

Corps Connector



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FR. CHARLES CURRIE, S.J. DELIVERS HOMILY
AT EVENING OF GRATITUDE SEE PAGE 3

*New DC/Metro MD Regional Director
Selected: Page 2*



IVC

Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
Virginia Regional
Council

Joseph Jones

Patricia Holley

Regional Directors

Frances Butler

Joseph Dempsey

James Kelley

Pamela Lucey

Dennis Lucey

Francis Murphy

Joseph Raia

John Rausch

Grace Risetto

Bruce Steggert, S.J.

Inside this Issue

Page 2 Mike Goggin new
Regional Director

Page 3 Words of Wisdom,
Fr Charles Currie, SJ

Page 5 Joe Jones Honored

Page 6 Evening of Gratitude

Page 7 AACH Director Pays
Tribute to IVC.

Page 8 The Road to Hope

Page 10 Office Work at DC
Central Kitchen

Page 11 Poetry

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Photos by Dick Bowling unless
otherwise noted

Mike Goggin Named New DC/Metro Maryland Regional Director



Mike and his youngest son Jerome

MICHAEL J. GOGGIN, 42, FORMER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the St. Vincent Pallotti Center for Apostolic Development, has been named Director of IVC's DC/Metro Maryland Region succeeding Joe Jones. His appointment becomes effective July 2.. Joe will remain in the office on a full time basis until at least mid-July to assure an orderly transition.

A graduate of Georgetown University and the Washington Theological Union, Mike has many years of social justice leadership experience in the Washington metropolitan area. A full review of the new Director's experience and his initial thoughts on his new position will appear in the September Newsletter.

Can You Imagine?

For example, what the trees do
not only in lightening storms
or the watery dark of a summer's night
or under the white nets of winter
but now, and now, and now - whenever
we're not looking. Surely you can't imagine
they don't dance, from the root up, wishing
to travel a little, not cramped so much as wanting
a better view, or more sun, or just as avidly
more shade - surely you can't imagine they just
stand there loving every
minute of it, the birds or the emptiness, the dark rings
of the years slowly and without a sound
thickening, and nothing different unless the wind,
and then only in its own mood, comes
to visit, surely you can't imagine
patience, and happiness, like that.

~ Mary Oliver ~

Words of Wisdom, Fr. Charles Currie SJ

PAGE 3

by Marty Walsh

Note: Fr. Charlie Currie SJ is one of the outstanding Jesuit leaders in our time. Not just in higher education, but as a “priest for all seasons.” His unshakeable calm, goodness and joy have always enabled him to be “a bridge over troubled waters” in our Church. His homily at the IVC Mass at the Evening of Gratitude helped us look at the Good Shepherd Gospel passage with new eyes, gain a deeper insight into the challenge facing us as a community and inspired us to live more fully as witnesses to Christ’s love in the world. Here are some excerpts from his homily:

“I don’t know about you, but I have a problem with the image of the sheep and the shepherd in today’s Gospel more importantly the connotation the image has for the Church today...”



He explains why the image of sheep may be part of the problem:

“...we don’t like to think of ourselves as rather dull-minded, if cute sheep, blindly following an authoritarian shepherd. many of the problems in the contemporary Church stem from the perception if not the fact that the increasingly impressive talents of the laity too often go unrecognized and untapped.”

Then he points to the deeper reality within our church :

“...two tendencies—one to seek control and the other to encourage freedom and participation—are at work in the Church today and indeed have been throughout its history.”

Next he cites three examples of the evolving struggle between this tendency to seek control and the tendency to encourage freedom:

First, from Pius X (1903-1914) supporting control, who said of the laity:

“...the one duty of the multitudes is to allow themselves to be led, and, as a docile flock, to follow the Pastors,”;

Second, to Vatican II in 1963, with

“Pope John XXIII wanting to ‘open windows’ on the Church, and his contemporary, Cardinal Ruffini, arguing that we no longer need to appeal to the Holy Spirit now that we have the Magisterium,”

And finally, what is happening today,

“...the very unfortunate intervention of the Vatican with America’s nuns....It is important to get behind the image (of Good Shepherd and sheep) to the true message of today’s Gospel, especially in this critical moment in the life of the Church.”

