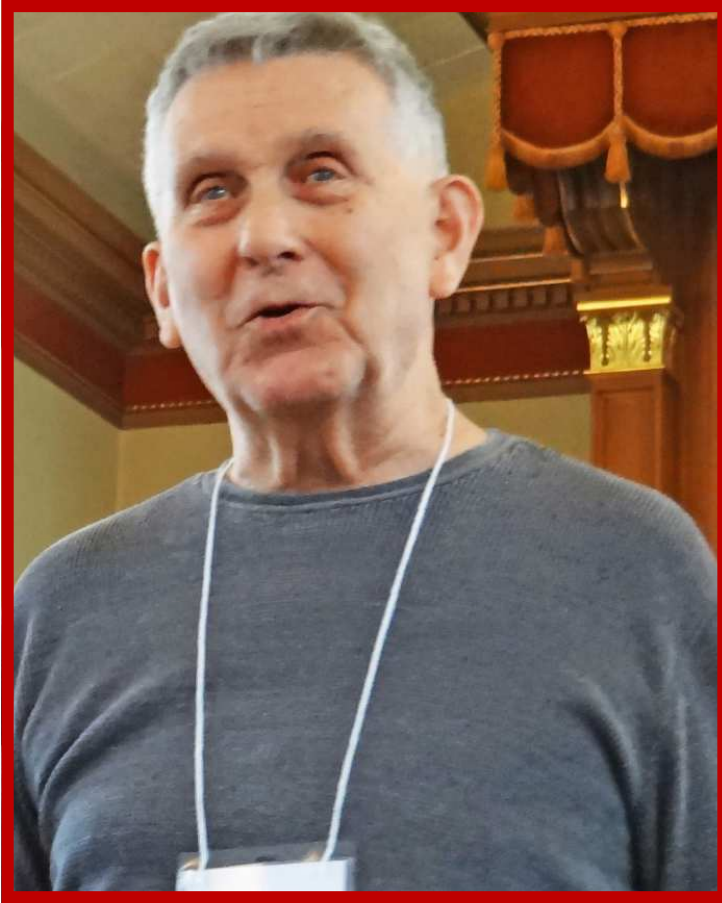


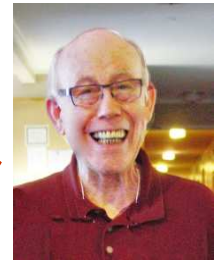
# Corps Connector

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August 2016



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## Moses is Adopted by Pharaoh's Daughter

*(A Continuation of my Imaginative Prayer on the life of Moses)*

Moses is speaking: What a contrast! Between the six years I lived at home with my Mom, my Dad and the rest of my family in Goshen, Egypt and the life of luxury I have lived here with Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's palace is immense. In Goshen my family lived in two rooms. The rooms Pharaoh's daughter, Nefertari, raised me in are almost as big as our whole village. Our rooms are decorated with rugs from Persia, ebony and ivory pieces from African kingdoms, golden vases, jewelry and sculptures from Nubia. We eat only the choicest meats, such as beef, goat, gazelle, antelope and sheep; fish fresh from the Nile; dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates and olives. For dessert we have baked goods that include cakes, sweet breads and pastries. The adults consume a lot of beer, wine and barley ale. Wine is made from palms and grapes.

We have lots of servants, slaves mostly, many who are Israelites. They clean my rooms every day and put all my toys away each evening. My early toys were made of wood. Really good hardwood is difficult to find in Egypt so my toys were really expensive; they were elegantly painted usually in the form of some animal. They had movable parts like the hippopotamus I had whose jaws moved up and down.

My Nanny is my favorite. She's a Hebrew woman named Zephaniah. She and I played lots of games like Hide and Seek in our huge apartment. In the beginning she usually let me find her, but now I'm getting bigger, she's more difficult to find. As I got older me and my friends played a board game called Senet that's sort of like chess with pieces you move around the board but it's very difficult to learn and there's a lot more physical action you do to keep the other person from winning.

Nanny taught me the history of my people. I know all about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Rachael and Leah. She taught me about my great, great, great grand something Uncle Joseph who saved the lives of all our people by bringing us here to Egypt during the time of the great famine.

Yesterday, Nefertari gave me a surprise birthday party. I turned thirteen, which is the day a young Israelite boy becomes a man. My adopted mother has been very careful to observe all our Hebrew traditions which she promised my mother she would do at the time of my adoption.

