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President's Message

Pray with us!

As I have mentioned before in this column, we continue to celebrate The Year of Consecrated Life. At the end of June, Paulist priests and students will gather for a Paulist national retreat to celebrate and reflect on our mission and our lives together. Specifically, we are reflecting on the theme, which comes from Pope Francis: "**Gratitude** for our Past, **Passion** for our Present and **Hope** for our Future."



The retreat, to be held at the Redemptorist Retreat House on the Jersey Shore, will begin with a keynote address by Sister Dianne Bergant, CSA, professor emerita of Old Testament Scripture at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Her talk will be a reflection on Pope Francis' Letter on Religious Life Today. She has written extensively on Sacred Scripture, and I am among many Paulists who find her books on preaching the Sunday Scriptures invaluable. Paulist Fathers Frank DeSiano, Steven Bell and Dave Dwyer will be among those making presentations on the theme of gratitude, passion, and hope. There will be ample time for discussion, reflection, worship and the beach!

My prayer is that this gathering will enable us to renew ourselves in the Paulist mission of evangelization, reconciliation, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, as well as to strengthen our fraternal bonds. We need to ask ourselves: Where is the Holy Spirit leading us today? What is holding us back?

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Photo courtesy Old St. Mary's Church
Making the groundbreaking official for the new parish center at Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago on May 3 are (from left) Father Eric Andrews, president of the Paulist Fathers; Mary Martin Lowe; Julie Martin; Father Paul Huesing, CSP, pastor of Old St. Mary's; Linda Petermann; and Tom Petermann.

Shovels ready!

Old St. Mary's breaks new ground in Chicago

By Stefani Manowski

As the first Catholic parish established in Chicago, Old St. Mary's Church has a long history in the Windy City. But now history is taking a back seat to the future as a ground breaking ceremony was held May 3 for a new parish center to serve this expanding faith community.

"I am so thrilled with the continued growth of the ministry at Old St. Mary's Parish and School," said Paulist President Father Eric Andrews, who was on hand for the ceremony. "This new parish center will be an exciting way for the parish to reach out with love to the entire community."

Scheduled for completion in the winter of 2016, the 17,000-square-foot multi-use parish center consists of three large meeting rooms, four

smaller offices, two conference rooms, a small kitchen/concession area, and a large space that can be used for the middle school gymnasium or be divided and used for the other needs of this 1,400-family (and counting) parish. Newman Architecture is the project's architect; the contractor is Mazur and Son.

About three quarters of the funds for the approximately \$3.5 million project have already been raised through parishioner gifts and by utilizing cash reserves from the school and parish. The parish "hope[s] to recoup and replace the cash advanced to rebuild needed reserves for the parish and school," according to Father Paul Huesing, pastor of Old St. Mary's. That replenishment and the remaining deficit will be raised

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Courtesy Old St. Mary's Church

Father Paul Huesing, CSP (far left) leads in prayer those gathered for the ground breaking of the new parish center at Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago.

New parish center coming to Chicago

Continued from Page 1
 through "To Teach Who Christ Is," a program of the Archdiocese of Chicago in which the major portion of the funds raised stay with the parish.

Father Andrews gave special thanks for the leadership gift of the entire Petermann Family to the new center.

"Their great generosity has been a tremendous witness to the parish community and will be an inspiration for other families to give back to God in thanksgiving for his many blessings," he said.

The South Loop area served by Old St. Mary's continues to see more and more rail yards and warehouses being converted to single-family homes, condominiums and skyscrapers, so the parish is "growing and maturing right along with the neighborhood," Father Huesing said. "Old St. Mary's has always adapted to the changing character of this vibrant community. This building will offer us facilities for a growing parish and completes the needs of the school."

The old parish center was more than 100 years old, and "not very useful," said Brian Leonard, head of facilities on both the parish finance committee and school board. "Our parish just outgrew its usefulness."

Founded in 1833 and served by the Paulists since 1903, Old St. Mary's moved to its current location at 1500 S. Michigan Avenue in July 2002. The parish center is the last phase in a series of building projects that included a new church and a new school building that saw its first graduating class in 2014. There will be approximately 400 students in grades pre-K-8 in the 2015-16 school year.

