

Corps Connector

Volume 13, Number 3

August, 2018



*Spring Retreat
with Christine Eberle
in her role as
"Woman at the Well"
See Page 3*

Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
Virginia Regional
Council:

Mike Mothes,
Regional Director

Mike Goggin,
Regional Director

Kevin Armstrong

Robert Colbert

Marsha Echols

Peter Higgins

Ollie Johnson

Joseph Jones

James Kelley

Kai De Altin Popiolek

Pamela Lucey

Dennis Lucey

Joseph Raia

Richard Urban



Dick Bowling

Notes from the Editor

MARY MAGDALENE AND THE EUCHARIST

(Mary Magdalene's role in the following is mostly a product of my imagination; but from what we now know of her place in the earliest Jesus Community it could very easily have happened as described. DB)

GOOD MORNING, DEAR JESUS. One Sunday a few weeks ago, after our Mass at PAX Kathy, Rich, Sylvia and I joined one another for breakfast at Pulcinella's restaurant. From many breakfasts together, I have come to recognize they are all pretty deep thinkers; but Kathy said something during the meal that took me aback a bit. She said, she quite often wonders if you, Lord, really are present in the bread and wine. As she was speaking, I asked myself, "What do you think about this?"

What I think is, I don't think I've ever really questioned your presence in the Eucharist; it has always been for me what makes Catholics, Catholic. But Kathy's questioning prompted me to stop and look more deeply into what I believe.

The next morning you turned my imagination loose and helped me penetrate more deeply into what I believe. I began with this in my journal: Do you remember last Easter, Lord, when I wrote about Mary Magdalene? I said that on that first Easter morning you sent her on a mission to "my sisters and my brothers" to announce that you were alive and we could always find you present whenever and wherever our community assembles.

The Magdalene was your closest friend and dearest confidant. Earlier that morning, when you met her outside your tomb, you opened her heart to the meaning of your rising and this great mystery of your presence among us; next the two of you began to explore in depth how this would be accomplished and the difficulty this would cause your community.

So when Mary revealed it to your people—as you had foreseen—they did not understand and began to quarrel and debate with her about it. Under her guidance, Mary began their discernment process, beginning with what you and she had discussed earlier that morning. Then she turned their minds to what you said a few nights before at the Last Supper: "this bread is my body; this cup of wine is my blood."

All that day and far into the night and maybe for many days or weeks thereafter they debated these two issues: your presence in the community and in the bread and wine. When they bridled and seemed about to bolt, Mary would calm them and call them back to a more even course. Finally, as a light began to dawn, someone stood up—it may have been the doubter, Thomas—who said, "What you have been saying, Mary, as we understand it is, when we come together, and we pray, sing hymns, read the Scriptures, profess our faith, and sit down together to a meal of bread and wine, just as we use to when the Lord was with us; our living bodies as well as the bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of the Lord. And Mary shouted for joy, "You have it at last!" Then she summed up, "It's with the eyes of faith that we see the Lord present in our gathering and in the bread and wine."

The church - the Christian community - has always set great store by sacramental signs: visible, tangible signs of a hidden reality like the water of Baptism, and like the bread and wine as the visible sign that you are with us.



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Gambarelli unless otherwise noted



Finding God in the Vineyard

A Survey of the Spring Retreat

by Maureen McMahon

On Monday, June 13 through midday Wednesday, June 15, volunteers, spiritual reflectors, and staff from the Northern Virginia, D.C./Metro Maryland, and Baltimore regions gathered at Loyola-on-the-Potomac Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland.

Under the guidance of Christine Eberle, Father Bob Hamm, S.J., and Stephen Eberle, the three-day retreat, “A Rest in the Vineyard,” was made up of five sessions. With the help of readings, scriptures, poetry, and song, retreatants looked at the past year and turned to the future through the lens of an Extended Ignatian Examen.

In Session #1, Ms. Eberle focused on “Longing for the Light.” The challenge here was to ask God for the Light and recall in the past year when we received it. The readings included an excerpt from her book of daily meditations, *Finding God: In Ordinary Time* in which she expresses her love for “a complicated sunrise”: “Just as the sun is rendered more beautiful by its effect on the clouds, God’s glory shines most clearly when it touches the shadowed parts of people’s lives.”

