



Dear friends of the Center,

As we start July, a month celebrating freedom, I always think about the holiday weekends spent with my family. My family enjoyed the holiday celebrations being outdoors, watching fireworks, and cooking on the grill. As kids, we learned that Independence Day celebrates our country's freedom.

Now, as an adult, I see the deeper meaning of freedom in both our society and from a Catholic view. In the US, liberty

means we can act as we like within the law. This means we can express ourselves, make choices, and follow our dreams without too much interference.

The Christian idea of freedom is more than just doing what we want. In Christianity, true freedom comes from serving a higher purpose and helping others. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are freed from sin, selfish desires, and worldly attachments. This freedom lets us love God and our neighbors, creating a world worthy of Christ's redemption.

This year, I appreciate freedom in a new way as I remember how COVID restrictions were lifted three years ago. We can now freely gather with loved ones, travel, and participate in community events without the limitations we faced during the pandemic. This renewed sense of freedom reminds me not to take our liberties for granted and to cherish the time we spend together.

As we celebrate this year's holiday, let's think about these two types of freedom and how we can live out Christ's spirit in our daily lives. Let's use our civil liberties wisely and seek spiritual freedom through acts of compassion, justice, forgiveness, and love towards others.

I am grateful for your partnership in the mission of the Center, your continued support and engagement play a crucial role in enabling us to serve the wider community and uphold our values. Together, we continue to make a positive impact by spreading the Gospel message of freedom to all those we meet.

Thank you for being a key part of our community and for your ongoing generosity and prayers. May this month bring reflection, growth, and unity as we work together for a brighter future.

In gratitude and hope,

fr. Dat

Very Rev. Dat Tran, CSP
Executive Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for:

† Carl Acres
Barb Cote
Mike DeSota
Ezeh family
Sarah Haarstad
Johnson Family
† Rev. Vincent
McKiernan, CSP
George McManus Jr.
Jacob Page
Anne Shank
Tom VanderWater
Yvonne Webb
Heather York

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

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

Leadership Institutes

2024 Leadership Formation Institute for Biblical Studies Wednesdays, Oct. 2 - Nov. 6, 6-8:30 p.m.

Enrollment is open for this 6-week program. Designed to help you develop a deep understanding and love for sacred Scripture, this Institute track provides the necessary tools to lead Bible studies (e.g., facilitating small groups). Read and pray with the Bible as a person of faith and learn how to share the Word with others.



On completion of the program, participants will be ready to start (or strengthen) a Bible study ministry in their parish or lay association. The Institute also benefits youth ministry leaders, catechists, and RCIA team members.

Become a joyful bearer of the Good News, sharing the Word with the world.

To enroll, visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call 616-459-7267.

2024 Young Adult Leadership Institute Retreats and seminars meeting Sept. 10 - Nov. 23

An opportunity for adults in their 20s and 30s to explore and practice living your faith and values at work, with family and friends, and in your community. Learn how your strengths can change the world. Lead with passion, purpose, and presence. Leap with trust into God's plan.



- **Grow in Faith:** Discover your own strengths and explore your relationship with God and essential role in the Church.
- **Share in Faith:** Develop essential skills that are necessary in our world today.
- **Lead in Faith:** Guided by Catholic principles, discern where and how God is calling you to lead.

YALI is co-sponsored with the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

For more information and to register, visit www.catholicinformationcenter.org/yali

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.



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

Friendship Corner

Welcome Paulist Father Ryan Casey

Fr. Ryan Casey, CSP, originally from Rockford, Illinois, will be joining his fellow Paulist Fathers in Grand Rapids this month. His journey with the Paulists began in August 2011. After completing his formation, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 2018. Prior to his assignment in Grand Rapids, Fr. Ryan served at St. Paul the Apostle in Los Angeles and the University of California, Berkeley.



Why did you choose to become a priest? I was born and raised Catholic and was involved in youth ministry in high school where I first thought about exploring the priesthood. After high school, I decided to explore my faith life by experiencing other religions and Christian denominations. These paths eventually lead me back to the Catholic Church. When I became involved again with my local parish, the call to the priesthood became apparent in my life again.

How did you learn about the Paulists? I first heard about the Paulists through the Busted Halo radio show on Sirius XM satellite radio and the Busted Halo website. What I found there was a community of priests who want to show that the teachings of Jesus and the Church are relevant to our lives today.

What are you looking forward to most in moving to Grand Rapids? I am looking forward to joining the vibrant, engaging community of Grand Rapids. A place that is steeped in the Paulist tradition while also looking ahead to the future, I am excited to once again be surrounded by the Midwest beauty and to have four seasons again. Yes, I am looking forward to winter. I am looking forward to meeting new people and embracing the community that I am lucky enough to be joining. I know that Grand Rapids and Western Michigan will have much to offer me. So, most of all, I am looking forward to sharing God's beautiful gifts of new experiences and surprises with everyone.