

In the Ignatian tradition IVC volunteers seek to find God in service to others, the people we serve, our community and the lives we live. If you are interested in joining us contact Linda Wihl at lwihl@ivcusa.org. Your best job may be after you retire!

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It's Official! JustFaith Ministry and the Ignatian Volunteer Corps Are Partners

During our 2013-2014 service year, IVC Cincinnati ran a trial/pilot collaboration with JustFaith Ministries. Mike Whitney, one of our volunteers, spread the word about JustFaith Ministries and coordinated the Cincinnati event May 20th, bringing Jack Jezreel to Cincinnati at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Anderson. Jack also met with folks in Dayton at St. Francis in Centerville on May 21st. As of May 20th it became official. JustFaith Ministries and the Ignatian Volunteer Corps are partners in ministry.

What is JustFaith? *JustFaith Ministries provides programs that transform people and expand their commitment to social ministry. Through these life-changing opportunities, members of a church or parish can study, explore and experience Christ's call to care for the poor and vulnerable in a lively, challenging, multifaceted process in the context of a small faith community. Jack Jezreel, M.Div., the founder and Executive Director of JustFaith Ministries, introduced the original JustFaith program in 1989 while working in a parish in Louisville, Kentucky. It was immediately and dramatically successful. Since then, churches around the country have had similar results.*

Over 30,000 people have participated in various JustFaith programs in over 1,500 churches across the country. JFM Website

The partnership is of mutual benefit to both organizations. Now, IVC provides JFM with "feet on the ground" in two regions, providing staff to spread the word about JustFaith and support to parishes that offer JF programs. JustFaith provides IVC with potential volunteers. IVC is a great way for folks 50 or better to transition from study of Catholic Social Teaching to action.



Jack Jezreel

Immersing themselves in the Social Teaching leads graduates of JustFaith programs to act on what they've learned & serve others. Mike knew of JFM because friends of his had transformed the community, where he and Rosemary spend their winters, opening a Food Pantry & serving those in need. "When-ever I talk with them I am so inspired!"

Ann Bollheimer of Fort Loramie commented at the Dayton event, "Mike (Whitney) spoke with me about JustFaith Ministries and was so encouraging that we offered the Good News People Program in our parish and JusticeWalking Program for our high school students. We love the programs and hope to do more. I encourage other parishes that care about social justice to participate in JustFaith. You'll love it!" Congratulations Mike Whitney for spreading the word about IVC and JustFaith. For next steps in our journey with JustFaith check out our Fall Newsletter!

Our Newest Service Site: Madisonville Education & Assistance Center (MEAC)

Jessica Wabler, Executive Director of MEAC, has reached out to IVC for volunteers and we are happy to step up and serve! When I met with Jessica, I toured the food pantry, clothing pantry and fresh market (with ready to eat donations of food from area restaurants and produce). The cupcakes, there that day, looked like luscious works of art. Don and Mary Ann Frank will be serving there this summer and Karen Skillman will pick up in the fall. Hopefully another volunteer will join Karen in sharing that position.

As stated on their website:

For over two decades, MEAC has been providing vital assistance, primarily in the form of food, clothing, rent and utility assistance to individuals and families who reside in Fairfax, Madison Place, Madisonville, Mariemont, Oakley, East End, and Hyde Park. MEAC began offering the Ohio Benefit Bank to assist clients with filling out applications for public benefits such as food stamps, medical benefits, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. In 2009, MEAC began offering a preschool literacy program for children ages 3-5. In 2010, we expanded the Early Literacy Program to help children through 3rd grade. We also converted the food pantry to a Rainbow of Colors Choice Food Pantry, which categorizes food according to the food pyramid and provides nutritional education so that clients can make more informed decisions about what foods they choose to eat. MEAC also partners with the Ohio State University Extension to provide a series of financial education courses called Money Talk\$. In an effort to help people move toward self-sufficiency, MEAC also continues to provide referrals to other community agencies for services.

Welcome to IVC MEAC!

Dropping From of Heaven

That's what it felt like when new recruits Don Joseph Frank and Mary Ann Frank emailed asking, "Do you have need of us?" They are retired principal/teachers who spend half the year April-Sept. here in Cheviot with Mary Ann's sister and brother-in-law. Most recently they lived in Gallup, New Mexico for 9 years, volunteering with the Missionaries of Charity at the local shelter-soup kitchen, and were employed at St. Francis School. With Fr. Bob Ross, SJ, they worked together on Engaged Encounters in Gallup and spent time at St. Mary's mission in Tohatchi. Now Fr. Bob Ross is serving as Don and Mary Ann's spiritual reflector here in Cincinnati.

