

Catholic Information Center

Friends of the Center November 2021 Newsletter

catholicinformationcenter.org



Dear Friends,

The leaves are falling and the temperatures are dropping, telltale signs that we are deep into Autumn. The changes in the seasons say a lot about our collective lives and serve as good markers on our annual cycle of dying and rising.

Among other things, Autumn is about letting go. The trees let go of their leaves and the days let go of their sunshine, little by little. We also let go of our summer vacations and put away our shorts and sandals.

When we let go, we die a little bit, because we lose some part of ourselves in the process. When we let go of a summer vacation, the warm feelings about it die to some extent. When we put away our summer clothes, our fond memories of the times in those clothes fade a little bit. We die a little bit when we let go.

Of course, this is largely true when we let go of another person in our lives and they pass on to eternal life. We commemorate this with All Souls' Day, which occurs on November 2. And in a special way, we remember on November 1 those who have entered into the heavenly kingdom when we celebrate All Saints' Day. We also acknowledge the deaths we experience because of COVID-19, most especially the loss of life. I know that I have been visiting COVID patients in the hospital more frequently recently.

While in this season that we and creation around us let go and die in different ways, we are also surrounded by connection and life. As we approach Thanksgiving, we begin to reconnect with family and friends with whom we have not been close recently. We are more mindful of the many reasons we have to be grateful. And we begin a new liturgical year, giving us the opportunity to become a witness for Christ's birth again.

These changes provide us the opportunity to experience newness again, to start fresh in our lives of faith, and to aspire to the sainthood we celebrate on November 1. At the Catholic Information Center, we will be hosting Sister Damien Marie Savino on November 4 as she talks about Integral Ecology and how we can find hope in caring for creation. You will also have the opportunity to explore Dante's *Divine Comedy* with Greg Smith, learn about Our Lady of Guadalupe with Fr. René, and discuss how celebrating Mass is sharing of the Sacrament of Unity with William Johnston, PhD. Visit our website at catholicinformationcenter.org or call the Center at 616-459-7267 for more information.

As we experience the change of seasons, we remain aware that we must let go of things but that we also have many opportunities to become connected and grow. Let us do a little bit of both.

Blessings,

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

Pray for :

+James W. Aurrichio
Aurrichio Family
+Brent Beuschel
Joseph M. Fasi
Tripti Ghosh
Louralee Gonzalez
Johnson Family
Bill Kersjes
Pat McCormack
Barbara Robinson
Ramon Torres
Barbara Turner

Need a quiet place with Wi-Fi and good coffee? The CIC café area and office are open:

Monday — Thursday,
9 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Thursday
6 — 8:30 p.m.

Friday,
9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

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

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

Holy Hour

Holy Hour with Silence, Scripture and Adoration
Wednesday, November 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
At the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Join us in this year of St. Joseph for a time of silence, scripture and adoration. For this month, the hour is organized by the staff of the Center and offered for the intentions of the Friends of the Center. Please send prayer intentions by email to akoch@catholicinformationcenter.org or call 616-459-7267. Printed prayer guides will be provided. We look forward to seeing you.



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

Because of your generosity, many of our programs remain free and donation based.

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

Thank you!

Hope for the Future Campaign

The Catholic Information Center is participating in Hope for the Future: A Comprehensive Campaign for the Paulist Fathers. This landmark campaign is the product of years of planning by Paulist priests, lay leaders, and Paulist staff.

The Paulist Fathers are fortunate to have supporters here in west Michigan and from coast to coast who actively partner with us in the Paulist Mission. We want that great partnership to continue to be experienced by future generations of Paulists and the lay people they serve.

The three important needs that will be met through the campaign are:

- Construction of the Paulist House of Mission and Studies (Seminary)
- Long term support for senior Paulists
- Urgent maintenance at Paulist Motherhouse in New York City.

Campaign Update: As of Oct. 29, we have received over \$464,000 in gifts and pledges (52% of our \$896,000 goal) with 10% participation. Thank you to the generous donors who have given us great momentum at the start of this campaign!

Giving is flexible for every situation: Everyone's situation is different. Your pledge can be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual installments. We know some are still fulfilling their pledge to the recent diocesan campaign. You can schedule your pledge to the Paulist Fathers to begin after you've met your other obligation. Some who have pledged plan to fulfill their commitment all at once when they get a tax refund or other windfall. Remember, pledges are not legally binding, but intentions made in good faith.

Whether you are able to make a gift at this time or not, we still want to hear from you. You can include a prayer request or other feedback with your pledge card and put it in the offering box or mail it back to us. Let us know you are praying for the campaign. Everyone can participate in some way.

To learn more about the campaign and give online, please go to paulist.org/future/. If you would like to receive a packet to support this campaign, please call the Center.



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

For information on upcoming classes visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call the Center at 616-459-7267

Friendship Corner

Highlighting new Center staff member Ivonne Smith



Ivonne was born in Mexico City where she studied Business Administration at the Facultad de Contaduría y Administración in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. She and her husband Marty moved to Michigan in 2002. This experience helped her to have a higher understanding, value and respect for the people that come to this great country in search of a better life. Knowing that there is an even better life to be reached, promised by our Lord Jesus Christ, she and her husband decided to give their two children the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God by providing a Catholic education.

She enjoys working for God by being part of the RCIA Ministry since 2014 at St. Jude Parish in Grand Rapids, where she is parishioner, working as secretary for Holy Trinity Church in Comstock Park and now working at the Catholic Information Center.