

Corps Connector

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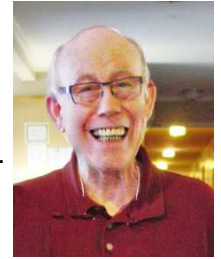
December 2016



September 2016 Retreat

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Notes from the Editor



Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
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Regional Director

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Grace Risetto

Joe Sobierajski, SJ

Richard Urban

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Corps Connector

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

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Ruth Coyne, Associate Editor ,
DC/Metro Maryland

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Photos by Dick Bowling unless
otherwise noted

A couple of months ago, I took up residence in a doctor's old office in Falls Church, VA; it was built in 1916 by Dr. John P. Smallwood (1865-1944) Sometimes I can almost hear him chatting with a patient; or upbraiding another for being overweight or for drinking too much; sometimes consoling a child who is hurt; or giving advice to a young pregnant woman.

My doctor's office/home is pretty small, — tiny actually—only a little over ten feet wide and thirty feet long. (The mobile home I used to live in when I first came to Northern Virginia in 1969, was bigger—ten feet by fifty feet.) My cottage is very well lit with three windows on each side and one along the rear. Originally the doctor had divided his office into three parts: the front was the patient waiting area, the middle, the doctor's consulting room, and the back part was where he may have stored and compounded his medicines. It has now been converted to a single room with a separate bath.

Over a hundred years ago ,the Washington and Old Dominion railroad had its Falls Church station down near the end of our street—Lincoln Ave. [The W & OD bike trail now follows the road-bed where these tracks ran .] In the early part of the last century, roads were almost non-existent and in very poor shape, so a trolley line was constructed from the train station through Falls Church into Fairfax County. Any homeowner who wished to have a trolley stop along this route could pay twenty-five dollars and the trolley company would construct a small shelter Dr. Smallwood paid his twenty-five dollars and had a shelter constructed right outside his office, it was called Green Gables after his home.

It is interesting that I am spending the last years of my life in a doctor's office; my cottage is in many ways like my grandfather's office. He too was a small town doctor, in the town of New Haven, KY. He was born in 1875, got his medical degree from the Louisville Medical Institute of the University of Louisville; delivered thousands of babies and was named General Practitioner of the Year by the American Medical Association in 1952. In his early years he made house calls in a horse and buggy. In about 1916 he bought the first automobile in town and sometime later had his house—the first in town—wired for electricity.

To move from a two bedroom two bath apartment to this petite place took a monumental amount of downsizing. There are a lot of IVCers I would like to thank for helping me move. Lynda Dendtler especially for helping me pack and transport my many boxes; to her husband Larry who removed the doors from a wardrobe in the living area. To John White for installing grab bars in the new bathroom and his wife Kathy for finding wall space for all the pictures I had to hang. To Marty Walsh for hauling and lifting my stuff. To Mary Anne Cummins along with Lynda who made many helpful suggestions for placement of my furnishings and helped me find a number of things that got lost in the move .

A number of people from the Pax community where I worship each Sunday also helped. Margaret Schwartz rents me the cottage and did a beautiful job getting it ready for me to occupy; Nellie Ohr and her son Rickie, did some of the heaviest moving , Bob Smith was an ombudsman extraordinaire, doing whatever needed to be done. Molly Cambron and Judy Schaefer who did a lot of the original planning and placement of my things.



Dick Bowling

The Challenge of Embracing the 21st Century Theology of Mercy

by Mary Hines

As 76 of us individually turned off the busy major highway to enter the sacred grounds of Loyola on the Potomac, we were once again reminded to 'slow down' (thanks, speed bumps!), appreciate the surrounding scenery and silence, and prepare our hearts for the movement of the Spirit in anticipated opportunities for prayer, reflection, faith sharing, companionship, and presentations.

Our Fall Retreat theme was "God's Mercy That Does Justice", considered in the context of Pope Francis' explanation that "justice and mercy are not two contradictory realities, but two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love". In his many statements and in his designation of this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has challenged us to encounter and embrace a 21st century Theology of Mercy (with compassion as its 'sub-set') as the Church further transitions its evangelical priority from expressing truth to experiencing and sharing God's Mercy. In his presentation and homily, Fr. Kevin Gillespie, S.J., reminded us that Pope Francis is not unique in being a Pope who calls the Church to focus on God's Mercy. In their various pronouncements, his three predecessors also called for a deeper understanding of God's loving Mercy and a commitment to share that gift expressed throughout Sacred Scripture. Recent Popes have personally witnessed human suffering caused by wars and their consequences, observed widely



through new forms of global communication, which provided them with renewed insights into our deep human need for healing and for the restorative presence and power of God's Mercy.

