

# Corps Connector

Volume 8 Number 1

March 2013



**Ed McCormack, January Day of Reflection, P. 3**

Special Feature: **Evening of  
Gratitude P. 5**



Washington DC/  
Metro Maryland  
& Northern  
Virginia Regional  
Council

Mike Goggin  
Patricia Holley  
Regional Directors

Joseph Dempsey  
James Kelley  
Pamela Lucey  
Dennis Lucey  
Joseph McCloskey, S.J.  
Francis Murphy  
Joseph Raia  
Grace Risetto  
Richard Urban

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## Corps Connector

is published three to four times annually by the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland Regions of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

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otherwise noted

On April 21, IVC celebrates its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Gratitude. Just three weeks earlier we will celebrate the person and the event that have inspired the hundreds of IVC volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and talents to those forgotten ones whom that person most especially died for and was gloriously exalted: Christ Jesus and his Resurrection. And for this we spend not just an evening in gratitude but a lifetime.

I remember the first evening of gratitude in 2006. It wasn’t even called that then. The name came a year later. Jim Kelley was just in the process of naming his first Regional Council (called the Advisory Council then.) That first Council had 16 members.

The Evening of Gratitude had its beginnings at the home of Pam and Dennis Lucey in McLean, VA. on April 23. A beautiful spring afternoon. Among those attending were Jim Conroy, SJ, co-founder of IVC, Suzanne Geaney, a former national executive director, the late Al Novotny, president of Gonzaga College High School. Jim Conroy spoke on the origins and purpose of IVC (called the Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps [ILVC] in those days). Dennis Lucey made the formal appeal for donations from his backyard deck. We were able to raise \$22,550. A remarkable sum for the first time!.

This year’s Evening of Gratitude is an evening of gratitude to you our volunteers and spiritual reflectors. Offered to you by those who join you both spiritually and financially in your love and devotion to the poor, the homeless, the battered and the neglected.

Browsing through the photos I took at that first fundraiser when I came across a number of pictures I had taken earlier that day. Something I had completely forgotten about. They were the pictures of the Five Year Awards ceremony for the volunteers with that many years of service or more. We held the awards ceremony at Gonzaga College High School where the DC/Metro MD region now holds its annual Christmas party (see p. 9). DC, Maryland and Northern Virginia, we were all one region at this time. Jim Conroy celebrated the Eucharist in the small chapel, then we moved to the dining hall where we enjoyed a delicious brunch. Afterwards Jim awarded the 5 year plaques.

*Dick Bowling*



**Dennis Lucey makes his appeal for donations from his backyard deck at the 2006 fundraiser.**



**Katie Shea receives her 5 Year Award plaque from Jim Conroy on April 23, 2006. Katie joined IVC in July 1999.**

# “Who Was Ignatius?”

## Putting Ignatian Spirituality into Practice

**O**n January 16, 2013, members of IVC from Virginia, Maryland and DC met at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA, to re-collect their experiences of Ignatian Spirituality and learn even more from Ed McCormack. Ed had recently led a pilgrimage to the places of Ignatius in Spain. He illustrated his lecture with slides of these sites. No reading of power point sentences for this dynamic teacher who left the podium to be among us.

His first reflection, “Who Was Ignatius?,” set the saint’s life in its historical context (the time of Columbus and Isabella). He was not a professional soldier, and was being schooled to be a diplomat. His family was honored by the monarchy. Then, because all wealthy families had to respond, Ignatius was called to defend a castle in Pamplona and thus had his leg shattered. Wealth, honor, position in court were his dreams—until he had nothing to do for the six months his leg was healing.

Except read a four volume “Life of Christ,” and a second book about the lives of the saints. He had a spiritual awakening. New questions and desires arose in him. Would he choose a life at court or a life like that of Francis and Dominic—and Christ?

He begins a pilgrimage, with Jerusalem its goal. This becomes a pilgrimage to freedom. As he heads toward the seaport of Barcelona, he stops at Manresa where he dresses in burlap, lays his sword at the statue of the Black Madonna of Monserrat, and prays at the river Cardoner (all on Ed’s slides). There, at Manresa, he receives a mystical transformation, the key as Ed sees it, to Ignatius’ spirituality. We learned of Ignatius’ bout with scruples, even to the point of considering suicide. We learned of his attending to his desires and the feelings which arose as he considered one option and then another. Because he took notes on his interior movements, here destructive forces, there a sense of Christ’s freeing him, he had material for his eventual teaching on discernment.

