

Corps Connector

Volume 10, Number 2

June, 2015



Fr. Jim Conroy: "Who knew 20 years ago that...."

Msgr. Ray East President and Homilist

2015 EVENING OF GRATITUDE



Della Strada honorees: John & Mariann Horejsi & Pete McCloskey & Peggy McCloskey Ferguson

Regional Directors:

Joanie Coolidge
Mike Goggin

Joseph Dempsey
Joseph Jones
James Kelley
Pamela Lucey
Dennis Lucey
Joseph McCloskey, S.J.
Joseph Raia
Grace Rissetto
Joe Sobierajski, SJ
Richard Urban

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Corps Connector

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Dick Bowling, Editor

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Photos by Dick Bowling unless otherwise noted

Notes from the Editor

The Meaning of Joy

from my Journal



GOOD MORNING, DEAR JESUS. Yesterday, Joanie, Susan Kral and I drove over to Gonzaga to plan the June Retreat (I did not attend the first planning session.)

Mike Goggin and one of his spiritual reflectors, Kate Finan, were there. The first thing on the agenda was to choose a theme. Since this retreat is reflecting on this past year's book, *The Joy of the Gospel* the group quickly came up with the theme: "The Call to Joy."

The group discussed this for a while. I just sat back and listened until either Susan or Kate remarked that there may be a few people at the retreat who for any number of reasons are unable to connect with joy. Joanie had just suggested an exercise: "recall the moments in your life when you experienced joy." The two statements, Joanie's and Susan's or Kate's aroused my interest in the discussion.

I said, I don't remember experiencing joy (or maybe I don't even know what joy is.) I said one exception is when I first entered the seminary(at age 14), I said I was the happiest kid on campus: I was doing what I always wanted to do—studying to be a priest and I was free from my Dad's coercion.

So this is what I want to talk to you about this morning, dear Jesus: What is joy? Why can't I remember ever being joyful except that one time? I'm not depressed, never have been. I get down in the dumps sometimes but not depressed. I would say I've been contented with most of my life. But is contentment, joy?

I think I have equated joy with overwhelming happiness. A humming with contentment; a contentment I spoke of about my 'Little Brother' Justin to his two kids in my Christmas letter I told them that I experienced their Dad's joy in his finally having someone, being with someone, who made it be possible for him to do what he always dreamed of doing: building model rockets. Is this what joy is? Having your dream come true? Like me in the seminary or Justin building rockets?

Back to the discussion: I said that I don't remember being filled with joy at my ordination. Why was that? My dream finally did come true. So where was the joy, the contentment? Was it that I was facing a major life change? Was it that uncertainty about what lay ahead?

I remember that for the first six years in the priesthood, I had someone in Bill my first pastor, who replaced my Dad, who became the father I always dreamed of having; someone, who provided me with—allowed me to have—the kind of work that suited who I really was. Who did not impose his will on me. Yes, he would ask me to do things, but unlike Henry, my last pastor, who imposed a hospital-visiting ministry on me. A ministry I detested at the time. I guess the difference is that Bill helped me, encouraged me, to be creative as a priest, while Henry never understood that about me.

Henry probably felt that I needed direction in my ministry when, at the time, what I really needed was fallow time. Time to just let happen what life was preparing for me, to happen. Henry interfered with that process. That made me inexplicably angry and robbed me of the joy of my priesthood.

There's that word again. Joy! Yes, I guess that I had found joy. Experienced joy. The joy I have only found again in these last years in IVC.

Is joy, for me, doing what I always wanted to do? Being what I always wanted to be? Being free of another's coercion? Is it letting happen what life is preparing for what is to happen? Is joy waiting through the fallow time?

Dick Bowling

TWO MARRIED COUPLES HONORED AT EVENING OF GRATITUDE



THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND DC METRO/MARYLAND REGIONS celebrated IVC's 20th anniversary April 26 at Gonzaga College High School in Washington by honoring a Virginia couple for working to alleviate poverty and a couple who "raised a family steeped in service to the Church and the community."

IVC's Della Strada Award was presented to John and Mariann Horejsi of St. Mark Parish in Vienna and the late Joseph and Frances McAllister McCloskey. The award, honoring those whose lives reflect the Ignatian values of direct service to the poor and working for a more just society, is named for Santa Maria Della Strada ("Our Lady of the Streets"), the first church established by St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, to serve the poor in Rome.