Session #2, “Grounding in Gratitude,” focused on asking God to reveal to us “all the blessings of [our lives] in the past year,” and to respond with gratitude. With the aid of a journal or a calendar, we were directed to find in our lives what we are most grateful for in our placements, families, friends and day-to-day lives. We were invited to be perceptive and “connect with God” -- to be surprised by Him: “If you want to know how much I love you, look around.”

In Session #3, “Pondering the Path,” we were guided to reflect on where we were led during the year and how it has affected us - and in what ways these experiences, good and bad, have influenced our relationship with God. Ms. Eberle’s metaphorical story of “Finding God in the Compost Bin” reminded us that indeed, there are no shortcuts to spiritual growth.

Session #4, “Witnessing at the Well,” encouraged us to bring one or more of the difficult aspects of the year to Jesus, where, through our contrition and sorrow, we would realize how much we need God’s mercy. Retreatants were challenged to use their “prayerful imagination” and offer Jesus our experiences and watch Him as He hands them back to us “without judgment, without condemnation.”

Our journey ended with our final session, “Turning to Tomorrow.” With our contemplation of the past year and God’s role in it completed, we looked toward the future and considered what grace we will ask for to help lead us on our way.

Along with these sessions and the liturgy with Father Hamm’s insightful homilies, an important element of our journey was the small group meetings. Through the guidance of our facilitators, we were able to find, as one retreatant put it, “a deeper understanding of ourselves and where we want to go.” The discussions often focused on our IVC service assignments and their effect on our lives, along with other experiences during the year. In these meetings we received guidance and support from each other and were reminded of an important truth: “God loves you: Don’t forget it.”

On Monday evening the Retreat community presented Joanie Coolidge with a cake wishing her a warmhearted farewell and gratitude for all she has meant to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps in the Northern Virginia Region as she retires. Mary McGinnity from the National Office presented Joanie with a plaque representing the deep feelings of the entire nation-wide IVC community for her dedication and inspiration over the last five years.



Mike Mothes: Our New Regional Director

These are exciting times for IVC Northern Virginia as we welcome Mike Mothes, our new Regional Director who brings to our community shared interests, experiences and enthusiasm.

The City Group at *Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish* already knows Mike well. For the last three years Mike joined the group for their end-of-year luncheons as the OLQP representative. How many other City Groups have had a regular host representative attend their annual closing luncheons year after year? This is your first hint to Mike's passion for fostering relationships.

Mike learned about IVC's mission at those year-end gatherings and became well-known to Joanie Coolidge too. When Joanie told Mike about her plans for departure he "found myself asking her question after question about the position with an excitement that grew the more I learned." One reason Mike feels the job of Regional Director is a great fit for him is that "building relationships has always been my focus." He says, "creating spaces where relationships can be formed is what has drawn me to this position."

Over the past three years as the *Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry* at OLQP Mike shepherded the youth program from 3 to 80+ teens. When he first stepped into the role, he could tell that the youth were committed to social justice teaching but because they didn't know each other very well they weren't active in the program. His secret to building the program, then, was simple but not easy: he engaged the youth by fostering relationships. Mike organized and directed an increasing number of retreats (he grew the program from 1 to 8 retreats each year), and created faith sharing opportunities and events that brought them together over countless meals, com-

mon interests, and service work for others. He grew the theater program from 8 to 40 youth and was especially gratified with how the youth became connected and inspired through the productions, "finding God in the relationships they built during two months of rehearsals and performances."

Prior to working at OLQP Mike taught theology both at Gonzaga College High School and at Bishop O'Connell High School where he was the Theology Department Chair.



Mike received his M.Div from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and taught at *St Ignatius Loyola* middle school in NYC for two of those three years. Mike's undergrad degree in Theology from Boston College had a concentration in *Faith, Peace, and Justice Studies*. After graduating Mike joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for two years as a case manager and counselor. His first year he managed a caseload of 16 homeless families for the *Central Oregon Community Action Agency Network*. His second year

he managed a caseload of 25 refugee clients for the *Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston's Refugee Services*.

