

# Corps Connector

Volume 13, Number 2

June, 2018

## Evening of Gratitude

April 15,  
2018

## Della Strada Awards



Mike Goggin, Dennis Lucey,  
Pam Lucey (Awardees),  
Joanie Coolidge & Joe Raia



Joanie Coolidge, Fr. Mike  
Bryant (Awardee), Mike  
Goggin, and Joe Raia

Joanie Coolidge  
to Retire  
See Page 4 and  
Tributes on  
Pages 8 to 11

# Notes from the Editor



## Mary Magdalene the first Apostle

**F**or many years I thought there were only 12 apostles:

Peter, James, John and so forth. Isn't there another apostle lurking in the shadows: Paul, the 'Apostle to the Gentiles.' How did he get the title 'apostle'?

In I Corinthians 9:1, Paul asks, "Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" According to I Corinthians, Paul spells out two criteria by which he is an apostle: first, Jesus appeared to him after the Resurrection; and second, Jesus commissioned him to preach the gospel.

### Why Mary Magdalene is an Apostle!

John's gospel (John 20:1-18) relates how Mary met these criteria. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went

to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'"

Of course, they doubted her word—she was only a woman! Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb and found it as Mary said; the burial strips lying there with the cloth that covered Jesus' head lying separate. When the other disciple saw these things, the gospel says he believed Mary's word. The two then left and returned to where the others were hiding.

"Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her,

'Woman, why are you crying?' She said to them, 'They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him.'

"Right after this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He also asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and cried out in Aramaic, 'Teacher.' " Her grief instantly turns to joy!

Since Mary and Jesus are standing facing one another, what does John mean when he says, this point: "Mary turned?" The only thing it could mean is what we mean when we say "someone turned his or her life around." As soon as Mary heard her name, it turned her whole life all around and she immediately believed that Jesus had been raised to life.

Jesus, her "Teacher," then begins to instruct her. He tells her, "Do not hold on to me!" or "Mary, stop clinging to me," or as most translators translate it, "Don't touch me." Does Jesus mean to tell her at this point not to physically

touch him?

Isn't he really saying, "Mary, let go of the way you used to know me in the past? You came to the tomb this morning searching for me. Remember I once told you I would not leave you orphans? So from now on, you can always find me whenever and wherever my sisters and brothers congregate. They are that body you were searching for!"

Right after this he gives her her commission: "Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her." (John 20:17) "Go and tell," traditional commissioning words!

To recapitulate: John tells us that on Easter Sunday Mary was the very first one to see a vision of Jesus; he then commissions her to "go and tell my brothers and sisters." By these actions, she fulfills Paul's two criteria to be called an apostle: 1) seeing Jesus after he is raised and 2) being commissioned by him to spread the good news that he is alive.

Why has Mary Magdalene, who so deeply loved her Lord been denied her rightful place as an apostle? And why did Gregory the Great ultimately defame her as a prostitute? Could it be she had the misfortune of being a WOMAN!!

*Dick Bowling*



Washington DC/  
Metro Maryland  
& Northern  
Virginia Regional  
Council:

Joanie Coolidge,  
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

### Inside this Issue:

Page 2 Notes from the Editor

Page 3 An Evening to be Grateful for

Page 4 Joanie to Retire

Page 5 Rising Hope

Pages 6 Evening of Gratitude Pictures

Pages 8 – 11 Farewell Wishes to Joanie

Page 12 Upcoming Events

## Corps Connector

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# An Evening to be Grateful For



Fr. Ray Kemp, Presider and Homilist

(1) Two homework assignments? (2) A reference to the “guys over there in their nightshirts”? (3) Good character traits result from “early potty training”? (4) Record-breaking numbers? (5) A “funeral preview”? and (6) A surprising and effective 10-word speech? Yes, these questions were all part of IVC’s 12th Annual Evening of Gratitude on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC.