The party was a grand affair with all my friends invited—mostly Egyptian, but also quite a few Israelites.

There was lots of good stuff to eat, and for the first time my adopted mom gave me a small glass of wine to celebrate the occasion. She also gave me a magnificent gold ring with the image of her father engraved on it. It's beautiful.

*Dick Bowling*



Internet Picture

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### Corps Connector

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Photos by Dick Bowling unless otherwise noted



# A LESSON IN BENDING

by Sandy Cleva

## A reflection on the June Retreat



**T**HE TALL, LANKY MAN IN A GREY SWEATSHIRT moves to the center of the chapel and slowly begins to sing:  
“Tis a gift to be simple,  
Tis a gift to be free...”

Slowly, other voices join in. Some know the words, some falter:  
“When true simplicity is gained  
To bow and to bend we shall not be ashamed  
To turn, turn will be our delight  
Til by turning, turning we come round right.”

The June 2016 IVC retreat with Fr. Bob Hamm, SJ, began with this simple Shaker hymn. From midday Monday June 13 through midday Wednesday June 15, some 65 IVC volunteers, spiritual reflectors, and staff from the Northern Virginia, DC/Maryland and Baltimore regions gathered at Loyola on the Potomac in Faulkner, Maryland, for a special time of listening, reflection, and fellowship.

### Why we came:

We came for sustenance. “Since September 2000, I’ve not missed a single IVC retreat or day of reflection,” says Julia Albrecht, a DC/Maryland Region volunteer with the Archdiocese of Washington’s Prison Outreach Ministry. “It nourishes our souls.”

We came for the silence. “In my regular life, I don’t have time for myself. I’m always busy, always doing something or going somewhere,” explains Northern Virginia Region volunteer Eliana Turina, who serves with the Alexandria-based social service organization ALIVE.

Others came in for what Bob Stewart, a Northern Virginia volunteer who works with the social justice advocacy organization SALT (Social Action Linking Together), calls “the structure.” I

“I wanted to get some new life breathed via the Spirit into these old bones,” Bob says. “I envy those who don’t need the structure” of a retreat to pray and reflect “but I do and always have.”

We also came for community. “It’s a church within a church. I become an apostle with others who are struggling with day-to-day life but also trying to help those who really need it,” Julia says.

### What we took away:

The retreat provided time for both private prayer and liturgy, silence and small group sharing. Participants also had an opportunity to listen to, and meditate on, the reflections of 7 fellow retreatants who had wrestled with the optional “This I Believe about Mercy” writing exercise.

For many, Fr. Bob’s presentations were a highlight. His talks, which included reflections on gratitude, mercy and compassion, returned again and again to the theme of bending: of how God bends to us and we bend in care for others. He used readings, scripture, poetry, art, song, gesture, movement – virtually every modality of communication – to remind us of God’s love.

“I keep seeing that drawing of Jesus leaning toward us and Fr. Bob bending all 6-feet-plus of his frame over in the same welcoming gesture,” says Julia.

“God loves the very idea of you,” Father Bob told us in his first talk. “You are one of His works.” Only gratitude for that love allows us to “know, love and serve Him...and to love our neighbor.”



In subsequent talks, Fr. Bob continued this theme: “He stoops down to us, he bends and bows, he embraces us.” He calls us to love as He loves for, as Fr. Bob put it, “how we live our life brings Christ more fully to birth.”

Fr. Bob used other images to show us God’s mercy. These included Rembrandt’s masterpiece “The Prodigal Son,” in which the father gently holds his hands on the young man’s back, and “Forgiveness,” a drawing by contemporary African-American artist Thomas Blackshears in which Jesus clasps and supports the body of a

young man in despair.

“Fr. Bob gave me an incredible sense of peace with myself. It was clear that I am who I am because this is who God wants me to be,” says Eliana. “I knew that intellectually, but I was able to absorb it in a different way.”

Julia points to Fr. Bob’s quotation from Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “I know how to live. I have learned the secret. I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.” What an empowering thought to take away with us.



## Friendship in L'Arche

by Mary Beth  
Keaney



Fritz Schloss prays after dinner.  
Photo by Brian A. Taylor Photography

ONE NIGHT LAST WEEK I JOINED A BIRTHDAY celebration at L'Arche. Birthdays are celebrated with both L'Arche houses in Arlington sharing a meal, and recognizing anyone who had a birthday during the month. The birthday people are celebrated by the other members of the community telling them through words or drawings, or orally, the gifts the birthday persons brought to the community. As we went around the room with each person sharing, sometimes only by a word or a touch, the feeling of love in the room was palpable.