Mike is a well-rounded guy. His interests include community building, spirituality, social justice, diversity, retreats, running triathlons, playing the cello, learning languages, traveling, and coaching. While at Bishop O'Connell High School he coached the varsity and JV volleyball teams to become the State Champions!

Mike is currently a *Contemplative Leaders in Action* participant in a vibrant, faith-filled community of peers committed to becoming leaders in their fields and finding God in all things.

We're so grateful to be receiving such a thoughtful, creative, energetic, gifted regional director to fill Joanie's shoes. Welcome, Mike! We're so happy to have you!



by Jean Noon

**Save the
Date:**

Fall

Retreat

Sept. 10-12

2018

Fr. Bill

Kelley, S.J.

Facilitator

Theme:

The



Intrnet photo

Fr. Bill Kelley. Originally from Philadelphia, he first met the Jesuits as a student at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, and following his 1973 graduation, Fr. Kelley entered the Maryland Province Jesuits.

Always interested in international ministry, Fr. Kelley was missioned to Chile in the late 1970s to serve for two years as a teacher at the Colegio San Mateo in Osorno. After obtaining a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Fr. Kelley returned to Chile to study at the ILADES Latin American Institute of Doctrine and Social Studies in Santiago. Following ordination in 1985, he returned to Chile for 2 ½ years to work in a parish in Santiago. After several years of graduate studies at Stanford, Fr. Kelley served in parish ministry for nearly 15 years in Jesuit churches in North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey. Much of his parish work has been devoted to ministering to Hispanic and urban congregations and accompanying those who are struggling with issues surrounding immigration.

“As I look back over my life as a Jesuit, the single most important thing that ever happened to me was the opportunity to go to Chile early on, which helped shape everything that came later. I’ve found myself always seeking opportunities and assignments that would bring me into contact with Hispanic people,” said Fr. Kelley. “The years of working in parishes have helped me see the needs of those we minister to, especially in terms of immigration and the impact of poverty. This position perfectly encompasses everything that gives me life, and I couldn’t be more excited.”

—*Jesuits West Magazine* April 9, 2014: jesuits.org/news-detail?TN=NEWS-20140407041840



Mary Magdalene and the Eucharist Continued from Page 2

In a way, I believe, that contrary to what Kathy said at breakfast; for me, it is just as difficult to believe you are really present in our community as it is to believe in your presence in the bread and wine. Yet aren't they both one and the same reality? Isn't it impossible to separate one from the other?.

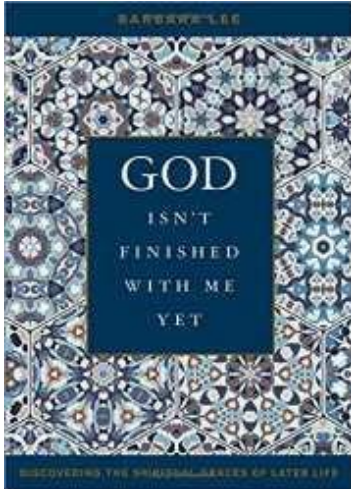
In 1 Corinthians, Paul, right after he described what you did at the Last Supper, connects eating the bread and drinking the wine with our community being the body of Christ, when he writes, “If you fail to understand that you are the body of the Lord, you will condemn yourselves by the way you eat and drink. (1 Corinthians 11, 29).

So, through what may have been a long and arduous discernment, Mary was able to open the eyes of her dearly beloved community to what we ourselves, thanks to Vatican II, have so very recently come to clearly understand, that when we gather we are the real living body of the Lord.

What Kathy began at breakfast the other morning, has taken me on a long voyage, and I am truly thankful to her for this . And thank you, Lord, and my beloved Mary for your insights throughout it.

IVC City Group's Books of the Year 2018-2019

- **God Isn't Finished with Me Yet**
- **Finding God in Ordinary Time**



I haven't finished with my life, and neither has God.