Presenting the award to the Horejsis, James Kelley, retired director of IVC's Northern Virginia region, noted that Mariann has dedicated herself to direct service for the homeless at Christ House in Washington's Adams Morgan neighborhood, her library in Vienna, the Western Fairfax Christian Food Bank, the Fairfax Volunteer Learning Program (VLP) tutoring adult learners to earn their high school diplomas, and hypothermia programs. John was cited for founding Social Action Linking Together (SALT) in 1983 to fulfill the need for "a voice and advocate for people who are poor, marginalized and voiceless," Kelley said.

"Today, SALT is a faith-based network of 1,200-plus Northern Virginians who support the passage of legislation directed to affordable housing, hunger relief programs, humane treatment of the incarcerated, tax relief for the working poor and more," Kelley said. "Legislators know John as the man who does the right thing for the 'least among us'."

The McCloskey family has engaged in "lifting up the vulnerable and least among us for four generations," their award citation said. They "gave us the gift of their children" – Fr. Joe McCloskey, S.J., spiritual director extraordinaire and Jesuit priest for more than 50 years; Peggy Ferguson, founder and director of the Naomi Project, a beautiful program that has matched over 500 at-risk pregnant women and new

mothers with volunteer members to promote healthy pregnancies and babies; and Pete McCloskey, who created Study Buddies, a program in 35 states that connects volunteer tutors with struggling students

IVC's ninth annual "Evening of Gratitude" began with Mass concelebrated by Msgr. Ray East, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in southeast Washington, and seven other priests at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. More than 200 in the congregation joined the spirited singing led by a St. Teresa of Avila young adult choir. Those present could easily understand the Pentecost experience of the first Christians: "When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 4:31).

Msgr. East's homily cited the sacrificial love of the Good Shepherd, reminding us of the summons to be in

solidarity with the Good Shepherd; like him, we, in struggling to advance the Kingdom of God, are called to willingly lay down our lives in service to the poor, not counting the cost.

Joan Coolidge, Northern Virginia regional director of IVC, introduced the award ceremony by quoting Pope Francis's image of the church and the model it provides those in ministry: "The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful... I see the church as a field hospital after battle."

Videos of the Della Strada Award presentation can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=An6Kmwir-hY>

IVC was founded by Frs. Jim Conroy, S.J., and Charlie Costello, S.J., in September 1995 with 11 volunteers in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington. Now in its 20th year, IVC has more than 500 volunteers providing service in 17 regions. The Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. Metro/Maryland regions account for 65 volunteers serving at 43 different partner agencies.

Contributing editors Robert Stewart and James C. Webster



A Spirit of Giving

by Catherine Alborno, IVC Communications Director

IVC Blog Posted January 12th, 2015

When Christmas arrives, the Turinas won't wrap store-bought gifts for their adult children. Instead, they give money to charitable groups whose missions are dear to the hearts of their children. And their children do the same for them.



The Turina family enjoys Thanksgiving in Eliana and Pedro's home this year.

Their gratitude inspires their spirit of generosity, and this is just one small example. Eliana and Pedro Turina are Ignatian Volunteers in Northern Virginia and IVC donors. When asked why they give these gifts of time and treasure, the Turinas immediately describe their blessings.

"I am so blessed and have received many gifts throughout my life. I feel such gratitude", Eliana says.

After a career of service with Catholic Charities, Eliana volunteers with ALIVE!, an organization whose wrap-around services address the needs of low income residents of Alexandria. Pedro retired from an international development career, having worked in countries from their native Chile to Canada, and now serves as a Basic Needs Counselor at United Community Ministries, where he works one-on-one with men, women, and families who seek food, rental and utility assistance, medical assistance, and clothing. He helps clients access programs and has a special interest in helping with educational resources for their children.

"Full-time work didn't allow us lots of extra time for service, though it's always been part of our lives. We're happy to be able to do this now through IVC," says Eliana.

"To me it's been very good," Pedro says. "When we gather with other Ignatian Volunteers every month, we are asked the question, 'When did you see the face of the Lord?'," says Pedro. "I know that I encounter Christ more than once every day," describes Pedro.

Eliana's IVC work is in an administrative role at ALIVE! "I had the experience of working face-to-face with the poor in my career at Catholic Charities," she says. "All the getting to know people in needy situations one-on-one and encountering and discovering the faces and stories of the poor is something I'm familiar with. I started at ALIVE! in



Eliana works in an administrative role to support the agency's social services programs.

the child development center working with the children. Then I realized the level of administrative need – to organize the program, organize client files, fulfill subsidy requirements with the city, complete statistical analysis and reports for our food program – so I began serving in an administrative capacity. Now my work is recording donations from grants and individuals, keeping the donor database up-to-date, creating correspondence for donors, and generating reports. I see the impact of this type of work on their operations."

