



Dear friends,

My 5-year-old grandson recently asked, “is it fall yet Grandad?” He was working out the puzzle of starting school, but the weather being still like summertime. The first day of school is a clear sign of a new season for many people. As are the shorter daytimes and cooler nights.

Living faith also has its seasons. There are times we experience growth and renewal in our relationship with God. And there are times of questions and uncertainty, as we listen, watch, and wait for God to answer prayer. These

transitions in the seasons of faith are a normal part of our spiritual life.\* Through every transition, we can trust that God is faithful.

That God is faithful in every season is clearly reflected in the life of **Gerard Straub**, the keynote speaker for this year’s **Gallagher Talk on September 28, at 7 p.m.**

In his book, *The Sunrise of the Soul* (2020), Gerry shares “For years, I produced soap operas on all three major networks, including the wildly popular *General Hospital* on ABC. I was a big success. I had a glamorous job. I made tons of money. But something was missing. I had this emptiness inside of me. I tried to fill it with all kinds of things. But the emptiness would not go away. As I would discover, only God could fill my emptiness. God was who was missing in my life.”

While he had key moments of conversion, Gerry has learned that God’s abiding presence is noticed when we take the time to be attentive. “More often than not, I seem to be far from God. But in those moments, frequent as they are, God is near - so near, I do not have to struggle to find God, for God is already seeking me, rushing to embrace me.”

Today, Straub is a dad who provides a home of hope and healing for abandoned children at Santa Chiara Children’s Center of Haiti. Living with the poor, Gerry has discovered a wisdom that can only be learned by living the Gospel in a radical way.

We look forward to seeing you – whether you attend here at the Center or join online – for this year’s talk honoring the legacy of Paulist Father Joe Gallagher. Details on how to reserve your spot are on the back of this newsletter.

Programs like the Gallagher Talk are one of the ways the Catholic Information Center supports you - and people of all walks of life - as our faith unfolds, deepens, and shapes our daily life over time.

As one season changes to the next, we are grateful for your sustained partnership through your involvement and continued prayerful and financial support. Be assured of our prayers for you, that “the Lord who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1:6)

Peace and all good,

Mark Mann  
Director of Programming and Institutes

\* *Times of spiritual dryness are normal as our faith deepens over time. If you are experiencing a time of prolonged spiritual dryness or distress, there is help. The Paulist Fathers are available to accompany you and talk with you about your experiences. We can also recommend trained spiritual directors who can provide guidance.*

## Pray for:

Greyson Anamoah

+Brenda Buck

Fr. Chuck Cunniff

Fr. Joseph Dean, SCJ

Jeff Doran

Paul Grabiell

Fr. Joachim Lally

Mandy Mercer

Norine Simmons

Dave Taylor

+Adrienne Vaughan

Theresa Witte

Winegar Family

**September Mass for  
CIC Intentions:  
Sunday, Sept. 10  
5:30 p.m. at the  
Cathedral**

*Please include your prayer intentions with your green envelope or email them to [cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org](mailto:cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org)*

# 2023 Annual Gallagher Talk

## Longing for God in Haiti

Thursday, September 28

7-8:30 p.m. ET

Attend on-site or online

Registration required

From filming the poor to living with the poor, **Gerard Straub** discovered a wisdom that can only be learned by living the Gospel in a radical way. His life is a journey from the glamour of Hollywood to a slum in Port-au-Prince where today Gerry operates a home of hope and healing for 44 abandoned kids.

During the past 8 years, Gerry has turned the early morning hours into the time of attending to his own inner spiritual poverty. The fruit of living in a busy orphanage and finding the lonely hours of silence are the spiritual lessons that are a prophetic message for our time.



The annual Gallagher Talk honors the life and work of **Paulist Father**

**Joseph Gallagher** -

CIC Director, 1978-1982. Father

Gallagher believed

that creating a "future

brighter than any past"

would demand

ministries that reach

beyond local churches into

the marketplace at the

intersection of faith and life.

The annual talk helps the CIC meet our mission of connecting with those who seek to understand their daily life in light of the Catholic faith.

To register, please visit our website or call 616-459-7267.

Your generous and regular contributions help ensure a vibrant and enduring future for the Paulist ministry at the CIC. All donations, no matter the size, make a significant impact.

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## Friendship Corner Remembering Paulist Father Joseph Gallagher

**Father Joe Gallagher believed as strongly as the Paulist founder did, that creating a "future brighter than any past" would demand ministries that reached beyond local churches into the marketplace at the nexus of culture and faith.**

A native New Yorker, Father Gallagher received a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and was a U.S. Navy commander, landing ships in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, he earned a law degree at Fordham University and practiced maritime law in New York until joining the Paulists in 1956. Father Gallagher served at the Catholic Information Center in Boston, 1961-1964. He was director of the Paulist Institute for Religious Research in Manhattan until 1970 and was then appointed pastor and superior of St. Paul the Apostle. In 1978, Father Gallagher was elected vice president of the Paulist Fathers, serving simultaneously as Executive Director of the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids.

He was a pastor in Los Angeles, 1982-1986, when he was elected president of the society. During his two terms as president, Father Gallagher guided the Paulist Fathers to adopt a new mission statement that determined three major priorities for the order: evangelization, ecumenism and reconciliation.

At the conclusion of his service as president in 1994, he volunteered to serve in Grand Rapids, returning to the Catholic Information Center. Father Gallagher died on November 16, 2007 at the residence of the Paulist Fathers in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