Ed prepared us for our prayer period, “Finding God in all things.” Looking back with gratitude, we had quiet time to review our own life story, our journey toward freedom, our experience of God’s working with us and

within us. Ed emphasized that to find God in all things, we must practice it. He explained that Ignatius gave the Exercises to his friends at the University of Paris, because “to be companions of Jesus flows through working the Exercises”.

Ed urged us to get to know Jesus personally, his vision, his desire, in order to share in his mission. And what is Jesus’ vision? Nothing less than the transformation of the world.

The afternoon sessions were geared to putting Ignatian spirituality into practice with two more prayer practices. As we had prayed our gratitude in the morning, now Ed led an Ignatian contemplation using Matthew’s account of the storm at sea. Time for prayer and as always, we shared in small groups. Then Ed offered a brief overview of the third prayer practice, the Examen.



Participant John Durkin visualizes the day as a play with three scenes. He writes: “The first scene is gratitude for the past that brought me to this moment. Scene two could be titled ‘This isn’t a solo act, John’. While contemplating and being with Jesus walking on water, I received a text message from my place of ministry. The interruption seemed to be a message from Jesus that we are ministering together. More gratitude. Scene three might be called: “We’re still in rehearsal”, a reflection on the Examen: review the feelings of the day; plan tomorrow. Gratitude and hope.

Father Jon O’Brien presided at the closing Eucharist, and gave the homily, “sharing his considerable wisdom”, comments Mary Frances Moriarty. His whole person was a sacrament of the Jesuit’s handing over all to God in an act of humility.

After his first day of recollection with us, Mike Goggin was grateful for Ed, Father Jon and for the bringing of the two regions together. “What a strong footprint IVC has in the DC/MD/VA!” We left hoping always to find God laboring in all of creation, freeing and transforming us all.

—Rea McDonnell, SSND

Save the

Date

June 10-12,

2013

June 2013

RETREAT

Loyola-on-the-

Potomac

Faulkner, Maryland

The theme for the June  
Retreat will be:  
How to Live An Ignatian  
Life

“The Exercises represent a kind of spiritual journey as they invite the one who makes them to consider the foundational truths of Christian life.....”

— Fr. Howard Gray

## Fr. Howard Gray Will

### Facilitate IVC's June Retreat

**Fr. Howard Gray, SJ** is currently Assistant to the President for Special Projects at Georgetown University. He earned a bachelor's degree in English and classics, a licentiate in philosophy and a licentiate in sacred theology from Loyola University of Chicago, and a doctorate in English from the University of Wisconsin, specializing in 17<sup>th</sup> century English literature.



Internet Photo

He has served in many top administrative positions of the Society of Jesus in the United States, and is renowned for his leadership in educating Jesuits, clergy, and lay people in how to guide retreatants in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. He is Founder and Director of the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Boston College.

He has written extensively in the areas of Ignatian Spirituality, the Spiritual Exercises, Mission and Ministry. Speaking of ministry he says: Jesuit ministry is about people who want to work in ways that help other people. That humble phrase, “to help people,” was the axle of grace for Ignatius of Loyola, transforming his religious experience from an introspective examination of his own life before God to a mystic summons to see the world as God sees it.

“Ultimately, Ignatian spirituality trusts the world as a place where God dwells and labors and gathers all to himself in an act of forgiveness where that is needed and in an act of blessing where that is prayed for.” he writes. He has given a number of workshops on Ignatian topics in the USA, the UK and Ireland, East Africa, South East Asia, and Australia. Fr. Gray's publications include *An Experience In Ignatian Government*, *Studies In the Spirituality of the Jesuits* and numerous articles. He has made a number of recordings for Now You Know Media.

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#### Prayer for Humility

Lord, let me have too deep a sense of humor ever to be proud.  
Let me know my absurdity before I act absurdly  
Let me realize that when I am humble I am most human,  
most truthful,  
and most worthy of your serious consideration

—Daniel A. Lord, S.J.  
from *Hearts on Fire*

# Evening of Gratitude

This year's Evening of Gratitude will feature Brian McDermott, S.J. as Presider/Homilist at the Eucharist. The liturgical music will be provided by the St. Camillus Multicultural Choir.

Two people from the DC/Metro MD and the Northern Virginia regions will receive the Della Strada award.



**B**RIAN MCDERMOTT, S.J. HAS BEEN A JESUIT for over fifty-six years. In the *Georgetown University Jesuit Community* newsletter Brian says this of himself: "I left Georgetown University as an undergrad at the end of my sophomore year, right after my last exam. It was the summer of 1956, the anniversary of St. Ignatius' death. I went that very day to Montreal to get on a Dutch cargo ship to go on an Ignatian "pilgrimage" with other Georgetown students and two Jesuits. I entered the Jesuits that September. Little did I realize then how involved with Georgetown I would be later on. I thought I had given Georgetown up for good! Yet for 19 years I was on the Board of Directors, then rector from 2000 to 2006, and now I'm back working for President DeGioia. I feel very blessed indeed!

