

## Welcome to the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle!

On May 27, 2008, at the request of His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle was designated as a “holy place” by the Holy See for the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul, which began on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29<sup>th</sup> and continues through June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Pope Benedict XVI has designated this Jubilee Year in honor of Saint Paul and commemorating the 2000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth. At our parish, as a holy place, the Holy See “*grants that a plenary indulgence be obtained by the truly penitent Christian faithful*” (*Decree Designating Church of Saint Paul the Apostle as a Holy Place to Receive Plenary Indulgences during the Year of St. Paul.*, Apostolic Penitentiary., May 27, 2008).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines a plenary indulgence as “*a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.*” (No. 1471).

Our sin, our selfishness has consequences for us and for others. The granting of indulgences seeks to help us face those consequences directly in the light of God’s love for us and to be free from anything that keeps us from the love of God. Indulgences are an extension of God’s mercy that we encounter in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Paul VI describes the treasury of the Church as not having anything to do with material wealth, but with the “*infinite and inexhaustible value*” of Christ’s sacrifice for us (*Indulgentiarum Doctrina*, Paul VI, 1967). It is this love of Christ which unites heaven and earth, the community of saints in heaven and us and those who have died, even with those who died before fully orienting their lives towards Christ with us. The love and mercy of God are “*inexhaustible*” and do not disappear when we draw our last breath. Our loving God through the love of Christ continues to seek us out and invite us to come closer to Him!

On a recent visit to California, I visited the grave of one of my brothers who was killed in an accident in 1994. He was a wonderful man with a wife and three sons. He, like all of us, had some parts of his life that were ongoing struggles – those places in our lives where we would like to be better, more faithful people, less selfish and oriented toward God and towards others. (Perhaps, this desire to be purified is a way of approaching what purgatory is for us.) His life and death seemed like yesterday and I found myself praying for him. To what avail?

In reflecting on the meaning of plenary indulgences, I was drawn back to my graveside prayers for my brother. Pope Benedict XVI in his Encyclical Letter *Saved by Hope* offered a simple and yet profound explanation of what we know

so deeply in our hearts by the gift of faith: *“So my prayer for another is not something extraneous to that person, something external, not even after death. In the interconnectedness of Being, my gratitude to the other—my prayer for him—can play a small part in his purification. And for that there is no need to convert earthly time into God's time: in the communion of souls simple terrestrial time is superseded. It is never too late to touch the heart of another, nor is it ever in vain.”*(49).

What Good News! It is never too late to draw on the love of God – for ourselves and for others! The community of saints and those who have died remain part of our community and part of the way we seek to help each other with our prayer and our support!

Indulgences then are not a way of building up some sort of celestial bank account; they are a call to trust deeply in the Lord, who constantly called his disciples and calls us to hear St. Paul’s words with our hearts, *“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans, 8:37-39). They are an extension of the Sacrament of Penance – the gift of Christ’s presence in forgiveness for us and for those for whom we pray.

With trust in God and our Lord Jesus Christ, I invite you during this Year of Saint Paul to participate in this way of surrendering to the inexhaustible mercy of God. Let us pray that we might continue to draw closer to God and let us continue to pray with the community of heaven, for all those who have gone before us and for those “whose faith is known” alone to God (*Eucharistic Prayer IV*).

Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary providentially coincides with the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul, proclaimed by His Holiness, Benedict XVI. We are blessed to welcome you as a pilgrim to this historic parish, this holy place in this year dedicated to our parish and Paulist Fathers’ patron. The founding pastor of the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle and the founder of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle commonly known as the Paulist Fathers, the first Roman Catholic community of priests formed in the United States was a native New Yorker, Fr. Isaac Hecker (1819-1888). Both were founded in 1858. During our 150th anniversary year, the Cause for Sainthood of our founder was opened on January 27, 2008 by the Archbishop of New York, His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan.

**Saint Paul the Apostle, pray for us! Servant of God, Isaac Hecker, pray for us!**

Reverend Gilbert Martinez, CSP  
Pastor

CELEBRATION OF FIRST VESPERS OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY APOSTLES  
PETER AND PAUL

***HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI***

*Basilica of St Paul Outside-the-Walls on Thursday, 28 June 2007*

Dear brothers and sisters, as in early times, today too Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St Paul. Paul, a former violent persecutor of Christians, when he fell to the ground dazzled by the divine light on the road to Damascus, did not hesitate to change sides to the Crucified One and followed him without second thoughts. He lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!

