

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Love in Deeds of Service

Winter 2006
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IVC Los Angeles Has Arrived

The joke is that Jenn Mangali gave birth twice this year. First, to her second daughter, Grace Marie, in August, and then to IVC Los Angeles in January!

Much like giving birth to a child, the planning for IVC Los Angeles was detailed, the anticipation and excitement was high, and in the end, the Spirit proved once again She was in charge. Jenn Mangali, the regional director for IVC Los Angeles, started the wheels in motion in April 2005 to open the new regional program.

On January 6, Jenn, Wayne Negrete, SJ, Spiritual Advisor and Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hollywood, CA, and Josie Piranio, IVC San Diego, led the first group of new volunteers through an Orientation and Day of Prayer.

Service supported by prayer and reflection is the cornerstone of the IVC. The 2005-06 theme for IVC volunteer members across the country is "Finding God in All Things." Through reading, daily journaling, monthly meetings with a spiritual reflector and local volunteers, and retreats, IVC members strive to deepen their service experience and see the meaning in their work – to "find God in all things."

"I think the spiritual formation component of the program is very attractive to a lot of people," Mangali points out. "They're directly reflecting on



IVC Los Angeles Volunteers (left to right) John Saito, Barbara Schroeder, and Bill Maddigan

their service as part of their own faith journey." Part of that journey includes reading and discussing the book *Doing the Truth in Love: Conversations about God, Relationships, and Service*, by Michael J. Himes.

The Los Angeles volunteers are Bill Maddigan, serving at Loyola High School; Barbara Schroeder, serving at the Pregnancy Help Center; and

John Saito, serving at Verbum Dei High School. IVC Los Angeles has open volunteer opportunities at five other partner agencies: Loyola Marymount PLACE Corps, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, St. Francis Center, Dolores Mission, and Blessed Sacrament Social Services Agency.

The first group of volunteers will experience an abbreviated year, serving from January to June, and the first full program year will begin in September. Applications for volunteers and partner agencies are being accepted for the 2006-07 program year.

For more information about IVC Los Angeles, contact Jenn Mangali, 310-937-8280, e-mail: LA@ilvc.org.

IVC LOS ANGELES

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IVC Mission

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) provides men and women age 50 and over the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

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You may have noticed our name was shortened a bit to make it clearer and a bit less cumbersome. We are still the same program: the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, with its unique blend of service and spirituality for people aged 50 and greater.



Now that I've reached the age when I could be volunteer (except that I haven't retired!), I read with more interest materials on Baby Boomers, service, and finding God in the mid and later years. IVC co-founder Fr. Charlie Costello introduced me to Eugene Bianchi:

"A spirituality for midlife calls for a turning inward, for a deeper contemplative life..."

"A spirituality of aging invites older persons to engage more actively in the world..." (Eugene Bianchi)

While these statements may seem contradictory, they aren't if viewed from an Ignatian point of view.

- Saint Ignatius developed his Spiritual Exercises for people to be guided through various contemplations on the actions of God in their lives.
- Jesuits, the religious order founded by St. Ignatius, are often called contemplatives in action.
- Through the spiritual program of IVC, volunteers reflect on their service and then see where God is acting in their lives and in the lives of people they serve.

Ignatian Volunteers tell me that their community life with other volunteers helps their living out this way of being a contemplative in action. Their IVC community differs from their previous occupational groups and social groups. In IVC city meetings and retreats they meet people who share similar experiences of living out their faith through service.

You may not be able to join IVC, but there may be ways you can be involved. New IVC regions are in the works for Cincinnati and St. Louis so perhaps you can spread that word for us. Or help with media coverage, such as two IVC features this fall: the religion page of the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer and a feature story on EWTN Live on the Eternal Word Television Network. Thank you for your partnership, prayers and support!



EWTN Live, with (left to right) George Sullivan, IVC Chicago; Fr. Jim Conroy, SJ; and host Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ

Suzanne

People, Prayer and Justice

Tom Howarth, Director, Fr. McKenna Center

This article is adapted from a talk given to members of IVC Baltimore and IVC Washington DC/Northern Virginia September 13, 2005 at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD. Tom Howarth is Director of the Fr. McKenna Center of Saint Aloysius Church in Washington, DC, an IVC partner agency.