Internet Photo

"Among my chief interests are: Ignatian spirituality, the study of violence in scripture, studying and teaching the intersection of group relations theory with Ignatian spirituality. "I have spent most of my apostolic life as a Jesuit in Spiritual direction, directing people in the Spiritual Exercises, training people to give the Exercises; teaching theology, leadership and spirituality. Among my favorite books are Sebastian Moore, *The Crucified Jesus Is No Stranger*; James Alison, *The Joy of Being Wrong: Original Sin Through Easter Eyes*. One of my favorite sayings is 'In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.' (St. John of the Cross)"



## Della Strada Awards

**T**HIS YEAR, THE DC /METRO MARYLAND AND NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONS of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps are pleased to present their *Della Strada* awards to two people who have provided tremendous support to IVC volunteers in different ways. They are Jeanie Sweeney of Northern Virginia and Msgr. John Enzler of Washington, D.C.



Jeanie Sweeney served as mentor/spiritual reflector for the Northern Virginia region from 2005 to 2012. In that time she helped the region to grow immensely. She has helped recruit new IVC volunteers both by leading information sessions and conducting acceptance interviews. She has facilitated small group sharing sessions at a host of city group monthly meetings, retreats and days of reflection.. Jeanie brought to IVC more than twenty years of pastoral counseling experience. IVC volunteers who came to her as Spiritual Reflector related easily to Jeanie as a person, a person who believes in the power of service to change the lives of the poor for the better. They also appreciated her perfect calm, her deep attentiveness and her prayerfulness.

**Fr. John**, as he is known to all, was named President and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington in July 2011 after serving as Pastor for many years to the people at the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Northwest, at Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac and at Mount Calvary in Forestville. Ordained in 1973, he served as a young priest as Executive Director of the Office of Youth Ministry and CYO of the Archdiocese. Fr. John has been exceptionally supportive of his agency's partnership with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. He assured us in a meeting in the summer of 2012 that if we kept finding him qualified volunteers, he would gladly find us the money to pay their partnership fees. IVC currently has six volunteers placed in ministries affiliated with Catholic Charities, ranging from the Spanish Catholic Center to Prison Outreach Ministry to the Parish Partners Program.



# The People I Meet at Friendship Place

HAVE SEEN THE REALITY of homelessness. I have seen the challenges and the creativity of a young, skilled and dedicated staff as they help those who know what it's like to lose their homes and their connections to the community. My primary IVC work here at Friendship Place supports central administrative needs, my focus is on the behind-the-scenes work that has to be done to keep Friendship Place's doors wide open. I have been volunteering here for four years.

I have seen the faces and sometimes heard the stories of those who came because they had heard this *really* was a place of friendship. Everyone, no exceptions, is treated with respect. Through the engagement of the Welcome Services staff, some grow from coming simply for the routine of morning coffee and respite to carving out new directions for their lives. Friendship Place believes in them, listens to their dreams and helps them discover their possibilities, even before they do.

George is one such person. He comes frequently now to headquarters as a participant in one type of Friendship Place meeting or another and that's I got to know him. He tells of his joy when after many, many years drifting on the streets he got his own apartment. Of course with the apartment came an address, his own mailbox AND his own junk mail!

George uses this humor as part of his life's story to change attitudes about the faces of homelessness. He gives radio interviews and school group presentations. George, and so many others, find that they are members of this "home", this vital community, we call Friendship Place.

Carl is someone else I met. The first day I ever saw Carl, he was, of course, a stranger to me. I was grocery shopping when I saw him. He was taking steps at a snail's pace while looking stone-faced ahead, glancing



"Little Blue House" at Friendship Place (Internet Photo)

neither left nor right. I kept on shopping for a moment or two but could not stop thinking about what I had just seen in him.

I thought, yes, Carl is disheveled, but so proud and determined to get to his destination carrying a few small paper bags, one with a half-eaten banana in it. Overcoming my hesitation, I approached him and offered to help him take those steps. As we walked, I realized that my help really was not making those steps any easier or faster. Yes, that was true, he told me, but added that it was more meaningful to him that I stopped to take the time to walk at his side for a few moments, ask his name and share a few moments of conversation.

Carl still lives on the streets. He chooses not to come to our Welcome Center, where there are no questions asked, for morning coffee or a visit to the medical clinic. Carl knows about the center because our Outreach staff had found him near where I first saw him. They go out on the streets to find those who have no home, to share a few moments and offer some gesture of friendship. It

takes time; it takes many attempts to build the trust. Friendship Place will continue to check on Carl and believes it is important to be there when he gathers the courage to believe in the possible.