Days after our first meeting Don and Mary Ann met me to help with post-testing for Making Sense of Language Arts tutoring program at Winton Hills Academy. A week later they started working at our new service site, Madisonville Education and Assistance Center. The week after that they were there when torrential rains poured in through the unfinished elevator shaft and flooded the basement. When I called to ask if they were okay Don asked, "The flooding in the basement was up to the step going up stairs. We're fine but we're concerned about the freezers in the basement shorting out, will you pray that they're okay?" (They were) What a blessing to know Don & Mary Ann Frank!

As Greater Cincinnati's IVC Regional Director, I have to acknowledge that God is the match maker when it comes to those in need and those who respond to those needs. I am merely privileged to watch the dance as the Spirit orchestrates it.

Any director is really an onlooker who cheers & marvels as the artistry unfolds.
Henri Nouwen



Mary Ann and Don Joseph Frank

Sincere thanks to this quarter's donors:

The Jesuit Community of Xavier University

Sue Lennert

Lou Yauss

Mike Whitney

Peg Dillon

A Fond Farewell

Bill Mees who has been a member of IVC Cincinnati for four years is moving "home" to St. Louis.

Bill served with Refugee Resettlement for three years and Caregiver Assistance Network this last year. Both are ministries of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Catholic Charities.

Thank you Bill and remember there's an IVC Region in St. Louis as well.

We'll miss you!

Thanks also to Sue Grethel and Lou Yauss who served this year but due to health and family needs won't be back in the fall. Bill, Sue & Lou thanks for enriching our lives while you were with us. We keep you in our prayers.



Karen Skillman



What Really Matters

Karen Skillman's connection to the Ignatian tradition: "The personally directed retreats have been an important part of my life. It was at one of those retreats a few years ago, that I picked up a brochure about IVC. Now I'd like to find out more."

Karen has a rich history of social service. With a Masters in Clinical Psychology from Xavier University and continuing education at the Kentucky School of Drug and Alcohol Studies at NKU, Karen has served as a Licensed Psychological Associate at North Key in Northern Kentucky and the VA Hospital in Cincinnati.

She currently volunteers as the Al-Anon Coordinator of Public Outreach in the Cincinnati Area and at the Prospect House where she developed a Family Program and currently coordinates volunteers for the program. Dave Logan of Prospect House says Karen is "reliable, competent and has a great knowledge base!"

After wrapping up a project with Al-Anon Outreach and finishing up the Family Program for the summer, Karen will step in at MEAC to serve with intake and client services.

Of being a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, Karen says, "I didn't know what I was missing, how much it would mean to me. When I wrote down lists to simplify my life—non-essential, essential—IVC was on the essential list." Karen, like so many others, has experienced what it's like to have a place to "fill your tank" so that you can continue to "fill the tanks" of others. The blessing of IVC is that you not only find purpose and meaning in serving the poor, the wounded, the marginalized, but you are renewed by the personal reflection, group gatherings and individual meetings with Spiritual Reflectors that nurture you as you nurture others. Thank you Karen. We are blessed!

The Ministry of Suffering and Intercessory Prayer

When you were little did your mom ever tell you "Offer it up."

"Dedicated suffering is the idea that physical, emotional, social, and spiritual suffering expends and creates enormous amounts of energy. This energy can be dedicated, offered as loving energy for the good of others, as a type of intercessory prayer. This energy of suffering can be offered to God, to Jesus, to transform into loving healing for the well-being of others. When it is re-conceptualized as a potential gift to someone, ones suffering energy can have meaning for self and for the larger community. It becomes the gift one has the power to give, reestablishing a sense of purpose in society and relieving the sense of isolation and uselessness." Dr. Jane Marie Thibault

Since getting to know the Jesuits and especially Fr. Joe Folzenlogen, SJ, our "Spiritual Animator" and vice superior of the Faber Dependent Jesuit Community, I have learned of the tradition that convalescing Jesuits, (such as those at Columbiere), spend much of their time in intercessory prayer and in "offering up" their current sufferings. *"Colombiere Center is, above all else, a Jesuit Community designed to serve infirm and elderly Jesuits and is sponsored by the Detroit and Chicago Provinces. The major apostolates for the Colombiere Center Community are those of prayer, suffering, and example. Community members, in accord with their talents, are also encouraged to develop other ministries."*

So when Peg Dillon wanted to continue to serve as a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, despite another knee surgery and chronic pain that made it difficult to continue work with an agency I asked her to become our prayer champion. She has served in Churches Active In Northside, Cincinnati Cooks with the Freestore Food Bank, and Working In Neighborhoods. She has been with IVC Cincinnati since its beginning. Now as our prayer champion she receives a list of prayer concerns from the Regional Director for our volunteers, for those they serve, or family members and she prays. Just as we, as Catholics, believe in the communion of Saints that intercede for us, Peg, intercedes for us.