After explaining why the parable of the Good Shepherd is very powerful within the culture and context of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and the early church, he summarizes the message of Christ as the Good Shepherd as follows:

continued next page

Words of Wisdom, continued



- *The Christian depends radically on Christ for life (why we are gathered about this altar to receive more of that life);*
- *That dependence on Christ is made credible because He has laid down His life for us;*
- *Our life in Christ is communal: we have one-on-one relationships with Christ, but Christians are also meant to form communities.*

He goes on to explain each of these key points, saying

“If the sheep/shepherd image is not helpful in conveying that message, perhaps other, more contemporary images will be more helpful. e.g., the charismatic leader who inspires and builds a community. In this Church, we naturally think of a Fr. Horace McKenna, who gave his life for the poor. We might think of an Archbishop Romero, a Cardinal Bernardin, a Dorothy Day.... The story of Peter in Acts helps further to put the bucolic sheep/shepherd image into perspective. We see a Peter fully alive in the risen Christ, transformed from the cowardly, denying Peter of the Passion story .”

“The pages of Acts are filled with stories of such transformations. ... Christ becomes the source and center of our lives. Because He has given His life for us, He merits a uniquely generous response. He knows and relates to each of us by name, but together we are also meant to form Christian communities, sharing faith and life together.”

He offers next a challenge within a larger perspective: who we are as Christians.:

“We are a Christian community to the extent that Christ is present and real in our midst, in our lives... This is what makes us Christian, Catholic and what makes you Ignatian volunteers, not the accidentals of our faith that sometimes get in the way. Is the Christ of the Gospels real for us, and do we keep in touch with Him? The teaching, healing, challenging work of Christ in the Gospels must continue in us today. Somehow, for example, the tragic misunderstanding between Church officials and our beloved nuns needs to be resolved, and the personal hurt that many have suffered needs to be healed.”

Charlie Currie, SJ ends his homily in a spirit of prayer and a message of optimism and hope in the Lord. (as he always has in everything he has ever done):

“Today, we can pray for one another that the transformation in Christ that took place in Peter takes place in each of us. That transformation into women and men of courage, enthusiasm and service, begins with the knowledge that Christ is present not only in this Eucharist, but in every day of our lives as much as we want Him to be.”



For the complete text of Fr. Currie's homily, go to the Northern Virginia section of the IVC Website (www.ivcusa.org) and click on **Evening of Gratitude, April 29, 2012** in the far left column.

Joe Jones Honored at Evening of Gratitude



Joe Jones and Mary McGinnity

Retiring DC/Metro Maryland Regional Director Joe Jones was honored at the Evening of Gratitude on April 29th with a framed Certificate of Appreciation by Executive Director, Mary McGinnity. The certificate reads:

In Appreciation to
Joseph E. Jones
DC/Metro Maryland Regional Director 2008 – 2012

IN RECOGNITION and appreciation for your dedicated leadership and service to IVC as Regional Director for the DC/Metro MD region. With skill, compassion and commitment, especially to those who live on the margins of our society, you have been a model reflection of what it means to follow Christ. Under your guidance, IVC DC/Metro MD has been a steady resource of hope and renewal to the community. In the Jesuit tradition of living faith through action in service, you are truly a “man for others”.

Sixth Annual Evening of Gratitude: An Outpouring of Joy

by Joe Jones



The **Sixth Annual Evening of Gratitude** will be remembered as an outpouring of JOY. It put a Capital “C” on Celebration. All it took were a thoughtful and inspiring homily by Fr. Charles Currie, SJ – see detailed coverage starting on page 3 -- and some of the Christian Traditions’ (both Roman and Orthodox) most beautiful liturgical music sung by 25 members of the esteemed Choral Arts Society of Washington under the direction of its iconic maestro, Norman Scribner. The quality of the sound created by this small group – the depth and precision of tone, vocal color and diction and the exquisite balance of the voices effortlessly filling the large

worship space – produced a rich, lasting impression of worship and praise.

