



This Pope is a Pope of Encounters. He clearly cherishes meeting people, especially those who have been tossed to the margins and ignored by society. But he is calling us to

something more than just a brief hello. He is calling us to act on our encounters.

During his address to Congress, Pope Francis spoke directly to older Americans calling them “a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience, who seek in many ways, especially through volunteer work, to share their stories and their insights. I know that many of them are retired, but still active; they keep working to build up this land.” He also talked about “men and women who are not concerned simply with paying their taxes but in their own quiet way sustain the life of society. They generate solidarity by their actions, and they create organizations which offer a helping hand to those most in need.”

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps has been walking the Francis way for 20 years. It is a real-world example of Pope Francis' message on the importance of serving the poor. Its volunteers are age 50 or better who have answered the call to work for a more just society and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

IVC volunteers bring their experiences and skills from the business world, education world, construction world to bear fruit as they volunteer two days a week often serving in professional capacities that the nonprofits cannot afford to fill.

During the Papal visit IVC received national attention. Here are links to two of the videos... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpdDPz2Go3g&feature> “Pope Francis Inspires Local Volunteerism”, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6JnuadLnEg> “Retired Couple Dedicated to Service”.

When Pope Francis celebrated Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, more than 40 of the communion ushers & other volunteers were members of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. See their reflections at <http://www.ivcusa.org/2015/10/the-fragrance-of-francis/>

IVC Cincinnati Volunteer Janet Ziegler shares what it was like to be in the crowd in Philadelphia: *I recently had an amazing opportunity. I joined others from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and traveled to Philadelphia to attend Pope Francis' Papal Mass.*

We left Saturday evening (Sept. 26) arriving in Philadelphia Sunday morning. We quickly left the bus behind and took the subway into downtown Philadelphia which was the venue for the outdoor Mass. A quick breakfast and 45 minutes in a security line brought us to the venue.

While scouting a place to sit, we noticed many people lining the street. We learned that this was the “current” route for Pope Francis to arrive. That was all we needed, we found our spot on the curb. For the next 5 hours we waited for the “Pope Mobile’s” arrival. And when Pope Francis arrived, we were thrilled – it was incredibly inspiring to be among so many faithful people. Words can’t express the thrill of being within 10 feet of the Pope.

*Another 12 hour bus ride brought us back to Cincinnati –an exhausting time, but **it was so worth it** –a truly memorable experience.*

Compassion, Contemplation and Community

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps represents what Henri Nouwen calls three “longings of our heart”.

This story is a great example of Compassion from IVC Volunteer Pat Schloemer:

The following incident involved a second grader that I mentor/tutor at Oyler School. We read the story about how denim jeans came to be. The story tells how denims became a necessity for gold rushers and eventually evolved into the popularity they are today. It mentions how some people are willing to pay huge sums of money to have “fashionable” jeans. An example was that in modern times, a pair of jeans had sold for over \$1,600.00. My little friend looked at me and said it's not a good thing to spend that much money on clothes because they may need that money to buy food. At that moment he taught me that wondering about having enough food is a daily reality of families living in poverty. I believe he spoke from experience. This precious little boy and I developed a special relationship during the school year. He wrote a wonderful thank you letter to me after Christmas ending it with “Thank you for caring about me.”

This comment from Gloriajean Wallace, an IVC volunteer who serves at the Veteran's Administrations Hospital gives us a glimpse of Contemplation and Community as an IVC volunteer:

I shared an experience/interest with my spiritual reflector which has resulted in my wanting to learn more about soldiers preparedness for war. He has directed me to spiritual reading and other material on this topic. I will submerge myself in this.

I will also take time to reflect on these materials (very important). *Her emphasis not mine—the Ignatian way of not just reading but reflecting on that material and absorbing it into the fiber of our lives.* I hope this will strengthen me as a Christian, follower of Christ and chaplain (who hopes to be fully present to those in need of a listening ear.) I am thankful to God for the rich opportunities the Ignatian Volunteer Corps has provided, and the opportunities had in strengthening my spiritual life by modeling my lifestyle after the volunteers and mentor who are now surrounding me as friends through the Corps.

Karen Skillman shares an experience of community from her service site:

One day I overheard an elderly, African American woman talking about what it was like in Birmingham at the time of Martin Luther King, Jr, where she had lived as a young girl.

I was deeply moved and honored to be in the presence of history come alive! She and others were talking from their own experiences of things I had only read about or seen in movies!

Christian life is not a life divided between times for action and times for contemplation. No. Real social action is a way of contemplation, and real contemplation is the core of social action. Henri Nouwen

Do you long for Compassion, Contemplation, and Community? Several of our partnering organizations are looking for additional IVC Volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or have friends or family members looking for purpose have them call Linda Wihl at 513 477-3428 or email Lwihl@ivcusa.org

A prayer for our earth Pope Francis Laudato Si'

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe & in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life & beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers & sisters,

harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned & forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world & not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution & destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor & the earth.

