

Corps Connector

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Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
Virginia Regional
Council

Mike Goggin
Joanie Coolidge
Regional Directors

Joseph Dempsey
Joseph Jones
James Kelley
Pamela Lucey
Dennis Lucey
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Francis Murphy
Joseph Raia
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Corps Connector

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otherwise noted

Notes from the Editor



GOD WITH UNRELENTING PERSISTENCE entices us forward. As the universe continues to emerge, so here on earth, nature never stands still. A beautiful sun-shiny day can be followed by a hurricane Sandy that



Internet Photo
Hurricane Sandy— Jersey shore

trashed much of the east coast a couple of years ago. Uproots trees, downs power lines, rips houses from their foundations and dumps them across the bay, sends flood waters raging over their banks, erodes beaches and leaves towering tangles of pipes, insulation and siding, huge chunks of concrete and black-top, twisted road signs, roof shingles and unidentifiable parts of wrecked automobiles.

Yet after Sandy passes—on the Jersey shore, at least—beautiful new homes now rise on ten foot high stilts; new shrubs and plants and flowers brighten what only a little while ago was a blasted landscape. After chaos something new and different always emerges. This is how we evolve.

Personally, I've been buffeted by my own mini-Sandy. I've spent the last several weeks in discernment, wondering whether it is time to move from the condominium I've lived in these past forty years. Asking myself, am I ready to stop living by myself and move to an independent living place like the Virginian, in Fairfax? Only to counter with: why move? Isn't everything perfect just the way it is? Isn't my condo perfect? My routine perfect? And won't putting this plan into action unleash a hurricane Sandy into my life?

As I vacillate between these two opposing positions, I sit here pondering this seeming 'perfect' state. It sort of reminds me of when I was a thirteen year old. I really had this 'being a kid' thing down pat. I felt I had paid a heavy price learning this kid 'thing': So many rivers to cross or navigate. So many blind alleys to extricate myself from. But at thirteen it's fun to be a kid and I want to be a kid forever. But following this bright, short-lived sun-shiny day, the hurricane strikes: nature plunges me into the chaos of puberty.

Out of that chaos, just like on the Jersey shore, something new begins to emerge —albeit not so quickly as it has emerged there. A new person is born. A new being nothing like the thirteen year old I left behind. (Yet thankfully, though left behind, I still enjoy that kid's company.)

Today, like when I was thirteen, I've finally got this present phase of my life down pat and I want to stay here forever. But a strange medical condition and my advancing years say to me: Go! Hard as it will surely be to let this perfect life and this perfect place go, may it not be time to move to where life might want to take me? Time to move to that final stage? So the discernment turmoil continues!



You yourself have listened to God's enticing voice and have become an Ignatian volunteer or spiritual reflector. You have committed yourself to God's poor and forgotten; or to bring justice to this chaotic world.

It may happen that while at the same time you may be discerning a momentous life change as I've described, or caring for an aging parent, or dealing with a personal medical issue, you nevertheless continue to be a faithful and loving companion to the clients/guests under your care in IVC. You accompany them as they navigate the rivers of their lives and seek to help them escape from the blind alleys of alcohol/drug abuse or mental illness. Or weep with them over intractable problems of spouse abuse, unfair immigration laws, childhood sexual abuse or the enforced joblessness and homelessness brought on suddenly and unexpectedly by the 2008 financial crisis.

By your holy lives you struggle to bring the face, and the loving heart of Jesus, to those closest to him.

Dick Bowling

The Affirming Challenge of Pope Francis

We were a group of almost fifty “IVCers” at Loyola-on-the-Potomac Retreat House where we came to reflect, discuss and renew for three days in early June. During our sojourn, John Carr, our merry and able facilitator, offered us insights and challenges as well as memorable and revealing stories about our new Pope.

John graciously noted that he was the facilitator for the next few days, but Pope Francis was our retreat master, and everything, of course, eventually depended on Jesus.

THE MISSION John began by pointing out how our IVC mission to serve the needs of the poor, to work for a more just society and to deepen our faith rests securely in Jesus’ mission to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. (Luke 4:18) Now, more than ever, this mission is visible in the world because of what he describes as the “Francis factor.” In his actions, as well as his words, Pope Francis is calling the church to “go toward the periphery,” to be a “field hospital to heal wounds and warm hearts.” John asked, “Why does Francis affect us so?” Perhaps it is because he acts like Jesus.