The program featured a brief Choral Prelude comprised of *Oh Nata Lux* from *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen and the *Ave Maria* from *The Vespers* by Sergei Rachmaninoff. During the Liturgy, the chamber chorus presented *The Lamb* by John Tavener, *Panis Angelicus* by Cesar Franck with soprano Theresa Severin as soloist and *Wie Lieblich sind deine Wohnungen* from the *German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms.

It is unusual to have a standing ovation at the end of a liturgy but that is what happened at St. Aloysius on the afternoon of April 29. The beauty of the compositions combined with the quality of the choral performance brought the approximately 150 in attendance, including 9 Concelebrants, out of their seats in spontaneous celebration of the beauty and grandeur of God’s creation.

We received numerous positive comments on the quality of the entire program and the sense of community, worship and praise it engendered. Here are a few samples:

“Thank you for giving the IVC Community a real treat with the Choral Arts Society...!

Truly a memorable experience. I don’t believe I have ever been lifted so beautifully by the music in a liturgy before. The warm, engaging and spirited fellowship that followed at the reception was great.”

“What a gift yesterday’s Evening of Gratitude was! The music was exquisite. Transforming.”

“Thank you so much for yesterday. The music was the highlight of the afternoon. What a beautiful gift you gave us!”

“The 6th Annual Evening of Gratitude was magnificent, classy, heart-warming – I could go on and on, ...”

But we won’t, except to say it was a Blessing!

AACH Director Pays Tribute to IVC Volunteers at Evening of Gratitude



Mary Campbell, Michael O'Rourke and Carol Mournighan

MICHAEL O'ROURKE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH) addressed the supporters of IVC at the Sixth Annual Evening of Gratitude. "The goal of the AACH", Michael said, "is to move homeless families to independence. And we do this with the help and support of our Ignatian Volunteers. And so, I am privileged to stand here before you this evening and present myself with an *Attitude of Gratitude*."

AACH has participated as an IVC partner agency for the past 7 years, he said, and he expressed his gratitude for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and the Ignatian Volunteers "who make a difference in our clients' daily lives."

He specifically thanked Carolyn Burstein, Tom Hogan, Carol Mournighan and Mary Campbell who have all been or are presently part of the AACH family. "Ignatian volunteers more than supplement and augment our staff," he continued, "*they become our staff*. We think of them as staff but more importantly, our clients think of them as staff. Our clients make no distinction between our Ignatian Volunteers and our staff. *What a tribute to both!!*"

"At AACH our Ignatian Volunteers engage our clients in a spirit of charity with maturity, acceptance and compassion. Our Ignatian Volunteers are patient, kind, non-judgmental. Our clients don't react as much as they respond, positively. *Again, what a tribute.*"

"Thanks for listening to our clients' stories," Michael concluded, "and being nonjudgmental. Thanks for listening to our staff and being supportive. Thanks for coming back week after week and being indispensable."

On behalf of AACH and especially our clients, thanks for what you do for the least of our brothers and sisters."

For more on AACH from the volunteers perspective, go to the Northern Virginia section of the IVC Website (www.ivcusa.org) to the **Newsletter Archives** and read the two articles in the December, 2011 issue of the Corps Connector.

For the complete text of Michael O'Rourke's address .go to the Northern Virginia section of the IVC Website (www.ivcusa.org) and click on **Evening of Gratitude, April 29, 2012** in the far left column.



The Road to Hope

By Maryellen Rodgers



Noonday Prayers at Rising Hope



Venisa McCormick leads the daily noonday prayers

THEY COME FROM SHELTERS; they come from low income housing; they come from living in tents out in the woods; they come from sleeping in their cars; they come today to join Venisa for prayers .

