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All Photos by Dick Bowl-
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Corps Connector

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

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Fr. Tim Hickey leads
Fall 2011 Retreat
(See Page 4)

JANUARY DAY OF REFLECTION:
JANUARY 17, 2012
NEW LOCATION:
DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE, NORTHERN VIRGINIA .
TIME: 9:00-3:45

As a departure from tradition, the January Day of Reflection will be held this year at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, Virginia. This decision was made because of traffic problems and in response to the difficulty many people had getting to the Washington Retreat House in the past.

Dominican Retreat House is on a lovely tranquil hillside site on Old Dominion Drive near Dolley Madison Parkway (Rt. 123)



—Photo by Dominican Retreat House

Corps Connector

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 Send submissions or comments to dbowling@ivcusa.org.

Sister Rea McDonnell to Facilitate January Day of Reflection

REA McDONNELL, is a School Sister of Notre Dame, and a native of Chicago. She has taught every grade from second all the way up through PhD. She studied for her MA in theology at Collegeville, MN, after which she moved to Cambridge, MA, earning a PhD in Biblical Studies. From 1978-87 she served as Continuing Education director at the Washington Theological Union in Silver Spring, MD, where she still lives.

She then continued her own education, becoming a pastoral counselor through studies and interning with the Pastoral Psychotherapy Institute of Oakton, VA. For the past thirty-six years she has used a pastoral approach to

Scripture in preparing adults for the priesthood and lay ministry.

While administering at



Washington Theological Union she taught graduate programs for pastoral ministers on weekends, summers or intersessions in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Loyola in Columbia, as well as offering spiritual direction. In 2006 she retired from pastoral counseling to devote her time to spiritual direction, writing and teaching in prison.

Sister Rea's first book, an overview of the Bible with helps for praying with Scripture, was published by Paulist Press in 1984. Her fifteenth book came out in February, 2011. Among the many books she has authored are:

From Glory to Glory: Spirit and Sacrament in the Writings of Paul and John (her latest. Feb. 2011)

Into the Heart of Mary: Imagining Her Scriptural Stories;

Prayer Pilgrimage Through Scripture;

Why God?: A Glimpse into the Mystery of Suffering;

When God Comes Close: A Journey Through Scripture; Catholic Epistles and Hebrews;

Prayer Pilgrimage with Paul

In her younger days, Sr. Rea loved to tent camp and hike; she still swims every weekday and reads novels voraciously. She is also an avid Red Sox fan.

CHORAL ARTS HEADLINES 2012 EVENING OF GRATITUDE

Washington's premier symphonic chorus, The Choral Arts Society of Washington, will headline the 2012 Evening of Gratitude Celebration, April 29. Renowned Founder/Artistic Director Norman Scribner, in his last season at the helm, will lead a CASW Chamber Chorus in presenting the Liturgical Music at the Mass, including a special musical prelude. Choral Arts has been one of the leading symphonic choruses in the United States for over four decades, performing with leading symphony orchestras and under the batons of the world's most distinguished conductors. It has produced 18 acclaimed recordings, toured nationally and internationally and participated in numerous special events both live and televised; A Capital Fourth, The Kennedy Center Honors and the recent Andrea Bocelli Concert as examples. You get the idea. This is a world class chorus that will enhance our joy and deepen our devotion on that special day.

TRANSITIONS: Within The DC/Metro Maryland Region

THE DC/METRO MARYLAND Region's 2011-12 organization year began with some adjustments of volunteer assignments that enhanced IVC's presence at a long-time partner agency and introduced us to two new partners. The following brief descriptions of the new service assignments are in the volunteers' own words. [NEXT ISSUE: IVC NOVA TRANSITIONS]

Mary Sue Flanagan joins **Rosemount Center** in Northwest Washington: "I'm "Miss Mary" to the 10 three year olds I spend Friday's with at this unique and dynamic bilingual Day Care Center in Mt. Pleasant. Along with their two teachers -- one English speaking, the other Spanish speaking -- I read to the group, encourage them when they're hesitant about a new experience, hug them when tears fall onto cheeks as they remember that Mommy/Daddy have gone, mediate infrequent disagreements, tuck them in for naps and frolic on the playground twice a day. This ministry is a gift wrapped in a package full of surprises!"