"We bring work home with us, special projects, we both work this way. You try to help and you just do it. People value Ignatian Volunteers because we are committed, dedicated and have lots of experience to get things done. Our agencies are very appreciative," says Eliana.

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Pedro conducts an intake interview as a Basic Needs Counselor at United Community Ministries

Pedro uses his multilingual skills in his one-on-one work with clients. “We have clients from around the world, from very different backgrounds and with different survival skills, including undocumented immigrants. They can be ignorant of the language, opportunities, and how to get resources and education for their children. I help them enroll children in school, teach clients how to read report cards, explain the educational system, and have even helped with algebra homework. I do a lot of work with mothers and their children.”

“We bring work home with us, special projects, we both work this way. You try to help and you just do it. People value Ignatian Volunteers because we are committed, dedicated and have lots of experience to get things done. Our agencies are very appreciative,” says Eliana.

“So much of our service is recognizing those we serve as individuals. Making sure they know that they are important, they are valued. We’ve had different opportunities and options. It’s so important to make them feel important and cared for,” says Eliana.

Eliana and Pedro were attracted to IVC’s spiritual component. “IVC’s spiritual side gives me new perspectives on how I function on a personal basis, plus my experiences in my job. It’s very relevant. I think differently about interactions and my relationships at UCM. I ask myself what Christ would do in a situation like this. It’s an interesting case of growth to me, a new perspective on how I deal with people. I get a lot of inspiration from it”, says Pedro.

As a married couple, the Turinas enjoy sharing their IVC

service with one another. “We share a lot at home,” Eliana says. “Every time Pedro comes home from UCM he tells me about the families and their situations. Even though I’m not there, my heart breaks for them.”

“She’s also my consultant,” Pedro adds. “I appreciate when we share this because I learn more. I learn from my conversations with my wife and also from retreats, and



Eliana (right) reviews an ALIVE! brochure with a staff colleague

sharing with other Ignatian Volunteers who have similar experiences.”

“Next year we’ll celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary,” Eliana says. “When we have a celebration we don’t need anything. I’ve thought about asking our friends to make contributions and we’ll list IVC, each of our agencies, and our church’s poor box.”

“I feel that I have been blessed in many ways in my life,” says Eliana. “If I have extra to share, I’ll do it.”

Save
the
Date



Spring
Retreat

June

8-10,

2015

Loyola on the
Potomac
Retreat House

Called to Joy

IVC'S **SPRING RETREAT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.** The retreat takes place June 8-10, 2015 at the beautiful and bucolic Loyola on the Potomac Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland. We gather late morning on Monday and depart after lunch on Wednesday.

Two solid days of retreat programming have been planned by a team of IVC volunteers, spiritual reflectors and regional directors that has been meeting since February. This might very well be the most unique IVC retreat that you have ever attended. After hearing some feedback from the IVC community in the fall, we decided not to invite a well-known retreat facilitator to lead us this spring. Rather, we decided that this would be a retreat for and by the members of IVC in our three local regions.

The result is "We Are Called to Joy," picking up on the theme of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* that we have been reading throughout the year. Different talks over the course of the 48 hours will focus on "An Examen of Joy on Your Faith Journey", "We Are Called to Be a Joyful People of the Gospel" and "Obstacles to Joy." On Monday afternoon, participants will have the chance to explore different physical sites on Loyola's sprawling property, such as the beach, the Stations of the Cross and the path to the main road. On Tuesday afternoon, options for workshops will abound on such various subjects as an art project, healing prayer, music and *lectio divina*.

Some of you might be familiar with the "This I Believe" series of essays from National Public Radio more recently or from CBS television in the distant past. We will be doing an exercise during the retreat along these lines as well, encouraging people to explore some well-known essays on joy and composing one of their own.

Some of your retreat favorites remain unchanged like the chance to participate in daily Mass, the wine and cheese reception on the first afternoon and Loyola's famous cookies and sunsets!

We have a wonderful few days planned for you in June. Won't you join us at Loyola June 8-10?

The accommodations fee per night is \$110 payable when you arrive. Please RSVP to your Regional Director (Joanie [jcoolidge@ivcusa.org] or Mike [mgoggin@ivcusa.org]) no later than June 1.

On Monday afternoon, participants will have the chance to explore different physical sites on Loyola's sprawling property, such as the beach, the Stations of the Cross and the path to the main road.