It was Father Ray Kemp, presider at the 4 PM Mass at St. Aloysius Church and deliverer of a wonderful homily, who gave us our two “homework assignments”:

1. To read Pope Francis’ beautiful Apostolic Exhortation “*Gaudete et Exsultate*” (*Rejoice and Be Glad*), available online for free ([http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20180319\\_gaudete-et-exsultate.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html)), and
2. Go to the website: [CatholicWomenPreach.org](http://CatholicWomenPreach.org) to see the video of Mary McGinnity’s April 15, 2018, homily.

Fr. Ray inspired us by speaking about the wonderful efforts and impact of our Della Strada honorees. He is also the one who referred to “those guys over there in the nightshirts,” his fellow co-celebrants—all esteemed Jesuit Fathers and Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington—who were wearing their long white albs.

After Mass we moved to the dining area in Gonzaga School’s Lower Commons. Joe Raia, Chair of the DC/Metro MD & Northern VA Regional Council, cited some “record-breaking numbers” for the two regions this year: 50 active partner agencies, 75 volunteers, and this event’s almost \$100,000 fundraiser.

We heard from Beth Orrell, representing the IVC partner agency: ‘No One Dies Alone.’ She movingly described the work of two of our IVC volunteers, who serve at the bedsides of individuals who have no one to be with them at the end of their lives. In sum, these volunteers’ efforts affirm for the dying the beauty and value of life.

IVC’s Della Strada honorees were Rev. Michael Bryant and Dennis and Pam Lucey.

Fr. Mike served for 25 years as staff chaplain at the DC Detention Facility and, in 2005, founded the “Welcome Home Re-entry Program,” a mentoring program to assist those returning home from prison. Fr. John Mudd is Fr. Mike’s long-time friend. It was he who commented that Fr. Mike is so well-organized and has such

strong persistence that it “must be related to early potty training.” Fr. John noted that Fr. Mike has an extraordinary sense of justice, especially restorative justice and described his successful efforts to gain the U.S. bishops’ attention and establish his organization, citing his book, *Criminal Justice Reform: Retribution vs. Restoration*.

When it was Fr. Mike’s turn to reply, he joked that he felt like he was attending “a preview of my own funeral while I’m sitting upright.” He told of Martin Luther King “slicing through the mountain of misery” and of the need for “prophets for justice and fairness,” noting that 2.4 million people are in U.S. prisons, 45% of whom are Black and 15% Latino. He said we need to stand up to this reality and that “God expects us to do the right thing for the marginalized.”

Dennis & Pam Lucey are longtime IVC Regional Council and former National Board members. Jeanne Ruesch began her introduction of Pam and Dennis by telling of introducing them to one another many years ago: Pam, a biology teacher and Dennis, home from overseas and due to go back to Africa in three weeks. As they talked, Pam told Dennis she always wanted to go to Africa and Dennis thought to himself: this “sounds like the Holy Spirit speaking.” So, he said: “We have to get married.” And they did, nine months later. They lived in Liberia, West Africa. He, the Country Director for the Peace Corps and she developed and taught a ground breaking environmental science course.

She described experiences that shaped them, including contact with faith-filled lives, and spending time in countries in poverty. Their children, Chris and Megan, were raised in the faith-and-action tradition. Pam, she said, is an excellent teacher and coach, with wonderful patience and great organizing skills. She inspires confidence. Dennis, with his “gift of Blarney,” had planned to be a priest and instead committed himself to service.

In accepting the award, Pam said, “We are so grateful because we have received so many blessings.” Pam then added referring, no doubt, to Jeanne’s rather lengthy introduction: “I’m beyond words, for which I’m sure you are very grateful.” Even the blarney-stone blest, and always upbeat Dennis surprised and delighted the crowd by giving us 10, but only 10, beautiful words: “This is a great organization. You all are the best!”

