



## Paulist Center Boston

*Attentive to the Holy Spirit and nourished by vibrant liturgy, we are a Catholic community that welcomes all, fosters healing and reconciliation, and acts for justice.*



**JULY 5 - 6, 2025 - 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JULY 12 - 13, 2025 - 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**WEEKEND IN-PERSON MASSES**

**Saturday**  
5pm

**Sunday**  
10am  
6pm

**WEEKDAY IN-PERSON MASSES**

**Monday – Friday**  
12:00pm

**CONFESSIONS**

**Friday, 11:00-11:45am, and by appointment**

### TRUE FREEDOM

I recall my Old Testament professor Paulist Father Larry Boadt describing the ancient authors of the book of Genesis as using a mythical approach to speak of the twelve tribes of Israel. He suggested that a mythical approach to understanding the formation of the United States of America would describe each state as possessing a personality that reflected its physical characteristics and its natural and manufactured products.

As an example, we could say that in the myth, America, a female parent had 50 children. One of the oldest was a daughter who loved the warm ocean water and the nectar of citrus fruits. Her name was Florida.

Among her children, one of the youngest of the family was also the largest. Having feasted on whale blubber since childhood, Alaska enjoyed cold weather and delighted in winter sports.

This weekend, when we Americans celebrate our political independence and freedom, I felt a pull to personify the country I love in the same way Irving Berlin did when he wrote “God Bless America” and prayed that God would “stand beside her and guide her through the night with the light from above”. I want to write to America in a way that sees her as an adolescent, as a nation that still has some growing up to do. Like many teens, she doesn’t know that she doesn’t know everything.

I use the insights of Trappist monk Thomas Merton and Franciscan Father Richard Rohr. Rohr spent years addressing the spiritual and psychological issue of attaining what he calls “true freedom”.

The “False Self” (Merton) is the ego-driven person we have all learned to show others. We are all culturally conditioned to live this way. Merton and Rohr call this self-image “false” in that it is the respectable self we present to the world, how we want to be seen by others. When we live out of our projected self, we are trapped by our insecurities and do not have the belief that we are loved for who we are, warts and all.

So, following that rather lengthy introduction, allow me to share a letter I have written to my old friend and beloved country, America, as a person in need of the true freedom Richard Rohr has spoken of and written about.



### Dear America,

I have a hope that, as you celebrate your “freedom” this weekend, you will see yourself as needing to grow in acceptance of your own limitations and your shadow side. I’ve noticed that in the past ten years or so, you have been acting as one who is deserving of more respect than other nations. You strike me as wanting to be seen as someone who is better than others, who is entitled to use more of the planet’s gifts than other national identities.

*continued on pg 2*

**Welcome!** If you are considering becoming a member, please fill out a membership inquiry form that can be found on our [website](http://paulistcenter.org). You may also call the Reception Desk at 617-742-4460. After returning the form, a staff member will contact you.

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*continued from pg 1*

You remind me of those adolescents who, out of a deeply hidden fear of being unacceptable, put on a false bravado that uses a tough, even mean exterior to exert your desires and to keep others from getting too close. So long as you wear this mask, you will continue to live in a way that is not authentic, that lacks integrity.

America, please don't be afraid to show other nations you really aren't any better than they are, but that you are beautiful and unique and that you have many gifts to share with the world. Your diversity is not a weakness, it is your strength!



The notion of independence that you so cherish was never really true you know. You always needed others as much as they needed you. Perhaps one of your scholars, maybe even one who was not born within your shores could write a new "Declaration of *Interdependence*"?

I want you to know that the natural gifts you have are there to be nurtured and to be careful with, not to see them as resources to be used without thought of the children you also need to provide for in the future. Some people consider sharing and caring a sign of weakness.

The words printed on your founding documents imply that you follow the way of Christ. But if there is anything Jesus taught us, it's that the path to true freedom necessarily involves pain and suffering.

Christ's great spokesperson, St. Paul, told people in the early Church that obtaining true freedom will involve a process of transformation. So I say to you, my dear America, what the Bible says 365 times, "Do not be afraid"!

One of your Own,

Fr. Rick

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER CLUB SEEKS SOUS CHEF THIS SUMMER!

**T**he Wednesday Night Supper Club is **looking for Sous Chef Help in the Kitchen this summer!**

### **What does that mean?**

We need a few people each Wednesday afternoon from about 1:00/2:00 through 3:30 - 4:00 to have fun and help our talented head chefs make a healthy hot meal for our guests.

### **What doesn't it mean?**

That you have to plan the meal; just be able to take instruction!

If you are interested, please email **Emily Spicer Hankle** ([ekayhankle@gmail.com](mailto:ekayhankle@gmail.com)). We **DO** need to know if you are coming as it is never good to have too many cooks in the kitchen.