To be honest, I had not heard anything about L'Arche until it was suggested to me. In September, 2015 I started my new placement in IVC and joined a L'Arche home for dinner one night. I have become a huge fan ever since. L'Arche (French for The Ark) was founded by Jean Vanier in France in 1967. Jean Vanier felt called to invite two developmentally disabled men to live with him in community. This began what has now become an organization operating in 147 communities in 47 countries. There are two L'Arche homes in South Arlington and two in the Adams Morgan area of DC. Two more are in the planning stages for the Georgetown campus.

The homes in Arlington include four disabled adults (core members) and four adult non-disabled assistants living together. There are also some other assistants who live elsewhere but come and go. The assistants in the Arlington homes are mostly young people who have recently graduated from college, or have been out for a few years. The assistants I have gotten to know have made a commitment of two years, but some stay much longer and some move on after one year. L'Arche could not succeed without these talented and patient young people. As you can imagine it is a big responsibility for which they have training but each one brings a unique personality to the house. I really enjoy my relationship with them. They are the ones that make L'Arche work on a daily basis.

I visit both Arlington homes, but on different days. I arrive as the core members return home from work or from a day program. For instance, Fritz washes cars for Arlington County; Laurie is a weaver at Woodmont Weavers; Hazel is in a day program. I am there to join with them, help them and the assistants in any way I can, but mostly, I am there to be a friend. As with any friendship, it takes time and effort to build the relationship. And, at first I found it hard to know where to begin, I wondered what am I contributing? What should I be doing? Do they really need a visit from me? But, then I began to understand that accomplishing a task is not what the program is all about. Friendship and caring became my true contribution. As I watched the assistants show their fellow housemates that they are important, that their lives matter and we can laugh together. That is the core of the L'Arche experience. Now when I arrive and Charles yells out to me that he's ready to play cards, or Hazel says "coffee" I know they are welcoming my visit.

Is it easy to live in a L'Arche community? I am sure that sometimes it is not. It can be a challenge. We all realize that from our own life experiences. But, despite the challenges I can see that it works. It is a beautiful example of what Christ calls us to be for one another.

So, I have come to see that my time at L'Arche is well spent. I do help them make their lunch for the next day; I help with dinner sometimes; and, I usually do the dishes. But what I am really doing is making wonderful new friends. I feel now that they are happy to see me when I arrive and I know that I am happy to see them. After dinner as we pass the candle around in prayer my prayer is one of gratitude for my new friendship in L'Arche.



Mary Beth

# Fighting Poverty is BIG Business. But Who Profits the Most?

by Susan Grunder,  
Director of Social Ministry, Good Shepherd Catholic Church

On Friday, June 17, the IVC Northern Virginia regional office graciously opened its doors to host a Diocese of Arlington PSALM meeting. PSALM stands for **Parish Social Action Lay Ministers**. I have been a PSALM member for nearly a year now. PSALM members go by a variety of titles at their parishes: Director of Social Ministry, Director of Social Justice, Director of Charity and Outreach. Our titles may vary, but, in essence we strive to educate, engage, and empower our fellow parishioners to live their Catholic faith to its fullest expression to

- bring "good news to the poor" in a society where millions lack the necessities of life;
- bring "liberty to captives" when so many are enslaved by poverty, addiction, ignorance, discrimination, violence, or disabling conditions;
- bring "new sight to the blind" in a culture where the excessive pursuit of power or pleasure can spiritually blind us to the dignity and rights of others; and
- "set the downtrodden free" in communities where crime, racism, family disintegration, and economic and moral forces leave people without real hope (cf. Lk 4:18).

To help our parishes become *Communities of Salt and Light* and fulfill their Social Mission we "PSALMers" come together for prayer, formation, education and support. PSALM meetings usually involve a bag lunch, some group discussion, and, often times, a guest presenter.