Vicki Malone flourishes at our new partner agency; **St. Ann's Infant & Maternity Home** in Hyattsville: "The toddlers at St. Ann's call out "Hi Miss Vicki!" when I walk into the room. From that moment until I leave, I'm immersed in playing with them, reading to them, giving hugs, feeding them strained peaches, taking walks, settling disagreements, wiping gooey noses....It is a joy to see their beautiful faces and watch them grow and it's a privilege to work with the women who take care of them.

"Twice a month at St. Ann's small high school I conduct art classes for the teen moms of the children. I sometimes wonder if any of this makes an impact but then I think of Mother Teresa's quote: 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.' Mother Teresa, I'm trying! A place like St. Ann's dares you to hope for the future of these little ones and their very young mothers."

Linda Stone feels rejuvenated starting anew at **The Gabriel Network** which has houses throughout suburban Maryland: "After serving at Covenant House Day Care Center for my first two great years with IVC, I am ex-

am now learning about Gabriel Network's program of housing for homeless pregnant women. I have attended several meetings of the Network's staff and am very impressed with the professionalism, warmth and concern for the mothers and babies that is expressed in these meetings.... I am convinced that God means me to be working with the Gabriel Network because the skills I gained in my professional career are fitting right in with my service work here. I will be conducting psycho-educational groups for the young pregnant women and mothers on issues such as relationships and budgeting. I have worked with homeless families before and like the idea of supporting young moms as they mature into becoming good parents and providers for their families."

Madeleine Kirk, one of the region's most experienced volunteers and currently a member of IVC's national Board of Directors, has decided to try something new, joining long-term volunteer **Pat Dunigan** and **Mary Sue Flanagan** (see above) at **Rosemount Center**: "I started volunteering at **Rosemount Center** on Sept. 15 as a loving teacher's aide in a bilingual classroom. I spend 8 hours each week helping Spanish and English speaking teachers with 12 playful 3 and 4 year old boys and girls. They speak several languages but I talk to them only in English. They come from Washington, DC and Ethiopia -- one girl is from China. Because the curriculum is designed to give the children encouragement in developing good social skills, reading, speaking and sharing are what I do when interacting with them in the classroom, playing tag with them on the playground and eating lunch with them. Meeting and talking to the parents when they drop off or pick up their children is a way I can help the teachers evaluate how the children are adjusting to the school's loving, interactive environment."

A Beginning—Brand new volunteer **Juliet Orzal** has just joined the headquarters staff at **Catholic Charities of DC**. in what sounds like a very important position: "With a comprehensive program and services for all types of human needs, Catholic Charities depends heavily on volunteer support to deliver its myriad services. It has become clear that there needs to be a centralized infrastructure for all volunteer services and resources rather than the current structure wherein several divisions manage their own volunteer support mechanisms.

"My role as a new IVC volunteer is to help develop and implement the organizational plan for the new centralized volunteer service program that will integrate the different needs of the varied agency staffs responsible for coordination of volunteer services. The plan will cover a volunteer development system encompassing recruitment, training, placement, supervision, evaluation, recognition and retention of volunteers. I am excited and feel blessed to be working in the Office of Catholic Charities-DC President and CEO Msgr. John Enzler in support of his Assistant Joan Fowler Brown and the Management staff."

These are just a few glimpses of the service activities in which our volunteers are involved. They demonstrate the change, renewal and growth that takes place in the program continuously. We will continue to provide these snapshots of what it means to be an IVC volunteer in future issues of the newsletter.



—Photo by Loyola Retreat House

THE FIRST hint of trouble came Thursday afternoon. The fall retreat was scheduled to start September, 13, next Tuesday. Barbara from the Loyola Retreat house was on the phone, “The road to the retreat house washed out

from all the rain and we may have to cancel.” Bad news! We were all set. We were ready to print the program; Fr. Tim Hickey was engaged as facilitator; the hundreds of minute details needed to put on a major retreat were nailed down. Where could we possibly find a substitute retreat house at this late date? Most are booked at least a year in advance. What retreat house would be big enough to accommodate a group as large as ours? There were three regions coming: Baltimore, Washington and Northern Virginia. Would we have to cancel? reschedule? What a nightmare that would be! Would Fr. Hickey be available later? Would those already signed up be able to make it at a later date?

A very slim hope rested on Barbara’s “*may* have to be cancelled.” By Friday night, that hope washed away also with the arrival of an email from Loyola showing a picture of the massive destruction to the roadway; it looked like a mammoth earth-mover had bulldozed its way right across where the road used to be. They had no idea when they might reopen, they thought maybe by the end of October; would we like to hold a date open for then? Yes! Even before this, we had gone on the internet searching for and calling all the retreat houses within a hundred mile radius, No luck. By Saturday evening there seemed to be no hope we could hold the retreat on the dates scheduled, Except.... One tiny glimmer, Marilyn Dunphy, the Baltimore regional director, was still searching.

