



Dear Friends of the Center,

Happy New Year! Have you made a New Year's resolution? Whether it's about our faith life, health, finances, setting a new course can be challenging anytime of the year.

Another way to think about making a resolution is *musically*. This is when dissonant musical notes rise or fall to form part of a new chord producing a *harmonic* change. We can think of our life in the new year as working towards bringing more

harmony in our daily lives – with ourselves, with others, and with God.

The Paulist Fathers have made a resolution in fostering harmony, having committed to addressing *toxic* polarization in our society and Church. Normally, dissonance occurs when we simply disagree on an issue. In my family, I have siblings that root for Michigan State and others that root for the University of Michigan. Polarization begins to become toxic when - from our perception - we collapse negative personal qualities with what it means to root for the opposing team (or political party or religious tradition). It's when "I don't like what you stand for" becomes "I don't like you."

Here at the Catholic Information, we are creating opportunities for encounter and dialogue at the intersection of faith and life in the effort to address toxic polarization. This month, we are hosting a presentation on "The Science of Polarization" as well as an opportunity for ecumenical dialogue exploring the topic of "Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission" as Christians.

And our 75th Anniversary celebrations continue. On Jan. 25, the feast day of the Conversion of Saint Paul, we are delighted to host Father Ferdinand Okorie who will share his insights about Saint Paul, addressing the question, "if Saint Paul were on mission today in the USA, what would he say in a letter to the US?" I am sure that '*fostering harmony*' would be one of the themes Saint Paul would write about today, as he did to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12-13). We hope you can join in the day's celebration, whether you attend in-person or online.

On a final note, thank you as always for your generosity in partnering in the ministry of the Catholic Information Center. We share in your hope that all people will experience the Good News of God's Reign with joy. And that's music to anyone's ear.

On behalf of the Paulist Fathers and the staff at the Catholic Information Center, prayers for a happy, healthy, and *harmonious* 2023.

Peace and all good,



Mark Mann
Director of Programming and Institutes

Pray for :

- Britner Family**
- +Dcn. Charlie Cunniff**
- +Fr. George Fekete**
- Rick Gietzen**
- Gonzales Family**
- +Steve Kaminski**
- +Fr. Joseph Kenshol**
- Phil Krotzer**
- Bill Martin**
- +Barb Schaap**
- David Smith**
- +Donald Storey**
- +Jerry Taylor**
- Sam Torrento**
- Woolpert family**

January Mass for CIC Intentions:
Sunday, January 8
5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral

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

Upcoming Programs

The Science of Polarization

Thursday, January 12
7-8:30 p.m.



We'll cover how understanding the neuroscience and social science behind polarization can help each of us become more resilient to toxic forms of division.

Kevin McIntosh is the Michigan Regional Outreach Manager for One America Movement, whose mission is to build a united American society by eliminating toxic polarization.

Never Changing, Ever New

Tuesday, January 17
10-11:30 a.m.



Explore how the five precepts of Catholic living can give you a new start in the new year. This presentation is part of the *55Plus Series, exploring how we grow in grace, age, and wisdom after 55*.

Ben Chisholm, CSP, a seminarian with the Paulist Fathers, is spending his fourth year of formation at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Grand Rapids.

Catholic In Recovery

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Meetings held in-person

Catholic in Recovery seeks to support those participating in twelve-step groups in their recovery from substance abuse and other addictions. Using scriptural reflection and the sacramental love and mercy provided through the Catholic Church, this small group promotes healing and a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, the giver of new life.

For more information visit catholicinrecovery.com or contact Jonathan Hicks at jonrhicks@gmail.com.

For more information, visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call (616) 459-7267

Friendship Corner

"It is hard to choose just one memory reflecting the importance of the Paulist Fathers for me - Father Mike's quick memory of our names (and using them at every interaction), Father Bill dancing joyfully into the crowd at the Unity Festival, Father Dat's lighthearted sincerity in conversation after each service, to name just a few... But the one I will highlight is the day Father René said goodbye to return to NYC. Outside after Mass, I stood in line to share my gratitude with him for all he had done for us at the Cathedral, describing how much we valued the way his warmth, wisdom, peacefulness, and calm had helped to create a new spiritual "home" for us. His face brightened as he smiled big, opened his arms up toward the cathedral building, and said "This is your home now." That sums it all up."

- Irene Kraegel

Sharing Responsibility for Our Common Mission

Thursday, Jan. 19
7-8:30 p.m. EST



Explore the various ways that Christians can minister together in social and political involvement, scientific research, education, protecting human rights, and caring for the environment. This program is part of the *Synod Conversation Series*, an ecumenical dialogue to live out our service in the world, especially with those on the margins of society.

Sister Maureen Geary OP is a member of the Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids.

Rev. Lynette Sparks has served as senior pastor/head of staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Paulist Feast Day

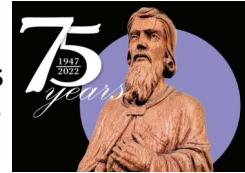
Celebration

Wednesday, January 25

Program: 10-11:30 a.m.

Mass: 12-12:45 p.m.

Lunch: 12:45-1:30 p.m.



At the heart of St. Paul's message is Jesus, crucified and risen. Yet, in his letters to various communities, Saint Paul addresses various matters and issues confronting the early Church. If St. Paul was alive today, working here in the US, what would he say to us?

Fr. Ferdinand Okorie is a professor of New Testament studies, vice president of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and editor in chief of US Catholic.

Your gifts through the enclosed envelope make it possible for adults to learn, celebrate, live and pray the Catholic Faith.

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Thank you!



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Celebrating 75 years with the Paulist Fathers in Grand Rapids