

Why This Mission?

This Mission is a unique and timely opportunity to revisit our roots and evaluate our relationship with God and each other.

This Mission is also unique due to the fact that it is being conducted by Paulist Father John Collins whose approach is humorous, down to earth and a joy to behold.

Father John will be preaching at all of the masses the weekend of prior to the 3 day Mission so you can evaluate first hand how enjoyable this Mission promises to be.

Don't hesitate to bring a friend who might have wandered away from the Church. This might be the golden opportunity that that person has needed to find peace and a way home.

There is no need to sign up ahead of time, just mark the dates on your calendar and prepare for a positive, uplifting series of sessions.

You'll be glad you did.

About Father John Collins, C.S.P.

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A native of New York City, Paulist Father John E. Collins completed his M.A. in theology and was ordained to the priesthood in 1970. Since that time he has been active in parish and campus ministry throughout the country, from Austin to Los Angeles, to *Columbus*, Ohio, where he was Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry and Pastor at Ohio State University.

Over the past decade Fr. Collins has conducted more than *three hundred* missions and preached over thirty retreats for priests and religious. He presently devotes his full-time energies to evangelization and mission work from his home parish-and the Mother Church of the Paulist Fathers, St. Paul the Apostle on 59th Street in New York City.



**IS IT TIME TO GIVE
GOD A SECOND
THOUGHT?**

3 Day Mission

Monday - Wednesday

**Morning & Evening Session
each of the 3 days**

After Weekday Morning Mass

Or 7:30 pm session

Choose the sessions most
convenient to your schedule

Morning & Evening Sessions
are the same

Theme of the Mission

The theme of the mission revolves around the question ...

"Can you describe what happens in those events in your life in which you experience the presence of God?"

Through this question, the mission talks will invite those present to become more articulate about their experience of God, so that their own faith life might be strengthened, the faith life of the parish might be deepened, and a greater witness to God might be manifested to their neighbors. Thus, the ultimate goal of the mission is to move people to reach out to others by sharing their faith—commonly called *evangelization*. Now Catholics tend to be slightly intimidated by this word. But the First Letter of Peter advises: "Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within you." [1 *Peter* 3: 15] In fact, the U.S. Bishops, in their letter *Go And Make Disciples*, have made the primary goal of evangelization in this country, "to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others." The Parish Mission endeavors to bring about this kind of enthusiasm and to stir up the flames of faith that so often lie dormant within people and the events of their lives.

The Schedule

Fr. Collins helps people recognize the importance of developing their own "faith story" by appealing to their experience, both negative ("Why doesn't prayer work?") and positive (In yearning to do good, we are uncovering the grace of God within). The three talks are provocatively titled:

Monday: What Good is God?

Tuesday: Why Prayers Don't Work

Wednesday: Ten Kinds of People We Don't Have To Love

The same talk will be given at both the morning and evening sessions. The morning session will begin with Mass, followed by a 15-minute coffee break and then the mission talk following (about 50-60 minutes).

The evening session will begin with an opening prayer and song, followed by the mission talk, concluding with coffee and refreshments. The material that will be presented is directed to adults.

Older high school students may also profit from attending the mission.

Who are the Paulists?



PAULIST FATHERS
GIVING THE GOSPEL A VOICE TODAY

The Paulists seek to meet the contemporary culture on its own terms, to present the Gospel message in ways that are compelling but not diluted, so that the fullness of the Catholic faith may lead others to find Christ's deep peace and "unreachable quietness." Paulists do not condemn culture, nor do they try to conform the Gospel to it. Rather, they preach the Gospel in new ways and in new forms, so that the deep spiritual longings of the culture might find fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

To this end, Paulists use multiple venues to give voice to the words of Christ - the Word Himself - to a new generation of Americans.

The Vision of the Paulist Founder

The founder of the Paulists, Isaac Hecker, was a spiritual seeker, a wandering soul. Though a seeker, he became a man of conviction: once he found the truth in the Catholic Church, he gave his whole life to it. His only desire was to proclaim the truth to others so that they too could find their true selves as North American Catholics.

The Spirit at Work

The vision of Hecker is at work in the Spirit to:

- Seek out those who desire healing and reconciliation,
- Work toward Christian unity and dialogue with faiths outside our tradition
- In parishes, on the campus, through video and publishing

We Give the Word A Voice!