



Dear friends of the Center,

At our most recent Paulist General Assembly, a gathering of Paulists elected to set the course for the next four years. We addressed what we consider to be one of the most pressing issues of our time, in our Church and in our society...Polarization. It was raised time and time again in our pre-assembly meetings with our other collaborators, and it surfaced as an issue we could not avoid in our discussions.

We came to call polarization a “first-order” problem, which means that it needs some resolution before we can address other problems. We cannot begin to talk about sensitive issues in our day (e.g., abortion, gun control, immigration, etc.) without first acknowledging the polarized state in which we have these discussions. When we acknowledge our biases, listen to the other person, and engage in humble dialogue, we can then start to move toward a common understanding and the common good.

Nothing ignites polarization like elections, and Election Day is November 8. On Election Tuesday (or before if you vote absentee), I invite you to vote with your faith in mind. I also invite you to vote with polarization in mind, or maybe more accurately with reconciliation in mind. Nothing calms polarization like reconciliation. It is the medicine that heals the deep wounds of division, and we need leaders who work for that goal.

I am happy to say that one of my Paulist brothers is one of those leaders who has the gift of reconciliation. He has brought together people over the boundaries of race, age, orientation, and faith. Fr. Steven Bell, CSP, will talk about his experiences and a vision for a better future in our Gallagher Talk on November 10. I can personally tell you that his presentation is one that you will not want to miss.

Later in November, of course we will celebrate Thanksgiving, a non-faith based holiday, that highlights one of the most important themes of faith...Gratitude. At the Catholic Information Center, we are grateful to you for your generous support. For your partnership in the mission to share the light of faith. Thank you!

As November comes to a close, we also bring our liturgical year to a close. Ordinary Time turns into Advent, the time in which we await something new, the birth of Christ. Even as our seasons change, be assured of our continued prayers for you.

Blessings,

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

Pray for :

**Rich Brisson
+Todd & Scott Gibson
Marge Giesken
Ken Haarstad
Maggie Otis
Geri Pattis
Darlene Truszkowski**

**November Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, November 13
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

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

Annual Gallagher Talk



Toxic polarization. We have all witnessed it but how do we deal with it?

Join us for our Annual Gallagher talk, **Thursday, November 10, 7-8:30 p.m. EST**, in-person or online, to hear Paulist Father Steven Bell's message of how finding a path to reconciliation fosters hope and perseverance.

Don't miss out, registration closes soon!

Upcoming Programs

Interpretación Bíblica y el Libro del Apocalipsis

Jueves, 3 y 17 de noviembre
7-8:30 p.m. EST

Facilitado por **Dr. Orlando Benedict**
Únete a nosotros en persona o en línea
Se requiere registro



Una serie de dos partes. El último libro de la Biblia es probablemente el más incomprendido. Está lleno de símbolos y, a veces, de imágenes aterradoras. Pero el libro de Apocalipsis es trae un mensaje de esperanza.

Orlando Benedict es médico y católico de toda la vida. Actualmente cursa estudios de posgrado en Teología Hispánica en Catholic Central Union. Intereses: Ministerio Hispano y Simbología Eclesiástica.

Using "The Four Tendencies" to Bless Others and Ourselves
Tuesday, Nov. 15,
10-11:30 a.m. EST

Presented by **Vicki Jansma**
Join us in-person or online
Registration required



By learning our own/others' "tendencies" we can choose strategies to increase the likelihood that we will be able to sustain good habits--and decrease bad ones. In addition, knowing our own and others' tendencies guides us in approaching others with suggestions that will be better received, and motivate healthy change.

Vicki Jansma is a school social worker, speaker and music minister who loves to share her God-given gifts.

#GivingTuesday is an annual campaign encouraging online giving. The CIC participates in #GivingTuesday through the Diocese of Grand Rapids. During the 24 hours of giving on Nov. 29, you will be able to donate here: bitly.com/givecatholicwm (the webpage will be live on #GivingTuesday). The diocese does not charge credit card fees which means that 100% of the funds donated goes directly to the mission of the Center.



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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For more information, visit

Friendship Corner

Cecilia Berkemeier
Young Adult Leadership Institute Graduate



How did participating in the Young Adult Leadership Institute impact your spiritual journey? Participating in the Young Adult Leadership Institute has deeply impacted my spiritual journey. Something that Mark shared on our first night was that "some of us work in a church, but all of us have a ministry." This has challenged me to view every aspect of my life through the lens of evangelization. Every single person we ever meet was created to be deeply known and loved by God. Every interaction we have throughout the day -no matter how small or ordinary- is an opportunity to lean into relationship with the Lord and with those he puts into our lives. What a beautiful thing that we are invited to participate in!

Why are the Paulist Fathers important to you? A memory that reflects why the Paulist Fathers are important to me is more of a collection of memories of the ways they are present in our community. Whether it's been spiritual guidance, technology troubleshooting before an event, or birthday serenades, I am so grateful for the ordinary and extraordinary ways the Paulist Fathers share their lives with us. Our community continues to be blessed by their kindness, presence, wisdom, and yes, even their dad jokes!