

Fr. Joe Folzenlogen

interview regarding the founding of ILVC (now IVC) Cincinnati on the 10th Anniversary of the feasibility study. Fr. Joe has been the Spiritual Animator (“jargon for Spiritual Advisor”) of IVC Cincinnati since its founding.

“When will you bring ILVC to Cincinnati?” Bill Creed, SJ would ask Joe Folzenlogen, SJ. As “Spiritual Animator” for the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps in Chicago, Bill had seen lives changed. Joe’s local community, the Claver Community decided to consider the idea. They liked the union of spirituality and service that the Ignatian Volunteers provide.

Claver Community’s mission is insertion into a low income community. Their assignment was to move into a neighborhood and to become good neighbors; to become active in a parish, but not as parish staff; and to learn from their neighbors and fellow parishioners how to work together with them on things that were important to them. (I found it especially inspiring that they come to learn, not just to teach so Fr. Joe shared with me a thought from a Jesuit document of Ministerial Priesthood. “The Jesuit must always remember that the presence and action of God does not begin with our arrival. But rather we need to learn what the spirit has already been doing in the life of the community and with the community move forward with that.” “We are to be companions.”)

Claver Community members, all Jesuits, Fr. Lou Lipps, Fr. Joe Folzenlogen, Fr. Tim Hipskind, Fr. Jim Hasse, and Br. Mike O’Grady decided to pursue a study of the feasibility of ILVC as a way to “learn from the community.” The study would be a combination of theological reflection and social analysis. Fr. Joe enlisted the help of the ILVC Regional Director from Chicago, George Sullivan and the Provincial Social Ministries Assistant, Fr. Bob Flack, SJ. Claver then hosted 3 focus groups to “learn what the spirit had



Frs. Lou Lipps, Jim Hasse, Tim Hipskind, Joe Folzenlogen

already been doing” and discern how to “move forward with that”.

They hosted a focus group with “Jesuit administrative types” such as Fr. Michael Graham, SJ, president of Xavier University; Fr. Walter Deye, SJ then president of St. Xavier High School; alumni personnel and service coordinators from both of these schools, and staff from the two Jesuit Parishes in Cincinnati. “Would the large, long and

extensive presence of the Jesuits in Cincinnati be fertile ground for support for ILVC—would there be interest from their constituents?” Their response was “yes”, (though Fr. Joe noted that it has not reached the magnitude of their hopes so far.)

They hosted a focus group with “pastoral ministry types” such as Kathleen Donnellon from Catholic Charities and Angela Anno who serves as pastoral associate at St. Leo’s. “Would there be opportunities for volunteers to do meaningful work with those in need with service providers throughout Cincinnati?” Again the answer was a resounding, “yes”!

They hosted a focus group with “folks from the pew and neighborhoods”, such as Deacon White from First Baptist Church of South Cumminsville. “Would there be enough interest, enough common ground to recruit and place Ignatian volunteers in these communities? Again they echoed, “yes”.

“Are you pleased with the results ten years later?” I asked. “The involvement of the volunteers in ministry and the depth of the reflection and spirituality they share at the gatherings are very worthwhile,” Fr. Joe affirmed.

“Any regrets?” I asked. “None,” said Fr. Joe. Although we’d hoped there would be a greater response from the Jesuit ministries, we’ve come to realize that being Ignatian and being Jesuit are not the same though we share much in common.

“Any hopes? I asked. “That IVC will continue to grow, not just in numbers but in depth,” Fr. Joe shared.

Thank you Fr. Joe, Claver, George Sullivan, Bob Flack, the “long and extensive Jesuit presence in Cincinnati” for bringing the Ignatian Volunteer Corps here and enriching the lives of those we serve and we who serve!!!

Pat Schloemer's

Address to the congregation of Bellarmine Parish at Xavier University on Oct 26, 2014

After a bit of resistance to get involved, I eventually became an Ignatian Volunteer.