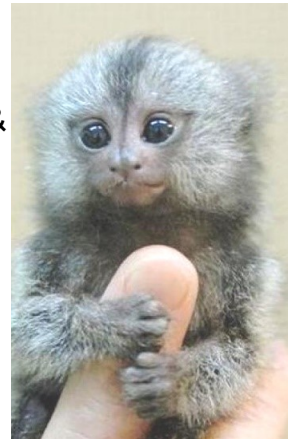
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe & contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



“Dear brothers and sisters, true wealth is the love of God, shared with the brothers and sisters, that love that comes from God and makes us share among ourselves, and makes us help one another. Whoever experiences this does not fear death, and receives peace of heart.” Pope Francis



Cincinnati Saint?



As a pioneering nun in the 19th century, Sister Blandina Segale left her mark on Cincinnati, founding San Antonio Church and Santa Maria Community Services. Her name is still relative-

ly unknown but with the late October release of the reprint of a book she authored, and her recent nomination for sainthood recognized by the Vatican, her life is becoming a source of inspiration for more people.

Thank you **Tim Boyle & Sr. Kay Kramer, CDP** for inspiring us with your tales as pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago. On September 27th we shared Mass, Dinner & stories. One gentleman who dreams of traveling the Camino after seeing, "The Way" came from Columbus to hear them and is more convinced than ever that God is calling him to go.

Thank you to all who came for the journey and/or supported the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Cincinnati this quarter!

Daniel & Ann Barnes
 Tim Boyle & Mary Ann Barnes
 Jeffrey & Mrs. Boyle
 Jeffrey Buskirk
 Cathy Brunner
 Susan & Bradford Dixon
 David Evans
 Cincinnati Jesuit Community
 Joe Folzenlogen, SJ
 Ronald & Sandra Hitzler
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hock
 Anne Holbrook
 James & Ruth Kinne
 Dennis Kinne & Linda Wihl
 Mary Macias
 James Moore & Jacquelin Smith
 Joy and Mark Norman
 Thomas Rebel
 Robert & Carolyn Reis
 Bob & Barb Saal
 Michael & Rosemary Whitney
 Deborah & John Wood
 Ed & Mrs. Worland
 Lou & Ann Yauss



"Cincinnati, you had a saint walking your streets," said Alen Sánchez, president and CEO of CHI (Catholic Health Initiatives) St. Joseph's Children and the official petitioner for Sister Blandina's sainthood. "She took care of the immigrants, who today make up a great population of Cincinnati, and maybe we didn't know this saint was walking among us, but she did this work, and she's still here to inspire you today."

Sister Blandina became a nun with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati at the age of 16 in 1866. Born in 1850 in Cicagna, Italy, she migrated to Cincinnati with her family at the age of 4. In 1872, at the age of 22, she left Cincinnati alone by stagecoach for mission work in the West. In 1893, she returned to Cincinnati and continued her work among the poor. She worked as an educator and promoted social justice, primarily in Colorado, New Mexico and Ohio. She was led by her deep love of God and the personal motto, "Do what presents itself and never omit anything because of hardship or repugnance."

Her life's work has been well documented, not only in the letters she wrote to her sister, Justina, some of which are published in her book, "At the End of the Santa Fe Trail," but through numerous archival materials, many of which remain at the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, officials said..

[WCPO](#) Ginny McCabe

*Thank you
 Sisters of Charity
 Ministry Foundation
 & Sr. Blandina Segale
 for your support & inspiration!*



Linda Wihl, Regional Director
Ignatian Volunteer Corps
4714 Chickering Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Tel: 513 477-3428
Email: lwihl@ivcusa.org
Website: ivcusa.org

Thank you to those of you receiving this by email. Not only are you empowering us to “Care for Our Common Home” as Pope Francis urges, you save the expenses we would incur.

To support the Ignatian Volunteer Corps Cincinnati with a tax deductible donation you can do so online at <http://www.ivcusa.org/ivc-community/friends-of-ivc/donate-to-ivc/> (Be sure to designate Cincinnati in the drop down menu.) Or send your donation to:
IVC Cincinnati
4714 Chickering Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232



Making Sense of Language Arts Bridging the Literacy Gap

Ignatian Volunteer Corps members provide tutoring, volunteer coordination and lesson planning in two Cincinnati Public Schools, Winton Hills & Rothenberg Academies with MSLA. Making Sense of Language Arts bridges the literacy gap for children from low income settings through individual tutoring provided by trained, caring adults. Linda Wihl, IVC Volunteer and Regional Director, directs MSLA. MSLA provides:

- Assessment: pre & post testing of all incoming kindergartners (Mary Ann Oakes, IVC Volunteer, assists)
 - Training: volunteers & paraprofessionals are trained in multi-sensory techniques that "rewire" the brain
 - Curriculum: easy to use lesson plans and support material to guide successful tutoring sessions
 - Tutors: compassionate, sensible adults, mostly age 50+ who care about children and their success.
 - Results: for 21 years (with at least 24 sessions each) 80-100% of the children reached grade level or better
- IVC volunteers Lou Yauss, Kelly Spataro, & Sue Ivory are pictured above with children & other volunteers from Winton Hills Academy. Don Ottke, IVC, also volunteers with children at Rothenberg Academy.

“Investing in quality early learning programs is the most efficient way to affect school & life success & to reduce social expenditures later,” according to research by Prof. James Heckman, a Nobel laureate in economics from the University of Chicago. “Returns are greatest for the most at-risk children. For that population in particular, quality early learning programs can result in reduced costs later on special education, remedial classes, & even incarceration. The real question is how to use available funds wisely. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: Invest in the very young. “