We listened in prayer to presentations and faith sharing about the relationship between Justice and Mercy, and about how we ultimately see with the eyes of Faith the way they tie together as 'both/and' rather than as 'either/or'. We came to see that Justice provides structures so Mercy can be realized; that Mercy must temper Justice; and that Mercy is 'pseudo' if it undercuts Justice. We acknowledged that, in our individual and collective human

brokenness, we all need God's Mercy and forgiveness, and that, as forgiven in God's Mercy, we are each called to be God's 'channel' of His freely given grace.

As we listened, reflected and prayed, we sought clarity on the mystery of Mercy as the essence of a loving God. God's Justice is that His Mercy is given to all...the ultimate non-discrimination/equal opportunity Policy! In Mercy, God comes to us, to be one



with us in the Incarnation. God comes to meet us where we are and where we are in need of healing. Jesus is the radical revelation of God's Mercy that overcomes all evil. Mercy is God's call for conversion, for turning back to Him to be as He created us to be: "in His image and likeness". The question for us now is how WE will receive and give God's Mercy, which is ours to share in the name of Jesus and in the Spirit of God's unconditional generosity.

While our understanding of the need and presence of God's Mercy in the human suffering of our times is evolving to higher levels of consciousness, so too is our understanding of God's Mercy as revealed in Sacred Scripture, including the Mercy teachings of the 'Old' Testament. Father Kevin called us to more fully appreciate the Jewish Testament and the Jewish consciousness of a merciful God Who hears and heals His people in their suffering, Who rescues them from their 'captivities' and enslavements, and Who is there for them even when they are not there for Him. Given Church history and focus over centuries, Catholic Christians are often 'newly come' to a prayerful reading of the Hebrew experience of God's Mercy. We are more familiar with the Gospel's Mercy parables, gestures and actions of Jesus who opens to us the whole of Scripture as He walks with us, talks with us, and causes our hearts to "burn within us" as we listen to Him. Mercy is the essence of the Gospel and the key to Jesus' life and ministry. We witness Him meeting people where they are in need: showing compassion, feeding the hungry, touching and healing wounds, restoring human dignity, eating with sinners and leading them to follow Him, teaching in parables which could be more widely understood, forgiving those who executed Him...what we call the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. We hear Him direct us to unite our actions with His: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy! Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied." We hear Him 'unpack' a traditional listing of Ten Commandments to reveal Two Great Commandments (which are really one): fully LOVE God; fully LOVE Neighbor.

On Tuesday, we were doubly graced with two shared presentations by Bob and Maggie McCarty which further deepened our understanding of Mercy through discussions triggered by their words and slides (which they have made available to IVC members, and which are too rich to try to summarize here). Their ambitious 'objectives' were: to identify the Principles of Mercy (that Mercy is counter-cultural and requires repeated 'exercise' to 'stretch' the Mercy/Forgiveness 'muscle'); the Psychology of Mercy (which requires 'disarming the heart' by admitting our individual and collective woundedness); the Theology of Forgiveness (which is a 'process' of reconciliation, and which is God's freely given gift through Jesus...but which has negative consequences in our lives and world when not humbly sought nor freely given), and "A Kairos of Mercy" (which is lived by 'accompaniment'). The power and comprehensiveness of these presentations were evident in continuing conversations about them throughout the remainder of the Retreat.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday, Fr. Ted Keating, S.M., shared further insights into the interrelated nature of Mercy and Justice in his homilies, in which he encouraged us to become mercy rather than just be merciful; to be aware of woundings rather than just be nice. Similar to Fr. Kevin's advice, Fr. Ted told us to 'go back to the sources' to understand the power of Mercy, but always to recognize that Mercy, like Creation, is a Divine Mystery of our Creator God whose love is 'uncontainable' and is constantly exploding into the world. We should ponder the Testament of the Jewish People to recognize their call to honor and receive God's Mercy. We should embrace and live in the mystery of the Cross (as BOTH a reminder of what the world would be like without God AND a reflection on Jesus' perfect obedience and unconditional love) to more fully appreciate God's Mercy and to be His Mercy to others. He further reminded us that within each of us is the Divine 'spark' through which God lives and loves in, with and through us, feeling and healing our wounds. Fr. Ted spoke of a renewal in the Church to more fully exercise its pastoral mission and move beyond its 'pronouncement' mission by 'engaged dialogue' with other faith traditions to see where God is leading all His people. He distinguished between an 'atonement' (vertical) model of understanding God's Mercy and Forgiveness as individual salvation to a 'horizontal model' where we recognize God's life in all of us, and work together to bring about His kingdom of love and peace through a shared commitment to justice and mercy.