For people who are poor, homeless, drug or alcohol addicted the urge to give up, to quit the struggle, is an ever present temptation. We have come into the chapel late and Venisa McCormick, Intake Coordinator, is already in the middle of the daily prayer service for the twenty or so staff and member/volunteers of Rising Hope. Her theme today is "Never Give Up."

Her prayer is composed of a striking collection of passages from the Hebrew and Christian scriptures that illustrate her theme: the countless ways the Lord, the prophets, Jesus and Paul exhorted the people never to give up.

As she nears the end of the service, Venisa asks: "Does anyone have a prayer request this afternoon?" After listening to a variety of requests like for a daughter who needs to move back in with her mother and a desperate plea for financial help, Venisa stitches the requests together in a very moving plea for divine strength and support.

I had just come off the beltway, onto the 5 mile drive along the Richmond Highway, a road I had not often traveled. Right away my attention is riveted to a large public sign: "Welcome to Fairfax County: Gateway to America's Historic Heritage." A seal within the sign notes: "Historic Route 1." Then a few yards more: "Fairfax County Crime Prevention Community." [I wonder: Is this a warning or a reassurance?]

I noticed the general surroundings. Route One cuts a clear six lane divide in the landscape here among the easy ripple of hills and valleys. I saw mostly concrete and faded asphalt but also clusters of rose bushes staged now and then along the median strip. Strip malls are scattered randomly on both sides of the part. I was on my way to Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church on Russell Road in Alexandria. I took it all in.

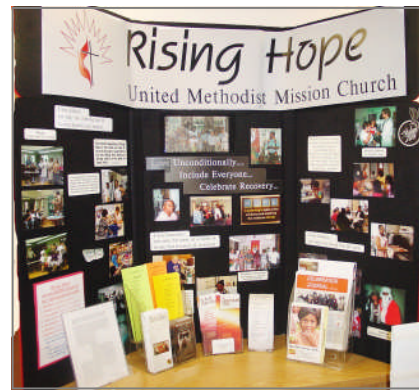
It was clear from the beginning that I was entering a place unlike the one from which I had come. Bold commercial signs announce businesses not usually found with suburban franchises: "Tarot Card Reading Spiritual Healer who Solves all Problems Habla Español," "Budget Host Motel: Spend a Night Not a Fortune," "El Eden Supermercado: *aceptano cheques de WIC.*" Then at 9:15 am I passed a shopping center where all the clock faces proclaimed 12:24. [Does time stand still here?]

I noticed a number of worn looking small shops and lone residences along the way, some vacant; and more motels. Some of these were corporate chains; some nondescript perhaps residence motels. Under the roofed porch of a vacant store, a shopping cart stands filled with sleeping bags and frayed plastic sacks barely concealing someone's well used belongings exposed in the dry hot sun..

Diversity was apparent here. Further along, businesses invite customers and reflect the rich diversity of this region: "El Pollo Ranchero;" "Ropas y Zapatos para la Familia;" "Maloka African Market;" "El Compadre Market;" used cars lots and auto repair shops. A number of Laundromats offer wash and fold services along with: videos rentals, cash for gold, and Western Union. A few commonly known banks have branches here, but mostly "cambio de cheques" services.

One shop hawked "Guns Diamonds Gold" and its neighbor announces another ware: "Hubcap Heaven." A number of Title Loan Companies dot the corridor on both sides. [I think United Community Ministries is in here somewhere.] Then a couple of large shopping centers with businesses common in suburban shopping centers appeared along side indications of new corporate construction. Low rise apartments and other large projects emerged from established sights. [Time does not stand still for everyone here.]

continued next page



The Road to Hope

continued from page 7

Almost there. The road lost a set of lanes. To the right at the bottom of a hill I noticed Harmony Place Trailer Park tucked in the woods. Mobile homes are tightly arranged side by side along the curve of a creek. Juxtaposed to the left at the top of the next hill: newly minted townhouses all neat, brick-walled in serpentine fashion. Finally the shopping center before my turn onto Russell Road offers an Aldi's grocery store, "Dollar Outlet," and "Las Carnitas Tex-Mex Salvadoran" restaurant among other shops.