Willy is another who experiences Friendship Place. He is one of the first in the door when the Drop-In Center opens. He would come in for some warmth and something to eat.

I quickly learned that he did not welcome even a brief greeting. We had seen each other many times. I was so surprised the morning I set out some hardboiled eggs fifteen minutes after the doors opened. Willy was already eating but eyed the eggs as I placed them on the table. I heard him say in a low voice, but to no one in particular, "Umm, eggs...brown eggs..." I came back a moment later with the salt and pepper shakers and I heard him speak again, this time very much directed to me, but in a warm, gentle tone, "You're a little late..."

The humor, the surprise, the spirit! I found God there in Willy's hidden, dimmed spirit. God is on-the-scene here, as he is in every scene if we take a long, loving look.

God has put many opportunities before me at Friendship Place to know Him through encounters such as these, if only I pay attention and stretch my horizons. A place of IVC service can expand beyond its walls, actually, and spiritually, in us and in those we encounter.

With God's help, attending to the spirit we feel within us, we can expand our horizons and those we encounter and serve.



—Vicki Bell



**Watch where  
you park your  
car!**



Internet Photo

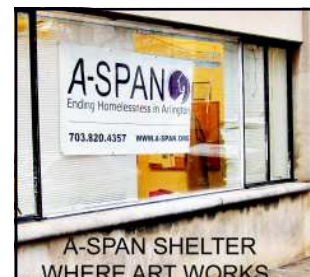
**In the middle of our interview, Art told this story:** “The other night one of our employees went over to the nearby Dunkin’ Donuts . They always give us a lot of donuts when they are closing: a hundred to a hundred twenty. He went over and parked right in front of the store, and came out a few minutes later. In that short period of time his car was gone, towed. It cost him a hundred and twenty dollars to get it back. It turns out that that parking space right in front of Dunkin’ Donuts doesn’t belong to them.

“There are guys, some of whom are homeless, they call ‘spotters.’ The tow companies hire these fellows. They hang around and when they see some guy, like our employee, pull into one of these spots, they’re on their cell phone immediately and here comes the tow truck and it is gone.”



Kathy Sibert, Executive Director

## A Visit with A-Span



**On January 30 Patty Holley and I visited A-SPAN where Art Baltrym volunteers. Afterwards I conducted an interview about his experiences there—ED**

### **Art, how did you get involved with A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network)?**

I went on-line and looked at volunteer opportunities. A-SPAN was one of the first organizations that came up. So I called their volunteer coordinator and volunteered for one year 2006-07. At the end of my first year they asked if I would become an employee, which I did. I didn’t really want another job, so we worked it out that I would donate my paycheck back. That made me remain a volunteer which worked out very well when I joined IVC.

### **Tell me something about A-SPAN.**

A-SPAN began in early 1990’s with these two women just handing out bag meals on the corner. This one woman worked very hard and it grew into what it is now. A-SPAN has offices in Shirlington with about eighteen full-time employees including the executive director. There are case workers for housing, two people for fundraising. We have an outreach team of three people working out of two vans. They go all around the county looking for new homeless people. We also have a Drop-in Center in Shirlington where people can do their laundry, take showers, have some coffee, and something to eat. The future is very bright for A-SPAN.. The County just bought a building near the Courthouse and where our Emergency Winter Shelter is located. It’s a three story office building. And the plan is that A-SPAN is going to get two floors. The Winter Shelter is now open five months and with the new building we’ll have a twelve month shelter. A-SPAN will vacate their offices in Shirlington and move here.

### **Tell me about A-SPAN’s drive to get as many homeless people as possible into housing.**

They work under the Housing First plan. In the past Arlington County focused first on getting people the help they needed: mental health or drug or alcohol dependency. Today the focus is, housing first. Let’s get them off the street and into housing and from there we can work with them and get their problems resolved. In 2012 A-SPAN was able to house 41 people which is remarkable.

### **I’ve understood from what you’ve said that some people do not want to go into housing?**

Yes, there is still a hard-core group of people that don’t want to go into housing. As a matter of fact in the dead of winter they will come to the shelter, have something to eat, to warm-up for a little while and out they go. There are not many of those.

### **What do you do at the shelter?**

I’m a shelter monitor. It’s kind of like an assistant principle, enforcing the rules calming down any volatile situation, answering people’s questions. My shift at

the shelter is nine hours. So by midnight I’m a little tired of standing.

