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A  
Difference

## Ignatian Volunteer Year 2013-14 has gotten off to a decisive start!



This year we have welcomed **six** new Ignatian Volunteers:

**Judith Curran, Dee Hinkle, Mike Reap, Jim Ryan, Bill Simon and Tom Tueth.**

The new year of service began with our Orientation Meeting at Mercy Retreat and Conference Center in late August. We began the day confirming that our service in IVC is rooted in our Baptismal call to “put on Christ” and serve others. Following our Gathering prayer, six of our veteran IVC’s agreed to share their insights on: “walking in the door to serve”; (Mary Kellogg and Gerry Hempstead); the formative value of meeting regularly with their Spiritual Reflector (Rosemary Myers and Mike Doherty) and the grace and growth of journaling (Craig Schoenfelder and Susan Wells-Souza). Gerry added humor as he offered a vocal rendition of the newly written, “Our Lady’s Inn” song. Susan closed the reflections with these words from her Journal: “And I cried all the way home”.

Thanks to the generosity of Father Rich Buhler, Rector of Jesuit Hall, the IVC Community is gathering for their monthly Community meetings in the Loyola Room, followed by Eucharist in the JH 1st floor Chapel, and enjoying lunch from the Jesuit Hall kitchen. Thank you, Father Buhler, for welcoming us to Jesuit Hall and sharing your space. We are delighted. (And special thanks to Mike French, SJ, who is so generous in making sure all of the tech equipment is up and running).

*‘Following the example of Christ, the church should be, above all, the church of the poor and the oppressed. . . The poor, the disadvantaged, must stand at the very center of our concern. For they need justice as much as everyone else. Only they can neither buy it nor impose it. It was left for God to bring the good news to the poor. But God is not only the God of the poor. God is, in a real sense, God who is poor. For the mystery of the Incarnation has established a special relationship between God and poverty, the meaning of which goes much deeper than mere compassion.*

The following 19 sites are where our 31 IVC volunteers are serving. Several of our sites have more than one IVC volunteer:

A WOMAN'S PLACE  
BOYS HOPE/GIRLS HOPE  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES –MID TOWN  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES–SOUTH SIDE  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES–ST. PETER'S  
COLLEGE CHURCH/SOCIAL MINISTRIES  
DE LA SALLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL  
MARIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SCHOOL  
FOCUS–GATEWAY CITY  
KINGDOM HOUSE  
NURSES FOR NEWBORNS  
OUR LADY'S INN, CITY  
OUR LADY'S INN, DEFIANCE  
SLU LAW CLINIC  
PROJECT PLUS  
WILLOWS WAY  
QUEEN OF PEACE

This year's IVC Read is: Tattoos on the Heart, by Greg Boyle, SJ. The National Office of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps forms a committee through the year to select a book which all 16 IVC sites are asked to read for their Community Monthly Meeting discussions. In addition, the committee generously provides a Study Guide to accompany the reading.

There is a three-year cycle for the book selection – Prayer, Ignatian Spirituality, and Social Justice. This year the focus is Social Justice and Greg Boyle's Tattoos on the Heart speaks directly to the heart and then some!

Greg Boyle will be speaking live in St. Louis at SLU Busch Student Center, Wool Ballroom, Monday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Plan to attend if you can. Admission is free.

Meeting monthly with a Spiritual Reflector is an integral part of the Ignatian Volunteer Program.

We currently have **24** Spiritual Reflectors journeying with our IVC's.

LOOKING FOR SOME ADDITIONAL IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY RESOURCES, CHECK OUT:

[www.ignatianspirituality.com/dotmagis](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/dotmagis)

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Thank you to Sara Smith for the Newsletter layout.

## TESTIMONIALS

Newly committed IVC volunteer, Bill Simon, on his experience serving at Willows Way, a center serving developmentally disabled adults located in St. Charles:

***"If God loves us the disordered like this staff love the disabled, then we are all in good shape!"***



(Bill Smith on right)



Mike Doherty comments on this year's new assignment at Boys Hope/Girls Hope:

***"Things are going well after the first 3 weeks. The scholars are smart, the staff is supportive and good at asking me how things are going and requesting feedback. Those boys should eat some vegetables!"***

*"Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up; there are no situations which God cannot change."*

~ Pope Francis

### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IVC?

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