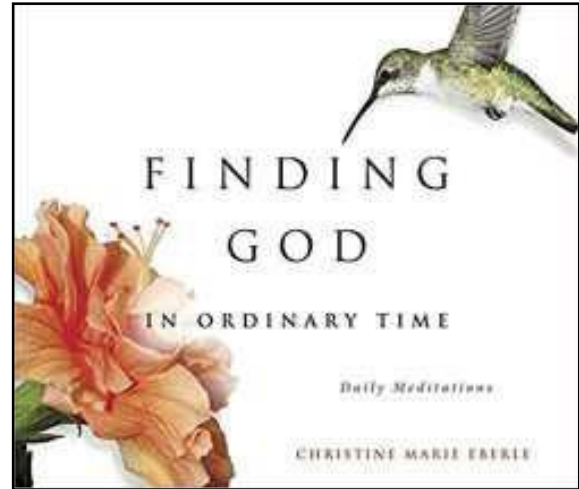
AS WE SEE FEWER YEARS AHEAD THAN BEHIND, IT CAN BE EASY to question our value or what we have left to contribute to our communities. How can we continue to give back and live with purpose in our later years? Barbara Lee is living this reality every day, and in this book she describes the intersection of aging with the timelessness of Ignatian spirituality.

God Isn't Finished with Me Yet shows readers how God meets us with unexpected grace. In five succinct chapters, Lee shows how Ignatian prayer and discernment offer those in later life a path to discovering previously unknown vocations and new ways of living and being of service. You're still living your life, and God is still revealing His grace.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/products/books/womens-spirituality/god-isnt-finished-with-me-yet>

In sharing the personal story of her transition from lawyer and U.S. magistrate to retired life, Barbara Lee offers a look at how retirement offers us an opportunity to grow closer to Christ. While we find value in our careers during our working lives, retirement allows us to give back and work toward a deeper purpose. Lee, a long-serving member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps, roots her advice in Ignatian spirituality. "This book is for Christians," she writes, "who want to grow in a God-centered life by exploring the graces specific to the later stages of life."

<https://www.osv.com/OSVNewsweekly/.../Refreshing-new-reads-for-spring.aspx>



TAKE A WIDE-EYED LOOK AT YOUR LIFE—THE COMMONPLACE, joyful, and even heartbreaking events—and discover the presence of God, hidden in plain sight. Forget bowing your head and closing your eyes. The secret to prayer is what happens when you're *not* trying to pray.

This is the invitation of *Finding God in Ordinary Time*. Each daily reflection contains a true story and a nugget of spiritual insight, accompanied by thought-provoking questions and a memorable Scripture quote. Together they reveal a God who is playful and affectionate, merciful and compassionate, and always relevant. Warm, accessible, and surprisingly funny, Christine offers spiritual nourishment to people skeptical or weary of religion, while still giving the faithful something to chew on.

Simple enough to be devoured in one sitting, this intimate little book is best enjoyed slowly. Each piece deserves to be savored and revisited through the unfolding of each ordinary, extraordinary day.

<https://christine-marie-eberle.com/book/>

"This is the perfect book for any adult in search of an adult relationship with an adult God. Filled with deep insight and humor, it will gently enliven the hearts of those who are spiritual but not religious as well as those who are religious but not spiritual. No matter the stage in your prayer journey, this lovely book will speak to you."

—**Bro. Mickey McGrath**, artist, author and storyteller.
<https://christine-marie-eberle.com/book/#praise>

A LETTER FROM Mike



August 2018

Dear IVC Community,

As Youth Coordinator at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church for three years, I have had the pleasure of joining the IVC City Group that regularly meets for their end-of-year luncheon. I always looked forward to accepting the invitation to gather with this passionate compassionate group of men and women. Joanie and I grew closer and it was exciting to hear how much we had in common. The Holy Spirit was at work. When three months ago, I learned of Joanie's resignation from her role as Northern Virginia Regional Director, I became interested in discerning if this role would be the next step on my ministry journey. And now, here I am.

I look forward with excitement to getting to know each of you better, and I think it is important that you have a sense of who I am. I grew up in a small town on eastern Long Island East Hampton, NY before heading to Boston College. At BC, I studied Theology with a concentration in Faith, Peace, and Justice Studies and met the amazing woman who would later become my wife. After graduation, I headed to central Oregon to work with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps with homeless families. The JVC values of community, spirituality, social justice, and simple lifestyle were so impactful that I continued as a full-time volunteer for a second term in Houston, TX working as a refugee resettlement caseworker.