**See Page 6 for some pictures of this event**



By Kevin Tansey





## Joanie Coolidge to Retire as Director of the Northern Virginia Region.

**O**N MAY 9TH, JOANIE, TO OUR DEEP REGRET AND GREAT sorrow announced to the Northern Virginia IVC community that she is stepping down from her position as Regional Director. Over her five years as Regional Director she has brought light and life to the region. Here is some of what she said in her email to the community announcing her retirement:

**“After much prayerful consideration, I have decided to step down from my position at IVC. These past five years, you have taken me on a beautiful journey of deepening faith, meaningful service and growing in community.**

**“We worked together, developing retreats, service opportunities, and fundraisers. Since beginning this position in the summer of 2013, we’ve organized three offices, expanded our City Groups from 4 to 7, added 12 new Partner Agencies, and doubled the number of our Volunteers ..... We have prepared and shared so many meals together. Just this year we have given about 10,000+ hours of service to those in need, valuing roughly a quarter of a million dollars in labor provided to our service agencies. We have loved God with our hands.**

**“We’ve read books, prayed through Scripture, and listened well to our teachers.... Do you remember writing poetry, dancing like David danced (well not quite), practicing Imaginative Prayer and watching sunsets and movies together at Loyola? We have loved God with our minds.**

**“We’ve added 11 new Spiritual Reflectors to our already deep bench of wisdom seekers. And these companions have helped us to trust the Lover of our Soul to enter more deeply into our sacred conversations and Emmaus walks. As community, we have inspired one another with our courage and commitment to those in need, and by sharing our experiences – crazy, surprising, intimate, uncomfortable, frustrating, confusing, joyful and transforming! St. Ignatius would be encouraged to know that we have “laughed and grown strong” together. We have carried one another’s burdens and shared our resources, not counting the cost. We have loved God with our hearts and spirits.**

**“Indeed, it has been beautiful, and I am so grateful to have had the privilege to be a part of this mission, and a part of your lives.**

**“With much love and gratitude in my heart for each of you. To God Be the Glory, Joanie”**

As editor of the *Core Connector*, I have had the privilege of working side-by-side with Joanie, four days a week these last five years. We have moved our offices three times from Pathway Homes in Fairfax City; to a very small, cramped space with the delightful community of the Mustard Seed Foundation in Falls Church; to our present more commodious breathable space in the center of Falls Church City.

Amid all this disruption, she has accomplished the unbelievable, doubling the number of volunteers and spiritual reflectors, as well as the number of City Groups, and expanding the number of our service agencies. Seeking always to expand the influence of IVC: even to opening the door to IVC in Zambia, East Africa.

As we reflect on Joanie’s tenure, we think of the enormity of the task she undertook and carried out with such panache. Joanie, I’m going to miss you terribly. The joy you have brought to my own life is not easy to describe and I know of no one else in Northern Virginia who is going to miss you quite as much as I am.

Dick Bowling  
Editor



# RISING HOPE MISSION CHURCH

a united methodist congregation | alexandria, va



by Dick Schaad

In 1990, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (M.S.), and in 1996 I was cured of M.S.! Doctors still can't heal M.S; but the Church's Sacrament of the Sick and charismatic healing prayer did! At first, the M.S. diagnosis scared me to the core, and the healing happened so quietly that it didn't appear to be a miracle. But it was! The symptoms were gone, I could work, and I learned a personal lesson—"Without God we can do NOTHING!" (Our hearts won't beat, and we cannot breathe without God's continual permission and love.)

In 2016 it took another type of miracle to get me inside the doors of a non-Catholic church. I joined IVC and that led me to meet Pastor Keary Kincannon and the community of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church to explore a volunteer posting. Rising Hope Church ministers to the **Homeless**, who are **Least, Lost, Lonely, and Left-out** of society; it operates a Food Pantry, a Clothing Closet, community outreach to help find lodging and work for the homeless and unemployed. At our first meeting Pastor Keary asked me to describe how I was healed from Multiple Sclerosis. The healing from M.S. can give people a sense of Rising Hope that God is active and willing to help them and after Pastor Keary listened to it, he thought these gifts could help his church. I agreed to work on Wednesdays to answer the phone and direct callers to the best staff person to help them.

