

*Ignatius thought that a particular type of ignorance was at the root of sin. The deadliest sin, he said, is ingratitude. It is "the cause, beginning, and origin of all evils and sins." If you asked a hundred people to name the sin that's the origin of all evils, I'll bet none of them would say ingratitude. They would say pride or disobedience or greed or anger. The idea that we sin because we're not sufficiently aware of God's goodness probably wouldn't occur to too many people.*

*By emphasizing gratitude, Ignatius was saying something about the nature of God. God is the generous giver, showering us with blessings like the sun shining on the earth. If we truly understood this, we would return God's love with love. We wouldn't sin. Gratitude is a good word for this fundamental quality of our relationship with God. Ingratitude, our blindness to who God truly is, is thus the root of all sin. from A Gratitude Deficit by Jim Manney*

As the Ignatian Volunteer Corps wraps up it's ninth Service Year in the Greater Cincinnati Region we have much to be grateful for!

Volunteer Joan Lee shared, "I look forward to my volunteer work at St. Vincent De Paul and Venice on Vine as well as our gatherings and hearing about all the challenges and triumphs of this unselfish ministry. It has become a cornerstone of my life!" Unselfish ministry is such a great description of the spirit of the women and men who serve through IVC. Their service to the "poor" not only meets needs of individuals, it strengthens our community. "The gatherings... sharing our challenges and triumphs" provide a great snapshot into the community that is IVC. It is so easy to see that these women and men are created in the image of God. As Ignatius would say, "find God in all things"; I can certainly do that in the presence of these men & women! Thank you God & thank all of you who so "unselfishly" minister to those in need!



I am thankful for the Jesuit presence in Cincinnati and the influence you have had on our lives. Fr. Joe Folzelogen, SJ, our spiritual animator, Fr. Bob Ross, SJ, one of our spiritual reflectors, and Fr. Bob Thesing, SJ, also a spiritual reflector and pastor of a parish that hosts one of our volunteers, have nourished us. When Don Ottke, Sue Ivory and I went to Indianapolis to talk with folks who are interested in starting an IVC region, Don shared how very much it means to him to celebrate Mass with the Jesuits and IVC. I'm thankful also to Bellarmine Community, St. Xavier Church for their continued advocacy and the volunteers from their parishes. Thank you to Joe Shadle & Sr. Rose Ann Fleming from Xavier University who led our retreats this service year. To all the Jesuits and Jesuit communities we are thankful!

The service sites that host our volunteers also are cause to give thanks. They give our volunteers a sense of purpose and the means to be of service. Of the GED students she serves, Sue Ivory shares, "I see the deep faith of so many of the students that I have met. They face more challenges in their lives than I can imagine dealing with, and yet they continue on their journey praising God for getting them through and keeping such a positive attitude." Our schools, agencies, ministries, churches and hospitals, empower us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, give to the poor, instruct, advise, console, comfort, forgive, and bear wrongs patiently" (*works of mercy*) "When I meet folks exhibiting an unpleasant or negative attitude, I have to resist judgment, reminding myself that life is coming at them, leaving them little to feel grateful for, and also remembering that I too can sometimes focus only on the unpleasant side of life." Pat Schloemer Thank you Lord for the nonprofits of our city that provide a safety net for those most in need? What would our community be without these amazing services?

Thank you to volunteers & others i.e. Deacon Bob Schroeder of St. Antoninus, who have become ambassadors for IVC! We are grateful indeed!



Tim Boyle



***Companions on the Journey***

Share their Experiences of The Camino de Santiago



Sr. Kay Kramer, CDP

Be inspired!

The **Camino de Santiago**, is the pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Many take up this route as a spiritual path or retreat for their spiritual growth. The movie “The Way” (Martin Sheen) inspires many to visit.

**Sr. Kay Kramer CDP** is a Sister of Divine Providence of Melbourne, KY. In 2012, she walked the last 100 km of the Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage in Spain. When she returned from this amazing and life-changing experience, she hoped for the opportunity to return to the Camino again & again & again.

In November of 2014, she was able to return to the Camino and walked from the village of St Jean Pied de Port, France, to Burgos, Spain.

When not dreaming of returning to the Camino, her ministry is Nurse-Midwife/Family Nurse Practitioner at St Elizabeth, where she loves to assist childbearing women and provide care to the growing immigrant community of northern Kentucky.

**Tim Boyle** is an Ignatian Volunteer & Director of the Men’s Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) Cincinnati. ISP provides retreats for homeless men and women. Tim also volunteers at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital & Mentoring Plus. Tim walked the Camino in 2014 and plans to return.

