



2023 ADVENT APPEAL

FROM THE DESK OF FR. CHARLES TRULLOLS

November 30, 2023, The Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

Dear Friend of the CIC,

What gives you hope? As we counted our blessings over the Thanksgiving holiday and now look forward to Advent, we should pause to consider that *Christianity is fundamentally about hope*. There is no problem, personal or public, that does not find its solution in Jesus Christ. We look forward to celebrating the Word made flesh in just a few weeks this Christmas.

My work here at the Catholic Information Center fills me with hope. I have the privilege of bringing the sacraments to the people of Washington, DC every day. I see people who are new to the faith, and people who want to grow in their faith.

It may surprise you to learn that the majority of people who come to daily Mass and our evening programs are young professionals. Statistically, it is true that young people are less religious than they have been in the past. But the young people who come to the CIC are receiving the formation they need to evangelize their peers when the opportunity arises.



On the day of our first Eucharistic procession last May, a cross section of DC Catholics worshipped at Mass in our St. Josemaría Escrivá Chapel—spilling into our bookstore and onto K Street.



The CIC takes very seriously St. John Paul II's call to a new evangelization. It is our mission to help ordinary people find God in their daily working lives, and to share their joy with those around them. This takes many forms, and I would like to tell you about some of our highlights from 2023.

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Participation in Daily Sacraments Returns to Pre-COVID Levels

We are now operating at pre-COVID levels in our renovated suite! If you have not yet seen it, I hope you will be able to visit soon. We are open for business Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and we are in a prime location—*just three blocks away from the White House*.

Daily Mass is offered at noon, Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays. Confession is also available before and after Mass.



When you are in downtown DC, please join us for the CIC's daily weekday Mass at 12:00pm.

The resumption of normal activities also means we are incurring general operating expenses at the pre-COVID rate; and the completion of the building project means that we have resumed paying our full rent—which is not cheap, to say the least.

I want to ask you to consider the needs of the CIC as you plan your charitable giving. We could use your help, especially as we enter the new year. **If your finances permit, will you make a fully tax-deductible donation to the CIC this year?**



We are blessed to consistently have numerous young adults attend our events including our Twelfth Annual John Paul II New Evangelization Award Gala [left and bottom-right] and our First Annual Eucharistic Procession in Our Nation's Capital [upper-right].

1st Annual Eucharistic Procession

The CIC held its first annual Eucharistic procession on May 20, 2023. It was an amazing witness to Our Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament in this year of the National Eucharistic Revival. I am so grateful to all who were involved. **We had 700+ participants!**



[Left] 700+ people gathered around the Blessed Sacrament at an altar station located by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs building. [Right] The procession carried Christ's Real Presence past Lafayette Square and the White House.

The crowd included many families, religious sisters, children who had just made their first communion, and young professionals who frequent the CIC.

Once the procession left the CIC, a staff member encountered two astonished Australian tourists standing at the corner of 16th and K Streets. They said, "We cannot believe we just walked out of our hotel to see a Eucharistic procession going down the middle of the street in Washington, DC."



[Left] We're grateful to the many religious sisters who joined us in prayer. [Right] Blessing the crowd.

Others were able to evangelize non-Catholics who stopped them to ask what the procession was about. There were also people who paused to pray or join in singing hymns as the procession went by, particularly tourists in Lafayette Square.

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God willing, I hope this will become an annual tradition and that you will be able to be a part of it in future years. Please join me in praying that many graces come from the procession.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 18, 2024** for next year's procession. Visit our webpage, www.cicdc.org/procession, to view a video and more photos from last May. You can also let us know if you are interested in joining us for our second annual Eucharistic procession by RSVPing through the online form.

I pray we will double or triple our number of participants next year!

And please accept my gift to you—the *enclosed Christmas ornament* commemorating the CIC's first annual Eucharistic procession and the National Eucharistic Revival.



Blessing the crowd during benediction outside the Veterans Affairs Building.

Faith-Formation Programs:

In addition to offering the sacraments and the Eucharistic procession, this year we have had quite a full calendar with book launches and evening faith-formation events.

Highlights Include...

In January we had our first event of 2023 with a panel on the life and work of the late Pope Benedict XVI, co-sponsored with the Institute for Human Ecology at the Catholic University of America. There were more than 100 people in attendance for the event, which featured many poignant reflections on the legacy of Pope Benedict.

This year we launched a new series titled the Legal and Policy Professionals Program. These events bring together lawyers, aspiring lawyers, recovering lawyers, and professionals in the public policy arena, to discuss common issues in professional life. We hosted our first three events in the series in 2023 and anticipate quarterly events beginning in 2024.

We also initiated a partnership with the Napa Institute this year to offer quarterly events that explore how Catholics should approach participation in public life. We are very pleased to be working with the Napa Institute and we look forward to continuing this partnership into 2024.



Moments from our 2023 programs: [Left] Fr. Paul Scalia inaugurated our new co-hosted series with the Napa Institute; [Right] the CIC collaborated with Public Discourse presenting “Feminism Against Progress!” with Leah Libresco Sargeant, Christine Emba, Alexandra DeSanctis Marr, and Mary Harrington.

In addition to lectures, panels, and faith-formation events, we hosted 13 book launches on a diverse range of subjects this year—from children’s books to philosophy to theology to cooking.

In total, the CIC hosted 32 public events to date in 2023—so the odds are, there is always something happening! Please check the CIC website—www.cicdc.org—for upcoming events. This year, we also resumed livestreaming our programming so that those outside of the DC area need not miss these presentations. Visit our YouTube channel (@CICWashingtonDC) to view both past and upcoming events.

If you know someone new in town, attending programs at the CIC is a great way for them to meet other Catholics in the greater DC area.

You Can Help Bring Christ to Others

With your prayers, friendship, and financial assistance, we have been able to move forward in bringing Christ to the city of Washington and to the country.

The mission of the CIC has always been to help people integrate their personal, professional, and spiritual lives. For decades we have conducted this work in downtown Washington, DC, ministering primarily to the people who populate the surrounding office buildings. My staff and I consider it a great privilege to be able to provide spiritual resources for all of you.

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Advent is a season of preparation for the gift of Christ. It is a time to respond to Jesus by giving ourselves to Him through one another. This season, we invite you to support our mission of uniting souls to Christ and his Church. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us during this Advent season. Your gifts are critical to our ongoing efforts to reach people wherever they are.

Like any other nonprofit organization, the Catholic Information Center is dependent on charitable contributions. Would you prayerfully consider a fully tax-deductible gift of \$1,000.00 to the CIC's Advent Appeal? A gift of \$1,000.00 qualifies you as a member of our St. Joseph Society, our giving club recognizing our most loyal supporters.

The CIC remains steadfast in our work to change lives through an encounter with the Lord and in our mission to form lay leaders committed to serving God and shaping our country. We need these leaders more than ever, and it has been through the generosity of our benefactors that we have been able to continue our endeavors.



The CIC has recently hosted many well-attended book launch events.

I am so thankful for the friendship and generous support that you and others like you have given to the CIC, particularly as we successfully completed our building project. Our important work is only possible because of your unfailing commitment.

Even if you are unable to contribute financially at this time, please feel free to fill out and return the enclosed form with your intentions. My prayers are with you and your family this Christmas.

Thank you again, and may God bless you,



Fr. Charles Trullols
Director, Catholic Information Center

P.S. Will you consider making a gift before December 31, 2023? This helps us plan for the coming year. If you prefer donating online, visit www.cicdc.org/donate.

P.P.S. Please accept my gift to you this season: the enclosed Christmas ornament commemorating the CIC's first Eucharistic procession.