



Dear friends,

The month of May provides us three Sundays that celebrate that which is central to our faith: the Ascension of our Lord (13), Pentecost (20), and the Holy Trinity (27).

Though the Ascension of our Lord may have signaled the end of an era to some of the early disciples, it gave birth to the beginning of a new era—the age of the Church at Pentecost. Since Pentecost the Holy Spirit became the Church’s indwelling life and power. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Church is constantly reminded to discern the signs of the times and to be open to new and creative ways of giving the Word the voice of love, mercy, peace and justice.

Constantly reminded of God’s mission for us and our need to be faithful stewards of God’s manifold grace, the Catholic Information Center, in partnership with the Diocese of Grand Rapids and the Paulist Fathers continue celebrating our 70 years of ministry and discerning the ways the Holy Spirit is calling us to reimagine our mission in West Michigan.

The retirement of the Director of Faith Formation and the Rector of the Cathedral this summer presents us with a graced opportunity to realign the Cathedral’s faith formation efforts with the CIC’s mission of evangelization. This possible transition will foster in us a spirit of good stewardship of the financial gifts you give us by pooling together resources, personnel, talent and the missionary zeal of the Paulists to better serve the Cathedral parish as well as the entire diocese. The breath of the Holy Spirit calls for a response that characterizes good discipleship: openness, creativity, vitality and trust in the God of surprises. At the CIC we continue to be attentive to the actions of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by the successful launch of the Biblical Formation Institute and the Young Adult Leadership Institute this past month. This is something we can all affirm and celebrate!

With prayerful best wishes for a joyful Pentecost and with heart-felt gratitude for your financial gifts that assist us to advance Christ’s mission in West Michigan, I remain:

Ever grateful to you,

*Fr. René*

(Rev) René Constanza, CSP—Executive Director

Prayer Intentions		Monthly Mass for CIC Intentions
† Joseph Ary	Cathy Hoekstra	At the Cathedral of St. Andrew 5:30pm Mass—Sunday, May 13
† Jack Korff	Meredith LaPonsie	
Marlene Fabbro	Lynn Family	Please include your prayer intentions with your green envelope or email to cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org
Joe Geer	Palazzolo Family	
Graff Family	Jenny Rivera	
Catie Heynen	Mary Vaccaro	
Fr. René on retreat May 2-8		

Young Adult Leadership Institute Launches

The Young Adult Leadership Institute (YALI) opened with an orientation on Thursday, April 26. Its purpose is to give young adults in their twenties and thirties opportunities to develop leadership skills and create a community of Catholic peers.

The orientation included prayer, an overview of the Institute’s goals and leadership principles and a description of a community of practice.

This year’s YALI runs through September and includes seminars, meetings with local Catholic leaders and retreats.



Biblical Institute... A Great Success!

“The first session of the Institute was terrific. I loved the ‘It’s All About Relationship!’ message from Dr. Mueller. He helped me to connect being made in the image of God, with God’s nature which is Trinitarian relationship.

It was good to be able to attend with others who have a love for the Bible. The handouts and study sheets are terrific. It’s great to come home with lots of materials which I can study on my own time.” Attendee: A. Chante, RCIA Catechist and small group leader.



Guest Speaker May 8—Dr. Christopher Bellitto



Join us in welcoming special guest speaker Christopher M. Bellitto, Ph.D. to Grand Rapids on May 8 at 7pm. Dr. Bellitto is a Professor of History at Kean University. In his talk, he will draw on the Bible as well as on medieval and modern Jewish and Muslim commentary to discuss how generations of men and women have made the Bible’s lessons about wisdom their own. **Register today** to learn how to gather wisdom and appreciate gifts of blessings and burden, patience and laughter and reaping and sowing.

MAY PROGRAMS

Faith Response to ‘Garden Variety Anxiety’  
With Fr. Joachim Lally, CSP  
Wed., May 2 at 7pm

Ageless Wisdom: Lifetime Lessons from the Bible  
With Christopher Bellitto, PhD  
Tues., May 8 at 7pm

The Virtue of Resilience  
With Fr. Bill Edens, CSP  
Wed., May 16 at 7pm

Blessed Stanley Rother  
The Shepard Who Wouldn’t Run  
With Fr. Steve Dudeck  
Tues., May 22 at 7pm



Go to catholicinformationcenter.org for more information

Focus Group Meets To Re-Imagine the CIC Mission

Fr. René facilitated focus group meetings to help the CIC gain valuable information about strengths, threats and opportunities facing the CIC and Paulist Fathers as they look forward to the next 70 years in West Michigan.

The meetings were extremely informative and productive. Fr. René and the staff are in the process of taking all the input and beginning to look at ways to ‘re-imagine’ how the CIC will continue it’s mission going forward.



June Biblical Training Institute Conference... Still Time to Register

If you were not able to attend the first Biblical Training Institute Conference, no worries. **There is still time to sign up for the June Conference** that features keynote speaker Sr. Maribeth Howell, O.P., a Professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Wickliffe, Ohio. The conference focus for June will be the Old Testament, God’s chosen people and History, Wisdom and Prophets.

For more information or to register go to [Catholicinformationcenter.org/bible/](http://Catholicinformationcenter.org/bible/)



To make a donation or to register for a program, please contact us at (616) 459-7267 or at [register@catholicinformationcenter.org](mailto:register@catholicinformationcenter.org)