



Dear Friends,

I'm a man of few words – content to let silence do the talking. Unless, of course, you get me rolling on a topic that I'm passionate about. Faith is such a topic.

It's true that we are born with a certain restlessness in our hearts for something beyond ourselves. (Thanks, St. Augustine!) However, we are **not** born with an inherent knowledge and understanding of who God is. Someone – a living, breathing member of the Church – has to introduce,

instruct, and pass on an understanding of such faith to us. Tertullian, an early Church Father, summed this up when he said, "Christians are made, not born." And the Ethiopian eunuch's response to Philip's question about whether he understood Isaiah's words resounds throughout all ages, "How can I (understand), unless someone instructs me?" (Acts 8:31)

Ever wonder why we say the Creed every Sunday at Mass? One reason for reciting the Creed is that we begin to make ideas and concepts **real** when we start articulating them. I help en flesh the idea of what I believe by reciting it on Sunday. *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*. (How we pray informs what we believe.)

Yet reciting the Creed is just a start. If I want to deepen my faith, I not only need to articulate what I believe, but I also need to share with others how I specifically live it out. Sharing my faith has a large non-verbal component. We call that "witness." Actions often speak louder than words.

However, *sometimes* we need to use words. I verbalize to someone what my internal experience of living out faith means. And when that other person listens and receives my sharing, both of us deepen our intimacy with Christ Jesus and one another. We learn to share faith in the act of sharing. Admittedly, it is scary to share faith in a non-receptive or hostile environment. Sharing faith in the workplace can be daunting. But what about sharing your faith and experience of God's love with other adults or youth or children in your parish?

You don't need to be the prophet Amos or John the Baptist to share your faith with your parish's children, youth or adults coming into the Church. What you do need is: 1) an openness to accompany others on their faith journeys; 2) a willingness to help them encounter Christ along the way; and 3) the humility and love to engage them in dialogue, while allowing Holy Spirit to lead them deeper into their own intimate encounter with God and the faith community. Accompaniment, encounter, humility, and love are the hallmarks of what makes for a good catechist. These are also the hallmarks of what we do here at the CIC with our programming and institutes. We are forever grateful for your ongoing financial support to our mission.

If you think the Holy Spirit is calling you to sharing your faith in a more structured setting with children, youth, or adults, please take that first step by reaching out to me (at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew) or your own parish Director of Faith Formation. The Church needs catechists. All the time. Because... "How can I (understand), unless someone instructs me?"

Christ's Peace and Joy to your hearts always,



Sean Donovan
Director of Religious Education

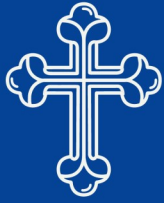
Pray for:

Beth Baumgartner
Angela DeMott
+Ana Doonan
+Marvis Jarrett
+Jim McCabe
Mark Reutter
Angie Ruiz
Maddie Stockert

July Mass for CIC
Intentions:
Sunday, July 9
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral

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

Upcoming Institute



INSTITUTO DE
FORMACIÓN DE
LIDERAZGO PARA EL
Ministerio Hispano

Registration is open!

The Leadership Formation Institute for Hispanic Ministry - a collaboration with the Diocese of Grand Rapids - provides the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and develop the skills necessary for ministry in your community. A 9-month program, from September to May, the institute focuses on four areas of formation – you as a person of faith, Catholic teaching, spiritual practices, and pastoral skills.

Eligible participants will have a proven desire and capacity to exercise ministry in the Church and at least one year of involvement in a ministry of their parish or ecclesial movement.

Register at www.catholicinformationcenter.org or use the QR code above.



¡La inscripción está abierta!

El Instituto de Formación de Liderazgo para el Ministerio Hispano,

una colaboración con la Diócesis de Grand Rapids, brinda la oportunidad de aprender más sobre su fe católica y desarrollar las habilidades necesarias para el ministerio en su comunidad. Un programa de 9 meses, de septiembre a mayo, el instituto se enfoca en cuatro áreas de formación: usted como persona de fe, enseñanza Católica, prácticas espirituales y habilidades pastorales.

Los participantes elegibles tendrán un deseo y capacidad probados para ejercer el ministerio en la Iglesia y al menos un año de participación en un ministerio de su parroquia o movimiento eclesial.

Your Help Needed!

In his letter, "Joy of the Gospel" Pope Francis emphatically states that the Church needs to continually engage in processes of renewal and pastoral conversion. Taking our cue from Pope Francis, we are reviewing what we do and how we do things here at the Center. Knowing that it is you we serve and that we are here to accompany you in deepening your faith, we need your help in determining the future of our programming - by completing our Visioning Survey. You can find the Visioning Survey at: <https://bit.ly/2023VisioningSurvey> or by using the QR code.



Your financial gifts make it possible for people of all walks of life to learn, celebrate, live, and pray the Catholic Faith.

Use the enclosed envelope or scan the QR code to sign up for recurring monthly donations through online giving.



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

For information about upcoming events, visit catholicinformationcenter.org

Friendship Corner

Friend of the Center **Jaymie Perry**

What happens when you marry a protestant and are searching for a faith home? Our journey towards the Paulists began with a list of Catholic churches. Every Sunday we visited one of the many churches near our house. In this search we attended Mass in many beautiful churches but did not find a place that felt like home for both of us until we walked into the CIC off Ionia. The chapel there did not compare in grandeur but was a place of immediate welcome and comfort. We had found our church home.

As God blessed us with children we attended baptism preparation, Christmas programs, and were consistently challenged with the amazing preaching of numerous Paulist Priests. We appreciate the Paulist Fathers and their welcoming and inclusive nature.