



# CHARISM, SPIRITUALITY, AND MISSION DISCUSSION GUIDE

2026 PAULIST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## OPENING PRAYER

Breathe in me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.  
Move in me, Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.  
Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.  
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy.  
Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

*-St. Augustine, Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

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## HOPE

*The unwavering confidence that the Holy Spirit is already active and alive in the hearts of all, drawing all people toward communion in Christ.*

”

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### PAULIST CHARISM

1. Pope Francis described evangelization as sharing “the joy of the Gospel,” calling us to rediscover that the message of Jesus Christ is fundamentally a hope-filled expression of God’s love offered to a suffering world. As you reflect on your journey of faith, where have you experienced God’s hope breaking through difficulty?
2. The Paulist charism emphasizes that Paulists as “missionaries of hope.” Who has been a source of hope for you in your life? Who in your daily life or local community is in need of hope? What would it look like for you to be known, even more explicitly, as a person of hope?

### PAULIST SPIRITUALITY

3. Paulist spirituality begins with the attentiveness to the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. What helps you to notice the Spirit’s promptings in your daily life? What blunts or distracts from this attentiveness?
4. St. Paul is the patron of the Paulist Fathers (The Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle). His “missionary witness flowed from his encounter with the Risen Christ and his embrace of the paschal mystery.” Where do you most meaningfully encounter Jesus Christ in your prayer life and in ministry?



### **PAULIST MISSION**

5. A key dimension of the Paulist mission is “reaching out to those on the margins.” Who in your life or community feels like they are on the “peripheries”: distant from the Church, wounded by it, or still seeking a home within it? How can you reach out to them?

6. “Building bridges across division” is central to the Paulist mission. Where do you see division or distrust in your own relationships, parish, or wider society? What first step(s) toward outreach, dialogue, or bridge-building could you take?

7. The work of evangelization is not the responsibility of only a few priests. The Paulist mission is to “awaken the missionary vocation of all the baptized.” Do you see yourself as a missionary? Why or why not? Where do you already sense you are being called to witness the love of Jesus Christ—in your family, workplace, or wider community?

8. Fr. Isaac Hecker dreamed of “a future for the Church brighter than any past.” What gives you hope today in your personal life? What gives you hope for our Church? For our world?

### **SUMMARY**

9. What one or two sentences from this document speak to you most? What from this document would you most want others to hear/know?

10. How would you summarize the charism, spirituality, and mission of the Paulist Fathers if someone asked you to explain them?

11. After reflecting on the Charism, Spirituality, and Mission report, one way I feel called to learn more, serve others, or lead is by...



“ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:5