



Dear friends of the Center,

If your mailbox is like ours this month, you have received a steady stream of postcards and letters from political candidates and organizations. Yes, it's election season.

If you are eligible, it's important to exercise your right to vote regardless of who you will vote for. Catholics see this as an essential aspect of a life of service in the world. The *Compendium on Catholic Social Teaching* puts it his way: "For the lay faithful, political involvement is a worthy and

demanding expression of the Christian commitment of service to others." (Article 565)

Even with the Church's guidance, doing my 'homework' to discern which candidate I will support or how to vote on a proposal is challenging. Searching the internet to review various sources or watching ads on television or social media, I inevitably encounter divisiveness and polarized positions.

Next month, **Paulist Father Steven Bell** will offer his reflections on the "**Three Fates of Toxic Polarization...and How Our Faith Can Deal with Them**" as the keynote for the **Annual Gallagher Talk**, scheduled for **November 10**.

A native of Washington, D.C., Father Bell was ordained in 2008 and has served in campus ministry at the University of California Berkeley and Ohio State University, as well as in parish ministry at St. Austin Church in Austin, TX. In a time when divided perspectives become polarizing on a daily basis, Father Bell's message of finding a path to reconciliation fosters hope and perseverance. You are invited to attend in person or online.

Additionally, we are excited about other upcoming programs this month including a presentation on impacting social change through art, featuring Edey Evans Hyde founder of the Ebony Road Players. And our new monthly *55plus* series will focus on discovering your spiritual gifts in the second half of life. Details are in this newsletter and on the website.

As one season changes to the next, the ministry of the Center continues to create spaces that promote encounters with others, healthy dialogue, and an inclusive community at the intersection of faith and life.

Thank you for your partnership in the Center's mission through your involvement and continued prayerful and financial support. Be assured of our prayers for you, that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:7)

Peace and all good,



Mark Mann
Director of Programming and Institutes

Pray for :

+Daniel G. Brundige
+Ernie Brundige
Debra Collins
Fr. Chuck Cunniff
Jesus Hernandez
+Kevin Koonmen
Barb Schaap

**October Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, October 9
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

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

Upcoming Programs

Behold God in Everything!

Tuesday, Oct. 4

7-8:30 p.m. EST

Join us in-person or online

Registration required



An evening of reflection on eco-spirituality in the spirit of Saint Francis.

Facilitated by **Mark Mann**, director of programs and institutes for the Catholic Information Center.

55plus Series

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts in the Second Half of Life

Tuesday, Oct. 11

10-11:30 a.m. EST

Join us in-person or online

Registration required



Discovering our spiritual gifts provides a roadmap to living the second half of life with joy, purpose, and fulfillment. Join us for this interactive workshop where you'll have an opportunity to discover how you can use your gifts in life-giving ways.

Brian Plachta is an author, spiritual mentor, and holds a Masters in Pastoral Counseling.

Powerful Art: Creating and Impacting Social Change

Thursday, Oct. 20

7-8:30 p.m. EST

Join us in-person or online

Registration required



Art can inspire; it can also challenge our assumptions. How can art expose injustice, how can it heal us, or how can it bring together those of us who demand justice?

Presented by **Edye Evans Hyde**, executive director of the Ebony Road Players.

A Mystery to be Celebrated

Thursday, Oct. 27

7-8:30 p.m. EST

Join us in-person or online

Registration required



During the Last Supper, Jesus says, "I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you." (Luke 22:15) These words are an invitation to discover the depth of desire that God has for each and all of us.

Presented by **Paul Fahey**, retreat leader, speaker, and co-founder of Where Peter Is.

Annual Gallagher Talk

Blindness, Fear, and Anger: Three Fates of Toxic Polarization and How Our Faith Can Deal with Them

Thursday, November 10, 7-8:30 p.m. EST

Join us in-person or online, Registration required



Polarization, as demonstrated in too many of our interactions, tends to foster an insidious interplay amongst three 'fates' designed to misshape how we see and relate to one another, to ourselves, and even God. Father Bell will identify these three 'fates', how they work, and how the gifts of our faith can counteract them.

A native of Washington, D.C., **Paulist Father Steven Bell** was ordained in 2008. Today, Father Bell leads parish missions, retreats, revivals, and workshops, all of which consider the importance of reconciliation and healing.

For more information, visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call (616) 459-7267

Friendship Corner

Paulist Seminarian: Ben Chisholm, CSP

Serving his pastoral year at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew



Tell us a little bit about yourself: I am a native of Northern California. I earned my B.A. from Fordham University and my J.D. from Notre Dame Law School. Prior to entering the Paulist novitiate, I worked in legal and financial services.

What do you do in your spare time? In my free time I like to read history and poetry, spend time outdoors, and play Wordle. Glorifying God through prayer and serving the people of God through good works are my passions in life.

What drew you to the Paulists? The three Paulist charisms of evangelization, reconciliation and ecumenism drew me to the Paulist Fathers. To bring the good news of salvation to all people, to accompany those who feel alienated from the church and to promote Christian unity is the work I believe God has called me to do.

Your gifts through the enclosed 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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