What have I learned about working with the poor and the homeless?

First, it is about people. It's about Neal, who is 28 and grew up in a house where his father was a member of the Crips, a notorious gang in New York City. Neal was involved in drugs and violence and prison. He fled New York and came to Washington. He is an engaging fellow and a gifted writer. He is also in possession of the demons of his addictions and his past.

It's about Albion, who sat next to me one morning in tears confessing that he had nothing to show for his life. He was addicted to crack cocaine and he would do anything to support his habit, legal and otherwise. He was disgusted with himself and said, "God does not want me to die this way."

And it's about people lining up at the McKenna Center to get a monthly bag of groceries and people coming in the winter time when it is very cold to stay at the McKenna Center so they will not freeze on the streets.

Yes, it is about people, our brothers and sisters. People who teach you to count your blessings and not to generalize about the poor and homeless.

Second, I think working with the poor and homeless is very much about prayer. I am one who believes in what my friend calls "Noisy Contemplation." A chapel is a nice place to pray and I've done my share. But, I also believe that if you are working for justice, a telephone call can also be a prayer. If you act with the yearning that dry bones will come to life, then your action can also be a prayer.

When the hurt is so great that it induces sadness in us and we know that progress will be slow, we have to be prayerful people. We have to develop a philosophy and prayer life that will sustain us, lest we be overtaken by the sadness.



The late Fr. McKenna believed that all churches should have a place that focuses on the needs of the poor and the homeless in our community.

Finally, working with the poor is about charity and justice.

I believe in a preferential option for the poor, because this is the very nature of God. This concept was brought home to me in, of all places, an Ann Landers column. A fellow wrote a letter to his mother charging her with playing favorites among her children. His mother wrote back and said: "Yes, it is true. I do play favorites among my children. My favor always goes first to the one who is sick until he gets well and to the one who is away until she comes home."

When I first heard of the idea of a preferential option for the poor, I had the same reaction that I think most middle class Americans have. Well, I said, if God gives preference to the poor, what is there for me?

The more I studied Scripture the clearer it became to me why the preferential option for the poor is good news to rich and poor alike. Jesus said he came to give sight to the blind and blindness to those that see. He came to give understanding of God's plan to the poor, to those who were neglected and left out of society – and to show that those who thought they had it all figured out to their advantage that they understood nothing of God's way.

So God loves the poor. And God loves the poor because they are poor...not because they are sober, or polite, or well behaved or grateful...but because they are poor. To tell the poor of God's love rings quite hollow unless we show how much we love the poor. To be dishonest with the poor is not a form of love. To tell a man addicted to drugs that God will save him is to be dishonest about the nature of the relationship between that person and God. It is quite true that God is waiting for you to turn toward home, but you have to make the turn.

If we are to be effective in our work, it is important not to romanticize the poor. It is possible for us to cripple the poor even more with our best wishes and charitable impulses. To devote ourselves to the service of the poor can have its difficulties and trials but it is in the end an easy burden because we are walking the same path as God.

A New Director's Perspective

Liz McMahon, IVC New York Regional Director

Liz joined IVC New York as Regional Director in October 2005. In her previous position at Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ, she served for twelve years as the Director for Community Service and Service Learning. A graduate of Boston College, Liz also served with Jesuit Volunteer Corps: East for several years.

The Jesuit notion of "finding God in all things" becomes a way of life for Ignatian Volunteers. Inspired to share their time, talent, and compassion with nonprofit agencies serving the many that are disenfranchised in our communities, Ignatian Volunteers offer hope and stability on a daily basis to individuals and families disenfranchised by the economic, educational, and political realities of their lives.

