



Dear Friends,

We are now in the “dog days” of summer. It’s the hottest time of year, and now that the school break excitement has worn off, many of us want to sit inside with the air conditioning and not do much of anything.

But every Sunday this month, passages from the Gospel of Luke (chapters 12-14) are proclaimed and we hear anything but relaxation.

- On the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus tells his disciples to “gird your loins” and “be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”
- On the 20th Sunday, Jesus says, “I have come to set the earth on fire.”
- On the 21st Sunday, he says, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.”
- Finally, on the 22nd Sunday, he calls us from inward reflection to outward action, saying, “When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.”

What gives? Why, during these lazy days of summer, when we want to turn our engine off, does the Church call us to greater awareness and action? Maybe the Church is reminding us that there is never a time to become lax in our faith.

Rest and relaxation are codified into our faith. God himself became our model when he rested on the seventh day after creating the world. (Genesis 2:1-3) But rest and relaxation from our labor and worries does not mean we take a break from God as well. We don’t want to become stagnant in our relationship with the Lord. We’re always called to grow in our faith.

There are many opportunities to grow in our faith this time of year - reading a spiritual book, listening to faith-based podcasts, and volunteering at church or another non-profit organization’s activities. One opportunity for growth at the CIC this month is Tuesday, August 16, called *Companions on the Journey* - the first of a monthly series continuing the synod process. It will be a presentation about how we can carry the lessons of the synod process in journeying with *everyone*. More information is on the back of this month’s letter.

This August, *please* take some time for rest and relaxation. I myself will be spending time at Lake George in upstate NY. But let’s also remember that Christ calls us to stay prepared, fan the flames of our faith, and be attentive to those in need. May these “dog days” be restful *and* revitalizing for you.

Blessings,

Rev Mike Cuickshank, CSP

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

Pray for :

**Deacon Ashmore
Dauksts Family
+Pat O’Brien
Taylor Family**

**August Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, August 14
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

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

Upcoming Programs

**Synod Story:
Companions on the
Journey**

**Tuesday, August 16,
7-8:30 p.m. EST**

Presented by Dr.

**Amanda Osheim and
Dr. Ben Durheim**

\$10 donation suggested

Join us in person or online

Registration required



As members of the Church, we are called to “journey together” with others in our communities, towns, and cities. Is our peripheral vision wide enough to include those we don’t always think of as our companions? This is the first in a new series of ecumenical dialogues inspired by the Synod 2021-23.

Co-presented by **Dr. Amanda Osheim**, Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Loras College, and **Dr. Ben Durheim**, Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University.



INSTITUTO DE
FORMACIÓN DE
LIDERAZGO PARA EL
Ministerio Hispano

Registration is open!

The Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministry - a collaboration with the Diocese of Grand Rapids - provides the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and develop the skills necessary for ministry in your community. A 9-month program, from September to May, the institute focuses on four areas of formation – you as a person of faith, Catholic teaching, spiritual practices, and pastoral skills.

Eligible participants will have a proven desire and capacity to exercise ministry in the Church and at least one year of involvement in a ministry of their parish or ecclesial movement.

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

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

Thank you!



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Friendship Corner

Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries participants: Enid & Orlando Benedict



What is your history with the CIC? Our history with the CIC goes back six years, when we started attending classes. We saw the CIC as an excellent resource to expand our knowledge of the faith. For example, we learned about the liturgy, how to become lay ministers in different areas, minister of the Eucharist, Reader, and this past year we attended the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries.

What are some of your experiences with being a participant in the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries? Sharing impressions and learning together with other Hispanic parishioners from throughout the diocese was very exciting and fun. Plus, hearing stories about each other’s journey from different countries to America was both interesting and fulfilling. We learned a great deal from the fine presentations that prepared us to better serve the Church.

What was your favorite Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries memory? Enid’s favorite memory was the Mass lead by Bishop Walkowiak on graduation day when we all shared together the Body and Blood of Jesus at the Table; Orlando’s favorites were the presentations on the history of the Church that really captured his attention.

Why is the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries important to you? We find that the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries is an excellent way to form lay missionaries that will help bring the Good News to the Spanish speaking community, and also to serve as coordinators to energize the lay ministries in our parishes.