

# Love in Deeds of Service

Fall 2009, Vol. XI, No. 2

## *Rekindling the Spirit of Service*

*Anne Hansen, Regional Director, IVC Los Angeles*

Experience, service and reflection are the hallmarks of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). Ignatian Volunteers take their life-long experience and put it to work serving the needs of others and then reflect on what took place both at their volunteer sites and within themselves and then move out again to offer their experience in service to others. It is a continuous circle of experience, service, reflection, month after month and often year after year.

By declaring September 11, 2009 a day of service as well as remembrance, the Congress and President Obama utilized some of the concepts of IVC. The experience of that infamous day, now simply and eloquently referred to as 9/11, was devastating to the country. Over 3,000 innocent people perished and with that we were launched into a state of national mourning. Just as individuals move through the cycle of grief, so did the country. We were confused, angry, depressed and overcome with a vague sense of hopelessness. The families of those caught in the Towers most likely went through stages of bargaining as they waited and hoped their loved one would emerge from the rubble alive and well. It was by all accounts a terrible time.

However, as we look at the experience of 9/11/2001 from the vantage point of 8 years later, it is understandable and appropriate that service to others would mark this day. We as a nation are moving from a state of hopelessness to a new sense of healing, rekindling the spirit of service and commitment that brought our country together in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Through time, reflection, and conversation, everyday citizens, the Congress, and the President are re-imagining and rebuilding our response to 9/11. We are commemorating the day with action, through a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Next year, we will see wider participation in community service projects as a way to honor those who died. The dream is that each year the service will expand beyond one day, so that doing good deeds and helping others becomes something we all do every day. We invite you to answer the call to service. Learn more about becoming an Ignatian Volunteer at the IVC website, [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org), or visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov).

*Working together, we can usher in a new era in which volunteering and more service is a way of life for all Americans.*

*— President Barack Obama*

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*Betty Yzaina, IVC St. Louis  
(photo credit: Missouri Province,  
Society of Jesus)*

### ***IVC Mission***

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national community service organization of volunteers and *for* volunteers, and is affiliated with the Society of Jesus. IVC works to meet the most urgent needs of people who are poor through the experienced service of mature men and women – Ignatian Volunteers.

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## ***From the Executive Director***

For those of you who like images, I've been toying with this one... IVC is like an artichoke. It is a perennial so you can count on seeing it, year after year. You can peel away its numerous triangular "scales" to get at the heart. For each of us, as the years peel away, we begin to see clearly the core of life and what is at its heart: the love of God. (I'll stop here lest I have to deal with the thistle-like nature of the artichoke, its silvery leaves or how its stalk bends as the vine grows.)



If you are wondering how IVC has weathered this economy, remember that artichoke image. We have been knocked around some, but we are here to stay. We are peeling back the layers of IVC to focus on our core mission: to serve people who are poor through the wisdom, experience and spiritual grace of mature adults.

Through a series of various expense cuts and increased fund raising, we made it through the last fiscal year (ending June 30). As we begin a new Volunteer year, we have a strong group of 300 new and perennial Ignatian Volunteers in 16 regions across the country. These women and men will give more than 180,000 hours of service this year alone. Think of the impact for good that IVC is making, strengthening and caring for the heart of our communities.

If you aren't an imagery person, here's another number for you: Ignatian Volunteers will provide more than \$3,000,000 worth of service in more than 200 community and service agencies this year.

In this increasingly complex world, IVC builds bridges between rich and poor, and reaches places where others do not go or find it difficult to go. One of the real challenges we face is that the demand for IVC's services is growing faster than our recruitment of new Volunteers. For that gap, we could use your prayers and your recruiting help. Tell people about IVC... Share this newsletter with your friends and family... Lead colleagues to our website – [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org).

Whatever we do, we do for God and in gratitude to our friends who accompany us. We hope you find kernels of our love and gratitude throughout this newsletter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Suzanne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Suzanne

## *An Oasis in California*

*Anne Hansen, Regional Director, IVC Los Angeles*

An oasis is defined as “any place or thing offering welcome relief from difficulty.” This aptly describes the work of OASIS (Older Adult Services and Intervention Systems), an agency located in Camarillo, California, a small city in the northern area of the IVC Los Angeles region. OASIS is a program of Catholic Charities with a staff of six part-time employees and a number of active volunteers. The agency is a partner with IVC Los Angeles utilizing the skills of Ignatian Volunteer Norma Nocero.

OASIS has been serving older adults for twenty four years. It was developed by Frank Donovan, a nursing home administrator who noticed that older people were moving to nursing homes about ten years before they actually needed to move. He realized that many older adults would benefit from help with simple things such as grocery shopping and connecting with community resources. He understood they would be able to stay independent and in their own homes if they could

secure a little outside help.

