

Catholic Information Center

Friends of the Center September 2021 Newsletter

catholicinformationcenter.org



Dear friends,

On the day I write this, I commemorate three months as a priest! It was a wonderful day in New York on May 22 when my family and friends gathered at the Paulist mother church to celebrate my ordination. I was filled with joy that day, and since then each of my days has been filled with joy as well.

When I arrived back in Grand Rapids after my ordination, I had some idea of what to expect but certainly not a full picture. In the added responsibilities of a priest and of my new position at the Cathedral and Catholic Information Center there were some

things I anticipated, but I was not quite prepared for all of the “interruptions” that occur in my day-to-day.

As a priest, things regularly come up in my day that are nowhere on my calendar. Someone is in need of prayer, a patient at the hospital would like to be anointed, or somebody else needs to talk about a spiritual issue. While I could consider these things as interruptions to my day, there are in fact, the gems of my day.

I’ve been reflecting recently on a quote from C.S. Lewis: “Stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one’s ‘own,’ or ‘real’ life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one’s real life -- the life God is sending one day by day.”

I find much joy when I look ahead to the Fall program calendar here at the Center, where we hope to have more in-person classes again. Two upcoming programs are listed on the back of this letter. And if you or someone you know wants to explore the Catholic way of life, join us for Catholic Inquiry classes starting Sept. 14.

Another exciting development at the CIC is a new digital ministry we plan to launch this Advent. Through videos and podcasts, we will attempt to reach people who are not connected to the Church for whatever reason. Fr. Michael Hennessy, before he left, helped us procure the right equipment and create a nice studio space that will allow us to produce spiritual learning content from beginning to end.

If you have any expertise with digital media and would like to help us build this ministry, please let us know. We will happily welcome those who have experience in production, videography, editing, interviewing, or social media promotion. It is sure to be a fun and rewarding adventure for us all.

Lastly, I want to express my excitement about my new role here at the Catholic Information Center and gratitude for your partnership with our ministries. In my short time here, I already see a bright future.

I pray that God will send you “interruptions” that bring great joy.

Blessings,

Rev. Mike Cruickshank, CSP

Rev. Mike Cruickshank, CSP
Associate Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for :

+Lois Ary
Joe Cavera
+Patrick Evarts
Evarts Family
Mrs. Tripti Ghosh
Good Family
Susan Little
Judy Mate
Mike & Sue Palazzolo
Jose Vera

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.

September Mass for
CIC Intentions:
Sunday, Sept. 12
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral

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

Hope for the Future Campaign

This fall, the Catholic Information Center is participating in **Hope for the Future: A Comprehensive Campaign for the Paulist Fathers**. This landmark campaign is the product of years of planning and hard work by Paulist priests, lay leaders, and Paulist staff.

The focus of the campaign is to build a new Paulist House of Mission & Studies (seminary), fortify outreach ministries, support senior Paulists, and attend to deferred capital needs of Paulist houses around the country. Detailed information about the campaign goals will be sent to every parish household in the months ahead. To be clear, this is different than the Annual Paulist Appeal, which helps keep the lights on and fund the thriving ministries of the Paulists. This campaign is a one-time, extraordinary effort to fund the Paulist Fathers for years to come.

The CIC is participating in this campaign starting in October. We need volunteers to assist us for this campaign to be successful. If you are interested in volunteering and helping with this landmark effort, please contact Father René at fatherrene@cathedralofsaintandrew.org for additional details.



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!



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

Upcoming Classes

Book Talk: Let's Talk About Truth
Thursday, Sept. 23, 7-8:30 p.m.
Presented by Sr. Mary Kay Oosdyke, OP

Based on Ann Garrido's recent and insightful book, *Let's Talk About Truth*, as well as her own experience as a Dominican Sister, Sister Mary Kay Oosdyke invites you to join in a conversation about truth and its expression in our culture and lives today. You do not need to have read the book to attend the program. (Registration required) Choose to attend in-person or connect on Zoom. \$10 donation suggested.

Sister Mary Kay Oosdyke, OP is a Dominican Sister of Grand Rapids currently involved in adult faith education and spiritual formation, after years of teaching theology and ministry in colleges and seminaries. She also served as director of Dominican Associates Formation for her congregation.

Nurturing Inner Peace
Thursday, Sept. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.
Presented by Mary Wcisel

For many, the slower pace and quieter existence discovered during the pandemic was an unexpected gift. For some, the pandemic brought endless demands to meet needs in new ways. Emerging from the pandemic experience and back into mainstream living can be challenging. Together we will explore ways to be intentional about nurturing our inner peace through mindfulness and the practice of contemplation. (Registration required) Choose to attend in-person or connect on Zoom. \$10 donation suggested.

Mary Wcisel is a practicing spiritual director. She has also served in parish ministry as a director of pastoral care and as a coordinator for youth ministry.

Register at www.catholicinformationcenter.org

Friendship Corner

Highlighting longtime Catholic Information Center member and donor Mary S.

Biography Mary was born and raised in Grand Rapids. She and her family have been a members of the Catholic Information Center since 1978. In Mary's free time she likes to watch movies, shop, and spend time with her friends, many of whom she met through the Catholic Information Center.

How did you get connected with the Catholic Information Center? In the hot summer of 1978, my family and I were looking for a church with air conditioning. At that time, our parish did not have air conditioning. A friend told my mom that the Catholic Information Center on Ionia Street had air conditioning and they were curious. My family not only enjoyed the cool air during the hot summers but liked the priests and welcoming atmosphere so much we decided to make the CIC our home.

What fond memories do you have of the Catholic Information Center? My fondest memory of the Catholic Information Center is the welcoming nature and friendliness of all the members, staff, and priests. Now that I have some vision issues the priests and other members are always accommodating and helpful towards me.

To learn more about how your donation can help, visit our website