For example, the morning after his election, the new pope opened his door and found a Swiss guard standing outside. He asked the guard how long he had been standing there and the guard answered, “Since midnight.” Pope Francis went back inside and returned with a chair and a cup of coffee and a roll. The guard told him that he was on duty and couldn’t possibly sit down and eat and drink. Pope Francis replied, “Young man, I’m the POPE! Sit down and eat!”

Following time for personal reflection, our small group came together to share our personal mission statements: “To release divine love into the world”... “To receive tattoos on my heart”... “To alleviate suffering.” One of our members calls his mission statement his “To Do” list. What is your one-of-a-kind mission statement?

THE MESSAGE On Wednesday morning, refreshed with sleep and fortified with a hot breakfast, we gathered to contemplate the Message. John began by noting that the clear and consistent message of Jesus and the Church is “God is Love” as expressed in the documents of the church and in the words and actions of

Pope Francis: “The goal of economics is to serve humanity, beginning with the poor.” Our pope’s belief in the sacredness of human life is lovingly illustrated by another story: Upon receiving a letter from an unmarried mother whose parish priest had refused to baptize her baby, Pope Francis wrote her back saying, “I would be honored to baptize your child.”

Highlighting the ineffectiveness of war at a G2 summit in September of 2013, Pope Francis expressed his belief that violence never begets peace and spoke about the futility of military solutions.

John suggested that the ID card of a Christian is the Beatitudes and that the whole message can be summed up in Matthew 25: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

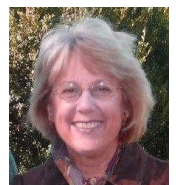
After quiet time for reflection, our small group gathered to share answers to the question, “What is MY message to the world?” Some fruits of our sharing: “God believes in YOU!”, “Be humble and give back”, “I CARE”, “Present and Available”.



On Thursday morning, Tom Ulrich facilitated a reflection on the past year through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. He described Catholic Social Teaching as a roadmap to a vision of the world as it should be, a moral framework for making decisions, and a blueprint for a just and loving world. In small groups and as one large group we grappled with the structures of sin, personal and social, and contemplated the process for the reconciliation of social sin. This was a lively and enlightening way to wrap up our social justice year.

Along with our well-loved traditions of daily Mass, the wine and cheese social, movie night with popcorn, and 24/7 cookies, a new element was introduced: spiritual directors were available for one-on-one meetings during the retreat. As a spiritual director, I enjoyed the opportunity to reflect on this IVC journey with some of our new members as well as some who have been around for many years. It was a good time.

Contributed by Pat Durkin,
NoVa Spiritual Reflector





I started preparing for my retirement from federal service by following the daily meditations of Franciscan Fr. Richard Rohr. While I found Rohr’s emphasis on contemplative spirituality to be something of an acquired taste, I admired Rohr’s messages on using your life experiences to find a new way to live the Gospels late in life. I decided to spend the first months of my retirement just emptying myself after 39 years of federal service.

I spent more time with my family and friends and traveled to Italy where I visited the towns where my grandparents were born. I toured some of the great centers of my Catholic-Christian faith. (I was especially moved by a tour of Assisi and a visit to Francis’ burial place.) I also prayed daily for guidance and talked with others about how they had approached major transitions in their lives. The months turned into a year, but by January of 2014 I was ready to find a regular volunteer service opportunity.

I was led to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps web site and decided the IVC approach of matching those over 50 with volunteer opportunities was right for me. I especially liked the spiritual support and development included in the IVC model. In February I joined IVC and then interviewed three different prospective social service organizations.

By March I felt I was called to serve at the first organization I was introduced to—the Centreville Labor Resource Center (www.centrevillelrc.org/). There I accepted the new position of Volunteer Coordinator, with an initial commitment of 8 hours of volunteer work a week. I liked the services that the Center provided to mostly immigrant day laborers—from a simple space in the back of a suburban shopping center. I recognized that my own grandfathers could have been helped at a place like this 100 years ago. I also liked the center’s clarity of purpose; the commitment of the staff, board members and volunteers; and the collaborative spirit I sensed was present among all I met there.