On Wednesday, we gathered with final faith sharing, testimonials and rituals to strengthen our re-entry into the busy highways of our lives and the broken lives of our brothers and sisters whom we accompany on their journey. Our Eucharist was a special time of Thanksgiving after experiencing the profound graces of our Retreat: Thanks for giving us this sacred time together. Thanks for giving us a deeper understanding and commitment to Just Mercy. Thanks for forgiveness and for the grace to forgive others and to ask for forgiveness. Thanks for Your Mercy in our lives and the opportunity to share Your Mercy with those whom we 'accompany' in our ministries. Our (re)Commissioning anointing ritual reinforced that gratitude by each of us dedicating ourselves to be a 'pass through' of God's Mercy in ministry. We departed convinced that the Spirit moves in and among us, and that our 'showing up' is a vehicle for God's Mercy and Love. In every encounter, we stand on each other's sacred ground, believing that God walks with us, demonstrates His love for us in His Mercy, and works through us as the One "Who will always be there".

Other 'take-aways' from our Retreat can be captured in emulating faithfulness to God's call as portrayed in the video about Mother Teresa; in experiencing a new interpretation of the Prayer of St. Francis as a prayer of Mercy; and in embracing the words of this prayer of Maryknoll Lay Missioners: "God of Justice, open our eyes to see You in the face of the poor. Open our ears to hear You in the cries of the exploited. Open our mouths to defend You in public squares as well as in private deeds. Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to (and with, and for, and in) You". AMEN!



Mary Hines
Baltimore Region
Volunteer

The biblical concept of mercy also includes the tangible presence of love that is faithful, freely given and able to forgive.

Pope Francis , Justice and Mercy

Pics From Around the Fall Retreat



Save the Date: January Day of Reflection-

Jan. 16, 2017 9:30-3:30

\$35 donation, scholarships available

Washington Retreat House 4000 Harewood Road, NE Washington, D.C.

Reading Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* which chronicles stunning injustices prevalent in our criminal justice system has evoked in many of us outrage, disbelief, sadness, and ultimately a call to engagement. To continue our learning about efforts to improve our criminal justice system which disproportionately impacts poor communities, our January Day of Reflection provides us two tremendous opportunities. Catholic Mobilizing Network's Karen Clifton will refresh us on Catholic Social Teaching's moral imperative to end the death penalty, followed by insights on what advocates have learned about its impact on inmates, victims and their families, and on prison guards and staff. Karen's stories of both tragedy and hope offer a compelling narrative for the need to eliminate the death penalty and to incorporate restorative practices into our criminal justice system. Prison Fellowship's Heather Rice-Minus reminds us that 2.2 million people are in prison in the United States. 65 million Americans have a criminal record. 2.7 million children have a parent behind bars. Is this God's vision for justice? Heather will present on the current state of the American justice system, why followers of Jesus should care, and a framework to advance justice that restores.

KAREN CLIFTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC MO- BILIZING NETWORK

She began her work against the death penalty in 1996 in Houston, Texas, when her social justice and advocacy projects intersected with those of Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ. In 2008, Karen spearheaded the formation of the Catholic Mobilizing Network (CMN).

Headquartered in Washington, DC, CMN seeks to apply the Church's teaching on the dignity of human life in the areas of capital punishment and restorative justice.

Karen has been an organizer and advocate since 1990. Her work has been associated with the Catholic Worker, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the San Jose Clinic, AIDS ministry and she is the DC Coordinator for the Ignatian Spirituality Project. Karen holds a Masters in Divinity from University of St. Thomas, St. Mary's School of Theology, and has worked in spiritual direction since 1996, remaining active in parish apostolates in Houston, TX, and Washington, DC. She is the mother of five adult children and grandmother to seven grandchildren. Karen was awarded the 2011 Servitor Pacis Award by the Path to Peace Foundation, the Mission of the Vatican to the United Nations to promote peace.



HEATHER RICE-MINUS, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Heather works for the nation's largest outreach to prisoners, former prisoners and their families. She is a powerful, knowledgeable voice articulating the case for restorative crim-



inal justice solutions.

As leader of Prison Fellowship's policy staff, Heather directs lobbying, research and legislative campaigns on pivotal criminal justice issues at the state and federal levels. She spearheads its efforts to build coalitions with advocacy groups, think tanks, faith-based organizations and other key stakeholders in Washington.

