

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. RENÉ

Dear Friends,

These are difficult times for our country and for our world.

My prayers, and the prayers of my brother Paulists and the entire Paulist charismatic family (Paulist Fathers, Associates, Affiliates), are with those people who are suffering or living in fear because of war, violence, deportation, political threats, or economic uncertainty.

We also are continually discerning the appropriate and meaningful ways that we can be a voice for peace and justice – while simultaneously being agents of unity and communion as we address the divisions that plague families, communities, and our Church.

Challenging times invite us to be creative, not just reactive, disciples of Christ. They offer us an opportunity to not only be result-oriented individuals but also relational beings in addressing the signs of the times. As partners and supporters of our Paulist mission, you give us hope!

I humbly ask for your prayers this October for the three **Pre-Assembly gatherings** at which Paulists, Paulist Associates, Paulist Deacon Affiliates, and some of our lay collaborators will gather to discuss the Paulist mission.

The Pre-Assemblies will help us to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit in anticipation of our upcoming election of our next Paulist Administration as well as the quadrennial General Assembly scheduled for June 2026.

We hope these gatherings will be grace-filled occasions marked by the "synodal listening style" articulated by both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV.

You will be hearing much more about our **General Assembly** process in the coming year!

As we have said many times before: Together with the movement of the Holy Spirit, your prayers, participation, and support enable everything that we do.

I believe that this cooperation with God's will in our lives is going to see us through this challenging time in history – giving us the courage and creativity we need at every step along the journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

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[paulist.org/espanol](http://paulist.org/espanol)

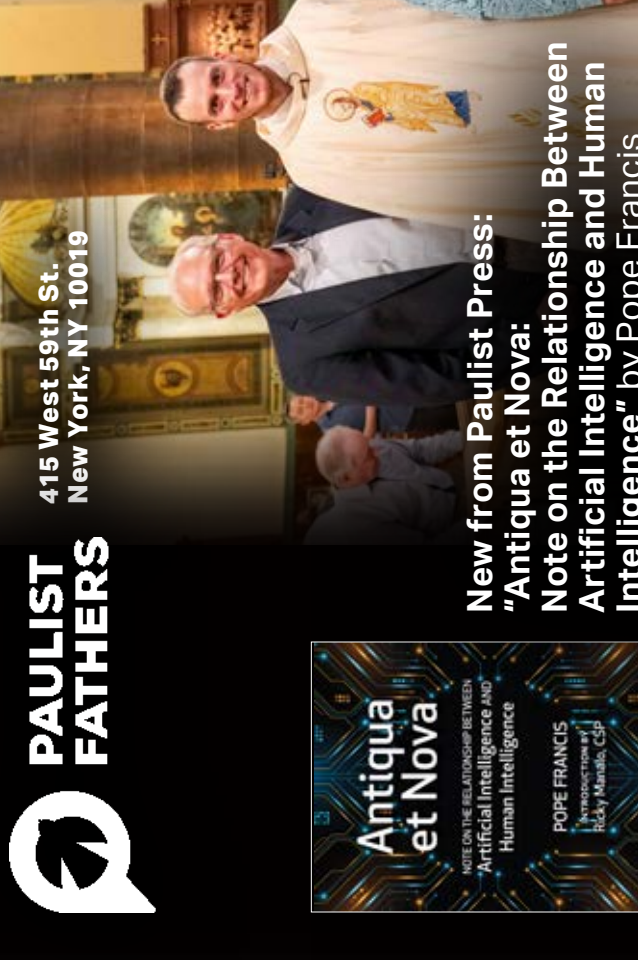


To make a contribution, please use the enclosed envelope or visit: [paulist.org/apa](http://paulist.org/apa)

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**Pictured: Paulist Fr. Ben Chisholm with Paulists and parishioners from Grand Rapids, MI, after our Ordination Mass in May. Please see inside this issue of The Voice for more photos and News!**



415 West 59th St.  
New York, NY 10019

**PAULIST FATHERS**

**New from Paulist Press:**  
"Antiqua et Nova:  
Note on the Relationship Between  
Artificial Intelligence and Human  
Intelligence" by Pope Francis  
with an introduction by  
Paulist Fr. Ricky Manalo

This thought-provoking new offering reflects on the question:  
"What does it mean to be human in the age of artificial intelligence?"  
Please learn more about this book and other Paulist Press titles at:  
[paulistpress.com](http://paulistpress.com).

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT?**  
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Autumn  
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# the Voice

News from The Paulist Fathers Office of Mission Advancement



New Paulist Productions President



Our New Paulists

# Paulist Fr. Tom Gibbons at Helm of Paulist Productions



Congratulations to **Paulist Fr. Tom Gibbons** who, on July 1, became President of **Paulist Productions**, our Emmy Award-winning film and television company in Los Angeles.

He has succeeded veteran television producer **Michael Sullivan** who had served as President since 2018.

"We are very thankful to Fr. Gibbons for serving in this important role at the intersection of faith and culture," said Paulist Fr. René Constanza, President of

the Paulist Fathers. "We look forward to the gospel-dense and creative entertaining offerings he will help to create in the years ahead."