And for this very reason I am pleased to announce officially that we shall be dedicating a special Jubilee Year to the Apostle Paul from 28 June 2008 to 29 June 2009, on the occasion of the bimillennium of his birth, which historians have placed between the years 7 and 10 A.D.

It will be possible to celebrate this "Pauline Year" in a privileged way in Rome where the sarcophagus which, by the unanimous opinion of experts and an undisputed tradition, preserves the remains of the Apostle Paul, has been preserved beneath the Papal Altar of this Basilica for 20 centuries.

It will thus be possible to have a series of liturgical, cultural and ecumenical events taking place at the Papal Basilica and at the adjacent Benedictine Abbey, as well as various pastoral and social initiatives, all inspired by Pauline spirituality. In addition, special attention will be given to penitential pilgrimages that will be organized to the Apostle's tomb to find in it spiritual benefit. Study conventions and special publications on Pauline texts will also be promoted in order to make ever more widely known the immense wealth of the teaching they contain, a true patrimony of humanity redeemed by Christ.

Furthermore, in every part of the world, similar initiatives will be implemented in the dioceses, shrines and places of worship, by Religious and by the educational institutions and social-assistance centres which are named after St Paul or inspired by him and his teaching.

Lastly, there is one particular aspect to which special attention must be paid during the celebration of the various moments of the 2,000th Pauline anniversary: I am referring to the ecumenical dimension. The Apostle to the Gentiles, who was especially committed to taking the Good News to all peoples, left no stones unturned for unity and harmony among all Christians. May he deign to guide and protect us in this bimillennial celebration, helping us to progress in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of Christ's Mystical Body. Amen.

DECREE DESIGNATING **CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE**  
AS A HOLY PLACE TO RECEIVE **PLENARY INDULGENCES**  
DURING THE **YEAR OF ST. PAUL**

**DECREE**

By the authority of the powers bestowed upon it by the Supreme Pontiff, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants that a **plenary indulgence** be obtained by the truly penitent Christian faithful – once the customary conditions have been duly met (the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*, *Holy Communion*, and a prayer for the Supreme Pontiff's intention) – if as pilgrims they devoutly visit the **Parish Church of Saint Paul**, located in Manhattan in the Archdiocese of New York and entrusted to the pastoral care of the Missionary Priests of Saint Paul the Apostle; and there, with a heart united to the spiritual ends of the **Year of St. Paul the Apostle** declared by the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, if they attend the devout celebration of a sacred rite or pious exercise in honor of Saint Paul, or at least, if for a suitable period of time with their minds intent on pious reflection they stand before a holy image of the Apostle of the Gentiles set out for public veneration, to be concluded by a the recitation or singing of the *Our Father* and *Creed* and with an invocation of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary as well as Saint Paul:

- a) those days on which the Pauline Year shall be solemnly opened and closed;
- b) the final Sunday of each month;
- c) as many times as they visit there as a group for the sake of a devotion;
- d) once in that year on a day freely chosen by the individual faithful.

This decree is effective for this time only, notwithstanding anything to the contrary.

Given in Rome, from the Offices of the Apostolic Penitentiary, 27 May, in the Year of the Incarnation of our Lord 2008.

*(Unofficial Translation by Michael Boler.)*



## PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Prot. N. 242/08/I

### DECRETUM

PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA, vi facultatum sibi a Summo Pontifice tributarum, **plenariam** largitur **Indulgentiam**, suetis condicionibus (sacramentali confessione, eucharistica Communionem et orationem ad mentem Summi Pontificis) rite adimpletis, christifidelibus vere paenitentibus lucranda, si *paroecialem de "Manhattan" Ecclesiam, sub titulo Sancti Pauli*, Archidioeceseos Neo-Eboracensis, pastoralis curae Sacerdotum Missionariorum a Sancto Paulo Apostolo concreditam, in forma peregrinationis pie inviserint, et ibi, sociato corde cum spiritalibus finis Anni Paulini a Summo Pontifice Benedicto XVI indicti, alicui sacro ritui vel pio exercitio in honorem Sancti Pauli, peractis devote interfuerint, vel saltem, ante sacram Apostoli Gentium imaginem publicae venerationi expositam, animo piis considerationibus intento constiterint per congruum temporis spatium, concludendum recitatione vel cantu Orationis Dominicae atque Symboli Apostolorum, et invocatione Beatissimae Virginis Mariae necnon Sancti Pauli: **a.**- diebus, quibus Annus Paulinus sollempniter aperietur et claudetur; **b.**- in Dominica ultima singulorum mensium; **c.**- quoties illuc, devotionis causa, turmatim peregrinati fuerint; **d.**- semel in anno, die a singulis fidelibus libere eligendo.