As the new NY Metro Regional Director, I am awed by the breadth of our volunteers' expertise, competence, and purpose. IVC members serve a wide variety of roles and contribute thousands of hours as teachers, tutors, mentors, counselors, legal advisors, immigration advocates, computer consultants, and research associates on international and

human rights issues, just to name a few. Agencies in New York City, New Jersey and Long Island include soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries, schools, social service agencies, immigration offices, hospitals, detention centers and group homes. While some volunteers offer their professional expertise through their service assignment, others draw on past professional roles to explore new fields and bring fresh points of view to the service position.



Liz McMahon

In today's secular society, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps provides a counter cultural experience where volunteers combine good work with spiritual growth through IVC's structure of prayer, reflection, journaling, and retreats. In addition to service, the common desire among the volunteers is to examine their experience through the lens of their Catholic Christian faith and the guidance of Ignatian spirituality.

As I begin my third month with IVC New York, I look forward to digging deeper and expanding the programs and services offered to our volunteers, community partners, and the clients served.

IVC Chicago Member Receives Inspiration Award



*Warren Grienberger
(photo by Steve Donisch)*

Literacy Works, a Chicago adult tutor training organization, awarded IVC Volunteer Warren Grienberger a citywide Inspiration Award. He received the award on June 18, 2005, at the North Park Nature Center at the annual Literacy Works gala.

Literacy Works, Inc. trains tutors for all the adult literacy agencies in Chicago. Warren spent the last three years tutoring adult learners with no English language skills at the Albany Park Community Center. He has exhibited extraordinary dedication and respect for his students while providing the emotional support that is necessary to help them succeed.

"Warren is an asset to our agency," said Amy Aleman, Director of Adult Literacy/Volunteers at the Albany Park Community Center. "He goes out of his way to make sure students have access to technology and software. We are really proud to have him as a volunteer."

"Working with IVC has brought an entirely new dimension to my life," says Warren. "I no longer measure myself by standards of professional success, but rather by how well I am fulfilling Jesus' challenge to us to love and help each other."

**IGNATIAN
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Action
Experience**

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The full Annual Report is
available at www.ilvc.org

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

2004-2005

2004-05 Annual Report Excerpt

Charlie Costello, SJ

Fund for Growth

Dedicated to connecting the experience and talents of retired men and women with the real and many needs of people who are materially poor

Ten years ago, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps began in three cities with 11 volunteers. In 2004-05, 187 men and women in ten states and the District of Columbia provided 14,000 hours of service each month, reaching out countless numbers of children, adults and families – truly faith in action!

Thanks to all who have invested in IVC to make this growth possible. And thanks to all who continue to respond and invest in the future of IVC through the Costello Fund for Growth.

The Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus has made a challenge grant of \$50,000 to IVC, agreeing to match dollar-for-dollar new gifts received through March 2006 – resulting in \$100,000 for IVC to expand current programs and move into new areas where poverty needs are the greatest. As of December 2005, IVC received over \$50,000 in support of this important initial challenge.

IVC has a bright future as long as God continues to send people ready to respond generously to God's call. We are inspired to walk confidently into the future as our Jesuit co-founders did when creating and building our Ignatian program.

Contact Tamara Zavislan, IVC Director of Development, 888-831-4686 or tzavislan@ilvc.org, to make a single gift or a multi-year pledge to the Costello Fund for Growth.



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We are proud to recognize the individuals and organizations whose generous financial support helps IVC volunteer members to serve the needs of those who are materially poor, work for a more just society, and grow deeper in faith through reflection and prayer in the Ignatian tradition. *Alphabetically listed gifts received between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.*



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**When you
learn, teach.
When you get,
give.**

- Maya Angelou

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*Peter Kopkowski, IVC
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 for Mission Circle in
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**The true
 meaning of
 life is to plant
 trees, under
 whose shade you
 do not expect
 to sit.**

**- Nelson
 Henderson**



Pat Doyle, IVC San Diego Regional Coordinator, and Fr. Bill Creed, IVC Chicago, at San Diego May Retreat



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Ann Mayes

Joseph and Carol Furnari - 50th wedding anniversary

Sharon Scibek

Suzanne Geaney's 50th**Birthday**

Anne M. Allbrooks
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew R.
Anthony
Scott E. and Jacqueline R.
Antkowiak