Heather has contributed to stories about criminal justice reform in outlets including Slate, CBN News, PBS Religion and Ethics Newsweekly and World magazine. Heather is also personally vested in justice reform as someone who has both been a victim of crime and walked alongside a family member during his incarceration.

Heather formerly managed advocacy efforts on behalf of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. She is a graduate of George Mason University School of Law and Colorado State University. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar, and resides in Washington with her husband.

IVC Spiritual Reflectors Day of Reflection



THIS YEAR'S SPIRITUAL REFLECTORS GATHERING TOOK PLACE AT MT TABOR HOUSE, a cozy retreat space in Vienna Va. Sr. Rea McDonnell SSND of the DC/ Maryland, IVC led us in pondering **Psalm 85: Mercy and Truth have embraced; justice and peace will kiss.**

Rea reminded us that Mercy is the name of God, and how God offers us this name in the compassion of Jesus. She also gave us Pope Francis' word that we have an "apostolate of the ear" in our listening to self, God, and others. Then she sent us out for silent time to listen and to receive: Mercy, Truth, Justice, Peace from God and to reflect how this comes to us in our ministry as spiritual reflectors for IVC.

In our later sharing we heard how Christ had been seen in our reflectees and how their service and struggles with prayer nourished our own spiritual life.

After a Mass together in the lovely Mt Tabor chapel with another spiritual reflector: Fr. Tuck Grinnell from St Peter's, Church, Washington, Virginia and a new IVC musician, Maura Sleeve on guitar, we enjoyed more sharing over a tasty lunch. We then continued the day with more quiet reflection, pondering on our reflection sessions with our reflectees and on our own prayer in preparation to seeing someone that day; and even during the session, wondering how we could help each person to listen and receive from God more fully? How could we listen better? What gets in our way? What gets in your way? Maybe it is time for reflector and reflectee to talk together about what is helpful to them in these sessions. And what isn't. "O guide us, O Spirit, in our work and spiritual growth together in IVC."

All of us desired to be used by God in this ministry and we sang and prayed the Suscipe in our Closing Anointing Service. Thanks to Bill Plunkert, Rea McDonnell, Pat Durkin, and Jean Noon for planning, and our regional directors, Mike Goggin, DC and Joanie Coolidge, NoVA.



Jeanie Sweeney

Your Story is Christ's Story

With this issue, the Corps Connector welcomes to its staff Ruth Coyne as Associate Editor for the DC/Maryland region. She writes here that as we would not want any of the people or creatures in our familiar Christmas story to be left out or lost, so the IVC community wants to hear your story; and why we ask you to submit a brief account of your volunteer placement. "We don't want to miss any of the story," she says. —Editor

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS UPON US. Matthew and Luke tell of the birth of Jesus. These two gospels sometimes become conflated or fused. We want a nice, manageable story. Everyone likes a story!

Matthew begins with a "pre-story." He tells us of the Lord's coming and introduces John the Baptist preparing the way for Him. John announces, and warns. "His winnowing fan is in his hand." It is in Matthew's gospel that an angel appears to Joseph reassuring him as he takes Mary as his wife. In Matthew, too, we read the genealogy of Jesus, "the son of Abraham, the son of David."

In Luke's Gospel we read of the angel's annunciation to Mary, "Be not afraid," We follow Joseph and Mary as they search for an inn. We see choirs of angels and lowly shepherds, and wise men take their places in the Christmas story.

All of those people are part of the Christmas story. We wouldn't want to miss even one person.

The Ignatian Volunteer Corp members want to hear **your** story. That is why the region invites individual members to submit a brief account of your volunteer placement. Your

story is part of an important, larger story. We don't want to miss any of the story.

Each volunteer comes to IVC in a different way and for different reasons. We accept different assignments: Friendship Place, the McKenna Center, OAR, TASSCC, the Lamb Center, and Spanish Catholic Center are a few placements that come to mind. Telling our stories, what services we provide in our assignments, how the placement may have

changed our life not only gives information, it may also give us a different perspective, offer encouragement, and bolster a sense of community. Taken together the newsletter's individual accounts give a picture of our entire local IVC community. We volunteer as individuals but under a common name, IVC. We come together as community in our monthly reflection groups, on retreats, and at other IVC events. The newsletter is another way to come together as a community.