And she did it! Against all the odds, she came up with a place. In Baltimore! No further distant than Loyola: The Holy Trinity Spiritual Center, run by the Trinitarian Fathers. But it would be a tight squeeze to fit all our people in, but somehow we did. And no one cancelled because of the change. And for all of us who came it seemed this retreat was meant to be held here.

Fall 2011 Retreat:

“What is your Foundational Truth?”

—Fr. Tim Hickey

To prepare for this article, we sent an email to all the volunteers and spiritual reflectors in the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland regions asking them to submit their memories of the retreat. This is an edited version of their replies.—Ed.



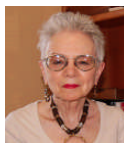
Maryellen
Rodgers

“The reflections on such notions as: ‘Foundational truth,’ ‘liminal time,’ cosmology, phenomenology were all challenging and completely engaging! I have been turning these over and over in my thoughts, readings and prayer. I have always been drawn to such things, now I feel compelled to examine them more deeply.”



Art
McNeill

“Fr. Hickey did a wonderful job as have all of our retreat moderators. I felt that Holy Trinity was a wonderful facility but I missed Faulkner: it’s the view of course! ...In past retreats I never was a real fan of the small group discussions; however, at this retreat everyone in my group participated and we ran overtime each meeting. I attribute a good part of this to Helen Taney whose ‘style’ was wonderfully calming.”



Carolyn
Burstein

“I must admit that I am not a person who takes notes at retreat because I try to respond to the ‘sacrament of the moment.’ However, I have given some thought to Father Tim’s many questions. Of prime importance was his: ‘What is my “foundational truth?”’ Also significant, are questions framing that question, such as ‘Verify your foundational truth with the Gospel and ‘How do you use that truth to judge other concepts?’



Eliana
Turina

“I was really struck by Fr. Hickey’s question what is my ‘core fundamental truth?’ I have been thinking about this ever since the retreat. Another point was about ‘building relationships.’ How do we do that in our daily lives? And how do I personally do it to build my relationship with God? ...The food was excellent and the nuns were absolutely lovely...The liturgies and singing were great! It’s good to have someone who makes the singing so appropriate to our celebration. I would love to make another retreat there.”



Jeanette
Herbert

“Fr. Tim stressed finding and expressing your foundational truth...The example of the couple thinking they are in a relationship but not spending any time together; not growing in love for each other was thought provoking. — The movie showed us how the monks came to a consensus and their final willingness to give all even unto death as Christ did. — Our small groups had a lot to say about images of God. This Retreat was a great introduction to our discussions this year.”



Madeleine Kirk

“What an indelible impression Fr. Tim’s repeated assertion made on me! That he was convinced that God *loved him passionately just the way he was*. That is so freeing and comforting that I won’t let myself forget it! The whole retreat was a rich and awesome experience. I reflect often on it and the experiences I had.



Mary Campbell

“Dear God - Please help me to know You, love You, and serve You by spending more time with You—and being conscious of Your Presence in the present moment.”



Fr. Mike Hahn

“I really enjoyed the retreat. Fr. Tim is an excellent speaker. The place was just fine, including the food. The one thing I took from the retreat was the notion of a Foundational Truth; that is to be the basis for our belief as individuals and community. Of course, our foundational truth is Jesus Christ.”



Susal Kral

“I went over my notes and for me, some of Fr. Hickey’s most powerful points were: Doubt is the other side of faith. — Theology has a tendency to develop over time. — We outgrow certain theological principles as we come to understand God differently. — It is important to figure out what my own foundational truth is, how to apply it to my life, and to use it in dialogue and theological reflection. — Does my foundational truth stand up to the gospel of Jesus Christ?”

[See Retreat Photos Page 10](#)



Emilie Gillanders

“I was struck with something Fr. Hickey said when we were discussing the importance of prayer. He talked about a person who had a good friend but never saw that friend nor communicated in any way. We puzzled as to how that could be called a friendship. Likewise, with our relationship with God—we need to nurture it and make it blossom through our prayer life.”



Sister Rea McDonnell

“What I remember about this retreat was our small group, how well and deeply we bonded and shared. I remember the hospitality and flexibility of the Holy Trinity Spiritual Center, its director Father Bobby and the four Sisters who cooked so wonderfully. The showing of, *Of Gods and Men*, is another very important memory.”