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bastress

Eileen Capshaw

Mr. & Mrs. John Cavey

Mr. & Mrs. Randolph B. Duket

Katherine Elliott

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Engler, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Formica

Molly Geaney & J. Michael
Moore

Mr. & Mrs. David Groom

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Hackett

Kate Haser

Mr. & Mrs. Dexter Housel

Carolyn Kendall

Samuel Master

Robert Moore

Pam O'Brien

Mr. & Mrs. David Orlin

Josie Piranio

Diane Tollick

Charles W. Wunder

Dick Hayden

Franciscan Center

Francis X. Hezel, SJ

Richard T. Hezel

Lawrence J. Hunt, SJ

James J. Fitzpatrick & Barbara
Carroll

Immaculate Conception

Philip L. Meddleton

Edward Kilkelly

Gregory Rinn

Kerrie, Harold, Mary, and Amy Lauth

Lawrence V. Lauth

Meg Mannix and Mark Horak, SJ

Mari A. Horak

Maryland Province Jesuits

Thomas P. McCarthy

James F. McAndrews, SJ

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen P. Stowe

Father Joe McCloskey, SJ

Ed Prendergast

Jack and Cathy McGoldrick

Catherine Dawson

Fr. Walter Modrys, SJ

Mary Ashcroft Donoso

Pat and Gene Monahan

Mr. & Mrs. James G. Monahan

Elaine and Donnie Murray

Irene Sailer

Frank O'Connor, SJ

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Erhard

Rick Ralphson, SJ

Georgiann Bicek
Karen B. Pritchard

Joan Saltzmann

Irene Sailer

Elsie Scibek

Sharon Scibek

Our families

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Zavislan

**We ourselves
feel that what
we are doing is
just a drop in
the ocean. But
the ocean
would be less
because of that
missing drop.**

- Mother Teresa



Andy Wagner, IVC Baltimore, journaling during the annual retreat.

2004-05 Financial Statement

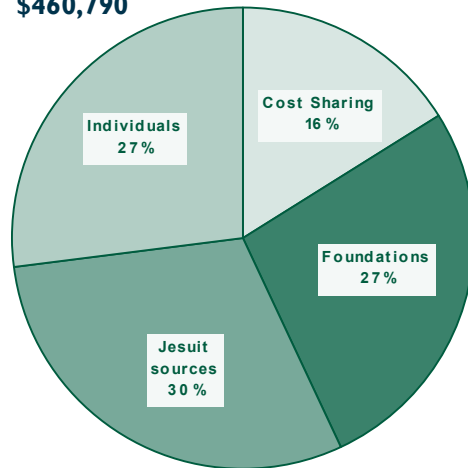
The Ignatian Volunteer Corps provides men and women age 50 and over the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are materially poor, work for a more just society, and grow through reflection and prayer in the Ignatian tradition.

In 2004-05, 187 men and women served as Ignatian Volunteers in major metropolitan areas in California, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

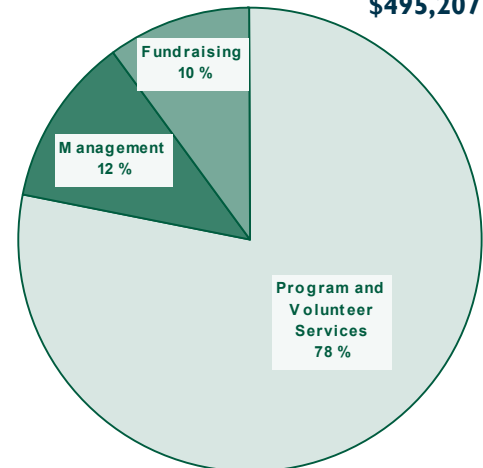
Foundations, individuals, and Jesuit Provinces and Communities are the main sources of funding for IVC. The BBB Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability recommends that an organization spend at least \$0.65 of every dollar on program services. **Over the past four years, \$0.78 of every dollar raised by IVC has been used for program services.** In 2004-05, individual gifts and foundation grants each accounted for 27% of revenue, Jesuit Provinces and communities attributed 30%, and administrative fees from partner agencies accounted for 16%. Annual revenues increased 3.6% over the previous year.