The Centreville Labor Resource Center was founded in 2011 to provide a safe place for day laborers to meet up with employers. Both workers and employers who use the Center must register. That requirement helps ensure that workers are paid a fair wage and reduces the risk of wage and other abuse. As far as Center founders know, it is the only indoor day labor resource center operating in Virginia.

Through a dedicated group of volunteers, the Center also provides training in literacy, language, life and vocational skills. The Center receives no government funding, but is supported by donations from businesses, churches and individuals. For example, the Center’s space is provided rent-free by the owner of the shopping center.

After joining the Center team I learned all I could about the way the Center operates and met as many of the people—the workers, volunteers, staff and board members—as I could. That helped me better understand opportunities to utilize volunteers to support the Center’s mission. While I acknowledge I still have a lot to learn, I am already confident that I have found God and a service home at the Centreville Labor Resource Center.

Among the tasks that I have taken on are the development and documentation of a volunteer intake process; consultation with board members and staff to identify new needs for volunteers; the establishment of a volunteer needs database; and the identification of resources for recruiting volunteers.

Inspired by a chapter in the IVC book for this past year—*Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, by Gregory Boyle, S.J.—I have struggled some to overcome the distance that my language limitations can create between me and those served at the Center. But I’m finding an easy “Kinship” or unity with the workers when I simply greet them at the Center or hire them to work around my own home. Working side by side with the workers and eating lunch together has helped me bridge whatever gaps existed.

I say that in almost 4 decades of service with the U.S. government, I was blessed to grow from a program analyst to a training director and then an organization development and change management consultant. In the Centreville Labor Resource Center I have found a new blessing in my life—a place where I can use my God-given gifts to serve migrant and other needy day laborers, as well as those called to support them.

by Austin Acocella





Juliet Orzal: Finding Faith Growing Stronger

When Juliet Orzal was being raised in a strict Catholic family in the Philippines, she was warned about spending too much time with relatives who were not Catholics. "My family was very protective of me and my faith," she says.

Different pressures came when she went to the State University. There students were assigned to dormitories run by various religious groups. She lived in a Methodist-run dorm where she was expected to participate in services and Bible study. "I found a new kind of spontaneous prayer in these sessions which I liked very much. But I remained a strong Catholic," she added with a smile.

Juliet spent two years with the Red Cross before joining the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) where she eventually became national director. In her twenty years of service, Juliet travelled frequently in the Far East, both as National Youth Service Director and with the Committee for Christian Education.

In a visit to Singapore at the International Institute for Ecumenism, she broadened her views on working with other faiths. While friends warned her that her work with the YWCA could weaken her own faith, Juliet found just the opposite: she became a stronger Catholic by seeing her religion in the larger setting of world Christianity.

Her first encounter with the Ignatian approach had come earlier when she met a charismatic priest in the Student Catholic Action program. He helped her expand her understanding of the Church's wider role in the world which he personally exemplified as an Irish Jesuit working in the Far East.

A sharp turn in Juliet's life came with a sabbatical from the YWCA. She spent a year at Antioch College in Ohio in an unusual Master's program in Volunteer Service Administration. A part-time job as Volunteer Coordinator

brought her to Washington and to Martha's Table, a program for the homeless, While in the United States, political turmoil swept across her home country. Juliet's family wanted her to stay in the U.S. but she returned home briefly when she found that her job at the 'Y' was gone.

She returned to Martha's Table where she spent 20 years before retiring. But retirement did not mean any more than changing jobs. She spent the next five years at the N Street Village, a program for homeless women, where she created a job development program.

A second retirement was no more restful than the first. Her son bought Juliet a dog but canine companionship was not enough. She became involved in the parish service at St. Aloysius Church near the Capitol. There she started a Christian Life Community program.

Through a parish friend, Juliet met Joe Jones, the IVC regional director for DC and Maryland, who offered several volunteer possibilities. Catholic Charities a diverse and loosely organized enterprise, seemed the best for her. Today, after four years of IVC work Juliet is still busy two days a week planning and helping manage a huge volunteer program. Catholic Charities has over 30,000 volunteers and over 700 employees. It seems the right place for Juliet's quiet determination to make use of her volunteer skills and unlimited enthusiasm.

Between her IVC work, Juliet travels regularly to Canada to visit her mother and sister who moved there many years ago. She still has a dog but he must accommodate a still ever-busy mistress.

When Juliet Orzal looks back on her long and busy life, she sees a stronger Catholic faith now centered on a wider view of Christianity. An energetic woman marching through a series of complex jobs with more enthusiasm with each challenge!

