthing buried treasure. We are a small community, but our mission connects with people, making it easy to make new friends for Father Hecker.

Speaking of Pope Francis, about this time last year, he made one of his surprise announcements: 2015 would be a year dedicated to women and men religious: sisters, priests and brothers. While a radical approach is required of all Christians, the pope asserted that religious persons are called upon to follow the Lord in a special way: “They are men and woman who can awaken the world.” Religious, by their charisms, go to the frontiers of the world and refuse to be domesticated, so to spread the Good News as Jesus did.

In the Paulist mission field, there is still plenty of frontier to travel, especially as the number of those who claim to be “spiritual but not religious” grows. Paulists are responding to this challenge! Across the country, Paulists are seeking novel ways to reach out to those searching for inspiration and hope: from promising artists in New York City, hipsters in Portland, Ore., college students in Columbus, Ohio, or seniors in Vero Beach, Fla.

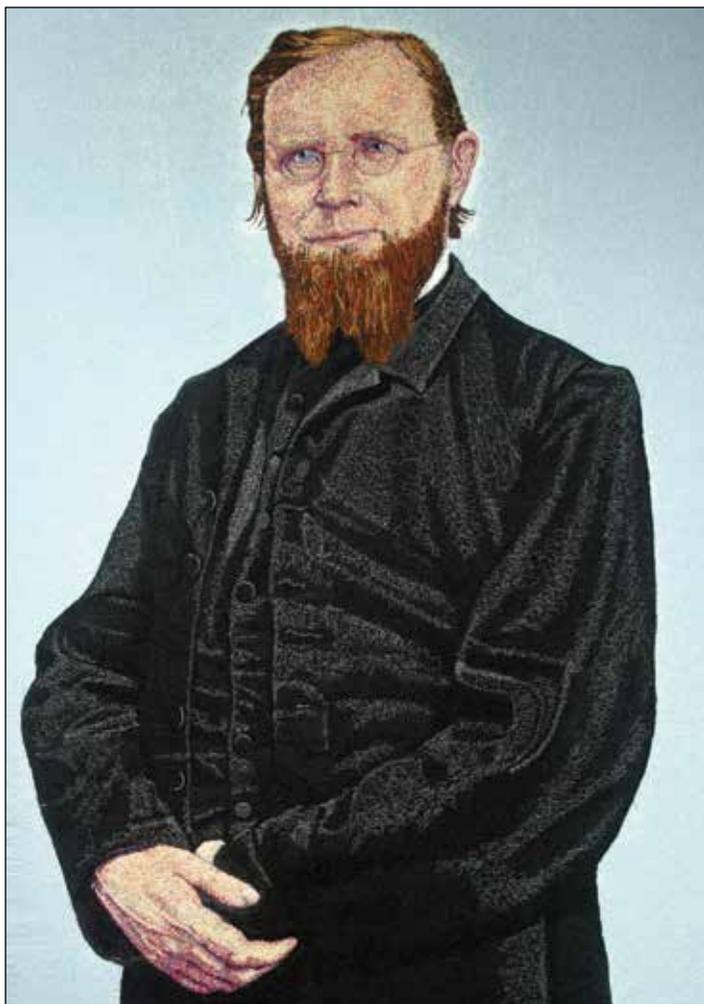
In the midst of all these missionary efforts, Father Hecker’s cause for sainthood continues to bear fruit. Currently, a miraculous medical healing attributed to the intercession of the Paulist founder is being investigated in the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn. The person who prayed to Father Hecker was someone who returned to the faith after a long absence – someone whom Father Hecker or any Paulist would seek out.

All this energy around Father Hecker and his extravagant vision to evangelize North America powerfully demonstrates that the mission of the Paulist Fathers continues to have a profound impact. The articles in this issue of Paulist Today will enrich your understanding of our society and its mission. As far as I can tell, befriending Father Hecker and his followers is indeed life giving!



**Father Eric Andrews, CSP**

*President of the Paulist Fathers*



*Courtesy Father Frank Sabatte, CSP*

A embroidery/applique artwork depicts Paulist founder Father Isaac Hecker. The recently unveiled 30x60-inch piece created by Father Frank Sabatte, CSP, resides at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. An inquiry into a possible healing miracle attributed to Father Hecker has been opened in the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn.