Ignatian Volunteers Dick Bowling, Tim O'Connor, Emilie Gillanders, Lynda Dendtler, Larry Dendtler and Austin Acocello share their spiritual experiences with OLLI students. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers a wide variety of courses for retirees, in collaboration with George Mason University.



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):

New Revised Standard Version

Favorite Spiritual Classics:

The Story of a Soul, The Autobiography of St Therese of Lisieux--St Therese of Lisieux

Contemporary Spiritual Books:

Return of the Prodigal Son--Henri Nouwen

God in Search of Man --Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Listening to Your Life--Frederick Buechner

Memories, Dreams & Reflections--Carl Jung

SAMARITAN MINISTRY of Greater Washington



Northwest DC Office

THE DC / METRO MARYLAND REGION is pleased to introduce **Samaritan Ministry** as its newest partner agency. John Murphy began serving there as an IVC volunteer case worker on Tuesday, May 5.

Samaritan Ministry is an ecumenical enterprise, a community partnership bringing together homeless people and others in need in Greater Washington, with support and volunteers from Episcopal and other Christian churches in a joint effort to improve the lives of all.

The agency is motivated by four core values that guide its work:

- ◆ **God's Love** – Samaritan Ministry believes that we are called to love our neighbors as God loves us, with kindness and compassion, sharing one another's suffering and joy, and treating each other as we would like to be treated.
- ◆ **Dignity** – Samaritan believes that we are called to honor the dignity of all persons, promoting each other's self-respect and self-confidence, celebrating our shared humanity, and rejoicing in the journey that binds us together.
- ◆ **Partnership** – Samaritan believes that we are called to work in partnership with others, both inside and outside our organization, embracing diversity, holding ourselves accountable



Southeast DC Office

to one another and, thus, accomplishing more together than we can do alone.

- ◆ **Transformation** – Samaritan believes that we are called to be a part of one another's transformation in ways that encourage each other's strengths and abilities, bringing positive, life-enhancing changes, and empowering each other to lead fuller lives.

The work that Samaritan Ministry engages in is crucial. Nearly one in five residents of the District of Columbia lives in poverty. More than ten percent of DC residents live on less than half of the poverty line. There are approximately 16,000 people who are homeless over the course of a year in DC. These statistics paint an alarming picture, but understanding the root causes of these issues, and more importantly, recognizing the needs of the people they impact, is a crucial part of solving them. There is no single profile of a person

who is living in poverty or who is homeless. This is why Samaritan tailors its support to meet each participant's individual needs.

What were some of the outcomes in 2014? 151 participants in Samaritan Ministry programs found jobs, 278 received computer training, and 285 developed or improved their resume. Samaritan Ministry is able to accomplish significant results because 4,340 volunteers contributed 19,742 hours of volunteer service. We are happy to have John Murphy of IVC join this dynamic group!

Photos: Samaritan Ministry website

Ruth Coyne: New DC Metro Maryland Volunteer Joins IVC

RUTH COYNE JOINED IVC in the fall of 2014 with a world of experience in the non-profit arena and degrees from two Jesuit universities. Shortly after joining, Ruth was placed at the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach. She is the first IVC volunteer to serve there.

Ruth most recently worked as a contractor with Montgomery County, Maryland. Earlier in her career, she worked for the Arc of Frederick County as an advocate and coordinator of services for persons with intellectual disabilities, many of whom had physical challenges and / or mental illness. At Jubilee Association in Kensington, she provided direct care while working as a house manager for women with intellectual disabilities and a program manager supervising staff in several different houses. With the American Red Cross, Ruth organized blood drives and recruited blood donors throughout southern Maryland. She also taught history and religion at Pallotti High School in Laurel, Maryland. She did all of this while raising five sons.

In addition to her professional work, Ruth was also a frequent volunteer at such DC charities as the CCNV Zacchaeus soup kitchen, the women's night shelter at Thomas Circle, Rachel's Women's Shelter and Center of Concern. She has also been active in teaching English as a second language, helping with refugee resettlement and letter writing on behalf of Amnesty International.

Ruth says that there are two main reasons for wanting to join IVC. The first is to live with integrity. "I say that the Gospel is important to me. Volunteering allows me a way to put that belief into action," she writes. She also appreciates the spiritual and communal support that IVC provides to its volunteers.

Ruth's strengths in coming to IVC include being able to write (she authored a regular column in *The Catholic Standard* years ago), advocate, organize and synthesize. She has a sense of equilibrium and a sense of humor!