Join us as we celebrate  
Companions on  
The Journey



St. Bernard’s Catholic Church  
735 Derby Ave, Cincinnati 45232  
September 27th  
5:00 PM Liturgy  
6:00 PM Dinner  
Followed by Presentation by  
Sr. Kay Kramer, CDP &  
Tim Boyle

Tickets for the Event are \$50.00ea Please mail form and payment to → by Sept. 15, 2015	Linda Wihl IVC Cincinnati 4714 Chickering Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45232
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	
Number:	Names of Attendees:

# Ignatian Spirituality Project Transforming Lives!

*From Ignatian Spirituality Project's website...*

*ISP's story begins in 1998 when, Ed Shurna, the Director of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, was attempting to create an experience to help build community, hope and transformation among those experiencing homelessness.*

*At nearly the same time, Bill Creed, SJ, a renowned and experienced spiritual director, was invited by his provincial to begin making the Spiritual Exercises available to those who were marginalized.*

*Eventually, in the confluence of these two great hopes the Ignatian Spirituality Project was born.*

*By listening to those who are homeless, Bill and Ed found that often their spiritual life was a source of hope amid deep discouragement. Thus, those original companions developed a retreat that drew upon the 500 year old tradition of Ignatian Spirituality in the contemporary language of recovery. The retreat was designed for persons who were both homeless and in recovery to find meaning and purpose as they reclaimed their lives. They were and continue to be deeply profound experiences.*

*Word of the retreats eventually spread, and eventually retreats and teams were being offered in a half dozen cities across the county.*

*In 2005, Bill was invited to apply for an exceptionally generous grant which allowed the emerging organization to become a national network. Subsequently, ISP was able to become incorporated as a 501(c)3, and in 2008 hire their first full time staff.*

*ISP's network has grown and now stretches with a dozen teams from Boston to San Francisco, excited to continue offering these retreats to as many persons as they might be able.*

## **ISP's Vision and Mission**

*ISP began by offering weekend retreats away, and have recently developed days of reflection, one-on-one spiritual companionship to continue the community and spirit of transformation forged on retreats. These programs invite both a deepening connection to one's true self and a greater sense of intimacy with God and with the larger community.*

*Thus, the Board of Directors of the Ignatian Spirituality Project has adopted their Five Fold Approach:*

- 1. We offer retreats inspired by Ignatian Spirituality to those who are homeless and seeking recovery.*
- 2. We form teams with men and women who are homeless, in order to conduct Ignatian retreats, offer witness, and provide spiritual companionship.*
- 3. We reach out to new cities to build and form retreat teams to offer our programs.*
- 4. We seek to further our established national network of dedicated volunteers to respond to the spiritual needs of those who are homeless.*
- 5. We collaborate with communities and agencies working to end the injustice of homelessness.*

*Here's a local story shared by Tim Boyle, Director of the ISP Men's Retreats in the Greater Cincinnati Area:*

*One of the men who had attended a weekend Ignatian Spirituality Project retreat as a participant, then as a witness related this at a recent Half Day of Reflection. In my mind it is more than a coincidence. He went to an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting with another man who is also a recovering drug addict and alcoholic, with whom he lived in a local recovery house. As they were entering a much younger man asked one of the men if he knew how to help him to find a sponsor. This man replied that he did not but asked his friend. This man agreed to speak with this young man after the AA meeting.*

*After the meeting the older man and the young man talked. After much discussion the older man thought that the young man may be the son that he and his girlfriend at the time gave up for adoption due to their drug addictions. The conversation ended and the men parted and went their separate ways. The older man not knowing what to do with this information went to his sponsor and mentioned this meeting and asked his advice. Not knowing if the older man would ever see the younger man again because the younger man was new to sobriety and may go back to his addictions, or attend AA meetings at a different location or time, the sponsor suggested that if the two did meet again to ask gentle questions to see if the young man harbored bad feelings toward his real father and proceed based on this information.*

*At an AA meeting following the first one both the younger and older men were there. The young man approached the older man and stated that he seldom had intuitive feelings but he did feel that the older man was his father. After some additional discussion the two determined that they were indeed father and son. They have since spent a lot of time together and are repairing and building their relationship.*

*The Ignatian Volunteer Corps welcomes **Anne Shaffer**, the Greater Cincinnati director of women's ISP retreats, to our family.*

*We are enriched by our relationship with the Ignatian Spirituality Project!*



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A special thank you to Maureen Maxfield for teaching me how to measure how magnificent the women and men of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps really are!

## In The Hands of God

*Attributed to Pedro Arrupe, S.J. (1907–1991)*

More than ever I find myself in the hands of God. This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth.

But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God.

It is indeed a profound spiritual experience

to know and feel myself totally in God's hands.