One of my volunteer sites is Working in Neighborhoods one day a week. WIN's offices are located in the old St Pius Church.

I continue to think about a man from a few months back who came to WIN to meet with his housing counselor about an impending foreclosure on his home.

During his wait, he admired the beautiful architecture and preservation of this old structure. Based on our conversation, this man is obviously highly skilled in his former work. He talked about his work, and his great appreciation for diversity in design and architecture, stained glass windows and all in the Cincinnati area.

His gentleness captured my heart and kept me truly engaged in conversation with him as he also spoke lovingly about his wife and young children.

As it turns out, he's an Iraqi war veteran badly scarred by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder leaving him unable to do the work he loves, feeling like a failure, desperate; he attempted suicide, on the verge of losing his home, and the impact on his family.

As he walked out the door following his meeting with the housing counselor, he turned around and said with deep sincerity, "thank you. You've given me hope. I haven't had hope in a long time."

That experience defined HOPE for me in a way I'd never encountered it before.

Time and time again, I talk with folks in challenging, unsettling situations who express their faith in Jesus and God's goodness even in the midst of their chaotic and fragile lives.

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.

Also, I mentor five individual students in primary grades at Oyler school in Lower Price Hill. Oyler serves students from its impoverished neighborhood, -- part of that 53% of Cincinnati's children who go hungry without the services of Oyler.

These students have varying ability levels and their own stories about life outside of Oyler -- violence in their neighborhood, no opportunities to read at home, moving



due to an eviction, some are homeless and living in shelters, or they may need to move in with a grandparent or other relative for a variety of reasons.

A statistic of not so long ago was that 80-some percent of Oyler students had a member of their family or extended family in prison. This is their "normal."

Despite all of that, these children bring me much joy. We get caught up in the delight of reading, they often make me laugh, but sometimes as I'm driving home, I cry over the injustices and the frustration of accepting what I can't change.

These children make a difference in me. Listening, loving, and compassion are all I have to give them. Most of the time, that's the easy part.

In response to Richard Bollman's homily today where he says, "So, when we hear these commandments, to love God with all we are and have, and to love our neighbor as ourselves, remember we can only take the step that is in front of us.. "So..... these are the steps in front of me* -- What better way to return to God all that God has given to me.

I leave with you a quote from Henri Nouwen that fits with today's Gospel and Richard's message. He says:

"Dare to love and to be a real friend. The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as those whom God has given you to love."

Pat is the wife of Cincinnati's first Regional Director, Sam Schloemer. Pat worked with Legal Aid before retiring and is a devoted mother and grandmother! Pat's talk witnesses how IVC volunteers change lives. She is loved by those she serves!



Bellarmino Chapel Xavier University

*Thanks also to **Peg Dillon** who spoke at one of the Masses at Bellarmine on October 26th and **Tim Boyle** who spoke at two Masses, November 8th and 9th at St. Francis Xavier Church in downtown Cincinnati.*

Altogether the talks at Bellarmine and St. Francis Xavier, both Jesuit parishes, welcomed six new members who have or will join IVC!

Tim Boyle parishioner of St. Xavier Church, Cincinnati Addressed the Congregation on November 8th & 9th
It is an honor to be here to share my experiences with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. The mission of the IVC is to provide mature men and women the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in my Catholic faith. Each IVC member will choose a service or ministry that specifically interests them and where they feel that they can make a contribution.

I am personally blessed much more than I deserve. When I retired it was time for me to give back. In discerning where I might fit in my new life the IVC seemed like a good choice where I could help those in need and grow in my relationship with God. After over 5 years in the IVC it has indeed proven to be a good choice. My IVC service is to coordinate spiritual retreats for homeless men. Most have substance abuse issues, criminal records, are estranged from their families, have a record of poor decision making, social issues, etc. But they say they want to find the way out. We help them to know that God is there with them, supporting them, loving them. The IVC also has two other facets. We have monthly meetings. At these gatherings we discuss our ministries, have outside presenters, have Mass and have a short book discussion, on a book that we read together. The 3rd facet is spiritual direction. My spiritual director is a Sister of Charity. She offers me insight into myself, helping me to let go of my ego and allowing me to be my best self. Individual spiritual direction is a benefit that I had not anticipated how powerful it might be.