"Old St. Mary's is the city's oldest parish, but in reality we are very new," Mr. Leonard said. "The parishioners are very proud of the growth and opportunities we can offer. The parish center completes the campus and the 10-year plan, thus allowing our ministries to grow. The parishioners are very excited to be continuing to move forward."

Gratitude, passion, hope

Continued from Page 1

In every age, there are new sets of challenges and opportunities, and the retreat will be an opportunity to come together and ask the Lord to send us the Holy Spirit to lead us through.

Paulists are always at their best when we come together for gatherings like this. There is always a great spirit of enthusiasm, creativity, laughter and wisdom as we reconnect with one another. I am hopeful that during this retreat we will fully embrace God's call to on-going conversion among ourselves so that we may be able to be agents of conversion for others. We have a rich tradition of sharing the Gospel in North America, despite adversity. I remain optimistic the same is true today.

I ask you to pray with us! As part of our larger Paulist community, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the themes of gratitude, passion and hope as they relate to your life and relationship with God and the Church. Pray that God may renew your spirit of outreach to others.

And finally, pray with us, that the Spirit of God may be with the Paulists during our retreat so that we may truly hear the Word of God and be sent by the Spirit to serve today's Church more deeply and continue to engage those beyond our pews.

I look forward to sharing with you the fruits of this endeavor! Until then,

Many blessings,

Father Eric Andrews, CSP
President of the Paulist Fathers



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Photo courtesy of the University of Notre Dame/Matt Cashore

Father Thomas Stransky, CSP (center), received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana during the May 15 commencement ceremony. Father Stransky, a past president of the Paulist Fathers, is rector emeritus of the Tantar Ecumenical Institute, a Jerusalem-based center of theological scholarship and learning that was founded 50 years ago by Pope Paul VI and administered by Notre Dame. As a young staff member of the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, Father Stransky was highly instrumental in the writing of *Nostra Aetate*, the 1965 Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions produced by the Second Vatican Council. With Father Stransky are University of Notre Dame President Father John Jenkins, CSC, (left) and Notre Dame Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Notebaert.

Come and see the Paulists

Are you considering the priesthood? Have you ever wondered what life is like in a religious house? Yes? Then check out the Paulists during the Oct. 23-25 "Come and See" weekend. All expenses are paid for a weekend at St. Paul's College, the Paulist house of formation in Washington, D.C. The experience will include shared worship and meals with Paulist novices, students and priests and learning about the rich history and ministry of the Paulist Fathers.

"Come and See" gatherings are a great way to see if you're a good fit with the Paulists, and whether you could imagine yourself in our formation program. If you or someone you know might be interested in exploring their vocation as a Paulist, please contact Father Larry Rice, CSP, Paulist vocations director, at lrice@paulist.org or 800-235-3456.

SOAR! helps Paulists in Calif.

SOAR!, Support Our Aging Religious, Inc has awarded the Paulist Fathers a grant of \$25,000 to help offset the costs of repairs and renovations to the rectory at Old St. Mary's in San Francisco, Calif.

The Paulist Office of Financial Development – in partnership with Father Bart Landry, CSP, pastor of Old St. Mary's – presented a proposal outlining the extensive repairs and improvements that the rectory needed in 2015 to address safety, accessibility and maintenance needs.

Last year's SOAR! grant helped improve accessibility for seniors visiting St. Mary's of the Lake, the Paulist retreat house on Lake George, N.Y. This year, the Paulists asked for help with major work to improve safety and accessibility at Old St. Mary's.

SOAR!, much like the Paulists, knows no boundaries or geographical limitations to aid and addresses the growing needs of our aging religious communities. We are extremely thankful for the mission partnership we have with SOAR! and appreciate and thank their core of volunteers who make this award possible.



Father Bart Landry, CSP (at the ambo), pastor of Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, worked with the Paulist Office of Financial Development to obtain a \$25,000 grant from Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) to address safety, accessibility and maintenance issues at the parish rectory, where several retired Paulists reside. In this photo, Father Landry preaches the Gospel at the parish's 160th anniversary Mass in January 2015.