## Miracle inquiry launched

Bishop Richard F. Stika of the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn., officially launched the inquiry into a possible healing miracle attributed to Paulist founder, Servant of God Father Isaac T. Hecker on Sept. 16.

If positive, the inquiry will be forwarded to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, who will make the official ruling on whether or not it is a miracle. If a miracle is declared, Father Hecker will be declared “blessed.” A second miracle is needed for canonization.

The Paulists have ministered in the State of Tennessee since 1900, said Father Ronald Franco, CSP, who serves as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville and vice postulator of Father Hecker’s cause.

“The legacy of Isaac Hecker is strong in Tennessee, so it is fitting that an inquiry into a possible miracle should happen here,” he said. “It is a great thing, a wonderful thing.”



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Contact Us  
Phone: 202-269-2521  
Web: [www.paulist.org](http://www.paulist.org)  
E-mail: [paulisttoday@paulist.org](mailto:paulisttoday@paulist.org)  
Editor and Production: Stefani Manowski



Courtesy St. Paul the Apostle School

The ribbon is cut for officially opening the new Hilton Learning Center and the McCarthy Gymnasium at St. Paul the Apostle School in Los Angeles. Pictured are Richard Billups, principal of St. Paul the Apostle School (far left); Rick Caruso of the Caruso Family Foundation; Sister Stella Maria Enright, DMJ, former principal; Kathleen McCarthy-Kostlan of the Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Foundation; Steven Hilton of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation; Auxiliary Bishop Edward Clark of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; and Father Eric Andrews, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers.

# Building a bright future

## *New learning center and gym dedicated at LA school*

New backpacks, pencils and notebooks are the norm for students heading back to school. The 540 students at St. Paul the Apostle School in Los Angeles are having an exciting back-to-school exuberance.

“They are jumping with joy,” said Richard Billups, principal. And they have every reason to be.

Bishop Edward W. Clark, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, celebrated the September 7th Mass and led the dedication of the new Hilton Learning Center and the McCarthy Gymnasium at St. Paul the Apostle School. Paulist President, Father Eric Andrews was on hand to concelebrate.

This celebration was “a wonderful culmination of six-and-a-half years of a labor of love,” said Father John Ardis, CSP, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle.

The need for the new facilities was so great, Father Ardis said, that many parishioners, school families, alumni and friends of SPA contributed to this \$21 million project, spearheaded by generous contributions from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation and the Caruso Family Foundation, according to Father Ardis.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles mandated a new policy that requires an additional \$4 million to be placed in a restricted endowment to ensure that all the capital improvements will be covered for the next 40 years.

“This endowment will assure that those pastors following me for years to come will not have to be concerned with major maintenance projects on these two buildings,” Father Ardis explained. “At this point we have \$23.6 million committed in gifts and pledges. We will strive to conclude this \$25 million campaign within a year so that the parish can address many additional projects that are under consideration.

The construction of the new 35,000 square foot learning center and 7,150 square foot gymnasium began approximately 15 months ago, replacing the outdated and undersized middle school building.

These state-of-the-art facilities include three additional classrooms featuring the latest interactive educational technology as well as a learning resource and media center. Each full-time educator now has his or her own classroom.

“The size of the classrooms are larger,” Father Ardis noted. “The size of the previous classrooms were inadequate for junior high students.”

The new gym now replaces the students’ lunch pavilion on the parking lot.

“[The students] can’t wait to get in there,” said Mr. Billups, stating that the gym floor needed additional time to settle at the time of the dedication.

**‘These facilities will serve the community for many years to come.’**

– Father John Ardis, CSP

*Continued on Page 7*



Courtesy Paulist Fathers Office for Vocations

A screen shot of the new Paulist vocations mobile app. Just scan the QR code below!

## Paulist vocations: There's an *app* for that

### *Vocations office launches mobile site*

There was a time not too long ago when the phrase “there’s an app for that” was something of a punchline. Today there are literally millions of apps – mobile computer programs – available for nearly every need and situation.