The last three months have helped to strengthen IVC Cincinnati's connection with our Jesuit roots.

In October, with St. Bernard's Parish pastored by Robert Thesing, SJ, we celebrated an "Evening of Gratitude," honoring IVC Volunteer, Lou Yauss. He shared his deep gratitude to the Jesuits for teaching him to be a man for others at St. Xavier High School, Xavier University and St. Louis University. Lou's family shares his life long commitment to service!

Later in October, three of our volunteers from Bellarmine were invited by Fr. Dan Hartnett, SJ to share their reflections on IVC and living the Gospel, "Love God with all your heart...love your neighbor as yourself." They spoke during the Masses at Bellarmine on Xavier University's Campus. (Two of those reflections are shared in this newsletter.) Each celebrant at those masses, William Verbryke, SJ, Richard Bollman, SJ and Kenneth Overberg, SJ affirmed IVC and our roots in Jesuit Spirituality.

In early November, our fall retreat was directed by Joe Shadle, the Director for Xavier University's Center for Mission and Identity. The theme was "Our Way of Proceeding: Pope Francis, Ignatian Spirituality, and Everyday Life." We were immersed in God's love and presence. Joe makes Ignatian Spirituality very doable!

A little later in November, Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ opened the doors of St. Francis Xavier Parish to let us set up an information table and make an announcement at all the Masses one weekend. (One of the announcements is above.)

At the Midwest Jesuit's Partners' Gathering I met Fr. Brian G. Paulson, SJ, provincial of the Chicago-Detroit Province. He had words of praise for our counterparts

IVC: JESUIT GROWTH



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in Chicago. One of our spiritual reflectors, Fr. Bob Ross, SJ had updated Fr. Paulson on the work of IVC Cincinnati since our transfer to national. A week later I met John Sealy, the Midwest Province contact in charge of Social and International Ministries. He was pleased to hear of our growth as well. The Provincial from northern India, Fr Arul Soosai, SJ joined our meeting. (I thanked him for his culture's view of aging as expressed in 2nd 50 by Leo Klein, SJ--far from America's "Over the Hill"). So how do we see our Jesuit roots reflected in IVC?

"The concluding decree of the thirty-fourth General Congregation is entitled, Characteristics of Our Way of Proceeding." These are not new attitudes or values in the Jesuit way of proceeding, but characteristics perceived as especially relevant to present day ministries and situations, of which the Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a part." IVC Manual

These characteristics include:

- Deep Personal Love for Jesus Christ
- Contemplative in Action
- An Apostolic Body in the Church
- In Solidarity with Those Most in Need
- Partnership with Others
- Called to Learned Ministry
- Sent, Always Available for New Missions
- Ever Searching for the Magis (greater service)

In short:

God loves you personally and wants to be loved by you. Prayer demands loving action. Action demands reflection. You are part of the body of Christ in the universal church. The preferential option for the poor is **not** optional. We embrace a plurality of gifts, cultures, and perspectives. Ignorance & prejudice are overcome through learning. We are willing to go where needs are not met. We are not content with the status quo & reach out in "holy boldness" for opportunities toward fuller service.

Our Gratitude

Thank You for Your
Generosity

Your Spirit has moved us:

GratITUDE
Engaging
Need
Evolves
Radically
Outside
Self
Into
Transforming
Yeses!

Thank you to all who attended the Evening of
Gratitude Honoring Lou Yauss in October.

Thanks also to the following donors...