My trip down Route One had introduced me to the social and economic culture of the members of Rising Hope. I hesitated, feeling like a complete outsider walking into this small unassuming Church next to a 7-11. What had I entered? Almost immediately I was welcomed not as a stranger but as a volunteer/member, and offered the opportunity to become part of the community that is the heart of Ring Hope.

The range of ministry is broad: Morning Hospitality, Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, Celebrate Recovery, Noon Day Prayer and Lunch, Homework Club, Community Projects, Outreach to those in need of transportation, or financial assistance and more, oh so much more. Almost immediately I found my place in this place. I answered the phone for Deborah Allers, Admin Assistant and spoke with people who have no money to make their next rent payment.

I helped a mother with food assistance whose beautiful baby was feverish and rashy from what appeared to be a lack of proper immunization. I worked with Linda Surridge stacking shelves with cans for hungry people who'll be back again and again. I assisted our volunteer cook Debra Johnson to pre-

pare meals so fine, reflecting her skill and talent. I made lunch for 35 when she was so sick she could barely stand. I grieved with the community when member/volunteers have died untimely deaths.

I spent days helping Sula Tyler put together the Family Fun Fair, a project to engage the neighborhood community. Also with Sula, I have given away backpacks and school supplies to students who didn't even have a decent pair of shoes and socks to start the school year. Then helped inaugurate the Homework Club, where I saw the enchanted face of a

little girl who finally "got" a math concept. I have participated in staff meetings and a weekly staff conversation on a book we are reading together: *Uprooting Racism* by Paul Kivel.

Most of all, I have been offered friendship by extraordinary people I never would have known had I not been a part of all this. I like to think of Rising Hope as a Heart: whole and complete, pulsing with members coming in and receiving as their need requires; then these same returning to volunteer with their own gifts and talents, giving

back to the community.

I return along Route One, enriched and nurtured, and with a heightened awareness of the business and residential surroundings along the way. This drive has become a reflection on institutionalized disparity and its connection to poverty, racism, addiction, unemployment, homelessness, immigration policy, educational and health care issues.

The road to Rising Hope is very much a part of the story of Rising Hope. It bears full telling and consideration. For me the road, with all it represents, has become a kind of litany...All you who live here and work, and all you who don't:



Maryellen Rodgers gets cooking lessons from Debra Johnson

My Lord and My God

Glorious Lord Christ:
the divine influence secretly diffused
and active in the depths of matter,
and the dazzling center
where all the innumerable fibers of
the manifold meet:
power as implacable as the world and
as warm as life:
you whose forehead is of the whiteness
of snow, whose eyes are of fire,

and whose feet are brighter than molten
gold:; you whose hands imprison the stars;
you who are the first and the last,
the living and the dead and the risen
again; you who gather into your exuberant
unity every mode of existence;;
it is you to whom my being cries out
with a desire as vast as the universe:
"In truth you are my Lord and my God."

—Pierre Teilhard De Chardin, SJ

WHEN I SIGNED UP TO JOIN THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) in the summer of 2005 I was given the names of three possible agencies to visit and consider. The first agency on the list was DC Central Kitchen (DCCK), and I set up a meeting with Mike Curtin, the Chief Operating Officer. A few days later I visited DCCK and was immediately captivated. I never called the other two agencies.

The Kitchen and its offices are located at 2nd and D Streets NW in the basement of the Mitch Snyder Shelter of the Community for Creative Non Violence

Doing Office Work at DC Central Kitchen

by Kevin Tansey

(CCNV) in downtown Washington DC. It looked, in fact,

like one might imagine: a spacious, but shabby basement. Mike's cubbyhole barely had room for his desk and our two chairs. Others' offices were equally unimpressive—by conventional standards. As part of the interview, I met with several DCCK department heads and got a tour of the physical plant.