"I found a new kind of spontaneous prayer... which I liked very much. But I remained a strong Catholic."

**Contributed by Cliff Hackett,
DC/Metro MD Associate Editor**



Save
the
Date
Sept.

8-10

2014

Fall 2014

RETREAT

Loyola-on-the-
Potomac

Faulkner, Maryland

“Contemporary Theology’s Mission: Searching for the Divine Mystery, from the Far Reaches of the Universe to the Small Crannies in the Garden Wall”

Dolores Leckey, Facilitator of Fall 2014 Retreat

Dolores R. Leckey retired from the Woodstock Theological Center in 2012 where for fourteen years, as a senior research fellow, she worked on projects in Church leadership, particularly women's leadership. Formerly, she served for twenty years as the Executive Director of the Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women, and Youth at the



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She has been an official advisor to the American Catholic bishops at two Roman Synods: one on the family in 1980 and the other on the laity in 1987. Earning her B.A. from St. Johns University in New York and her M.A. from the George Washington University in Washington D.C., Ms. Leckey has worked as a faculty member of the DeSales School of Theology and as a producer for WNVN Channel 53 in Northern Virginia. She has been recognized for her accomplishments with numerous awards for her service to the Church and to society, including a 2003 Person of Vision award from the Ar-

lington Commission on the Status of Women. Additionally, she has been awarded twelve honorary doctorates, three of which are doctors of divinity. She has lectured widely throughout the United States, Europe, and Australia. She is currently a member of the Ecumenical Institute of Spirituality and of the Association for Religion and Intellectual Life.

Selected Publications:

Monika K. Hellwig: The People's Theologian (co-editor; Liturgical Press, 2010)

Grieving with Grace: A Woman's Perspective (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2008)

The Laity and Christian Education (Paulist Press, 2006)

Spiritual Exercises for Church Leaders (co-author; Paulist Press, 2003)

Facing Fear with Faith (co-author; Ave Maria Press, 2002)

Blessings All Around Us (Resurrection Press, 1999)

Seven Essentials for the Spiritual Journey (Crossroad, 1999)

Winter Music: A Life of Jessica Powers, Poet, Nun, Woman of the Twentieth Century (Sheed & Ward, 1992)

Women and Creativity (Paulist Press, 1991) Madeleva Lecture

Laity Stirring the Church (Fortress, 1987)

Practical Spirituality for Lay People (Sheed & Ward, 1987)

The Ordinary Way: A Family Spirituality (Crossroad/Continuum, 1982)

A Look Ahead to 2014-2015

with Mike Goggin



A NEW PROGRAM YEAR always brings with it some changes, and that is true this year in the DC / Metro Maryland region. After serving for a year as mentor spiritual reflector, **Judy Allison** decided in late July to step down from that role. Judy will soon become a grandmother for the fifth time, and with her daughter living just eight miles from her, she feels that she needs to spend more time with that growing family. I want to thank Judy for all that she did for IVC this past year, and for the wonderful wisdom that she will continue to share with those lucky enough to have her as their spiritual reflector. **Vicki Bell** will begin facilitating the DC city group meeting on Tuesdays this fall at Washington Jesuit Academy, and I will soon go about inviting another reflector to step into Judy's shoes as mentor spiritual reflector for the region.

Along with the staff of TASSC (Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition),

IVC mourns the departures of two key volunteers this summer—**Kathy Crosson** and **Karen Simon**. Kathy and her husband are planning a cross-country move in the months to come and Karen needs some time to work on other projects. As one of our youngest volunteers, Karen resolves to return to membership in IVC someday. If IVC ever gains a foothold in the Pacific Northwest, don't be surprised if Kathy isn't leading the charge. TASSC International certainly delights in the fact that she was a take-charge volunteer who brought about a lot of change in that organization in the 15 months that she was posted there.

A sabbatical can be a wonderful time to refresh, renew and recharge—and I pray that will be true for **Vicki Malone**, **Marie-Claude Terrot** and **Joe Weller** this fall after many years spent volunteering at St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families; Joseph's House and Washington (Middle) School for Girls, respectively.

I pray also for the health of **Mary Grant**, who continues her recovery from a recurrence of cancer. Mary always adds such wit and candor to our monthly city group meetings as well as providing a loving presence to the babies at St. Ann's. I am hoping that she will be back with us soon.