Tim Boyle
Melanie Drake
Luanne Gibboney
Joe & Ginny Gubasta
Dennis Kinne & Linda Wihl
Joanna Lounsbury
Beth Maltry
Bob & Star Mierenfeld
Pat & Karen Orsary
Carl & Camille Servizzi
Jenny Stenton
Lou and Anne Yauss
Randy & Yogi Yauss

Thanks to all who responded to our end of year
appeal for financial support for IVC Cincinnati!

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Sr. Carolyn Brink
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Tim Boyle and Mary Ann Barnes
Peter & Sandra Keiser
Lou Yauss
G.R. Sam and Pat Schloemer
Susan Lennert
Christine Hils
Virginia Gubasta
Mary Macias

*P.S. We are still waiting on names from National but
would appreciate hearing from you if you sent your
donation directly into National.*

“When we ask people for money to strengthen or
expand the work of the Kingdom, we are also inviting
them into a new spiritual communion.” *Henri Nouwen*

We invite you into spiritual communion with IVC!
Through your financial support you empower us to
nurture those who nurture others by serving in non-
profits throughout the region.

If you would like to contribute please fill out the form
below and return it with your check to:

Ignatian Volunteer Corps
4714 Chickering Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email: _____

Donation Amount Enclosed: _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please send card in honor or remembrance to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

One minister I once worked for shared a story about a
woman who gave generously to the church. When
her husband died, her resources became more limited
and friends of hers asked him to let her know that she
was no longer expected to give to the church at previ-
ous levels. When he approached her she scolded
him, “Honey, I give with a spoon and God gives with a
shovel!” When our fists are clenched to giving there
is no openness to receive.

*May you be blessed as you
bless others!*

Jean Shannon's

Address to the congregation of Bellarmine Parish at Xavier University on Oct 26, 2014

Good morning! My name is Jean Shannon, and though I am relatively new to Ignatian Volunteer Corp, also known as "IVC", I'd like to share some of my IVC experiences and blessings with you this morning.

So, what really makes IVC unique and why consider volunteering through this organization?

Growing up, my family emphasized faith and service. Service was a component of faith though I did not understand the connection between wrapping presents for "Toys for Tots", helping out at school or church, and, sitting in the pew on Sunday mornings.

Attendance at my high school's Friday night prayer meetings spawned my curiosity towards this vibrant, compassionate God. Attending Saint Louis University for my undergrad, Jesuit instructors emphasized "reflection" and seeking God in experiences. "Having a diary" now became "journaling" and these priests and novitiates were real people who could sit down, and discuss faith with me, a faith that was now deepening. I continued to recognize the importance of service in various activities though I had limited insight into the dots God was drawing between service and faith.

The depth and connection of these experiences ..and dots..has truly become realized through IVC. As you may know, "Ignatian Volunteer Corps is an organization **of** volunteers and **for** volunteers". Individuals, age 50 and over have the opportunity to "serve the underserved, the poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition". As you may know, Ignatian spirituality is summed in 1 phrase – "finding God in all things".

The blessings and "ah- hah" moments seeing God in all things have been bountiful since joining IVC. The first was realizing I could participate; I did not have to be retired! Since I was employed full time, Linda Wihl explained the possibility of offering one day per week. God's handiwork had now allowed the IVC possibility to become a reality for me. Linda understood my interest in working with kids and specifically children's health. She matched me with a volunteer experience at Rothenberg School, assisting the school nurse.

During my initial phone discussion with the school nurse, we began to realize some commonalities. Yes, once again, the Divine was in action! The school nurse, "Shannon", had attended Ursuline and was an upper-classman. As we spoke, I vividly remembered Shannon's joyous spirit, easy smile, and gifted journalism. Despite her successful career in journalism, a few years ago, she decided to return to school, obtain her Nursing degree, and was now a public health nurse. Our paths were crossing again and, though I **could** see God's



hand, I was not sure where we were going.