Go Green! Scan the QR code and register to receive Paulist Today by e-mail! (Or visit paulist.org/PaulistToday)

LEST WE FORGET



New statue honors the military at Texas parish

By Stefani Manowski

The small crowd gathered in the Texas sun at high noon weren't waiting for two cowboys to reenact a pistol-packing shootout while visiting a ghost town, but for something that means much more.

Instead, the faithful witnessed the June 15 unveiling and blessing of a new statue on the campus, titled "Lest We Forget." The statue depicts a U.S. soldier being embraced by Jesus Christ, and inaugurates the parish's Armed Forces Honor Garden that will feature water fountains emblazoned with memorial stars, memorial plaques and paving stones to honor all those who have served in the Armed Forces over the years.

"I believe we can all find our own meaning to the title of the statue, but for me it is about forgiveness and gratitude," said Father Rúben Patiño, St. Paul's pastor and a member of the Paulist Fathers, who have served the community since its founding in 1972. "Forgiveness because, as Christians, we are taught to respect human life; taking someone's life goes against our Christian beliefs. ... Somehow, we need to find peace with our lives and with our compromises; this has been a concern for all veterans of war." Gratitude, he said, was for the courage and sacrifice inherent in their military service.

Parishioners Gary and Patty Broad donated the statue



to St. Paul's. Mr. Broad, a U.S. Army veteran, and Mrs. Broad, originally from Canada, were married at St. Paul's in June 2014. Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmaltz created the statue so there was an immediate connection for the Broads with this project.

A "soft" campaign is under way to raise the approximately \$160,000 needed to construct the rest of the honor garden include opportunities for parishioners and others to honor and memorialize family and friends who have served our country.

The first major pledge was made by parishioner Roger Staubach and his wife, Marianne. Mr. Staubach attended the U.S. Naval Academy, where he won a Heisman Trophy. He then served a tour in Vietnam during his time in the Navy before becoming the quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys.

The honor garden came out of Father Patiño's experience as a teenaged-member of the American Junior GI Forum in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"Among my most poignant memories was being invited to be part of an honor guard to welcome home fallen American soldiers as they arrived at the airport and escort the bodies to their families in the small rural towns of South Texas," he said. "I believe those who have served our country loyally need to know that, as a country, we appreciate their valor and their service," he said.

different *faiths* one *community*

Father Joe Scott, CSP, helps bring Westwood neighbors together with sharing and understanding

By Stefani Manowski

Growing up with a father who was Catholic and a mother who was not, Father Joe Scott, CSP, had a natural interest in people inside and outside of the Church family.

"I wanted to share my faith with other Catholics, but to also learn more about other Christians," he recalled. "Over time, I began to see how important it is to understand people from other religions as well."

Now Father Scott is helping others do exactly that – helping people of different faith traditions who live in the same neighborhood get to know one another and a little about their respective religions – as the Catholic representative of the "Conversations with Neighborhood Clergy" breakfast and discussion panel.

On one Tuesday morning mostly every month, residents gather for breakfast and to witness a panel discussion given by the clergy from the houses of worship in the Westwood neighborhood of Los Angeles. The topics have included, What will the next generation believe? How does your religion deal with racism, xenophobia and prejudice? and What role do women play in each of our traditions? In addition to Father Scott, panelists include Rabbi Jason Fruithandler of Sinai Temple; Ma-

homed A. Kahn, interfaith director for the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City; Dr. Steven Rudd, president of the Los Angeles Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Rev. Susan Klein, pastor of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Rev. John Woodall, pastor of Westwood United Methodist Church. Some 30 people are now attending the breakfast and discussion, according to Father Scott, one of the four Archdiocese of Los Angeles' representatives to the Interreligious Council of Southern California. The events are already having the desired effect.

"In the beginning, people would segregate themselves – sitting with others from their own congregation – but now people are getting to know one another and those distinctions are becoming less important," Father Scott said. "They are having some pretty good conversations before we even start."

