

# Catholic Information Center

Friends of the Center · May 2024 Newsletter

[catholicinformationcenter.org](http://catholicinformationcenter.org)



Dear Friends of the CIC,

Easter greetings! Easter Sunday may be behind us, but the culmination of the season still lies ahead this month. Our Easter joy becomes jubilant at Pentecost, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples widely sharing the news that Jesus Christ is alive!

One of my favorite Easter hymns is, “In the Breaking of Bread” by Michael Ward. Each verse weaves the story of how the disciples

encountered the Risen Lord, starting with the two on the road to Emmaus, then with the disciples in the upper room, then the coming of the Spirit – ever widening the circle of those who encounter the Lord to today.

The third verse describes the work of the Holy Spirit: “Then the Spirit of the Lord came down upon us, *filling us, changing us, giving us the strength* to say: We saw him! Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we know he is alive!”

Receiving the Holy Spirit, we are drawn more deeply into the heart of the Risen Christ, growing in his love. The Holy Spirit enlivens and guides us in this life in Christ, through changes and leading us along new pathways, so that we can share the saving love of God with the world.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Information Center has served Catholics and spiritual seekers in Western Michigan for 75 years. Newcomers have been welcomed into the Church, individuals have strengthened their Catholic identity, and healing and reconciliation has been brought to those once alienated from the Catholic Church.

Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the ministry of the Center continues to evolve as we strive to meet the growing and changing needs in our area. As we finalize our process of prayer and renewal started last year, one of the clearly emerging ministries of the Center is leadership formation. Three tracks already exist – for Spanish speakers, for young adults, and for Bible study facilitators. This fall, we plan to build on these by developing new tracks that will inspire and empower lay Catholics to greater service in their parishes and their civic communities. These new programs will be offered with the same welcoming spirit of the Paulist Fathers that has helped so many to know, love, and celebrate their faith in the Risen Lord.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the mission of the Center through your prayerful and financial support. May the Holy Spirit who has been poured into our hearts (Rm 5:5) continue to inspire and guide you in your life in Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

And may all of us share the same proclamation of those who have gone before us, “we have seen him, and we know he is alive! Alleluia!”

Peace and all good,



Mark Mann

Director of Programming and Institutes

## Pray for:

Fr. Chuck Cunniff, CSP

Sarah Denny

Marlene Fabbro

+Ted Kusmierz

Lois Lewis

Fr. James Lloyd, CSP

Marenda Family

Susan Martin

+Sr. Rosita Schiller

Linda VanDenBrink

Sandy Weidenfeller

**May Mass for CIC**

**Intentions:**

**Sunday, May 12**

**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)*

# Upcoming Programs

**Church Art & Architecture Tour**  
Tuesday, May 14  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ET



What people believe affects how they pray and how they pray influences the design of the space where they pray. This tour, led by **Rev. Thomas Simons**, will examine this principle in three Grand Rapids area churches. (Bus transportation and lunch provided.) This presentation is part of the 55 *Plus Series*, exploring spirituality and vitality in the second half of life.

**Conflict in the Holy Land: A Report from the Field**  
Thursday, May 16  
7 – 8:30 p.m. ET



**Caroline Brennan** is the emergency communications director for Catholic Relief Services (CRS). She travels and works in areas facing natural or man-made emergencies to capture the reality of what is happening through stories and video. Caroline will offer reflections on the conflict in Gaza and the work of the Church.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities West Michigan and co-sponsored by the Catholic Information Center.

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.

Become a monthly contributor through online giving by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website.



# Leadership Institutes

**Congratulations to Leadership Institute graduates!**

On Saturday, May 18, Bishop Walkowiak will celebrate Mass for those completing the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministry. Thirty-three leaders representing nine parishes will complete the three-year program which focuses on knowledge of Scripture, Church teaching, and developing the skills necessary for serving their parish community.



The Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministry is a collaboration of the Catholic Information Center and the Office of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

For more information about the 2024-25 institute and to register, visit our website.



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

## Friendship Corner Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministries Graduate — Cindy Santiago

**When did you first encounter the CIC?** I first encountered CIC when I joined Hispanic Leadership 3 years ago through my parish, St. Gregory in Hart. I had no idea of what all I would learn but was interested in learning more about my faith.

**How has the ministry of the CIC impacted your spiritual journey?** I have learned so much during these three years in fellowship with my classmates and leaders of the group. I feel that this spiritual journey is just the start and with this experience I've participated more in the church. I feel that I'm capacitated in my leadership role in a way that I can share my experiences with other church members, my family, and my catechist students. I feel in touch spiritually with the Lord, my God, and I don't ever want to lose that feeling. The teachers we had shared expertise in different capacities and different topics about the Catholic faith.

**Share a personal memory that reflects why the Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministry is important to you.** Last year our group project was on how to grow our faith. This project helped us bring a group of church members together and we're now working together with our priest to split up duties for different ministries within the church. It feels great to know that we can count on each other. We've learned that we are capable of more and putting that into action.