### **What is the best part of being an IVC volunteer?**

The spiritual aspect interests me the most! I really enjoy the retreats and the discussions at our city group meetings. A-SPAN is strictly a secular organization and so this spiritual component of IVC balances this out.





# NoVa Region Holds Annual Christmas City Group/Party

The four regular City Groups met in four spacious comfortable rooms at the home of Rosemary Lawlor in Falls Church on December 11, 2012 for a shortened version of our monthly City Group meeting. Usually we meet for two hours, but because of the party to follow we met for only one hour. Despite the brevity, a number of people commented on the unusual depth of sharing that took place in the groups.

Most of the volunteers from Northern Virginia came, as well as a number of Spiritual Reflectors and three Regional Council members: joined us. Jim August, a Spiritual Reflector, joined us with his wife for a short visit at the beginning.

Denny Holley, husband of Patty our Regional Director took off a couple hours from his intense work schedule to go to Tyson's to pick up the lunch for the party. (Patty promised he could join us for lunch AND dessert if he would do this. Naturally nothing could hold him back!) The lunch was a very delicious combination of Chicken, Salmon, a Caesar Salad and rolls and butter. This year a much larger number of people brought desserts to share: Pat Durkin made a home-made fruit cake that had people raving and there were lots of cookies and chocolate delights.



## Spiritual Renewal, Fellowship and Good Food Highlight DC/ Metro MD Christmas Gathering

Spiritual renewal, fellowship and good food came together when the three IVC groups met shortly before Christmas for an annual holiday meeting. Two Bart's House groups and the group that meets at the Washington Jesuit Academy came together at Gonzaga College High School on North Capitol Street.

While House and Senate fiscal negotiators met in vain in the nearby Capitol, the IVC members had something good to report on December 19. They started with a pre-Christmas Mass, celebrated by Father Joe McCloskey, S.J. in the school chapel. The three groups then met for spiritual reflection on their volunteer commitments across the Washington DC/Metro Maryland Region.



Over thirty participants then dined on fresh salmon and pasta prepared by the Fresh Start Caterers, a program of DC Central Kitchen, one of the IVC agencies. Spiritual Reflector Ginny Novak provided religious holiday music. New Regional Director Mike Goggin was joined by his predecessor Joe Jones for the program. Dick Bowling, a Northern Virginia Spiritual Reflector and IVC editor-photographer, recorded the happy gathering.

Silent prayers for the country and its many problems and for the strength of the IVC mission carried the members back to their families and their agencies to mark Christ's birth and the start of a New Year.

Submitted by Cliff Hackett

# Upcoming Events

**Spring 2013  
Retreat:**  
**June 10-12, 2013**  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD.  
  
 HOWARD GRAY, S.J.  
 FACILITATOR

**Fall 2013  
Retreat:**  
**September 16-18, 2013**  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD.  
  
 FACILITATOR TBA

**Evening of Gratitude**  
**April 21, 2013**  
**Gonzaga College High School Commons**

## Northern Virginia Region 2012-2013 City Groups

<b>Our Lady Queen of Peace</b> 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	<b>St. Anthony's</b> 3305 Glen Carlyn Rd Falls Church, VA 22041 Room 1 2nd Thursday 9:30-11:30 am	<b>St. John Neumann's</b> 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3rd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	<b>St. Joseph's</b> 701 Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00-12:00
Mar. 12, 2013	Mar. 14, 2013	Mar. 19, 2013	Mar. 20, 2013
Apr. 9, 2013	Apr. 11, 2013	Apr. 16, 2013	Apr. 17, 2013
May 14, 2013	May 9, 2013	May 21, 2013	May 15, 2013

## DC/Metro MD Region 2012-2013 City Groups

<b>Bartholomew House</b> 6904 River Road Bethesda, MD 1st Thurs.—11:00-1:00	<b>Wash. Jesuit Academy</b> 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00	<b>Bartholomew House</b> 6904 River Road Bethesda, MD 1st Thurs.—9:30-11:30
Mar. 7, 2013 Apr. 4, 2013 May 2, 2013	Mar. 12, 2013 Apr. 9, 2013 May 14, 2013	Mar. 7, 2013 Apr. 4, 2013 May 2, 2013



For Presence

Panhala Photo

Awaken to the mystery of being here  
and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence.

Have joy and peace in the temple of your senses.

Receive encouragement when new frontiers beckon.

Respond to the call of your gift and the courage to  
follow its path.

Let the flame of anger free you of all falsity.

May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame.

May anxiety never linger about you.

May your outer dignity mirror an inner dignity of  
soul.

Take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek  
no attention.

Be consoled in the secret symmetry of your soul.

May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven  
around the heart of wonder.

~ John O'Donohue ~