Along with these departures come new names and faces and placements, both from this summer and from the first six months of 2014 as well. If you have not met them yet—at the June retreat or at April's Evening of Gratitude—we will soon have another opportunity as we gather for the opening retreat at Loyola September 8-10. I am so pleased that Dolores Leckey accepted my invitation to lead this retreat for us, and I sincerely hope that you can all attend. See page six for more details on the retreat and you there!
Peace,



Desert Island Spirituality

with Dick Bowling, Editor

“If you knew you were to be stranded on a desert island for ten or more years, what five spiritual books including the Bible would you take with you?” I sent this question to the Spiritual Reflectors and selected others in the DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia regions. These books were to include what Bible translation they would take, a couple of Spiritual “Classics” and a selection of Contemporary Spiritual Books. From

time to time I will publish in the Newsletter a selection of the books they said they'd like to have by their side. Here are some of their suggestions:

Bibles (according to the translations used): *The Complete Parallel Bible* ; four translations: New Revised Standard Version, Revised English Bible, New American Bible, New Jerusalem Bible --Oxford Press

Favorite Spiritual Classics: *The Story of a Soul*, *The Autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux*--St. Therese of Lisieux

That Man Is You--Louis Evely, translated by Edmund Bonin, Paulist Press., 1964, 1967

Contemporary Spiritual Books: *The Divine Milieu*--Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

Return of the Prodigal Son--Henri Nouwen

God in Search of Man --Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Summer 2014 Interns



Diamond Stevens, DC/Metro Maryland Intern

James Randall, Northern Virginia Intern

Diamond Stevens: Hello, my name is Diamond Stevens. I am eighteen years old and come from a Baptist tradition. I live Richmond, Virginia and recently graduated from St. Catherine's, an Episcopalian all-girls school. In August, I will be beginning my freshman year at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

I interned with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps over the month of July. I've been impressed with the dedication of the volunteers and the impact that this organization has on the community. To see all of these volunteers serving the economically disadvantaged and doing God's work during retirement really inspires me. I am fortunate to have been able to spend a month of my time here, learning more about service and the Ignatian tradition.

James Randall: James interned with the Northern Virginia region during the month of July. He will be a sophomore at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA this fall. He has been living with his parents in Falls Church this summer.

Upcoming Events

New Volunteer Orientation
 September 4, 2014
 9:30-3:15
 Missionhurst
 4651 25th Street, N
 Arlington, VA 22207

Fall 2014 Retreat:
 September 8-10, 2014
 Loyola Retreat House
 Faulkner, MD.
 FACILITATOR
 DOLORES LECKEY

January Day of Reflection
 January 16, 2015
 Josephite Pastoral Center
 1200 Varnum St.
 Washington, DC
 Facilitator: Dr. Rick Gaillardetz

Northern Virginia Region 2015-2015 City Groups

Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. Charles 3304 Washington Blvd Arlington, VA 22201 Room 103 2nd Thursday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. John Neumann's 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3rd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. Joseph's 701 Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon
Oct. 14, 2014	Oct. 9, 2014	Oct. 21, 2014	Oct. 15, 2014
Nov. 11, 2014	Nov. 12, 2014	Nov. 18, 2014	Nov. 19, 2014
Dec. TBD.	Dec. TBD	Dec. TBD	Dec. TBD
Feb. 10, 2015	Feb. 12, 2015	Feb 17, 2015	Feb. 18, 2015
Mar. 10, 2015	Mar. 12, 2015	Mar. 17, 2015	Mar. 18, 2015
Apr. 14, 2015	Apr. 9, 2015	Apr. 21, 2015	Apr. 22 2015
May 12, 2015	May 14, 2015	May 19, 2015	May 21, 2015

DC/Metro MD Region 2014-2015 City Groups

The Albrecht's 5814 Ogden Court, Bethesda, MD 20816 1st. Thurs.— 9:30-11:30	Wash. Jesuit Academy 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00
Oct. 2, 2014 Nov. 6, 2014 Feb. 5, 2015 Mar. 5, 2015 Apr. 2, 2015 May 7, 2015	Oct. 14, 2014 Nov. 11, 2014 Feb. 10, 2015 Mar. 10, 2015 Apr. 14, 2015 May 12, 2015