After JVC, I taught Theology for 10 years. First at a Jesuit Grammar School in New York City, while I attended Union Theological Seminary to earn my Master of Divinity degree. Then locally, I taught at both Bishop O'Connell High School and Gonzaga College High School. Between my classroom teaching and parish work, I devoted a year to train to be a substance abuse counselor. Being a life-long learner has taught me that each person has the ability, with the help of their Higher Power, to live a life of integrity and gratitude. While I learned a great deal in my studies and throughout my work, I have learned the most as a husband and a father. My two boys, Matt and Josh, ages 8 and 11, teach me something new and inspire me every day. The love that my wife shows me is the strongest example of unconditional love I have ever experienced.

This is how I experience God. In my life, God is love, the love between each of us. I believe that *church* is best defined as the People of God and this belief impacts the idea that we thrive in community, especially in a community such as IVC. The way people express themselves, connect with others, test out life, and come into being the people they are meant to be is amazing to witness. I am excited and grateful to walk with you and support you as you continue to live out your vocations as men and women for and with others.

Peace,
Mike Mothes

The Opioid Crisis and the Arlington Diocesan Response

It's been called the most perilous drug crisis ever. In the United States, the epicenter of the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths have quadrupled since 1999, killing 91 people every day. Pain relief is an essential clinical tool, but with physicians writing some 240 million opioid prescriptions to Americans every year, the potential for addiction is enormous.



The bright spot here is that addiction is increasingly recognized as a medical, not a criminal problem, and new treatments are on the horizon. Buprenorphine is used in medication-assisted treatment to help people reduce or quit their use of heroin or other opiates, such as pain relievers like morphine. Medications such as buprenorphine, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment of opioid dependency. When taken as prescribed, buprenorphine is safe and effective.

Examples of opioids are: Painkillers such as; morphine, methadone, Buprenorphine, hydrocodone, and oxycodone. Heroin is also an **opioid** and is illegal. **Opioid** drugs sold under brand names include: OxyContin®, Percocet®, Palladone®(taken off the market 7/2005), Vicodin®, Percodan®, Tylox® and Demerol® among others.

How Catholic Charities brings together Parish Liaisons to tackle the Opioid Crisis

Diocesan Catholic Charities hosted its quarterly Parish Liaison Network meeting at St. Mary of Sorrows Church in Fairfax June 14. **IVC volunteers Lynda Dendtler and Susan Kral, represented IVC at the gathering.** Participants learned about the opioid crisis through the lens of a counseling center, a recovering addict and a parish support program.

According to George Swanberg, executive director of Life Line Counseling, 175 people die every day in the United States from opioids and there were 1,422 deaths in Virginia in 2016.

Dan Stendeback spoke about opioids from a personal standpoint. He became the first client in the Catholic Charities Welcome Home Re-entry Program after being released from the Fairfax Adult Detention Center last October. He is now a mentor in the program and is president of his Oxford House, a sober living program.

Susan Infeld, a parish nurse at St. John Neumann Church in Reston, spoke from the perspective of parish involvement. She described the opioid crisis as a pro-life issue and one that is an elephant in the room for families and parishes. When Infeld shared her son's addiction struggle, it prompted discussion with others in the parish who shared their own struggles or sought guidance and support for their loved ones. Infeld said prayers are not enough and people need to be proactive, not just reactive.

St. John Neumann has sponsored educational programs for parishioners. For more information on what a parish program looks like, contact Susan Infield at 703-390-2349 or sinfeld@saintjn.org.

Special Thanks to Susan & Lynda for alerting us to this crisis—E



Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy



by Stephanie Neodringhaus

November 8, 2016 was a watershed day for our nation as a whole and for me personally. Clearly, the presidential election outcome would dramatically change our country. Like most people, I didn't expect that outcome, and I was shocked. I knew within hours that my plans for the coming years would have to change.