As a volunteer, I assist Nurse Shannon in whatever capacity. This may involve distracting students from imminent injections, data entry, health screening, crowd control, checking Body Mass Indexes, or offering a listening ear. The kids are rich with life experiences, and, sometimes burdened. I see God's presence as they bounce in to see Nurse Shannon for their meds, or, curl up on the cot in her office with restricted breathing. I see God's presence as

Nurse Shannon, listens to their words, hears their deeper concerns, and systematically assesses the cause of their pains. Though I am the volunteer, she and the kids have been my blessing enabling me to see God's face in each experience...remember the Ignatian spirituality phrase?? Yes, God has been at work!

IVC is committed to each volunteer's spiritual development. Consequently, you meet monthly with a spiritual reflector; a guide who aids your spiritual discovery and integration. Interestingly, I was paired with "Jean Marie" who had strong Ursuline connections. So, Jean Marie, affiliated with the Ursulines was to meet with me (Jean Marie) affiliated with the Ursulines; and we realized we both knew Nurse Shannon...coincidence?? Hmm...I think His plan continues! Our discussions have truly challenged me to look deeper into God's presence in all experiences; and to connect previous realizations with current illuminations. This interaction fosters enhanced spiritual development and an aspect I have not experienced with other volunteer opportunities.

The blessings continue through monthly IVC gatherings and semiannual retreats. These monthly meetings are avenues for support, reflection, and spiritual development. The joys and challenges are voluntarily identified by participants. Reading, reflection, mass, and a meal deepen the uniqueness of this volunteer experience offered through IVC. The support and concern for each other is overwhelming!

Through IVC, God is connecting the dots for me. He encourages me to realize His presence in each experience. As each of us continues on our faith journey,

I encourage you to consider participation in IVC. You will be amazed as God's plan unfolds; and, as you see Him in all experiences. Thank you.

P.S. Jean now teaches at Mt. St. Joseph's University run by the Sisters of Charity. Her address to Bellarmine witnesses how IVC changes the lives of our volunteers. She continues to volunteer and involve her students in volunteerism as well.

*It is not hard to obey when we love the one
whom we obey.
St. Ignatius Loyola*



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 Website: ivcusa.org

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. You're best job may be after you retire!

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Greetings IVC Family and Friends!

Our volunteers addressed the congregation at Bellarmine on Parents' Weekend at Xavier University. One of the parents from Indiana wrote to National saying, "I was in Cincinnati on Sunday (Xavier campus) and heard the most stirring presentation regarding IVC. If I lived there, I would have joined on the spot. I am disappointed that we have nothing of this type of volunteer + spiritual direction + book club -- a way to engage so many aspects of the person in one program -- locally." We're not sure if it's related but Indianapolis is now undergoing a feasibility study about bringing IVC to Indiana. Jane LaFave "had a really nice conversation with Father Joe" who spearheaded Cincinnati's study and has invited myself and a couple of volunteers to meet with folks in Indianapolis in February.

This year is a landmark year for Cincinnati—ten years since Claver considered the "feasibility" of IVC here. It's also Fr. Joe Folzenlogen, SJ's 75th Birthday on April 1st, (no fooling). Fr. Joe is not only one of our founding fathers; he has been our Spiritual Animator since the beginning. Among other roles, Fr. Joe has served as Director at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, the Office of Evangelization in Indianapolis Diocese, and most recently Claver Community. He is also currently the Vice-Superior of the Jesuit Faber Community. For Claver and Faber it is a year of transition with Claver's office moving from South Cumminsville to Winton Hills and Faber closing and merging with Xavier's and St. Xavier's households.

In the spring we look forward to honoring Fr. Joe Folzenlogen at our first ever Della Estrada Event: "The Madonna Della Strada Award is named for Santa Maria Della Strada (Italian for "Our Lady of the Way"), the first church that St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits obtained to serve the urban poor in 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." Fr. Joe truly does reflect these values. More later!

With gratitude, Linda Wihl, IVC Regional Director, Greater Cincinnati