On my first Wednesday, one of the staff members came into the office in some discomfort and mentioned that she had somehow injured her hip. I asked if she would like prayer for the hip and mentioned that the Holy Spirit had gifted me with the charism of Healing Prayer. She said yes and we prayed for healing! Later that day, she was seen dancing around in her office unhindered. The following week I asked her about her hip, and she told me that Jesus had healed it! We said a quick thank you to God and moved on through the day. Later that afternoon one of the staff person's clients came and asked for prayer—to help with family, financial, lodging, employment, education, and criminal court issues. We prayed together for all her needs; and over the next several weeks, the Lord allowed her to finish school and get a professional job; to find a residence, and not go to court! God is so good! Amen!!

Other positive results of prayer were being reported by other persons; and a week or so later, the Pastor asked if I would be willing to lead a Noon Prayer Service at the church. I agreed to try. The following week, we started a simple Prayer service. Then the Pastor walked in and sat down as a congregant! When I looked over at him for any words he might want to speak, he motioned to me to keep going. Although I was nervous, the Lord led the way and we finished a simple discussion of the scripture. We took a minute to ask blessing and give thanks to God for the food that was being prepared downstairs for all worshipers. Later, the Pastor asked if I would be willing to continue to serve Rising Hope in this way. Wednesday Noon Prayer Service has now become a fixture for me. I am enjoying the opportunity to share God's love with his people and to be able to share prayer with the community and specific individuals who want special prayer.

The Holy Spirit is making this possible by knitting together my life experience: Catholic Seminary education; many years as a military criminal investigator, the charism of Healing Prayer, training as a Pastoral Counselor and several years service providing psychological care to persons in need; and producing a finely tailored assignment for me.

The last 18 months of membership with IVC have blessed me with a Spiritual Reflector, who helps keep me on track and working on my prayer life; as well as a community of like-minded people to pray and grow with. All of this adds new meaning to active involvement with St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church and participating as a Prayer Minister with the Catholic Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Arlington. God is Very Good !!!





# A Peek at the Evening of Gratitude



# Six New Spiritual Reflectors Join Our Staff



**Margot Eyring** has a Ph.D. in “preventive mental health”, an M.A. in the area of Christian formation, and a B.F.A. in studio art. She has also completed post-graduate work in contemplative group practice, studied personal and professional coaching, and is a certified Pilates and yoga instructor. Margot draws upon her broad education and experience, as well as her personal contemplative practice to make her approach to spiritual direction holistic and unique for each person with whom she walks.



**Walt Grazer** worships at Holy Trinity in Georgetown. He has served as the director of the Environmental Justice Program for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops from 1993 to 2007. He is a consultant for the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the Evangelical Environmental Network, and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. He holds a master's degree in international relations, a master of social work degree, and a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He is author of the book *Catholics Going Green*, Ave Maria Press. Walt is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University in the Catholic Studies Program.



**Gloria Mog** was a Clinical Social Worker in private practice until she retired in August 2017. She is a Certified Imago Relationship Therapist, Psychodramatist and is trained in Gestalt, family systems, EMDR, and Voice Dialogue with individuals, couples, and groups. Her special interests include couples counseling, women's issues, trauma work and the interface between psychology and spirituality. She received her MSW from the University of Michigan in 1966. Gloria worships with the NOVA Catholic Community.

Three others have just very recently joined our growing number of Spiritual Reflectors.



Fr. Joe Sobierajski, SJ,



Fr. Bill Kelley, SJ



Fr. Bill Quigley, CICM





# Joanie's Farewell

*After Joanie announced her intention to retire, I sent the following to all the members of IVC:*

*"I've been thinking about how the Corps Connector (the IVC newsletter) can say farewell and pay tribute to her. As soon as I turned my mind to it, it came to me to ask all the members of IVC—the volunteers, the spiritual reflectors and the Regional Council—to write a sort of an "I remember Joanie" tribute. It could be an "I remember when I first met Joanie!" Or "...she went out of her way for me..." Or some small thing or some big thing she did that touched your heart."*

*Below are some of the responses I received, there are many others that express the depth of their love and thanks to her.*

*Editor*

What I recall most fondly about Joanie is her flexibility, her openness to going wherever the Holy Spirit led us. For me that took the form of openness regarding my volunteer assignment, to where I was feeling led by the Spirit.