When folks ask, "To what do you attribute your recent surge in interest in volunteering?" I credit Peg. The first year felt like I was throwing seeds all over and finding little growth between the rocks. With Peg's prayer, the field is fertile. Through her intercession and suffering (though we wish her wellness—especially now that she knows some of the suffering has been undiagnosed anemia), may the "Lord of the harvest send out workers into His harvest" and continue to care for those already in the field.

I hope you will all keep Peg and the rest of us in your prayers!



Peg Dillon Prayer Champion



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Happy Birthday to IVC Cincinnati's 1st RD, Sam Schloemer (80) and his wife Pat (75), IVC Volunteer. Blessings♥

Please Sponsor an Ignatian Volunteer Corps Member

Partnership Fees from our Partnering Agencies empower us to provide spiritual support to our volunteers. Though we are a volunteer organization, we have very real expenses. Ironically many of these expenses are of a spiritual nature. But some places where we are needed most and where volunteers are most in need of our support to prevent burn out or "compassion fatigue", legally can't pay for spiritual services. Public Schools, the VA Hospital, can't pay a partnership fee. But we don't deny needed services to those who need our volunteers.

Many of the 17 IVC Regions throughout the country rely on Sponsors to provide monetary support so that we can provide spiritual support to our volunteers. Sometimes a parish will sponsor a volunteer position; sometimes an organization will sponsor. And sometimes generous and caring individuals will sponsor a volunteer. (Anonymously two of our volunteers sponsored four volunteers this year.)

If you, your group, your parish, has the means and desire to further the mission of IVC consider sponsoring a volunteer. Your support provides compassionate service to those in need, community support for those who serve, and deepening relationships with God for our volunteers and many of those they serve.

Partnership Fees set by IVC National:

1 day per week volunteer	\$1500.00
2 day per week volunteer	\$2500.00

Any donations welcome.

Make checks payable to:

Ignatian Volunteer Corps
 4714 Chickering Avenue
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

From the Regional Director

What a delight to work with the men and women of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps!

In the last six months we've welcomed nine new members: Sr. Carolyn Brink, Don and Mary Ann Frank, Charles Meyn, Terri Severyn, Jean Shannon, Karen Skillman, Gloriajean Wallace and Paula Yerke. We've placed volunteers at two new service sites, Madisonville Education and Assistance Center and LifePoint Solutions. We've also added a new Spiritual Reflector Fr. Bob Ross, S.J. They'll be more about some of our new recruits next edition.

As our family grows we are still able to maintain a bond that provides:

- Compassionate service
- Community that shares "deeply and respectfully" according to our newest volunteer Gloriajean Wallace
- Closeness with God through reflection and contemplation!

Sr. Mary Ann Humbert, S.C. facilitated our spring retreat, "Listening - to God, Self and Others". She shared insights from Ignatian Spirituality and gave us plenty of time to walk through the verdant grounds of the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford., listening to God, and ourselves. There were times to share and listen with others as well. The evening began with an inspiring powerpoint prepared by Sr. Mary Ann, followed by Bill Cosby's "Noah" which sparked Michael Heinrichs taking us on a visual tour of inspiring You Tube videos including Steve Harvey's intro to Jesus, The Irish priest singing "Alleluia" at a wedding and Silent Monks Singing the Alleluia Chorus. What a riot! She ended the retreat by giving us blank Thank You cards and asking us to ask God, "What would you thank me for?" Then write the card.. It was a powerful experience! Thank you Sr. Mary Ann!

Our last gathering of the service year was filled with heartfelt sharing. We wrapped up our study of "Tattoos on the Heart" loved by all. We celebrated Mass and prayed for those who weren't present especially Peg who fell sick that morning and Sue Lennert who suffered a stroke the week before and continues to heal. (Send love her way.)

Please keep us and those we serve in prayer.

With gratitude, Linda Wihl