It shouldn’t be surprising, then, to learn that the Paulist Fathers have a smart phone app for prospective Paulists. Newly released in the Google Play and Apple iTunes app stores, this new app is designed to give prospective Paulist vocations (and other people!) a window into the life, mission and spirituality of the Paulist Fathers.

Developed by Father Larry Rice, CSP, the Paulist vocations director, the app pulls together Paulist information and resources from multiple sources.

“Paulist content is available from many online sources and social networks,” Father Rice said. “The challenge was to find a system that gathers that information and presents it through a single portal. Our app collects postings from our Facebook pages, our Twitter feeds, YouTube videos and podcasts.”

In addition to this regularly updated content, the app also gives prospective

Paulists a one-click means of contacting Father Rice. After looking over the information on the Paulist Fathers, an email or phone call is just a single click away from within the app.

“One more great feature,” said Father Rice, “is the ability to send push notifications to people who have the app. That will allow me to occasionally notify users of the app of breaking news and upcoming events.”

Of course, the app isn’t just for vocations prospects. Paulist Associates and anyone interested in the Paulist Fathers and their ministries will find the app a handy tool for keeping up with the latest Paulist news.

Want to keep up with the Paulists? There’s an app for that.

*The app is available for both Android and iOS (Apple) smart phones. To download your free copy, visit [paulist.org](http://paulist.org) or scan the QR code below.*



# First promise times four

*Continued from Page 1*

Like Mr. Arthur, Michael Cruickshank, 32, was also a financial advisor before entering the Paulist novitiate.

After a year of discernment, education and community living, “putting CSP at the end of my name is still a little surreal to me,” said the Chelmsford, Mass., native. “But it’s a great feeling to be a part of something that’s quite important to me, and that is building the Kingdom of God. I look forward to doing just that in the Paulist way in the years to come.”

For Evan Cummings, “taking the promise means accepting the calling and taking on responsibility to work for the Kingdom of God through the Paulist mission and charism.” The 23-year-old from Clearfield, Utah, said “the novitiate experience has been one of the greatest years of my life.”

And now after a year of exploring the Paulist community, Paolo Puccini, 27, is ready to reciprocate the gifts he has received during his novitiate experience. Mr. Puccini hails from Houston and has a degree in mechanical engineering.

“The Paulists have graciously hosted me as a novice over the past year, so I view the promise as an opportunity to begin giving back to the society through fully participating in community life as I continue discerning the calling to ordained ministry,” he said.



# Rome parishioners experience the Francis Effect



*Photos courtesy Church of Santa Susanna*

*Father Greg Apparcel, CSP, and Father Steve Bossi, CSP, led a small group of parishioners from the Paulist-run Church of Santa Susanna in Rome for a Mass with Pope Francis in his residence chapel Sept. 5. The group assembles outside after the Mass (photo at left), and Pope Francis greets the Sweeney family (photo at right).*

## Pilgrims get ready for India

Thoughts of India conjure up thoughts of the exotic music, zesty spices and intriguing architecture. India is all that and much more: a land of deep and diverse spiritual traditions.

Some 30 people will explore this land of rich culture and faith on a sold-out 20-day pilgrimage to India and Nepal by Father Tom Kane, CSP, and Father Tom Ryan, CSP, Jan. 30-Feb. 19.

"We will visit temples, learn of various spiritual traditions and see the inter-cultural mix of Christianity with many different world religions," Father Kane said. "This pilgrimage has been specially designed for both spiritual seekers who are interested in learning more about different spiritual practices, and the religiously committed who are interested in the potential for mutual enrichment in the interreligious encounter."

The pilgrims will visit the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, visit a Buddhist Center in Katmandu, visit Hindu temples and even take a boat ride on the Ganges, when it is full of pilgrims doing their morning water rituals in the river.

Catholicism in this area of the world will be experienced during poignant moments such as celebrating Mass at St. Thomas Cathedral, a Roman Catholic basilica built in the 16th century by Portuguese explorers over the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Father Ryan said he hopes the pilgrims not only "delight in the sights, sounds, and tastes of India," but gain an "increased understanding of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, and a new appreciation for the importance of cultural adaptability in the expression and celebration of our own Christian faith."