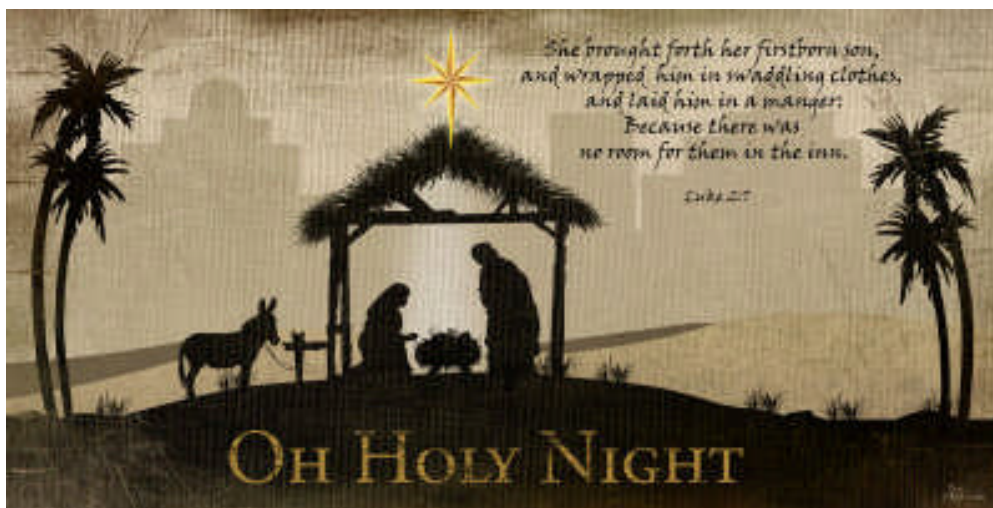
Anonymous

“I was grateful for the opportunity to experience the beauty and hospitality of the Trinitarian Retreat House, including learning about the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and enjoying wonderful meals prepared by inspiring, humble Mexican nuns; and for the providential showing of the movie *Of Gods and Men*.”



Vicki Bell

“So many of Fr. Hickey’s phrases resonated instantly with me; they were ‘ah ha’ moments that happen when some previously blurry concept gets shined up to be part of you. Here’s one of my favorites, ‘we are adult children of God’. How clear! Our lineage to God is a gift, a reality and an obligation and so we are called ‘children’ of God. When we reach maturity, our lineage, human or divine, does not change but we have many more life experiences, knowledge and information available to us than when we were little children. With this maturity comes questions and doubts.”



Volunteer Life at Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless

What I Do at AACH

By Carol Mournighan

Today, my day started at 10:30 am. I am here with another Ignatian Volunteer, Mary Campbell, and for the most part, we have different roles with the clients. This morning I pick up a client and her son to take them to Infinite Technologies so her son could be measured for a cap to correct plagiocephaly (misshapen head). After we came back I meet with two new clients, both single and pregnant. We talk about their needs and what makes a good pre-natal diet.

Now I am on the front desk, buzzing open the door (this is a safe house) and answering the phone. While I'm at the desk I get the chance to speak with clients as they pass by. I am also doing research on bus routes and working on a presentation on "the plate," the new dietary guidelines tool developed by the USDA.

On Wednesdays, I facilitate the women's group. All the women in the shelter are invited to come and ask questions, share their problems and concerns. Here they offer each other help for it is never easy to live in a homeless shelter. I have learned so much from these women and some of them are on my most admired list.

I also escort clients to their doctors to facilitate communication between the client, whose English language skills often prevent the medical team from fully comprehending their condition, and their doctors. I will often convey that information to the staff here at AACH so they may better help the client. I have asked my family dentist to care for our clients' dental needs for free and he has graciously agreed. He will see any client and do any procedure as long as he can do it in his office. Sometimes I drive the clients there if they don't have a car or are not familiar with the bus routes.