Kevin Tansey at his desk at DCCK

The cooking facilities although far from ideal, were very clean. Pots and pans were hanging overhead with lots of work space. Over in a corner—on long tables—was space for preparing salads and for chopping vegetables. These were placed between ovens on one side, and on the other two impressive 60-gallon stainless steel cooking kettles for making stews, etc. I wasn't at all surprised when I later discovered that DCCK paid only \$1 in yearly rent to the DC government for the space. The atmosphere was unmistakably positive and I thought: Isn't this the kind of space and feel that an agency working to feed the hungry and help the poor should inhabit? In short, Mike impressed me and as did everyone else I met that day. This was the place for me!

DCCK's Mission and Programs:

DC Central Kitchen's mission is to "use food as a tool to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities." DCCK has many great programs, including:

- Collecting surplus, unserved food (3 tons per day) from food service companies. This food is brought back to the Kitchen and turned into more than 4,500 nutritious meals each day. These meals are distributed in its trucks to 100 homeless shelters, transitional homes, and nonprofit organizations, that saving them money (\$4.5 million in 2009) and nourishing their clients. This also allows DCCK's partners to focus their energy and resources on their unique missions.
- A wonderful job training (and coping skills) program for entry level kitchen work that helps unemployed men and women who want to change their lives by replacing homelessness, addiction, and incarceration with new careers and positive contributions to society.
- An outreach program that provides warm meals to chronically homeless residents, including many drug users, and seeks to establish trust to link them with the social services they need. (For more information on DCCK's many innovative programs in the local area, go to: <http://www.dccentralkitchen.org>)

And the success of this model isn't limited to the DC area. Through its Campus Kitchens Project, DCCK empowers 5,000 student volunteers every year to implement its model in 31 communities across America.

My IVC Experience

In my initial interview with IVC, I told Mike that, after working for 32 years for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), office work might be where I could best help a nonprofit agency. Many nonprofits seek such help. This shows that IVC can provide many opportunities for indirect service to the poor as well as direct service.

From 2005-2007, I worked in DCCK's Office of Finance and Administration, performing some accounting and human resource tasks: reconciling bank and other accounts and updating job descriptions. Then, I moved to DCCK's Development Office, which had just implemented a new donor database system. For the last five years, I have been entering donations into the donor database and generating thank you letters and related reports for management. During my first year I produced an informal training manual, that has been used ever since to ensure consistency at DCCK as staff turnover occurs.

Thanks to IVC, I've been blessed to be associated with DC Central Kitchen for these last seven years. It is a very inspiring place to be because of its great mission; it is also incredibly effective. And it has given me the opportunity to work with wonderfully committed people.

continued next page

continued from page 10

In fact, many key staff members working in kitchen operations used to be past program beneficiaries—they were living in a shelter or were just out of prison when they attended the job training program. Some of these people demonstrate such great skills and commitment to their work and in helping others (whose shoes they once walked in). This makes me realize: the great talents that can go to waste if people don't make good choices in their lives and the transformations possible when they do. I am grateful that DCK and other such programs give people a second chance.

Like many IVC volunteers, I feel that I get a lot more out of my volunteering than I put into it. In my view, the personal rewards one can receive from volunteering are greatly under-recognized in our culture. Sometimes I feel that, at least in the popular culture, it's almost a secret: the joy we can feel in seeking to help others in need, the feeling that we are doing what we were created to do. Although we're not paid in money, I feel so good about participating in IVC work that, in many ways, it's the best paying job I ever had.

Poetry

Keeping in Touch

If you had a temple in the secret spaces of your heart,
What would you worship there?
What would you bring to sacrifice?
What would be behind the curtain in the holy of holies?

Go there now.

~ Tom Barrett ~

Are there angels, Lord?

Are there angels, Lord?
Are they as Rilke ¹ says,
"Almost all alike"?
Or are they all different?
With minds
So different, So bright?
Are there these brilliant,
Vibrant intellects
Standing before you
In their billions and millions?
Standing before you
Knowing you as they themselves
Are known?
Are there angels, Lord?

—Dick Bowling, May 24, 2012

¹Rainer Maria Rilke—*The Book of Images*, "Angels"