

# Corps Connector

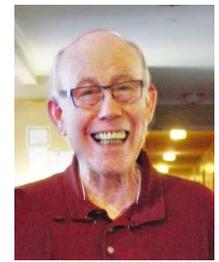
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**Mark Shriver receives the Madonna Della Strada award for 2016 at the Evening of Gratitude, with him are Regional Directors Mike Goggin & Joanie Coolidge. See story on Page 3.**

Photo by Bob Gambarelli



## Moses' Narrow Escape (An Imaginative Prayer)

*(An Imaginative Prayer is an Ignatian Spiritual exercise where you take a passage from Scripture, imagine yourself in the scene, ask who else is there, and imagine what the place looks like. Then you ask who am I in the scene. In this prayer, I chose to be the new-born Moses.)*

**M**y name is Moses. I was born in Goshen in the land deeded to us centuries ago in the time of Joseph. Joseph, a son of Jacob or Israel, was one of the twelve patriarchs. His brothers, out of jealousy and rage, sold him into slavery in Egypt. There through God's loving intercession he rose to the second highest position in the land next only to the Pharaoh.

If it hadn't been for the shrewd thinking and fast acting on my mother's part I never would have made it alive. The Egyptians were killing all the boy children born to my people, the Israelites.

This is how my Mom saved me: a few months after I was born she wove me a little reed basket, coated the bottom with tar and set it floating on the Nile with me inside. My sister hid among the reeds and set up a lookout to see what would happen to me. Suddenly there was a lot of giggling as Pharaoh's daughter came down to the river with all her friends to take her daily bath. Mom knew about this ritual and that's why she set me floating near here at this time.

Pharaoh's daughter was about seventeen and just as she lowered herself down into the water, I gave out a loud squawk, my sister tells me. I think my little boat must have started leaking or I did. Pharaoh's daughter heard me and sent one of the girls to fetch me from the water. As she opened the basket, she exclaimed, "Why, it's a little Hebrew boy."

My sister, like my Mom, was a quick thinker. She ran up to the Pharaoh's daughter and asked, "Do you want me to find a Hebrew woman to wet nurse the boy?" So she gave me to my sister and she took me home to my Mom.

When I was about six, they took me to the Pharaoh's daughter and she adopted me as her own son. And that's how I was rescued from the sword of the Egyptians.

## Dick Bowling



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### Corps Connector

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Dick Bowling, Editor

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Photos by Dick Bowling unless otherwise noted

# MARK SHRIVER GIVEN DELLA STRADA AWARD AT 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IVC EVENING OF GRATITUDE

**T**HE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS (IVC) Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland Regions held a joy-filled celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Evening of Gratitude April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gonzaga College High School, honoring Mark Shriver with the Della Strada award for his service and advocacy on behalf of children.

The Evening began with a Eucharistic Liturgy at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church. Rev. Tom Reese, SJ, presided and the combined choirs from Holy Trinity (Georgetown) and Our Lady of Mercy (Potomac) parishes with which the Shriver family is associated led the congregation in worship. Pastors of the two parishes were among the six priests who concelebrated. The Shriver children -- Molly, Tommy, and Emma -- were Gift Bearers.

In his homily, Fr. Reese reminded us that the first gift of Christ's resurrection is peace. Even in this age of anxiety and fear, we are not alone. Jesus is with us here today, but as His followers we are called to work for peace and justice. "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you'" (John 20:21)

At the conclusion of the liturgy, 28 of the 36 volunteers and spiritual reflectors who have been associated with IVC for 10 or more years were recognized by Regional Directors Dr. Joanie Coolidge (NVA) and Michael Goggin (DC/Metro MD) for their sustained and generous service.

The Evening of Gratitude continued at the Gonzaga College High School Commons, beautifully decorated by "Friends of IVC" and other volunteers in the theme of "Hands for Others." Joe Raia and Dennis Lucey, respectively chairman and member of the IVC Regional Council, and Mary McGinnity, IVC Executive Director, offered words of welcome and intro-

duction.