*Photo courtesy Monika Dauksts*

Father Rene Constanza, CSP, associate pastor of St. Austin Church in Austin, Texas (left), stands with Joyce and Fred Johnson on Cathedral Square in Grand Rapids, Mich., after a retreat led by Father Constanza for adult and children's catechists and sponsors themed, "Energized by Faith, Invigorated for Life!" The two-day event included the celebration of Mass, Reconciliation, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction, time for personal reflection and more. The Johnsons hosted the retreat; Mr. Johnson is the director of adult faith formation at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, served by the Paulists since 2007. The Paulists have ministered in Grand Rapids since 1947.



**Go Green!** Scan the QR code and register to receive Paulist Today by email! (Or visit [paulist.org/PaulistToday](http://paulist.org/PaulistToday))



PT/Owen and Denise Warfield

Your contribution to the Paulist Fathers' Education Fund at The Catholic University of America helps support Paulist students and novices, and can be doubled or even tripled with a matching gift from your employer.

# April 15: Coming fast!

## *Reduce your tax burden with a gift of stock*

Why should you give a gift of stock to the Paulist Fathers? Because it helps both you and the Paulists!

If you are making a donation as an end-of-year gift or supporting the Annual Paulist Appeal, consider making a stock gift instead of sending a personal check; it can save you money and be beneficial to both you and the Paulists Fathers.

You donate the stock to the Paulists, and, upon the Paulists' selling the stock, you will receive the full value of the stock sale as a tax deduction, thereby avoiding capital gains tax.

This transaction benefits both the giver and the receiver, as only the IRS has a reduction in revenue. This tax policy is an incentive to increase citizens' social action.

If you are considering making a stock donation, please refer to our website: [paulist.org](http://paulist.org), click on "Give" and then, "Stock Transfer Instructions." You may also have your financial advisor contact the Paulist Fathers' stockbroker: Rich Reidy at Stifel Nicolaus & Company (800-223-9065). You may also call the Office for Financial Development at 800-472-8547.

# Double dipping allowed

## *Support students AND maximize your gift*

Wouldn't it be wonderful to get your paycheck, and it was double or triple the usual amount? How does doubling or tripling your gifts to the Paulist Fathers sound? Ask your benefits manager if your employer has a matching gift program. Many companies offer matching gifts programs to support the philanthropic and volunteer interests of their employees. Most of these corporations match dollar for dollar, and some programs even triple the amount of the gift.

In order to maximize your gift, you can support

the education of men studying for the priesthood and showing your dedication to the mission of the Paulist Fathers. Designate your donation to Catholic University: Paulist Fathers' Education Fund.

By designating your gift to the education fund, your gift is eligible for a matching gift program. This special gift will go directly to support the education of Paulist seminarians studying for the priesthood at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Tuition and related educational expenses are one of the Paulist Fathers' largest annual expenses. Especially costly are special areas of study where there is limited availability, such as the track of study our seminarians can only acquire at Catholic University.

The cost for educating a seminarian each year exceeds \$55,000. This cost includes tuition, books, campus fees, living expenses, travel and supplies. With your support of the education fund, the Paulists will be able to focus on expanding vocation recruitment. Your gift

will enable the Paulists to attract more young men into the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

Mail your donation and completed matching gift form from your employer to: Paulist Fathers Office of Financial Development, Paulist Fathers Education Fund, 3015 4th St., NE, Washington, DC 20017 (Employer Identification Number/Federal Tax ID 74-3188659)

If you have questions about the matching gifts program, please call 1-800-472-8547.