The primary goal of OASIS is to help seniors remain in their own homes. Staff and volunteers help frail adults, 60 years and over, develop plans to remain independent as long as possible. They coordinate with service providers to take care of basic needs such as keeping the electricity on, as well as providing health care information among a myriad of other things.



OASIS operates on the premise that aging is a part of life, not a disease, and believes that older people live better, healthier and more productive lives when they are as independent as possible and living in their own homes. OASIS believes that early placement in nursing facilities is costly on both a monetary and human level.

There are no income, religious, gender or ethnic qualifications associated with OASIS assistance although priority is given to frail seniors and those who have incomes below a certain level. Careful attention is given to those who are isolated and want social contact.

Ignatian Volunteer Norma Nocero, who is returning to OASIS for another year, is quick to share stories about how much she has learned from the individuals she assists. She appreciates their humor, wisdom, insights and positive attitudes. This is often the unexpected gift of volunteering.

### *You Can Make a Difference in the Future of IVC*

Estate gifts and bequests are investments in the future, helping to continue the work of IVC today and for generations to come. Like any other investment, an estate gift is an important decision that can give great personal satisfaction. We would be happy to talk with you or your financial planner about opportunities to make a lifetime gift to IVC, through a bequest, life insurance, retirement funds, or other assets, that best serves your interests. Contact Tamara Zavislan, IVC Director of Development, 888.831.4686 or [tzavislan@ivcusa.org](mailto:tzavislan@ivcusa.org), for more information.

## Fr. James Martin Receives Della Strada Award

For many Catholics, and possibly even more non-Catholics, the Rev. James Martin, S.J., is the public face of the Church. Fr. Martin, the culture editor of *American Catholic*, the national Catholic magazine, is also a prolific author and popular media commentator on all things Catholic.

Fr. Martin spent six years in corporate finance before entering the Jesuits. Prior to ordination in 1999, Fr. Martin worked with the Missionaries of Charity in Jamaica, at the Nativity Mission School in New York, with street-gangs in Chicago, and as a chaplain in a Boston prison. He also spent two years with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Kenya.

Fr. Martin's best-selling memoir *My Life with the Saints* received a 2007 Christopher Award and was named one of the "Best Books" of 2006 by Publishers Weekly. With his knowledge, insight, and humor, Fr. Martin is a sought-after commentator for a variety of national



James Martin, S.J.

media including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *Beliefnet.com*, *Slate.com*, *NPR*, *PBS*, *MSNBC*, *CNN*, *BBC*, *Vatican radio*, and talk shows ranging from "The Colbert Report" to "The O'Reilly Factor." In what little spare time he has, Fr. Martin conducts seminars and retreats around the country, assists on Sundays at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and has been an IVC spiritual reflector since 1999.

IVC New York will recognize Fr. Martin with the 2009 Della Strada Award at a special liturgy and reception on October 22 at Regis High School in New York City. The Della Strada Award is named after Sancta Maria della Strada, the first church that Ignatius and the early Jesuits obtained to serve the urban poor in the center of Rome. The award honors lives that reflect the Ignatian values of direct service to the poor, and of working and educating for a more just society.

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## IVC Cleveland Hosts Urban Splash

Cathy Duer, Regional Director, IVC Cleveland

On July 31st, the Feast Day of St. Ignatius, men and women gathered at St. Patrick's Church on Cleveland's near west side to dive in and experience IVC first-hand.

Folks shadowed Ignatian Volunteers Art Walters (West Side Catholic Center and Moriah House) and Roger Cosgriff (Migration and Refugee Services) through a day of prayer, service, and exploration. One group had the opportunity to talk with a refugee from Liberia about his experiences and reflections coming to the United States.

The day concluded at Procop House, a transition home for men leaving homeless shelters. The 'Urban Splashers' enjoyed refreshments and joined Ignatian Volunteer Bill Svoboda for a period of prayer and

reflection on the impact of service on the community, as well as the impact of service on themselves.

What a wonderful way to learn about IVC!

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## IVC Launches Electronic Newsletter

Get wired in to IVC—sign up today to receive IVC's e-note, *From the National Office*, sent directly to your in-box each month. It's easy to subscribe, and it's free! Surf over to [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org) and click the 'Sign Up Now' button at the bottom of the left-hand column. Get connected today!



## IVC Community Expands to Syracuse

When you hear talk of a Jesuit “Community,” it means more than just Jesuits who live together.

The newest IVC region, Syracuse, exists in large part because of the Jesuit Community of Le Moyne College.

