



Dear Friends of the Center,

“Once upon a time in a faraway land...” Our ears perk up. We are about to hear a story.

Stories are one of the ancient, time-tested vehicles for constructing meaning. As humans, we are all about creating and framing “meaning.” We desire to live meaningful lives, and in a busy overstimulated culture, our desire for meaning has become almost a craving.

Stories help create meaning in our personal and communal lives. A well told story helps me acknowledge and own my personal, family, and national identity, and it can help guide decisions and form my future. Even the daily news cycle understands this. Broadcast news interprets the facts and events in story form.

Stories have a beginning, middle and an end. We craft our own life’s story every day. We know our story’s beginning in our childhood and the circumstances of our present. We know the final sentence on the final page will be written in death - at least of this earthly life. What really matters in constructing meaning in our life story is what happens in the middle.

When I hear a story about a man who sacrificed himself so that others might live, I am inspired. When I hear a story that the same man later rose from the dead, I am filled with hope and amazement. When I hear the story that the man raised from the dead offers me salvation through a personal relationship with him, I humble myself in adoration and worship. Stories are important in creating meaning in our lives, but in the end, they are just stories. To truly be effective vehicles of meaning, stories must lead us out of ourselves and into relationship with each other and with God.

We do just that here at the CIC. Bridging our personal and cultural stories with God’s big story creates new meaning for a thirsty and meaning-starved world. This month, we are offering the opportunity to explore the story of the early Church in the Book of Acts and then on Oct. 19, Kathleen Marmon will facilitate a reflection on our life’s journey. Our hope is that discovering new meaning in light of faith helps transform the relationships that people live out in their daily lives – both with God and others.

As always, we are grateful for your financial and prayerful support in partnership to bring God’s big story into the lives of so many others.

Christ’s Peace and Joy to your hearts always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean', written in a cursive style.

Sean Donovan
Director of Religious Education

Pray for:

+Gus Alberque
+Fr. Donald Campbell, CSP
+Frank D’Amico
Fr. Bill Edens, CSP
+Paul Grabiell
Fr. Joachim Lally, CSP
Mary Ann Lowing
+Michael Pearson
Kate Sullivan

**October Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, Oct. 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 Classes

The Way of Francis: Seeking Peace and Justice for all Creation
Wednesday, October 4
7-8:30 p.m.
Attend in-person or online



In the Bible, the prophet Amos declares "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace for the sake of all creation? What can we, particularly as Christians, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? With Saint Francis as our guide, explore the way we can seek peace and justice for all creation.

Mark Mann is the director of programs and institutes at the Catholic Information Center.

Reconciling Differences: A 4-week mini-course on the Acts of the Apostles
Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
October 5, 12, 19, 26
\$60/person includes materials
Attend on-site or online



Disagreement, polarized viewpoints, and even conflict are not new in the life of the Church. Explore the lessons about reconciling differences during this mini course on the Acts of the Apostles with **Doug Taylor-Weiss**, faculty for the Catholic Biblical School of Michigan.

Feeling Fabulous at Any Age
Thursday, Oct. 19
10-11:30 a.m.
Attend in-person or online



Becoming the best version of yourself at any age is an investment. In the second half of life, reflecting on the questions, "How did I get where I am today?" and "What's next for me?" takes on a depth that comes from experience, wisdom, and imagination. This presentation invites you to explore answers to questions you might have been asking about yourself. Perhaps you will discover new avenues and experiences, and spark new spiritual growth for your future.

Kathleen Marmon is a certified Health and Life Coach and a parishioner at Cathedral of St. Andrew.

Brothers and Sisters All
Wednesday, Nov. 8
7-8:30 p.m. ET
Attend in-person or online



Our prophetic call as Christians is to cooperate with the coming of God's Kingdom in a world marked by inequality, polarization, and a "throwaway culture." Paul Fahey will explore the call in "Fratelli Tutti" - the letter on social friendship and human fraternity by Pope Francis.

Paul Fahey, retreat leader, speaker, and co-founder of Where Peter Is and the Pope Francis Generation podcast.

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.

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Friendship Corner

Paulist Father Eric Hernandez

Where are you from? I am originally from Corpus Christi, Texas. I am looking forward to my first Michigan winter, what a difference from Texas that will be!

What did you study in college? I studied philosophy and religious studies at Texas A&M University. I then earned a masters degree from the Catholic University of America.

When did you know you wanted to be a priest? My confirmation teacher says that they knew even back then that I would become a priest. It wasn't until college that I felt that God was calling me.