For this June meeting, however, instead of a guest presentation, the group watched the film *Poverty, Inc.* (A PSALMer saw a review of the film in the Arlington Catholic Herald and felt that our group might learn something through viewing it.) *Poverty, Inc.* is a documentary about the modern approach to fighting poverty. The tagline for the film gives part of the film's message away: *Fighting poverty is big business. But who profits the most?* Maybe I'm naive, but I must admit that it hadn't occurred to me to think of fighting poverty as "big business," nor had I really considered it is not necessarily the poor who actually benefit from our attempts to fight poverty. The film lays out a strong case that fighting poverty is a global industry in which the poor are treated as objects, not subjects. While many who are involved in the fight against poverty may be well-intentioned, the film-makers argue that the current approach to combating poverty by most NGOs is rife with paternalism and has done little to alleviate poverty. In some cases, programs designed to alleviate poverty have had disastrous consequences and have aggravated and worsened conditions. The film gives voice to those who would argue that while there are many issues to be addressed, it is the **people** who are con-

cerned and affected who must be addressed first. After watching the film, the group gathered in IVC's conference room had plenty to discuss—following the first few moments of silence as we tried to digest the implications of the film. Lots of questions were offered, including:

Are we complicit in this system?

What empowers our clients/the people we serve to rise out of poverty?

What opens up access to a market exchange or the structures that empower?

What are some Best Practices for helping clients to break the "victim" mindset and paradigm?

What are some Best Practices for those assisting clients to not fall into the "Paternalistic" mindset and paradigm?

If the poor are disconnected from the Market: Does buying Fair Trade help?

How do we honor the ideas of our clients/partners?

We also identified some factors that limit access to empowerment here in the United States, including:

- Lack of Education
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System and re-entry after having served one's sentence
- Access to loans (fair market interest rates)
- Transportation
- Phone/internet access

Needless to say, we didn't have all (any?) answers to these questions; but I think all around the table agreed that asking these



Susan Grunder

questions is a very good start. All of the PSALMers felt that we should spend time over the next year working through the questions and issues raised by *Poverty, Inc.* We are in the early days of these discussions but I am certain we will be bringing the questions raised by *Poverty, Inc.* to our parishes so that we can be Salt and Light in the world.



Save  
the  
Date:  
Fall  
Retreat  
Sept.  
12-14,  
2016  
Loyola on the  
Potomac  
Retreat  
House

**Fall Retreat:**

# Seeking God's Mercy That Does Justice

**T**HE THEME OF OUR FALL RETREAT WILL BE “God’s Mercy that Does Justice.” This is the Social Justice cycle in our IVC three year cycle. The three days of the Fall Retreat will involve several folks: Fr. Kevin Gillespie, SJ, the Pastor of Holy Trinity parish, Maggie and Bob McCarty (long-time lay-leaders in the Church), and Fr. Ted Keating, SM.

Fr. Kevin will direct the flow from the Year of Mercy into doing Justice; Bob and Maggie, whose areas of interest include issues of life—including the death penalty—and care for the environment, will develop ways that justice can be put into practice in our lives and the lives of our clients; Fr. Ted, besides presiding at our Eucharists of Tuesday and Wednesday and offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the retreat, will assist in putting the message of the retreat all together on Wednesday morning.

**Fr. Kevin Gillespie, SJ**, Pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Washington, DC, since October 1, 2015 had served for the previous three years as President of St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and has also held administrative, teaching and campus ministry roles at Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Maryland and Boston College respectively. Fr. Gillespie is not new to the Washington, DC area. He taught religious studies and coached baseball at both Georgetown Prep and Gonzaga High Schools, and met with employees of the White House and Pentagon following the 9/11 attacks. He graduated from St. Joseph’s College in 1972 and went on to earn master’s degrees in psychology from Duquesne University and in divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley. He also holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology from Boston University.



**Bob McCarty** is a pastoral ministry consultant and trainer and has been in professional ministry since 1973, serving in diocesan, parish, school, and community programs, most recently as the executive director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). He offers workshops and training programs in ministry skills and issues internationally. Bob is also the Chief Operating Officer for the Catholic Mobilizing Network, advocating for restorative justice and the end to the death penalty. His recent books are *Thriving in Youth Ministry* and *The Vision of*



**Continued Page 7**

*Catholic Youth Ministry: Fundamentals, Theory and Practice* through Saint Mary's Press, *Be A Champion for Youth: Standing With, By and For Young People*, co-authored with his wife, Maggie, and his newest book, *Raising Happy, Healthy and Holy Teenagers: A Primer for Parents* through NFCYM.