We would not be happy if someone in the Christmas story were missing. Yes, we know that Matthew and

Luke wrote at different times, and to different audiences and proclaimed different messages. But we want it all: John the Baptist, the innkeeper, the shepherds; the announcing angels and the choirs of angels; the wise men; the figures not mentioned but present in every Christmas pageant—the lamb and the donkey. We want Mary and Joseph, and Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes, at the center.

That's why we come to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. We want Jesus' salvific word and life at our center. In a newsletter account of our work in an IVC placement we bear witness. That is no little thing.



*Merry Christmas
from All of Us
to All of You*





Fr. McKenna Website Photo

HOW MY EXPERIENCE AT THE FATHER MCKENNA CENTER CHANGED ME

SEVERAL YEARS AGO A FRIEND GAVE ME A COPY of *The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything*, by Father James Martin, SJ—and it changed me. I realized that I was missing a way to share with others, my deep faith in the presence and goodness of God in my life, and I looked for a program that would provide that opportunity. Through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), I was offered that chance at The Father McKenna Center. And I've been enriched by my experience at the Center, as it has allowed me to 'walk with those I'm serving'.

The Father McKenna Center is a Catholic social service agency serving men struggling with homelessness and families who live on the margin. The Center offers a Day Program for men that serves two meals, offers showers and laundry service from Monday through Friday. The men use the Center as a mailing address, access a phone, work on computers and shop for much needed clothes. All of these

“Simply by remembering a guest's first name usually brings a big smile.”

services are offered to engage the men in Case Management, where they are challenged to take the right next steps to reclaim their lives. It is the case management aspect which is at the core of what is done at the Center. Each guest is given the opportunity to meet with an exceptionally qualified counselor to map a plan to help him rise out of homelessness. The Center serves about 115 men daily (2,500 different men annually) in an atmosphere which is friendly, safe, and supportive.

The Father McKenna Center opened its doors in 1983 in the basement of St. Aloysius church, to honor the legacy of Rev. Horace B. McKenna SJ, who was active in the civil rights movement in Washington, DC. Father McKenna worked tirelessly for the rights of the poor. He co-founded SOME (So Others Might Eat), a soup kitchen, clinic and jobs center; Martha's Table, which serves the needs of the homeless and low income families; and other centers, many of which still function today. In 1977, *Washingtonian Magazine* named Father McKenna "Washingtonian of the Year", an honor which was well-deserved but very humbly received by Father McKenna.

The Father McKenna Center was a natural for me. My husband Paul had volunteered there in the 1980s; my three sons and now two grandsons are Gonzaga Eagles. On Thursdays, I arrive at the Center at 8 am, and serve as the receptionist by answering phones, distributing mail, and performing other administrative tasks. I especially enjoy interacting with our guests, and try to encourage them to persevere in their plans to change their lives. Simply by remembering a guest's first name usually brings a big smile. At the Center all guests are treated with respect and dignity, in a caring environment not often found in the outside world. The Staff are dedicated and talented individuals, from eclectic backgrounds, who make the Center a rewarding place to be.

The Center also provides supplemental groceries for low income families through a very active Food Pantry. The Pantry is filled with items contributed by many diverse sources in the city, and serves about 12-15 families each day. There are canned goods of many varieties, and fresh foods such as vegetables, milk, eggs, etc. At Thanksgiving, many families using the Pantry are given baskets with the ingredients for a turkey dinner, with all the fixings!--

Recently the Center was accepted into the *Greater Washington Catalogue for Philanthropy 2016-2017*, as one of 70 smaller nonprofit organizations (budgets under \$3 million) out of 200 applicants. The Catalogue helps nonprofits to spread the word of the good works they are doing. And acceptance into the Catalogue signifies the agency is doing significant work, and is sound financially.

The Center has three other IVC volunteers (Jim Joyce, Patti and Don Kisicki), and welcomes more than 30 other weekly volunteers and nearly 500 occasional volunteers, who come from many diverse sources in the country.



Dolores Royston

A Perfect Birthday Gift

The Phone rings

...Not another Vendor! I say

Good news, It's my oldest son.

"Hey Dad," he says

"where do you want to celebrate your birthday this year?"

Filled with good will at this unexpected question

I start to say "Here in Bethesda it's closer for you,"

but out of nowhere my honest desire is spoken

and I say "Out in the mountains with you guys

helping with the chores."

And he makes it happen.

On my birthday I'm scraping and priming the
south porch, he's fixing the garden fence and
his brother is mowing hours on end
gentle sun and cool breezes caress us.

Later in the evening we decide to look for
shooting stars.

My boys take a blanket out onto the
lawn and lie side by side to watch
the stars.