I had retired earlier that year after more than 20 years working for NETWORK, the national Catholic social justice lobby and home of the famous "Nuns on the Bus" campaign. Even before my decades at NETWORK, I had been involved in justice advocacy centered on the rights of people with disabilities.

After decades of lobbying and advocacy, I had decided that my retirement years would focus on direct service - perhaps working with people who are homeless or those struggling to reenter society after a period of incarceration. I had learned about the IVC when I worked with an IVC volunteer at NETWORK, and I knew it would provide me with a powerful opportunity to live out my new goals. I interviewed with Joanie Coolidge, and we began to explore possible agency placements. I was ready to go.

By the morning of November 9, the day after the election, I knew that my lobbying and advocacy experience should not be discarded. It was clear that the antipoverty, antiracism agenda I had fought for was now threatened as never before. I had to stay in the advocacy world.

I called Joanie that day and told her about my decision. She understood immediately and quickly found an opportunity for me with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP). This was perfect, because it not only enabled me to remain an advocate but it also allowed me to grow into a new field - work at the state level. I had always known that many state policies have a profound impact on people who live with injustice and poverty. I could now address policies at that level as well.

An added bonus was that I would be able to work with a woman I had admired for many years. Kim Bobo, nationally known as an expert on faith-based organizing and worker justice, had just been named the executive director of the interfaith center. I could - and would - learn a lot from her. And finally, I had long wanted to work in the interfaith world, building on my understanding of Catholic social justice teachings by absorbing the teachings of other faith traditions. As one of our posters says, "All faiths believe in justice." Amen.

In my year-and-a-half at VICPP, I have engaged in many different advocacy and organizing efforts. Our agenda includes justice for immigrants, an issue that touches my heart as the daughter of an immigrant. I am appalled on a daily basis by new instances of bigotry and government mistreatment of immigrants and refugees. My VICPP activism has ranged from marching in demonstrations opposed to family separation to serving on the planning committees for the 2017 and 2018 Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summits.

We also work on issues such as criminal justice reform and labor justice. And, of course, we worked long and hard for Medicaid expansion. I organized a busload of Northern Virginians who traveled to Richmond to lobby for expansion and, like VICPP advocates around the state, I was thrilled when it was recently passed and signed into law. A huge victory!

Another powerful VICPP experience has been my work on a committee that planned and just launched a valuable program that certifies Alexandria employers who pay their employees a living wage. Because Virginia does not allow local governments to raise the minimum wage (shameful!), this is an alternative method to help ensure full-time workers earn enough to put food on their tables and afford roofs over their heads. That is simple justice.

IVC continues to enrich my retirement years in so many ways, including fulfilling work, fellowship with other volunteers, and spiritual guidance. I am deeply grateful.

Stephanie

For Joanie Coolidge
My reply to her sweet farewell this evening.
Tony 6/11/18

RAIN OF FIRE

Out of deep soul
and all glowing
now she calls down
the fire of love
on all the people.

In flaming words
she says

Go forth and love!

She leaves us now
with hearts all warm
but sad to see her go.

Now I am left
with hope
that in some dark and future time of trouble
deep embers of this day will stir
and burst
to light our way
and again together
we will journey on
toward the everlasting
dawn of peace.

Tony Albrecht 6/12/18



Northern Virginia Region 2018-19 City Groups

Good Shephard 8710 Mount Vernon Highway Alexandria, Virginia 1st Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Our Lady of Good Council 8601 Wolftrap Road Vienna, VA 22182 1st Thursday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	The Broadway 502 W. Broad St. Falls Church, VA 22046 2nd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon
October 3	October 4	October 9	October 10
November 7	November 1	November 13	November 14
December 13	December 13	December 13	December 13
February 6	February 7	February 12	February 13
March 6	March 7	March 12	March 13
April 3	April 4	April 9	April 10
May 1	May 2	May 14	May 8
Saint Ann's 5300 North 10th St Arlington, VA 22205 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 711 Columbus St. Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	
October 11	October 16	October 17	
November 8	November 20	November 21	
December 13	December 13	December 13	
February 14	February 19	February 20	
March 14	March 19	March 20	
April 11	April 16	April 17	
May 9	May 21	May 15	