Behind the Scenes at Evening of Gratitude

by Austin Acocella

SINCE JOINING IVC IN EARLY 2014, I have been privileged to attend the Evening of Gratitude (EoG) twice. My view of the event differed in 2015 from my view in 2014. In '14, new to IVC, I eagerly experienced everything IVC offered. This annual event recognizes the Ignatian Volunteers who serve those who are underprivileged, and two Della Strada awardees who serve the community in that same Ignatian spirit. Sponsored by the Regional Council for the combined DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia IVC Regions, the EoG also serves as IVC's major regional fundraiser. Along with service assignments, city group, spiritual reflection and retreats, I viewed the EoG as part of the wonderful package of service infused with support that led me to join IVC after I retired from federal service. In 2014 I attended with my wife and enjoyed the liturgy, banquet, awards and making new friends. In 2015, however, I attended with notepad in hand, without my wife, to document the planning and execution process so I could develop an EoG handbook.

This year's EoG commemorated the 20th anniversary of IVC. For the second year in a row, Regional Council member Grace Risetto chaired the event. However, Grace would be the last to suggest it was a one-person



operation. Other key contributors to the team include Regional Directors Mike Goggin and Joanie Coolidge; Joe Raia, the current chair of the Regional Council; and council members Pam Lucey, Joseph Dempsey, Joseph Jones, Jim Kelly, Dennis Lucey, Rev. Joe McCloskey SJ, Rev. Joe Sobierajski SJ, and Richard Urban. Pam and Dennis Lucey hosted the first evening of Gratitude nine years

ago in their home, with about 50 folks attending. This year about 200 attended!

For the first time in 2015, groups or committees were formed to assist with different element of the EoG. One such group, Friends of the IVC Evening of Gratitude, was made up of 10 women with expertise in event planning,

fundraising and media. This "Friends" group—which included Kathy Carroll, Kathy Christie, Marcie Corbett, Kathleen Corcoran, Kathy Crosson, Tricia Loyd, Nancy McKenzie, Joyce Porter, Maria Shields and Margie Speir—inaugurated the solicitation of corporate donors and efforts to attract media attention.

The Friends also converted the Gonzaga (boys) High School cafeteria into beautiful spaces for a beverage reception and dinner. This amazing transformation included removing over 100 student flyers from the walls...and then replacing them just 3-hours later (special thanks go the Marcie Corbett and Richard Urban for completing this tedious task.) Can you imagine how the team transported 100 helium balloons from Vienna to DC, through doors and on elevators, negotiating crowds of teenage boys in the corridors? With lots of smiles and good humor! Pam arranged the gorgeous flower bouquets, a hobby acquired as a young girl when she and her Mom prepared flowers together for Church alters and other special occasions.

The EoG minimal decorating budget depends heavily on donations and borrowed items. The Gonzaga Mom's Closet loaned decorations for the tables and walls. The beautiful light boxes on the tables were hand-crafted by Jeanne Raia. Patty Holley supplied the votive lights and Maria Shields, art teacher at George Mason High School, designed the beautiful star design display.

I attended a post-event evaluation meeting just days after the April 25, 2015 EoG, and planning for the 2016 IVC Evening of Gratitude has already begun...and I had better get to work on that handbook.



Upcoming Events

Fall 2015
Retreat:
September 14-16, 2015
Loyola Retreat House
Faulkner, MD.
FACILITATOR TBA

Northern Virginia Region 2015-16 City Groups

Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. Charles Location: To Be Determined 2 nd Thursday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. John Neumann's 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3 rd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	St. Joseph's 711 Columbus Street, N. Alexandria, VA 22314 3 rd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon
October 13, 2015	October 8, 2015	October 20, 2015	October 21, 2015
November 10, 2015	November 12, 2015	November 17, 2015	November 18, 2015
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
February 9, 2015	February 11, 2016	February 16, 2016	February 17, 2016
March 8, 2016	March 10, 2016	March 15, 2016	March 16, 2016
April 12, 2016	April 14, 2016	April 19, 2016	April 20, 2016
May 10, 2016	May 12, 2016	May 17, 2016	May 18, 2016

DC/Metro MD Region 2015-16 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 20017 2 nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00	Riderwood 3140 Gracefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20904 3 rd Wednesday—1:30-3:30
October 1, 2015	October 13, 2015	October 31, 2015
November 5, 2015	November 10, 2015	November 18, 2015
December ? 2015	December ? 2015	December ?, 2015
February 4, 2016	February 9, 2016	February 17. 2015
March 3, 2016	March 8, 2016	March 16, 2015
April 7, 2016	April 12, 2016	April 20, 2015
May 5, 2016	May 10, 2016	May 18, 2015