**So in summary: No experience necessary, Lots of fun to be had, doing works of mercy, and contact Emily first!**

## LIVE-STREAMED MASS LINKS

**Sunday, July 6, 10am**  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
YouTube [Link](#)



**Sunday, July 13, 10am**  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
YouTube [Link](#)

At the time of each livestream,  
the appropriate **Order of Worship** will be available at [paulistcenter.org/order-of-worship](http://paulistcenter.org/order-of-worship).

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS ...



Please pray for the soul of community member **Pat Cross**, mother of Caitlin Ram, who passed away last week. A funeral Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Portland, Maine on Wednesday, July 2.

## NEW MEMBER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**T**hank you to everyone who has expressed interest in joining the finance committee. We are in ongoing conversation with several members about this role. As of now, one member has been added to the committee - we are excited to welcome **Bill Ballou** to serve the community in this way.



Bill Ballou has been a member of the Paulist Center Community for about 5 years. He is a retired financial executive who is a CPA having started his career with KPMG. Over the ensuing 35 years, he held senior executive level positions in the areas of global operations auditing, financial planning, operations and finance. He was Chief Financial Officer for several large companies the last being Bob's Discount Furniture. Over the years, Bill also completed specialized work and was interim CFO for portfolio companies of large private equity groups. The most recognizable companies served were The Weather Channel, Brookstone and Ollie's Bargain Outlet. Bill is also a Board member and Treasurer for the non-profit Jackson Ski Touring Foundation.

We look forward to his expertise around internal controls and financial oversight of day to day operations.  
**Thank you for offering your time and talent Bill!**

## FAMILY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

**T**he **registration** form for our **2025-2026** year is posted on our [website](#)! Please register your child(ren) for formal religious education classes and/or our sacramental preparation programs.

Any questions, please contact **Susan Rutkowski**, Pastoral Minister of Family Religious Education, at [susan@paulistcenter.org](mailto:susan@paulistcenter.org).



## WELCOME TO THE PAULIST CENTER!

The Paulist Center warmly welcomes recently registered members:

Lauren Crawford  
Boston, MA



Julianna Marandola  
Boston, MA

## SUMMER BULLETIN DEADLINES

Plan ahead! We are returning to a once-every-two-weeks bulletin for the summer.



July 20/27: text due 7/15, 12pm

Aug 3/10: text due 7/29, 12pm

Aug 17/24: text due 8/12, 12pm

Aug 31 text due 8/22, 12pm (*early due to Labor Day*)

## STEWARDSHIP

The Paulist Center receives no funding from outside sources. All costs to operate our ministries for both members and the wider Boston community, maintain the building, and pay our staff, are supported solely by your financial donations. See [paulistcenter.org/give/ways-to-give](http://paulistcenter.org/give/ways-to-give) for ways to give. Two options:



Give a one-time or recurring donation using your bank account or credit card by visiting [tinyurl.com/DonatePaulistCenter](http://tinyurl.com/DonatePaulistCenter), or scanning the QR code on this page outlined in **blue**. You can use this method for donations for specific programs, too, and, if you are a registered member with us, these donations **WILL be included** in a year-end tax statement sent to you for any donations that are tax deductible per IRS regulations. Giving by this method helps us with our budgeting and stewardship efforts.



Use **Apple Pay** or **Google Pay** by visiting [donorbox.org/paulistcenter](http://donorbox.org/paulistcenter), scanning the QR code on the red cards in the pews, or scanning the QR code on this page outlined in **red**. Please note that **these donations** will **NOT be included** in any year-end giving tax records, and they solely support our general operations.

## COMMUNITY GIFT

The Paulist Center gives 5% of our annual offertory to 52 charitable organizations with missions consonant with our own. These organizations receive an equal amount from our annual offertory.

The weekend of **July 5 - 6**, we raise up **Angel Flight** which coordinates free air and ground transportation for medical patients whose financial resources would not otherwise enable them to receive treatment or diagnosis, or who live in rural areas without access to commercial airlines.

The weekend of **July 12 - 13**, we raise up **Refugee Immigration Ministry**, which, through volunteer interfaith support system, provides services for refugees, immigrants and detainees.

**Pastoral Staff:** Normand Gouin; Gus Kellerman; Susan Rutkowski;  
Rick Walsh, CSP

**Administrative Staff:** Barbara Dunay; Deb Heimel; Dorothy Messenger;  
Rob Smyser; Sal Whooley

**Custodial Staff:** Alvaro Enamorado; Timmy Valle

**Pastoral Council Chair:** John Domino  
[pccouncil@paulistcenter.org](mailto:pccouncil@paulistcenter.org)

**Finance Committee Chair:** Mary Lesko

**Worship Committee Chair:** Claire Byrne  
[worship@paulistcenter.org](mailto:worship@paulistcenter.org)

(See our [website](http://paulistcenter.org) for staff contact information.)