Praesenti pro hac vice tantum valituro. Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Datum Romae, ex aedibus Paenitentiarum Apostolicarum, die XXVII mensis Maii, anno Incarnationis Dominicae MMVIII.

*Jacobus Franciscus S. R. E. Card. Stafford*  
IACOBUS FRANCISCUS S. R. E. Card. STAFFORD  
*Paenitentiarum Maior*

*Ioannes Maria Gervais*  
Ioannes Maria Gervais  
*Ad. a Stud.*

## To Participate in the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul

- Prepare yourself to approach this pilgrimage as truly contrite, ready to perform the work of the indulgence, and have the general intention of gaining the indulgence for the living or the dead. For whom do you seek this indulgence?
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An indulgence is closely linked to the effect of this sacrament, which is forgiveness. “*A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table, a gesture that expresses in an astonishing way both God's forgiveness and the return to the bosom of the People of God*” (Catechism of the Catholic Church., No.1443).
- Participate in Mass in this holy place and receive Holy Communion.
- Standing or kneeling before an image of St. Paul, reflect on the spiritual end of this Jubilee Year as proclaimed by Benedict XVI, “*He [St. Paul] lived and worked for Christ, for him he suffered and died. How timely his example is today!*” How do you live and work for Christ? There are two images of Saint Paul, which may help your reflection:
  - *The Martyrdom of St. Paul*, Robert Reid (1862-1929) located in the southwest part of the Church. This painting by the American impressionist depicts St. Paul kneeling-and at peace in the moment of his martyrdom as the executioner with drawn sword stands beside him. Above the painting are inscribed the words, “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course*” and below, the words “*I have kept the faith*” from his Second Letter to Timothy (4:7). Christian tradition holds that when St Paul was decapitated, his head bounced three times and fountains miraculously sprang up in the places where his head bounced.
  - *St. Paul the Apostle Statue* located at the baptismal font depicts him with the sword and the book recognizing his prolific writing and preaching of the Word.
- Recite or sing the *Our Father* and *Creed* and with an invocation of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Paul.

**Plenary Indulgences are granted at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle on:**

- those days on which the Pauline Year shall be solemnly opened and closed (Solemn Opening at Evening Prayer on June 28, 2008 at 6:30 PM and on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul on Sunday, June 29, 2008);
- the final Sunday of each month through June 29, 2009;
- as many times as they visit there as a group for the sake of a devotion;
- once in that year on a day freely chosen by the individual faithful.

**Sunday Masses at the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle**

Saturday Vigil, 5:15 PM,

Sunday Masses are at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM *in Spanish*, 5:15 PM

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Tuesdays and Thursdays after the daily 12:10 PM Mass;

Saturdays 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM; and,

***Last Sunday of each month,***

***Jubilee Prayers are at the conclusion of Masses;***

***Sacrament of Reconciliation***

***11:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM***

***Evening Prayer - Chanted***

***4:30 PM on Sunday:***

***October 26, 2008***

***January 25, 2009***

***May 24, 2009***

***Sundays in 2008***

*July 27*

*August 31*

*September 28*

*October 26*

*November 30*

*December 28*

***Sundays in 2009***

*January 25*

*February 22*

*March 29*

*April 26*

*May 31*

*June 28*

***Monday, June 29, 2009 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul***

## Visiting the Church of Saint Paul the Apostle

The Church of Saint Paul the Apostle is the Mother Church of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle, commonly known as the Paulist Fathers, the first religious community of Roman Catholic priests founded in the United States by Servant of God, Father Isaac Thomas Hecker, C.S.P. in 1858. Father Hecker became Servant of God on January 27, 2008 when His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York opened his Cause of Sainthood, the first step to canonization as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church.