Suddenly it comes to me that
these are the same stars that
Jesus watched and am comforted
to imagine that perhaps
their brother Jesus our Savior
is lying next to them
next to my boys.

Then my heart is full,
a perfect birthday gift!



Tony Albrecht 9/13/16 (on the Fall Retreat)



Teach Me To Listen

Teach me to listen, O God,
to those nearest me,
my family, my friends, my co-workers.
Help me to be aware that
no matter what words I hear,
the message is,
"Accept the person I am. Listen to me."

Teach me to listen, my caring God.
To those far from me -
the whisper of the hopeless,
the plea of the forgotten,
the cry of the anguished.

Teach me to listen, O God my Mother,
to myself.
Help me to be less afraid
to trust the voice inside -
in the deepest part of me.

Teach me to listen, Holy Spirit,
for your voice -
in busyness and in boredom,
in certainty and in doubt,
in noise and in silence.

Teach me to listen, O God. Amen.

Adapted by John Veltri, sj

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Upcoming Events

January Day of Reflection
January 16, 2017
9:30-4:00
Washington Retreat House
4000 Harewood Rd., NE
Washington, DC TBD

Save the Date
Sunday April 23, 2017
Evening of Gratitude
Honoring our Della Strada
recipients:
**Bill Whitaker &
Fr. Jerry Creedon**

Northern Virginia Region 2016-17 City Groups

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon | Saint Ann's 5300 North 10th Street Arlington, Virginia 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 Street, N. Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon |
| 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

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| The Albrecht's 5814 Ogden Court, Bethesda, MD 20816 1st. Thurs.—9:30–11:30 | Wash. Jesuit Academy 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 20017 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00 | Riderwood 3140 Gracefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20904 Last Wednesday--10:00-12:00 |
| 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 |



Internet Photo

Say Hello!

To our new Volunteers and Spiritual Reflectors



Brian Boland (NOVA) worked for 35 years as a physician in an internal medicine practice as well as volunteering his medical expertise for 20 years at the Arlington Free Clinic. Along with his wife, Mary Lynn, he attends St. James Church in Falls Church. Brian graduated with both undergraduate

and medical degrees from the University of Virginia and would like to be involved in a meaningful volunteer experience with his wife.



Mary Lynn Boland (NOVA) attended both Kent State and George Mason Universities in preparation for her work at Virginia Hospital Center where she was a staff R.N. She also worked in the Fight the Flu Program. Mary's diverse volunteer experiences found her working as a cook in a catering firm, a paraprofessional in Fairfax City Public Schools and as a pre-school teacher. As a patient, kind, reliable individual, Mary Lynn would like to be of service in a useful way in the community, which is what drew her to IVC. Mary Lynn and Brian would like to share their IVC volunteer experience by working together at a site.

Tony Bosnick (DC/MD) joins us as a **Spiritual Reflector** for the DC / Metro Maryland region. He is a longtime member of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, where he teaches part-time each morning at Mother of God School. Tony also serves part-time as Social Concerns Minister at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Derwood, where Regional Director Mike Goggin has been a member for the past 22 years. Tony worked for many years in the area of social concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington, initially under the leadership of IVC Executive Director Mary McGinnity and then as director of the office until its reorganization in 2014. Previously, Tony held a ministry position with Exodus Youth Services, bringing catechesis to some of Washington, D.C.'s most underserved young adults.

Mary Buzzanell (NOVA) lives in Fairfax and worships at St. Timothy in Chantilly. She attended Seton Hill College (Dietetics), Washington University (Business), and St. Mary of the Woods College (Home Economics). Mary worked for 18 years in the Nutrition Department at NIH

as a Dietary Computer Specialist. Wanting to get more involved with those in need in our community is Mary's reason for joining IVC.



Philip Dietz (NOVA) is a resident of McLean and attends St. Luke Church. Phil had Jesuit educational experiences in both high school and college at Loyola Blakefield High School and Loyola University in MD. He has a graduate

degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is a Senior Member at the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers as well as a Certified Investment Management Analyst. Desiring to expand his charitable volunteer work, he would also like to get back in touch with his Jesuit "roots" by joining IVC.