Bob is also a volunteer in his parish youth ministry and catechetical program at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fulton, MD. Bob has a BS in Sociology/Theology from St. Joseph's University, an MA in Religious Education from LaSalle University and a D.Min. from the Graduate Theological Foundation in Indiana. Bob is adjunct faculty at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN and at the Catholic University of America. His hobbies include rock climbing, cycling, and now, grandparenting!

**Maggie McCarty:** Dr. Maggie McCarty is the Associate Director for Catholic Climate Covenant in Washington, DC. She has served in professional roles in education, ministry, administration, and fundraising in the Catholic Church since 1977 and has experience on the parish, diocesan, and national levels.



She has a Doctor of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, IN, and an MA in Theology from St. Mary's University and Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. She also has earned the designation Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), and has several professional accreditations, including a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). In 2014, she was designated as a Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, under the protection of the Holy See.

Maggie has served as adjunct faculty and guest lecturer at Loyola University in New Orleans, St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Princeton's Institute for Youth Ministry, Australia's Broken Bay Institute, and the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne.

She is the co-author of a primer on advocacy entitled *Be a Champion for Youth: How To Stand For, With and By Young People*, co-written with her husband Bob McCarty. She is the author of *Making Decisions*, part of the junior high curriculum of St. Mary's Press. She contributed the chapter on Advocacy for the textbook *The Vision of Catholic Youth Ministry: Fundamentals, Theory and Practice*, and has published a number of articles on youth and youth ministry throughout the years.

She received the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry in 2002, and was awarded the National Catechetical Award from the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership's (NCCL) in 2013 recognizing exemplary contributions to the ministry of catechesis.

Maggie conducts workshops and training programs in ministry skills and issues, and retreats nationally and internationally and is a volunteer at her parish, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fulton, Maryland.

**Fr. Ted Keating, SM** is a man of prayer and promotes the spiritual life of the men of the Marist province through his example, his writings and his homilies (during which he can quote every author he has ever read). He knows and lives the Marist spirit and promotes that spirit among Marists and lay people who are associated with them through ministry. He has worked tirelessly in support of individual Marists throughout the country and strengthening the bonds of unity of their new province. Through countless meetings, travel, emails and news from around the world, he keeps connected to the worldwide Society of Mary. He is concerned that ministry be with and for the people we serve, bringing all of us closer to Jesus and his good news. Fr. Ted completed his term as provincial in the summer of 2015. He presides regularly at the Sunday Eucharistic celebrations of the PAX Catholic Community in Northern Virginia.



[All Photos from the Internet except that provided by Maggie McCarty]

“We are all in the drama,  
but no one’s read  
the script!”

John Donohue: *Eternal Echoes*



# Upcoming Events

**Fall Retreat**  
 Sept 12-14, 2016  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD.  
 Facilitators Kevin Gillespie  
 Bob & Maggie McCarty

**New Volunteer Orientation**  
 September 7, 2016  
  
 Missionhurst  
 4651 N. 26th St.  
  
 Arlington VA 22207

**January Day of Reflection**  
 January 16, 2017  
 9:30-4:00  
 Washington Retreat House

## Northern Virginia Region 2016-17 City Groups

<b>Our Lady Queen of Peace</b> 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	<b>Saint Ann's</b> 5300 North 10th Street Arlington, Virginia 22205  2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	<b>St. John Neumann's</b> 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3rd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	<b>St. Joseph's</b> 711 Columbus Street, N. Alexandria, VA 22314 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon
October 11	October 13	October 18	October 19
November 8	November 10	November 15	November 16
December TBA	December TBA	December TBA	December TBA
February 14	February 9	February 21	February 15
March 14	March 9	March 21	March 15
April 11	April 13	April 18	April 19
May 9	May 11	May 16	May 17

## DC/Metro MD Region 2016-17 City Groups

<b>The Albrecht's</b> 5814 Ogden Court, Bethesda, MD 20816 1st. Thurs.—9:30–11:30	<b>Wash. Jesuit Academy</b> 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 20017 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday—11:00-1:00	<b>Riderwood</b> 3140 Gracefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20904 Last Wednesday--10:00-12:00
October 6	October 11	October 26
November 3	November 8	November 30
December TBA	December TBA	December TBA
February 2	February 14	February 22
March 2	March 14	March 29
April 6	April 11	April 26
May 4	May 9	May 31