A full copy of the annual financial statement is available from the Ignatian Volunteer Corps by calling the IVC National Office at 888-831-4686.

2004-05 Revenue
\$460,790



2004-05 Expenses
\$495,207



801 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-2405

Phone: 888-831-4686
Fax: 410-752-8480
E-mail: ilvc@ilvc.org

	Year-End Statement June 30, 2005	Year-End Statement June 30, 2004
Revenue	\$460,790	\$444,959
Expenses	\$495,207	\$409,160
Net revenue/(expenses)	\$(34,417)	\$35,799
New Assets, beginning of year	\$160,363	\$124,564
Total Net Assets	\$125,946	\$160,363

Reflections from Nigeria, October 19, 2005

Francis M. O'Connor, SJ

I write this on my 81st birthday from the Loyola Jesuit College (LJC) in Abuja, Nigeria, where I serve as associate chaplain and also as superior of the Jesuit community who help staff the school.

We are a Jesuit community of ten - seven young Nigerians and three Americans. The hard working faculty at LJC numbers about 70, including six Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus (SHCJ) from Africa. There are 600 students, all boarders, girls and boys, Christians and Muslims, 11 to 18 years old, and all very smart, each having passed a rigorous entrance examination to enroll here.

Most of the students come from prosperous families (the fees are high), but a number of scholarships guarantees a significant number of students from economically poorer backgrounds as part of the mix.

The motto of the school is "Service of God and Others." All of us who work here hope that the spirit of those words will remain with the students long after they complete their six years of demanding study and highly regimented life at LJC. I think St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus, would like what is happening here to nurture some of Africa's future leaders. It is a privilege to be part of such a challenging enterprise, especially at this age!

As I type these words on my birthday, I am filled with gratitude for God's love manifested in so many gifts over the years. This happy infusion of thanksgiving is familiar to me - and to many of you - from the great Contemplation of God's Love, usually prayed near the end of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. This contemplation is considered by many to be the pinnacle of the Ignatian Exercises with its invitation to look back and let pass in memory and imagination the array of gifts God has shared with us, each of them a personal self-communication of the Divine. Gifts such as: human life, parents, family, education, friends, faith, Church, humor, poetry, food, flowers, films, music, artists, Sacraments, e-mail, IVC, challenges, work, retirement,

books, travel, children, grandchildren....where does the parade end? Each of us treasures a list that is like no one else's; it has our name on it because God's love for each of us is unique, matchless, special. The gifts incarnate (embody) that love for each one of us, faint shadows perhaps of the great Gift of Jesus, the Incarnate God who became our Brother and Friend, one of us, part of our human family, who loves to be with us.



Members of IVC and friends of IVC will recognize this magnificent prayer of thanksgiving based on the Ignatian Contemplation of God's Love. When IVC members are asked: "Why are you part of IVC?" the response usually is something like: "I want to give something back." That reply is rooted deeply in gratitude; it has "Thank You" written all over it and it is genuinely Ignatian. It is also reminiscent of what Jesus did at the Last Supper, the first Eucharist: "...he took bread and gave You thanks...he took the cup. Again he gave You thanks and praise..." In saying "Thank You" to God, we could not be in better company, could we?

I have a clear intuition that God also likes to say "Thank you." God's "Thank you" is to members of IVC for who you are and for what you do; and God's words of gratitude are also directed to the generous friends of IVC for who you are and for what you do.

On December 10, 2005, a plane crash in Nigeria took the lives of 60 students of Loyola Jesuit College traveling home for the holidays. Each class lost at least one student and one class lost six. The school term began on January 9, 2006. Rev. Peter Schineller, SJ, President of LJC, writes on the school's website, "The love, support, care, compassion and prayers that we received have helped us begin anew." For more information on LJC, visit www.loyolajesuit.org.