**This special gift will go directly to support Paulist seminarians studying at The Catholic University of America**

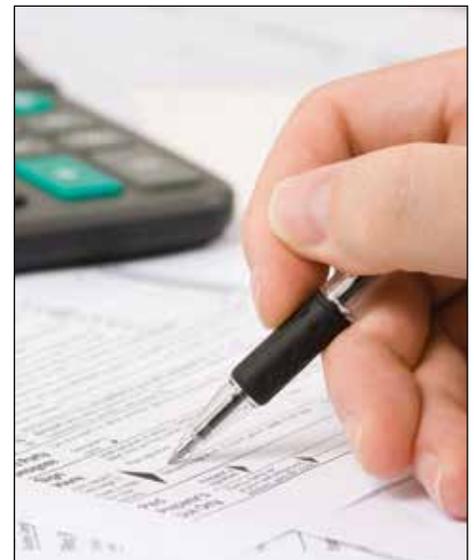




Photo courtesy Mary Kay Otto

Some of the participants of the 2014 St. Vincent de Paul Society Walk for the Poor gather for a photo. The event took place Sept. 20 at Johnson Park in Marble Falls, Texas. The event was held by the St. John/St. Paul the Apostle Conference of St. Vincent de Paul to increase awareness of the poor and needy and to acknowledge sponsors in the area. Father Ruben Patiño, CSP, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, a town located next to Marble Falls, opened the walk with a prayer for the poor.



PTI/Stefani Manowski

Father Eric Andrews, president of the Paulist Fathers (left), author Patrick McNamara and Father Dave Dwyer, CSP, director of Busted Halo, post for a photo at the launch of Mr. McNamara's book, *New York Catholics: Faith, Attitude and the Works!*, Sept. 19 in New York City. Paulist founder, Servant of God Father Isaac Hecker and Father Dwyer are featured in the book.



## Meet the 2014 novices

### Majdi Ammari



**Age:** 41  
**Hometown:** Amman, Jordan.  
**Before the novitiate:** Studied film at Ohio University Athens (1994)

### Patrick Christ



**Age:** 22  
**Hometown:** Colonial Heights, Va.  
**Before the novitiate:** Studied psychology at The Ohio State University in Columbus (2014)



Courtesy St. Paul the Apostle School

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles was packed for the dedication Mass for the new school learning center and gym.

## New facilities at LA school

*Continued from Page 3*

The gym will allow students to play sports and engage in recreational activities on campus all year round. Additionally, it will be the center of many community and parish events in the evening, on weekends and when school is not in session. The gym is also a neighborhood emergency shelter if a disaster should strike.

"These facilities will serve the community for many years to come," said Father Ardis.

The new buildings are unique, especially to Catholic grade schools that usually don't have the space or funds

for such projects, according to Mr. Bil-lups. "I am blown away by these facilities, it is absolutely amazing," he said.

The Paulist Fathers and the Daughters of Mary and Joseph established St. Paul the Apostle School in 1935. It is now the only Catholic elementary school on the west side of Los Angeles, and one of only four schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to offer two classes of every grade.

Sister Stella Maria Enright, former St. Paul's principal who has worked at the school for 47 years, believes the power of daily prayers by the St. Paul students played a very real role in bringing this vision to life.



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**S**ocial media can be a strong source for good – keeping people connected. But it can also be an addictive source of distraction, said artist Anthony Santella.

“Sometimes it is hard to know which you are participating in at any time,” he said. That was the inspiration for Mr. Santella’s artwork of a wooden woman sculpture holding a real iPhone.

Mr. Santella was one of 27 artists displaying their work at the eighth exhibit of the Openings Collective titled #OccupyCommonGround. Openings is a Paulist outreach to artists in New York City directed by Father Frank Sabatte, CSP. Art buffs got the chance not only to experience the myriad of works displayed at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan, but to meet the artists themselves during the Sept. 18 exhibit launch.

One set of paintings is styled after the 15th-century Dutch masters while, across the church, people gathered in small groups to watch an animated video. Visitors got to chat with the artists and delve deeper into the inspiration for their work as dancers moved with graceful elegance throughout the crowd, adding performance art to the mix.

“The art is very solid and very diverse: painting, sculpture, collage, drawing, video and dance,” Father Sabatte said, smiling as he watched the artists and participants mingle.

“People who would never otherwise darken the door of a church are here tonight. You can’t have conversion unless you have conversation. And this brings about conversation.”

Photo above: One of artist Amy Hill’s four portraits that reflect the 15th-century Flemish style with a modern twist by replacing jewelry and other accessories with iPods, phones and cameras. Photo below: Dancers with Lauren Slone’s Empty Nave Projects perform during the launch of Openings newest exhibit, #OccupyCommonGround. Empty Nave is a performance company invested in global research, collaboration, and production.

*Another*  
**OPENINGS,**  
*another show!*

Ministry to artists launches  
 eighth exhibit in NYC