Kay Fitzgerald (NOVA) As a **Spiritual Reflector**,



Kay brings many years of experience to IVC. She is currently working on an undergraduate degree in Theology and a Practicum Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Spring Hill College, a private, Roman Catholic, Jesuit, liberal arts college in Mobile, Alabama (founded in 1830). Kay's current job ministry is the Benedictine

Pastoral Center and BEACON in Bristow, VA. Before moving to Virginia, Kay was a Retreat Facilitator and Spiritual Companion for women throughout the archdiocese of Atlanta for 15 years where she engaged in four social justice ministries of active accompaniment. In a volunteer capacity Kay has devoted over 30 years to catechesis, helping prepare teens and young adults to fully engage in an active faith journey and a personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Jim Goedert (DC/MD) was until his recent retirement



a Medical Staff Physician at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center, a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and Senior Investigator in the Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch of the National Cancer Institute. He designed analytic studies to test novel hypotheses that often incorporated cutting edge laboratory methods as they related to cancer, HIV/AIDS and Kaposi sarcoma. Jim did his postdoctoral work at the National Cancer Institute, earned his board certification at Georgetown University Hospital, received his M.D. from Loyola University Chicago and did an earlier BA in psychology at Yale. He has

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co-authored more than 440 professional articles in his field. Jim volunteered one evening per month for twenty years at the Spanish Catholic Center Medical Clinic, which has now become his IVC placement site. He has been a twenty year member of the Haiti Parish Twinning Planning Committee that links his church in Silver Spring with one in Baraderes, Haiti. Jim has also played guitar and co-led vocals for contemporary liturgical music groups at St. John the Baptist Church for nearly 30 years.



JoAnn Goedert (DC/MD) most recently served as Associate Vice Chancellor of the University System of Maryland for seven years until her retirement earlier in 2016, providing human resources administration and serving as legal counsel to the twelve affiliated institutions. JoAnn is a lawyer who earlier worked for the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.

Her JD *magna cum laude* is from Georgetown and she holds an MBA with a specialization in health administration from Northwestern University. She is an active volunteer in her parish and at CASA de Maryland. She and her husband Jim served as foster parents to two Ethiopian teenagers who came to live with them in 2001 and with whom they maintain a lasting family relationship. JoAnn is a member of the bar both in the State of Maryland and before the United States Supreme Court. She is now serving with TASSC International.



Lynn Magrum (NOVA) is a licensed nurse (RN) with a BSN and MSN from George Mason University and a post masters as an NP from Catholic University. As an NP she worked with oncology patients for the Inova Health System for the last five years. Lynn has volunteered for

years at Haven of NoVA, the Lamb Center, the Paul VI High School High School Options program and is currently involved at St. John Neumann in their social justice and health ministries. She is comfortable working across cultures, and is semi-retired but looking to shift gears and branch out into new arenas. Lynn's many current and past volunteer experiences confirm her belief that service is an obligation. She would like to join IVC to become part of a faith community doing service.



Margaret McBride (NOVA) was a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Army, Civil Service for 30 years and attends Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Arlington where she lives. She received a B.A. in History from Cornell University and an M.S. in Public Relations from American University.

During retirement, Margaret is studying poetry/creative writing at George Mason University. She also completed a yoga teacher training and published a book "Through the Lens of Suffering: Why Yoga Helps Heal Despair & Trauma". Margaret has had varied volunteer experiences teaching yoga, literacy tutoring, and teaching religious education as well as working at the Arlington Food Assistance Center.



Stephanie Niedringhaus (NOVA) learned about IVC from two volunteers placed at NETWORK, her workplace for 21 years. Her educational background includes a BA double major in art history and German and a minor in history from the College of William and Mary. In addition, Stephanie has a Graduate Certificate in special

education from George Washington University and an MA in humanities from Marymount University. In charge of communications for 16 years at NETWORK, Stephanie connected with media, edited their magazine, and wrote articles. Past volunteer experiences include working with groups involved with special education, and animal rescue. She has been a sacristan for the PAX Community, where she is a member, for many years.



Virginia (Ginny) Oehler (NOVA) returned to Northern VA after a number of years living and working in Florida. She attends Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. Ginny graduated from Warner Southern University with a B.S. in Organizational Mgmt. and worked at Communications Satellite Corp. as an Administrative As-

istant, Supervisor of Administration, Manager, and in Finance for 42 years. She is drawn to the mission of IVC and looks forward to joyfully serving others.