After my first year in IVC I realized my assignment for that year was no longer a good fit for me. Joanie allowed me to work with my parish's social justice minister to find the right assignment. That led me to the middle school tutoring service I have loved for the past 3 years.

I also loved when she visited me at my service site. She battled horrible traffic to visit me at the San Miguel School science fair. And she visited me at Holy Family School, so we could take the departing social justice minister out to lunch.

Joanie may be moving on from IVC, but I am confident that the friendship we developed will endure.

Austin

Joanie brought me flowers and visited when I was sick. She always answers voice and e-mail messages. She is a great leader!  
Jeanette Herbert

**CONTINUED**



# Joanie's Farewell



Joanie, you are one of the most wonderful ladies I have met. You are beautiful inside and out. You are kind, cheerful, smart, and above all a believer in God.

I wish you the best on your new journey. God bless you always.  
Lerick


I am very grateful for the knowledge and wisdom Joanie has shared with us during her years as IVC Regional Director. One particularly meaningful incident occurred at a recent City Group meeting. I had been struggling for weeks with a question regarding identity. Quite providentially (and unprompted by my personal quest), Joanie took to the blackboard and chalked out a model that yielded a real "Aha" for me - significant in both spiritual and social-justice contexts. Thanks, Dr. Joanie!  
Neota

Our nation today has grown harsher than at any other period in my lifetime so I thank God for Joanie. She nourishes my hope for better days by authentically living the Gospel call to justice, compassion and peace.

When I met Joanie I had just retired after decades of work for a Catholic social justice lobby on Capitol Hill. I told her I wanted to reengage in direct service activities as a new IVC volunteer, and she immediately sought work sites for me.

My feelings changed dramatically the night of the November 2016 election. I realized I could not throw away my advocacy experience at such a critical time. Joanie understood my change of heart and quickly found me a position with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy so I could continue my justice advocacy.

Joanie is a treasure, and I am grateful for her friendship, understanding and dedication.  
Stephanie



**CONTINUED**

# Joanie's Farewell



As I reflect on Joanie, lots of words come to mind but **WARMTH** would certainly be at the top of the list.

**W** is for Wonder. Wonder at her never ceasing care for others!

**A** is for Awe. At the Grit and Determination with which she faces challenges.

**R** is for Remarkable. That no matter what, there is that awesome smile.

**M** is for the Magic she has been for all of us for the last five years.

**T** is for Teacher...For her children...to her IVCers and Oh so many more!

**H** is for Hope! That whatever path she chooses, Heaven will smile down and say "You go, Girl"

Love, Emillie

CONTINUED



# Joanie's Farewell



I first met Joanie Coolidge at Gonzaga College High School. She was being introduced to our IVC Regional Council as the new Regional Director for Northern Virginia.

She began by telling us a little about herself—about being a widow raising her 3 children on her own; about her commitment to serving those in need; about her vision for IVC and how she hoped to grow our region etc etc.

As she spoke I was completely caught up in her enthusiasm and obvious passion for living out the gospel message. She made me want to join her and do whatever she asked.

IVC will miss her greatly and whatever part of the vineyard she next labors in will, like IVC, bear much fruit! God bless you Joanie, and thank you!!

Pam Lucey



# Upcoming Events

## **JUNE RETREAT**

**JUNE 11-13, 2018**

**Christine Eberle Facilitator**

**Loyola Retreat House  
Faulkner Maryland**

## **FALL RETREAT**

**SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2018**

**Fr. Bill Kelley Facilitator  
Loyola Retreat House  
Faulkner Maryland**