Another dynamic of the program is atmosphere. Each house of worship takes its turn hosting the event, which

is a new experience for many.

"This is the first time a Catholic may be in a temple and vice-versa," said Father Scott. "Some people only know Islam from what they see on the news, for example, or just don't see their neighbors that often. This is about building friendships and the value in that, to know one another and together be able to respond to what is happening in their community."



Will Power

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If you've ever thought about leaving a legacy gift but aren't quite sure how to go about it, we'd love to speak with you. To confidentially explore how your will or insurance policy can help preserve your faithfulness to the Paulists, please contact Gail Reed at 202-269-2515 or email g.reed@paulistdevelopment.org.

Faces and Places



Courtesy Father Dave Dwyer, CSP
Pope Francis is presented with a medallion of the Paulist founder – Servant of God Father Isaac Hecker – by Father Dave Dwyer, the director of Busted Halo, a Paulist ministry to spiritual seekers in their 20s and 30s. The medallion was created by Father Frank Sabatte, CSP, and presented to the pope last month.



Courtesy Father Dave Dwyer, CSP
Students at the University Catholic Center at the University of California in Los Angeles participate in the Retreat for Graduating Seniors in early June.



Courtesy Father Charlie Donahue, CSP
Paulist students Michael Hennessy, CSP (left), Paolo Puccini, CSP, Evan Cummings, CSP, and Michael Cruickshank, CSP, participated in the Metropolitan Branch Trail 5K race in Washington, D.C., on May 7.



Courtesy Father Dave Dwyer, CSP
The Paulist Associates at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids, Mich., renewed their annual promise to live the Paulist charism in their daily lives. The Associates renewing their promise: (front row) Patti Kerr, Cathy Hoekstra, Bob Eardley, (second row), Meredith LaPonsie, Ron Weinrich, Candace Tajak, Margaret Moleski, (third row) Rita Loper, Catie Heynen, Norine Simmons and Father Frank Desiderio, CSP, national director of the Paulist Associates.



Courtesy Father Greg Apparcel, CSP
Father Steve Bossi, CSP, welcomes parishioners of the Paulist-run Church of Santa Susanna, the American church in Rome, to the parish's annual Mass and picnic honoring those parishioners leaving the Eternal City for new posts. The event was held at the Marymount International School in Rome as the faith community has been in a diaspora due until necessary repairs are made to Santa Susanna.



PT/Stefani Manowski
Father Paul Robichaud, CSP (center) says part of the Eucharistic Prayer during the Mass celebrating the 40th anniversary of ordination of the Paulist Class of 1975 held May 16 at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C. The Class of 1975 includes Father John Duffy, CSP (right), Father Tom Ryan (center right), Father Michael McGarry, CSP (right) and Father Thomas Kane (not shown).



PAULIST FATHERS

Office for Media Relations
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Streaming: Student video series aids discernment

How do you become a Paulist? What is it like to be a Paulist student? What drew a particular Paulist to the community?

Exploring the answers to these questions, and more, is a video series titled Paulists InFormation. (All 15 episodes are available on YouTube.) The videos feature a Paulist student interviewing Paulist priests or another Paulist student about their path to the Paulists, their experiences and their current ministry.

"The series is an informal look at the Paulist community and life in formation," said series co-founder Michael Hennessy, CSP, a third-year Paulist student from Manchester, N.H.

The twin goals of the series are to be a tool of discernment and ministry for the Paulist students themselves and "be a resource for those who are considering religious life and want to know the life stories of those in the Paulists," said Evan Cummings, CSP, second-year Paulist student and series co-founder from Clearwater, UT. "It's been a wonderful opportunity for us to work both behind and in front of a camera to produce some helpful content for discernment."

To read the entire story, visit paulist.org.



Top photo: Paulists Information co-creators and Paulist students Michael Hennessy, CSP, (left) and Evan Cummings, introduce the YouTube series in Episode One. Photo above: Paolo Puccini, CSP (left), interviews fellow Paulist student Matt Berrios in Episode 6 of Paulists Information.



3:25 / 9:32 HD