Antonio Gomes Pereira (DC/MD) is a new volunteer from the DC / Metro Maryland area. He is a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Rockville. Antonio is a 15 year veteran of the World Bank, where he served as an education project coordinator in Latin

America, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, working and interacting with diverse types of cultures. He has also been at various times in his professional life a high school teacher, college professor, drama director, university dean and soccer coach. Growing up in Brazil, he was a native speaker of Portuguese while also gaining fluency in Spanish and English. He is also year veteran of the World Bank, where he served as an education project coordinator in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, working and interacting with diverse conversant with French. Antonio holds a PhD from UCLA and a Master's degree from Columbia. Through IVC he will be serving at the Catholic Climate Covenant, becoming the first IVC volunteer to serve there!

the 'Walking With Purpose Bible Study' at St. Luke for 3 years. In addition, she spent 20 years as a Math Coach for the MathCounts Competition Series for Middle School Students.



Mark Hinnenkamp (NOVA) grew up with 8

siblings in a family used to interacting with Amish families in Lancaster, PA. His three-generation childhood home saw many people pass through that needed refuge, including a Croatian & Bosnian family after the 1993 war

and a "fresh air" child from NYC. Educated at St. Joseph University, Mark has a degree in Accounting and Economics. Still working **full time** at Oracle Corporation, he would like to join IVC to be of service to others. Recent service includes working with children as a basketball and baseball coach and serving food at SOME. Mark worships at Our Lady of Good Council in Vienna.



Dick Schaad (NOVA) is married to Kathleen and they are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. They are parents of 6 children and 16 grandchildren (at present). Dick graduated from St. John College, Rochester with a B.A. in History, an M.S. in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College of MD, and an

M.A. Middle Eastern Studies (Turkish) from the University of Utah. Dick has had a long and varied career in Criminal Investigation, Intelligence, Analysis, and Research as well as working as a Pastoral Counselor and in a Healing Ministry. By joining IVC, he would like to share the many gifts he has received from God.



Lucy Huffman (DC/MD)

spends part of each week in Montgomery County, Maryland and the other half in Lewes, Delaware. Locally she is a member of St. Peter's Parish in Olney. Lucy holds a PhD in business (finance) from the City University of New York, an MA in accounting (taxation) from The

American University, an MS in science from Indiana University and an earlier AB in science from Bryn Mawr. Lucy was an economist in the United States Treasury Department for more than 20 years, where she developed government policy and programs in financial markets and institutions as a member of Treasury teams and published numerous articles. As a volunteer, she has served at the Nature Conservancy, SOME (So Others Might Eat), Immanuel Shelter and Casa San Francisco on the Eastern Shore of Delaware. Lucy believes that she can make her best impact as an IVC volunteer through office work. She is serving at the Africa Faith and Justice Network at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Maura Sleeve (NOVA) worked as a Fairfax County Teacher of math for 32 years before retiring and is a member of St. Luke Parish in McLean where she plays guitar in the Contemporary Ensemble. Maura received her B.A. from Franciscan University of Steubenville and an M.A. from Virginia Tech. Her interest in IVC, she feels, would allow her to help others

by using her time and talent where needed and to grow closer to God by seeing Him in everyone. Volunteering as a small table leader, Maura has participated in

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Lerick Sotelo Kebeck (NOVA) worked for 31 years as a Sector Liaison, at the World Bank. She was a core member of the Social Protection unit of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the Bank. In addition to her regular support to lending operations, Analytical and Supervisory Activities, trust funds, and Activity Com-

pletion Reports she also served as the lead coordinator of the Brazil team; a mentor to new staff members; the portfolio coordinator for Brazil; conference and retreat coordinator for the teams; and editor, interpreter, and translator in English/Spanish. Prior to that, Lerick worked in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Ronnie Fellerath Lowell (DC/MD) lives in a diverse senior community at Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, Maryland, which is fast becoming an IVC stronghold. Her previous careers include being on the pastoral staff of two Catholic parishes that served the African-American and Latino communities in the Diocese of Brooklyn and work with Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Rockville Centre (Long Island, NY.) Ronnie is a former Sister of Mercy now married to Bill Lowell, who was part of the formation staff at Washington Theological Union for many years. Ronnie holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion and a Master's of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has co-authored two books. Her parish affiliation is shared with the Goederts above – all are members of St. John the Baptist Church in Silver Spring. Ronnnie has been serving at Bread for the World on Capitol Hill.



Chris Lewis (NOVA) has volunteered with the Hypothermia program at Rising Hope in the past and came to us via Good Shepherd parish in Alexandria. He's also volunteered with UCM, OAR and in his parish. He currently organizes the weekly Catholic Mass at the Adult Catholic Detention center in Alex-

andria. Indeed, he has a heart for others and puts that to practical use. Chris earned a degree from Princeton University in Chemistry and is semi-retired from LA Systems, a technology company. He brings computer and networking skills to his service, and of utmost importance, a wonderful sense of humor.