"We also want to pay tribute to Michael Sullivan for the creativity and dedication he brought to his tenure as President of Paulist Productions, and for his decades of service on the company's board," said Fr. René.

Ordained a priest in 2012, Fr. Tom first served as an Associate Pastor and Administrator of St. Peter's Church in Toronto, Canada. He then produced "**Isaac Hecker and the Journey of Catholic America**," a documentary film about the Paulist Fathers' founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker.

In 2016, Fr. Tom moved to Los Angeles where he was an Associate Pastor at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community and began work at Paulist Productions, serving as Director of Development and Production and Vice President.

Fr. Tom wrote, directed, and was a producer of Paulist Productions' Gabriel Award-winning documentary film "**Hollywood Priest: The Story of Fr. Bud Kieser**" and was an Executive Producer on the company's 2024 documentary film "**Fighting Spirit: A Combat Veteran's Journey**."

"Over my last nine years, I have continually heard how much the work of Paulist Productions has impacted the faith lives of people everywhere, particularly in the unique voice the ministry has brought forth," said Fr. Tom. "I am very excited to continue the great work of all of those who have come before me in order to create media that advances the conversation between the sacred and the secular."

Fr. Tom also served as an Executive Producer of Paulist Productions' upcoming documentary film "**Baseball: Beyond Belief**" based on the book "Baseball as the Road to God" by John Sexton, a former president of New York University.

To learn more about Paulist Productions, please visit: [paulistproductions.org](http://paulistproductions.org)



# Formation Blessings



We pray in thanksgiving to God for the many blessed happenings in recent months for our formation community.

On May 17, **Paulist Fr. Chris Malano** and **Paulist Fr. Ben Chisholm** were ordained priests by Bishop David J. Walkowiak, J.C.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, during a beautiful Mass at Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City.

Fr. Chris and Fr. Ben both celebrated their First Masses of Thanksgiving on May 18, at St. Paul's. Fr. Ben celebrated the parish's 10 a.m. Mass while Fr. Chris celebrated the 5 p.m. Mass.



In their first priestly assignments, Fr. Chris is an associate pastor of St. Austin Church in Austin, TX, while Fr. Ben is serving as associate director of the University Catholic Center at UCLA in Los Angeles.

On August 15, Paulist seminarians **Zach Turner**, **James Marquez**, and **Andrew Ouma** renewed their Promises to our missionary society in the chapel at St. Mary's of the Lake, our summer retreat in Lake George, NY.

Paulist novices **Joseph Solomon** and **Marvin Ruano** made their First Promises to our missionary society during a Mass on September 3, in the chapel of Hecker House, our seminary in Washington, D.C.

Joseph and Marvin are now the newest Paulists to use our community initials "C.S.P." after their names.

We also are pleased to share that seven discerners attended our "Come & See: History & Mission" vocations retreat July 25 to 27 in New York City.

**Our next "Come & See" retreat will take place October 24 to 26 at Hecker House in Washington, D.C.** Please share the invitation to this retreat with anyone who you think may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

To learn more, please visit: [beapaulist.org/comeandsee](http://beapaulist.org/comeandsee)



# Annual Paulist Appeal: Participation is Growing!

**Thank you** to everyone who has made a gift to the Annual Paulist Appeal! This year, we have focused on increasing the number of participating households. Here is a year-to-year comparison:

	2024	2025
<b>Total participating households:</b>	1892	1929

## TOTAL PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS AT:

<b>Cathedral of Saint Andrew</b> Grand Rapids, MI	229	27.5%
<b>Church of St. Paul the Apostle</b> New York, NY	225	14%
<b>St. Austin Catholic Church</b> Austin, TX	213	13%
<b>St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church</b> San Diego, CA	196	5.5%
<b>Old St. Mary's Church</b> Chicago, IL	150	11%
<b>St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community</b> LA, CA	135	11%
<b>Immaculate Conception Church</b> Knoxville, TN	122	32%
<b>Paulist Center</b> Boston, MA	119	9.5%
<b>St. Paul the Apostle Church</b> Horseshoe Bay, TX	66	14%
<b>St. John XXIII University Parish</b> Knoxville, TN	64	27%
<b>Old St. Mary's Cathedral</b> San Francisco, CA	57	17%
<b>University Catholic Center, UCLA</b> Los Angeles, CA	35	15%
<b>St. Patrick's Catholic American Parish</b> Rome, Italy	24	45%

Note: The participation numbers above do not include cash gifts provided without a donor name in collection baskets.

**Our 2025 participation is still growing, of course!**  
To make a gift, please visit: [paulist.org/apa](http://paulist.org/apa)

# Create a Lasting Legacy & Ensure the Future of the Paulist Fathers

We invite all of our benefactors to become members of the **Hecker Legacy Society**.

The society honors those who have notified our Office of Mission Advancement that they have included the "Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle" (our formal name) in their wills, estate plans, or bequest intentions.

Such legacy gifts have a lasting impact on the Paulists, and the people with whom we serve, for generations to come.

For details, please email us at [development@paulist.org](mailto:development@paulist.org) or visit [paulist.org/plan](http://paulist.org/plan).