The cornerstone for the present church was laid in 1876 and construction completed in 1884. The initial design by Jeremiah O'Rourke was completed by Father George Deshon, CSP. The style is 13<sup>th</sup> century Gothic with features of the Byzantine architecture. The 90-foot high vaulted light blue ceiling is painted with stars representing the midnight sky on January 25, 1885 – the feast of the patron saint of Parish and the Paulist Fathers, the Conversion of St. Paul and the day of the church's dedication. The night sky was designed by Father George Searle, CSP who was a renowned astronomer. Interior designs include works by famous artists and architects including William Laurel Harris, Bertram Goodhue, John La Farge, Bela Pratt, Frederick William MacMonnies, and Stanford White.

You are welcome to participate in the special prayers on the last  
Sunday of the month.

**For groups**, we are happy to offer tours of the Church, masses in the Paulist Fathers Crypt Chapel, and special times for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation visiting this designated holy place for pilgrimage.

Please call or send an e-mail to:

Father Gilbert Martinez, CSP  
212-265-3495 EXT 343

[gilbert.martinez@stpaultheapostle.org](mailto:gilbert.martinez@stpaultheapostle.org).

The Church of Saint Paul the Apostle is located at the corner of Columbus Avenue (9<sup>th</sup> Ave.) and West 60<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan, one block west of Columbus Circle and Central Park.

Parish Center  
405 West 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019  
212-265-3495

[www.stpaultheapostle.org](http://www.stpaultheapostle.org)

## **Prayers for the Plenary Indulgence**

### **Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

### **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, Blessed art thou among women and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Glorious Saint Paul,**

#### **Most zealous Apostle,**

#### **Martyr for the love of Christ,**

**Give us a deep faith, a steadfast hope,  
and a burning love for our Lord.**

**So that we can proclaim with you**

**“It is no longer I who live, but  
Christ who lives in me.”**

**Help us to put on Christ, as**

**God’s chosen ones, clothed with compassion,  
kindness, humility and patience.**

**Make us “ambassadors for Christ” always**

**proclaiming our salvation with faith, hope and love.**

**Help us to seek the unity of all members of Christ’s  
body. Amen.**



**Saint Paul the Apostle  
Pray for us!**

# Rite of Reconciliation

## Preparing for Confession

There are many ways to prepare for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Some use the Ten Commandments as a guide for reflecting on sin in their lives and others use pamphlets or booklets, which contain an examination of conscience through a list of questions. In a certain sense, the desire to recall our sins and to accept responsibility for our lives is the very beginning of forgiveness and freedom from guilt.

Confession is not about guilt or fear. Confession is about paying attention to those actions, those attitudes, those lies, anything that draws us from God and from being and living as the best people that we can be. Saint Paul in his Letter to the Romans reminds us of our struggle toward God: *"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing that I hate."* (7:15-16). It is Jesus that prods us to pay attention to our lives and give up the ways that separate us from the path toward God. Giving up those sins can be painful because we often have little to replace the hold they have on our lives. Here then is where we meet the mercy of God through Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: not even our sins and struggles can *"separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (39). Indeed, if we risk confession and meeting the Lord in the Sacrament, we risk only becoming more of who we were created to be.

On Sunday, June 29, 2008, the Solemnity of Peter & Paul and the Opening of the Year of Saint Paul, the celebrant, His Excellency, Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations asked the Paulist Fathers and parishioners to use this Year of St. Paul to reflect on:

- What is in me that is similar, different, or analogous to the experience of Paul?
- How can I accept God's action in my life that makes me what I am?
- How and in what way is Jesus, who as the revelation of divine mercy for Paul, the fundamental reference point for me to help me understand who I am, what I am, where I came from, and what I am called to?
- What are my attachments that keep me from freely accepting the divine initiative towards me?

We offer these questions for your reflection as you prepare to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of healing during this Jubilee Year of Saint Paul. We also offer the following scripture passages to assist you in your preparation:

Isaiah 53:4-6    Ezekiel 11:19-20    Matthew 6:14-15    Mark 1:14-15  
Luke 6:31-38    Luke 15:1-7    Ephesians 5:1-2    Colossians 3:1-17.

## Introductory Rites

**Greeting** *(The priest welcomes and greets the penitent with kindness.)*

**Sign of the Cross** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Invitation to Trust in God**

*Priest:* May God, who has enlightened every heart,  
help you to know your sins  
and trust in his mercy.

*The penitent answers:* Amen.

## Reading of the Word of God

*The priest may read or say from memory a text of Scripture which proclaims God's mercy and calls for conversion.  
(Colossians 3:12-14-And over all these put on love)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another;  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love.

