

Catholic Information Center

Friends of the Center August 2021 Newsletter

catholicinformationcenter.org



Dear friends,

With all the blueberries, pears, watermelon, and apples to enjoy this August, I cannot help but reflect on who is behind all the industrious farmers who produce these fruits for us to enjoy. One of my favorite quotes from Saint Paul comes from his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 3 verse 6: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth." Saint Paul acknowledges the role of various persons in the development of the Church in Corinth, but above all, he recognizes that only God causes growth .

This month I travel to Belize to spend time with my family. I have come to realize that every minute I spend with my aging parents is a valuable gift from God. They are the ones who planted in me the seeds of faith that continue being watered and nourished in my ministry as a Paulist priest.

Here at the CIC, we are also watering and nurturing seeds of faith for the many seeking to make the connection between their faith and daily life. We are excited about four satellite communities of learning for the newly established Leadership Institute for Hispanic Ministry. This month we are also hosting the Interfaith Voices of Young Adults who can inspire us, especially as the pandemic continues to recede. Through the Encore programming for those 55 and older, we continue helping long-life learners to build a sense of community while learning more about their faith.

I would also like to encourage you to nurture the seeds of transformation by inviting those you know suffering from substance abuse and other addictions to the Catholic in Recovery support group, meeting every Wednesday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the CIC. By doing so, you are helping to bear the fruit of God's healing in our world.

I give thanks to all the Michigan farmers, field workers, and business partners who through their sweat, sacrifice, and labor bring food to our tables. Likewise, I am grateful for your partnership of labor. Your generous contributions are watering and nurturing the seeds of faith that through God's handiwork will produce an abundant harvest.

With thanksgiving for your prayerful and financial support, I remain:

Ever joyful and hopeful,

Father René .

Very Rev. René I. Constanza, CSP
Executive Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for :

Justina Arriaga
Ruben Canales
+Richard Cebelak
Barb Cote
Hope Dalton
Debbie Flinn
+Kathleen Freybler
Mr. Abhijit Ghosh
Patrick Higgins
+Anna Jauw
+Janice Kosak
+Ken Lomis
+Ralph Mann
Susan Martin
Catalina Cortes Martínez
Barbara Robinson
+George Rybicki
Quentin Taylor

Need a quiet place with Wi-Fi and good coffee? The CIC café area and office are open:

**Monday — Thursday,
9 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday — Thursday
6 — 8:30 p.m.**

**Friday,
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.**

**August Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, August 8
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

*Please include your
prayer intentions with
your green envelope or
email them to
cicoffice@catholic
informationcenter.org*

Understanding the “Our Father”

Thursday, August 19, 10-11:30 a.m.

Presented by Tim Carmody

\$15 donation (lunch included)

(Registration required) In-Person Class

Register at <https://bit.ly/CICOurFather>



The Our Father is THE prayer of Christians.

The problem is that we all know it so well and say it so often that we fail sometimes to allow its images to challenge and transform us. This presentation will situate the Our Father within its context in Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount. We will consider the careful structure of the prayer and then examine the petitions for their comfort and challenge. We will focus on the petitions for bread, forgiveness and no “temptation”.

Dr. Timothy Carmody, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, is a graduate of the Catholic University of America and a long-time member of the Catholic Biblical Association. In 2018 he was awarded a CCD/CBA Grant by the USCCB for developing and teaching biblical courses in the deacon formation program for the Diocese of Jackson. His book, *Reading the Bible* (Paulist Press 2004), is a well-used textbook in college courses and Bible study groups. He is also the author of *The Gospel of Mark: Question by Question* (Paulist Press 2008). He continues to give lectures, workshops, and retreats on the Bible throughout the country.

Your gifts through the Green Envelope make it possible for us to help adults learn, celebrate, live and pray their Catholic Faith.

Because of your generosity, many of our programs remain free and donation based.

Please consider signing up for regular monthly donations through online giving at bit.ly/CICGive

Thank you!



Young Adults: Interfaith Voices in West Michigan

Tuesday, August 17, 7-8:30 p.m.

Moderated by Zahabia Ahmed-Usamani,
Program Coordinator, Kaufman Interfaith Institute

\$10 donation suggested
(Registration required) Zoom Presentation

Register at <http://bit.ly/CICInterfaith>

Join us for a virtual panel discussion of three young adults—Jewish, Islamic, and Christian—sharing their faith and experience. They will explore the spiritual needs and practices of young adults, especially as the pandemic begins to recede. This panel discussion will be facilitated by Zahabia Ahmed-Usamani, program coordinator for the Kaufman Interfaith Institute at Grand Valley University. All ages welcome. Panelists are: Allison Hawkins, Amina Mohamed, and Nicole Newman.



Follow us on Social Media for the latest updates and news.

Friendship Corner

Highlighting Young Adult Leadership Institute member Claudia B.

Biography Claudia grew up in Zeeland, MI. She obtained degrees in Political Science, Spanish, and Community Leadership from Aquinas College in 2020 and is currently working to obtain a Masters in Social Work from GVSU. After graduation, she went on to work in Transitional Foster Care working to reunify unaccompanied minors from Central America with their families already living in the United States. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crocheting, and traveling with her friends and family. Claudia is currently enrolled in the Young Adult Leadership Institute.

What leadership roles have been important in your life? One of the most challenging and important is the leadership that I take in my current job as a transitional foster care case manager. I coordinate treatment teams to help advocate for the best services and outcomes for the children in my caseload. I have learned how to participate in cooperative leadership with my co-workers to achieve various treatment goals. I'm proud of my growth in leadership and am always learning from those around me.

What personal gifts do you bring to leadership? I think one of my best strengths in leadership is my compassion and organization. Juggling work, school, and personal obligations can be a lot, but I have developed organizational strategies that make it all possible.

How has your participation in Young Adult Leadership Institute helped you grow as a leader and/or person of faith? Participating in the has helped me make connections with other Catholic young adults and gave me a great sense of community within the diocese.



To learn more about the Young Adult Leadership Institute visit our website