This wonderful group of Jesuits has graciously given office space, a computer and telephone, and hospitality to one of their alumni, Tom Coman, so IVC could begin its first small-city program. Three Jesuits from the Le Moyne Jesuit Community stepped forward to help Tom get IVC started: Rector (Jesuit term for the Superior of the Community) Bill Dolan, S.J., Bill Bosch, S.J., and Dan Mulhauser, S.J.

Because of the support and generosity of the Jesuit

Community, IVC Syracuse will benefit from a larger network of people with relationships throughout the area. These Jesuits help to spread the news about IVC more effectively than if Tom were starting IVC on his own.



*Fr. Daniel Mulhauser, S.J., left and Tom Coman, Regional Director, in the new IVC Syracuse office (Photo courtesy of the Catholic SUN)*

Jesuit Communities often breathe life into the primary ministries where they are located. The Jesuit Community of Le Moyne is helping to create a new Ignatian ministry that will benefit older adults, vital social services, and people who are materially poor in the Syracuse area.

IVC is thankful to all our Jesuit partners. In Syracuse, we are deeply grateful for the extraordinary actions of the Le Moyne Jesuit Community.



## Friends & Supporters Of IVC

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a community *of* volunteers & *for* volunteers. We are honored to recognize the individuals & organizations in our extended community whose generous financial support makes the work of hundreds of Ignatian Volunteers possible. We are grateful for your gifts to IVC as we continue to meet the needs of people who are materially poor through the experienced & humble service of Ignatian Volunteers.

*Listed alphabetically. List represents total gifts received between January 1, 2009 & September 10, 2009.*

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*If we all carry a little  
of the burden, it will be  
lightened. If we share  
in the suffering of the  
world, then some will  
not have to endure so  
heavy an affliction. It  
evens out.*

- Dorothy Day

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*Life's most urgent  
question is: What are  
you doing for others?*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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*Enabling someone  
else's dream is more  
rewarding than  
achieving your own.*

- Randy Pausch

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## *IVC – What It Means to Me*

*John McLaughlin, IVC Board Member*

Several years ago, I was asked to serve on the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) Board of Directors. While I was honored to be considered, I felt that some reflection time was in order before giving my answer. I discussed it with my wife, Chris, and we considered the commitment it would mean, particularly in light of my continuing career, family obligations and other commitments. I prayed about the decision and in doing so remembered my introduction to IVC by Fr. Jim Conroy, a friend of ours from Gonzaga High School. Fr. Conroy, several years earlier, had met with Chris and me to discuss IVC, its purposes and goals. I was immediately interested in IVC because, at the time, our five children were or had been volunteers in various service organizations across the nation and abroad, including the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC).

We told Father how inspirational our children's service was to us, and that they were now teaching us. As children learn from their parents, we were learning from our children. Witnessing their service caused us to feel a call to service post-retirement. As I reflected more, I began to see IVC as a complement to JVC and completing a circle of service. The youth involved in JVC are rich with energy and enthusiasm for service, while mature adults in IVC are rich with experience and wisdom. While I was not yet prepared to retire, I began to think that being a Board Member of IVC might lead me to becoming an Ignatian Volunteer, serving to complete the circle. I had my answer.

As a Board Member of IVC since 2007, I have learned a great deal. I have seen that the older generation, indeed, has much to offer those whom they serve. The most poignant part of IVC, for me, has been listening to the reflections of Ignatian Volunteers and the service they perform. In my opinion, those volunteers and their work are the heart and soul of IVC. The stories of their involvement with those in need are profound, beautiful, and at times, heartbreaking. But they are always inspirational to me because they demonstrate how our gifts used in simple acts of generosity and kindness to others can make a real difference. I have seen how those who serve as volunteers quite often are blessed by receiving much more than they have given. The experiences of the volunteers with the poor, sick and forgotten have served to inspire me to aspire to become an Ignatian Volunteer when I retire and my Board tenure is completed.

Listening to the volunteers' experiences causes me to recall Matthew's Gospel of the "Last Judgment" when Jesus addresses the virtuous in reply to their questions. I am convinced that on Judgment Day the Ignatian Volunteers will not have to inquire of the King: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and ... thirsty and... , a stranger and ....., naked and ... , sick and ... , and in prison and... ?" They will know the answer because they saw the face of Jesus in every person they served and felt God's love in return. Being a Board Member of IVC has indeed enriched and changed my life. And it will lead me to complete the circle by joining that special group who are known as Ignatian Volunteers. I'm grateful to Fr. Conroy for the gift of introducing me to this fine organization.



*Experience. Service. Reflection.*

Ignatian Volunteer Corps  
801 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

### *IVC Regional Programs*

To find out more about IVC Programs or to become an Ignatian Volunteer, please contact the Regional Office in your area or visit the IVC website at [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org).

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