The Word of the Lord.

*The penitent answers:* Thanks be to God.

## Confession of Sins and Acceptance of Satisfaction (Penance)

*The penitent confesses his or her sins. The priest helps the penitent to make an integral confession and gives him suitable counsel. He urges him to be sorry for his faults, reminding him that through the sacrament of penance the Christian dies and rises with Christ and is thus renewed in the paschal mystery. The priest proposes an act of penance which the penitent accepts to make satisfaction for sin and to amend his life.*

## Prayer of the Penitent and Absolution

### Prayer of the Penitent (Act of Contrition)

My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.  
In his name, my God, have mercy.

**Or:**

Lord God, in your goodness have mercy on me:  
do not look on my sins, but take away all my guilt.  
Create in me a clean heart and renew within me  
an upright spirit.

**Or:**

Lord Jesus, Son of God  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

## Absolution

*Priest prays:* God, the Father of mercies,  
through the death and resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and sent the Holy Spirit among us  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God give you pardon and peace,  
and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, **+** and of the Holy Spirit.

*The penitent answers:* Amen.

## Concluding Rites

Proclamation of Praise

*After the absolution, the priest continues:* Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

*The penitent concludes:* His mercy endures forever. Amen.

## Dismissal

*The priest dismisses the penitent who has been reconciled, saying:*

May the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Paul the Apostle,  
and of all the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure,  
heal your sins, help you to grow in holiness,  
and reward you with eternal life.

Go in peace and proclaim to the world  
the wonderful works of God  
who has brought you salvation.

*The penitent answers:* Amen.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen.



## **PRAYER FOR FATHER HECKER'S CAUSE**

*Servant of God Father Isaac Thomas Hecker C.S.P.  
(1819-1888)*

*Founder of the Paulist Fathers and 1<sup>st</sup> Pastor of  
the Church of St. Paul the Apostle*

Heavenly Father,  
you called your servant Isaac Thomas Hecker  
to preach the Gospel to the people of North  
America and, through his teaching, to know  
the peace and the power of your indwelling  
Spirit. He walked in the footsteps of Saint Paul  
the Apostle, and like Paul spoke your Word  
with a zeal for souls and a burning love for all  
who came to him in need. Look upon us this  
day, with compassion and hope. Hear our  
prayer. We ask that through the intercession  
of Father Hecker, your servant, you might  
grant us *(state the request)*.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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### **THE CANONIZATION CAUSE OF SERVANT OF GOD FATHER ISAAC THOMAS HECKER, CSP**

The Cause for Father Hecker's sainthood was opened on Sunday, January 27, 2008 at a Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan. As an official candidate for canonization, Fr. Hecker is referred to by the title *Servant of God*. The process continues with a formal inquiry to take and evaluate testimony on the *servant of God's* sanctity and when completed, the official records of the process are sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Vatican. Then another full investigation of the *servant of God's* sanctity begins, culminating in the publication of a papal decree granting him the title *Venerable*, the last stage before beatification and canonization. Before beatification there must be proof of a miracle through the *servant of God's* intercession. An inquiry into any alleged miracle must be carried out in the diocese where the miracle is claimed to have occurred. In the case of a cure, competent medical authorities are involved in the questioning of witnesses and the examination of documents. To achieve canonization (sainthood) there must be proof of yet another miracle – occurring after beatification. As part of the process, we also seek his intercession as a sign that he is in heaven. The Paulist Fathers invite all to join in prayer to God through the intercession of Fr. Hecker, using the above prayer.

Fr. Hecker was born in New York City on December 18, 1819, became a Catholic in 1844, and founded the Paulist Fathers in 1858. His vision of the mission of The Paulist Fathers was a monumental one – the conversion of America to the truth of the Catholic Faith. He envisioned St. Paul the Apostle Parish as animated by that same mission, a vibrant Catholic parish reaching out to evangelize American culture locally in New York City, and a center from which The Paulist Fathers would reach out in mission to the entire country. Fr. Hecker died here on December 22, 1888. His body rests in Lumen Martin Winter's sarcophagus at the northeast end of the church.

Please report any favors received to: Postulator for the Cause of Father Hecker, 3015 Fourth St., NE  
Washington, DC 20007 or go to [www.paulist.org/hecker](http://www.paulist.org/hecker)