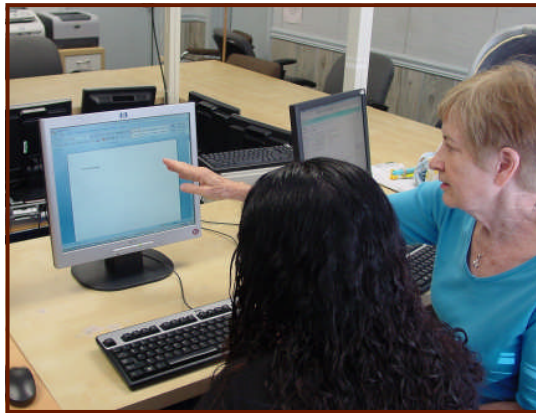
I have begun my fourth year at AACH this fall. I have enjoyed my placement and look forward to another year (at least) here. AACH is a second degree homeless shelter which means that we provide more than just room and board. Our clientele varies, some single women, some families. Some are refugees, others immigrants, some are battered wives and others are here because they have lost everything. The one thing they all have in common is they are homeless and need our help. We also have social workers who help our clients in ways too numerous to count.

The staff here does not call Mary and me volunteers, rather they call us the unpaid staff. They ask our advice and listen to our suggestions. They even make us laugh. I feel fortunate to be able to be here. I have learned so much but I am also able to see the face of Christ in my clients. My best gift was given to me by a client who was leaving. She gave me a big hug and told me she loved me. I have been blessed.

Working with Ularum

By Mary Campbell

The young man, Ularum, is 23; and recently here from Nigeria. He has a wife and baby boy. Everything is so new to them—the language, customs, food, everything. The Arlington/Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH) is currently providing them with a place to live at Sullivan House. There, either Carol Mournighan or myself, meets one-on-one or with small groups of residents once each week to work on basic computer skills, as well as to



IVC Volunteer Mary Campbell assists an AACH client in her search for employment

search and apply online for jobs. Ularum has come to the class most weeks; he is quiet, hesitant with speaking English, but is a quick learner. Despite the fact that he has applied for many jobs, he has not yet been contacted by potential employers for an interview. Nevertheless, he faithfully comes to the computer class and is not giving up on finding a job.

Through AACH, Ularum was able to attend English language classes at the Clarendon Education Center, Arlington County Public Schools, and he received glowing comments from his instructor about his excellent attendance and persistence in learning.

Recently, I was delighted to see another Sullivan House resident working behind the fish counter at Giant. But it just goes to show, for the Ularum's of the world, if you keep trying and do not give up, you will learn, work, and live as a productive member of the community.

Update!

Ularum recently found a job! He had redone his resume, sent it in response to so many job ads, had some interviews, and had been turned down so often. Now, however, with the ongoing assistance of his caseworker at AACH, he has gotten a full-time job working in a cafeteria at a hospital. Since he is now earning an income, he and his wife qualified for the Adopt-A-Family Program, in which they receive financial assistance for rent through Arlington County, as well as ongoing casework support from AACH, for up to two years. Ularum and his wife and son are now getting settled in their very own apartment.

A LITTLE LOVE MISCHIEF

By Jeanie
Sweeney

This is a summary of the Annual Gathering of Spiritual Reflectors of the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland Regions, Missionhurst Mission Center, Oct. 24.

“The habit or attitude of discernment comes from our ongoing availability to God in prayer. It is not a specific act but more of a developing way of being whereby we begin to live into the fullness of who we are and who we are meant to be.”

AT THE ANNUAL SPIRITUAL Reflectors Day, Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND and a current IVC reflector, shared some ways that help in “Setting a Climate for Discernment.” We were reminded by Sr. Rose Mary, that while we don’t ever know another person’s process with God, we can help create a climate of discernment. The reflector’s role is to be present to God for the sake of the other. It is *not* to be present to the other for God (making it more *my* work), but joining God’s presence already active and loving on behalf of the reflectee. Using the Hafiz poem, *The Seed Cracks Open*, and the closing line, “What love mischief can we do

today?” Sr. Rose Mary encouraged us to let our “I” relax into the “We” of working with God in our ministry. We pondered the climate of assisting reflectees to trust their own experience of God and their own deeper



Sister Rose Mary Dougherty

growth, by paying attention to their own desires. “What do you want?” asks Jesus of us. Many of Sr. Rose Mary’s funny or profound stories made the point that being present, listening, holding in prayer until the person “knows what he or she knows” is the process of being led by one spot of light (or knowing) to the next. She left us with the questions to ask ourselves, “What do I believe about God’s unfolding in another?” and “Am I free

enough to allow another to plot their own course?”

Sr. Rose Mary’s presentation was followed by comments, questions and appreciations of the reflector/reflectee sessions, naming them as companioning, friendship and as inspiration for the reflectors. Later in the day, two volunteers, Vicki Bell from DC/ Metro Maryland and Robert Thomsen from Northern Virginia, richly shared the meaning of their own reflection experiences. The Gathering concluded with a prayer service and a delicious lunch catered by DC Central Kitchen - an IVC partner agency.

Sr. Rose Mary directed the program of *Spiritual Guidance with the Shalem Institute* for many years and presently teaches sessions on discernment for those in the *Spiritual Guidance certificate Program*. Out of her volunteer work with *Joseph’s House*, a hospice for the homeless currently served by three IVC volunteers, she recently began a program called *Companioning the Dying* to train others to be present to the living moment with those who are gravely ill and dying.



Reflectors & Presenters Gather for the 2011 Spiritual Reflectors Gathering at Missionhurst

“To be nobody-but-myself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make me into everybody else— means to fight the hardest battle which any human can fight, and never stop fighting. ”

e.e. cummings

The Magic Maker

Charles Norman, MacMillan, 1958

This Most Amazing Day II: THE DAY I QUIT JOURNALING

by Dick Bowling

AROUND ABOUT THE END OF 2009, I began to sense something was wrong. It kept getting harder and harder to finish my journal entry each day. On one of my last mornings, I said to Jesus:

—Lord, I feel like I want to discontinue writing this journal. I need your spirit to help me discern if this is your will.

✠ Good morning, my love. I, for one, will miss our conversations. —I will too, but I find I have very little to say anymore. It used to be I could just sit down and write. Now it's like writers' block. I know if I stop I will never start again.

✠ Well you could set a suspense date for stopping and starting up again. Maybe a week. Remember doing *my* will, is discerning what *you* truly want to do. ... Whatever pleases you pleases me. I think you should take a week off.

The following morning I concluded my entry, saying to Jesus:

—As far as this journaling goes, I think I will take your advice and put it off for a week. So I will see what happens in this week and see you on the tenth.

✠ I will see you on the tenth. I love you.

And on December 10th 2009 I wrote the following:

—Good morning, dear Jesus. I told you I would write this morning. I am thoroughly enjoying my vacation/hiatus. My prayer is that when it is time to restart this prayer, you will inspire me.

✠ Good morning, my love. Yes, this is good. I know when you need to return, you will begin again.

TO GET READY FOR THIS ARTICLE I searched through the final entries I made the last days before I quit. Isn't this the beauty of keeping a journal? Any time I want to go back and recall what I was thinking or feeling or what was happening on a particular day, it's always there! I began keeping a journal back in October 2005 that soon evolved into a morning conversation with Jesus, telling him whatever was on my mind. Most often Jesus would reply with some comment or suggestion or encouragement. I usually began to write at four thirty in the morning.



I recall the joy of writing my journal in those early years. Some mornings if I woke up really dog tired, I'd say to myself, "*I think I'll just turn over and go back to sleep.*" But some opposing voice would nag, "*If you do, you won't get to do your jour-*

nal." And that almost always cinched it; I'd get up. I generally tried to write two sides of a single six-by-nine sheet of paper each day and this usually took about twenty-five minutes. I never knew before I sat down to write what I was going to say, it would just happen. It was a lot of fun to see what showed up; and a joy to have this quiet time each day to tell Jesus about my life.

And, you know, despite my dire prediction that if I stopped journaling I would never start again, I did begin again and in the final upcoming article in this series I will tell you what's happening now on this most amazing day.

IN MEMORIAM



Irene Sailer (I)
1930-2011

After her retirement from the United States Air Force, Irene Sailer joined the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) in 1997. She served for eight years, first with Food for Others and then with St. Martin de Porres Senior Center. Seniors at the Center remembered Irene fondly as "very devoted to the seniors." One senior reported, "Irene and I were on hugging terms." Irene always enjoyed the hugs of other volunteers and IVC staff at the monthly city group meetings. Irene's health forced a move to a retirement community in Michigan to be near her daughter and family. Daughter Joan Saltzmann told us that IVC was very close to her mother's heart; Irene continued to practice what she had learned from IVC in her final years at the retirement community in Michigan. A memorial service is planned, possibly during Easter week, at Fort Myers Chapel.

A Prayer for These Days

"Above all trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally, impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.

We would like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient on the way to something unknown,
something new;

And yet it is made by passing through stages of instability
And that may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.

Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on
as though you could be today
what time will make you tomorrow.

Only God can say what this new spirit
forming within you will be.

Give the Lord the benefit of believing
that His hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
In suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Fall 2011 Retreat Photos