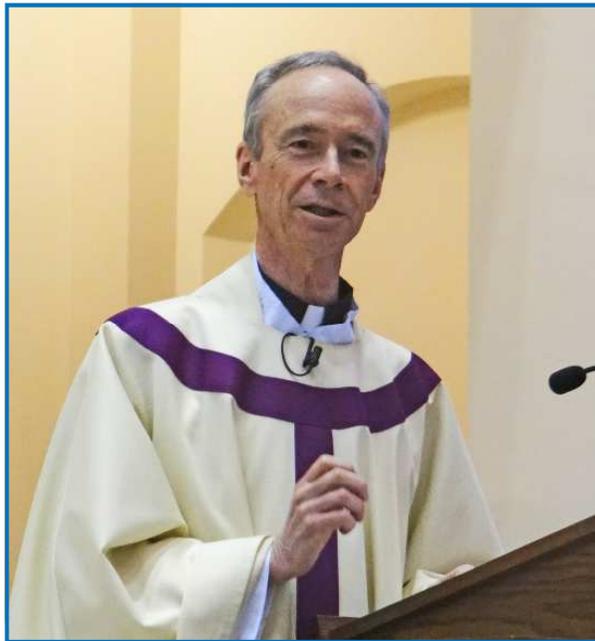
ABC News political commentator, Cokie Roberts, began her introduction of Mark Shriver by reading a letter from Cardinal McCarrick congratulating Mark on his well-deserved receipt of the Madonna Della Strada award. Cokie went on to say that her preferred understanding of Della Strada is "The Way" which Mark first learned from his parents, Sarge and Eunice Shriver. Cokie explained that her own parents and Mark's were fast friends for many decades, a friendship which the two families continue to carry on through generations. She stated that Mark continues to show "The Way" through his initiatives at 'Save the Children' which advance early childhood education domestically and saving the lives of children overseas. Mark's "Way" speaks to the fundamental truth that every person is born in the image of God and is, therefore, worthy of dignity and respect.

With that said, Regional Directors Mike Goggin and Joanie Coolidge presented Mark with the Della Strada award.

Accepting the award, Mark said his children asked why he was chosen. With a humility of which Ignatius would be proud, Mark mentioned several friends (Bill Byrne, Agnes

Williams, and (posthumously) Judge Cahoon) and his family (Tim Shriver, Jeanne Shriver) whom he thought should receive the award. Drawing on his Jesuit education at Georgetown Prep and Holy Cross, he reminded us that Ignatius saw us all as pilgrims on "The Way." He encouraged us all to live lives full of joy and of mercy, being with and for the poor for the greater glory of God (AMDG).

by Jim Kelley  
Regional Council Member



Fr. Tom Reese, SJ delivers homily at the Evening of Gratitude Mass



**A**FTER SPENDING A FEW YEARS ENJOYING RETIREMENT: travelling with my wife Virginia and trying to improve a deteriorating golf game; I developed a deeply felt desire to use the gifts and talents God gave me to help people in need. Virginia and I both came to the same conclusion. After we talked with friends in IVC and attending a few IVC functions we decided to join up.

Initially, I was hard to place. I have a varied background as an engineer, program manager, systems cost analyst, program evaluator, and financial and management consultant. But, through the hard work, vision and genius of Joanie Coolidge, the Northern Virginia IVC Regional Director, I was placed with ACTS to help their new CEO re-organize the program.

ACTS (Actions in Community Through Service), is a human service organization in Prince William County, Virginia. It was founded about 50 years ago when 13 churches came together to provide for a family who lost their home to a fire. They eventually formed an independent non-profit 501(c).

ACTS provides emergency shelter for families; support services such as food; direct financial assistance; and a Thrift Store that provides free clothing and lots of other items.

ACTS also operates 'Help Lines' that provide 24-hour phone service. The service deals with Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Suicide.

A most remarkable thing happened recently. A trained staff member answered a Help Line call from a person considering suicide and talked the person out of it. A few days later, this person called back and thanked the person who saved his or her life.

The Help Line also regularly contacts the elderly, those living alone or caring for a spouse, to check on their wellbeing.

The new CEO is knowledgeable, bright, energetic and welcoming. We discussed a number of ways that I could help in his effort to put the organization on a firm footing. Initially, among other activities, I was to help with the varied aspects of teambuilding and to measure program impacts.

Initially I was concerned that I would be far removed from dealing directly with the people in need. However, I found that I've learned much about the people being served through my close association with the staff.

Working with the staff a few decades younger than me gave me new insights into the current generation

and their zeal to help those in need. I was impressed with their tireless efforts to help not only the needy but to help each other in their daily work. They also are starting to see themselves as part of a greater effort and not constrained to their specific jobs. This may be partially due to

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the re-organization which focused on getting separate units to work across lines of the organization and help each other, but I believe it is also a genuine desire to help "thy neighbor" regardless of their status and differing organizational boundaries.

There are also other little things that I have witnessed as different with this generation. For example, in the coffee room in the central office area there is a "white board" with a hand written question on the top. WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR TODAY? The board usually contains all kinds of positive remarks from the staff about their families and other staff. Even I got a message a few weeks ago, "Joe Rocks!"

To me the wonder is that in this hectic, stress-filled environment they take time to celebrate the goodness in people and share the love for one another. This sounds very Christian to me.

After my first six months with IVC I have been tremendously rewarded spiritually. I hope that my involvement has helped ACTS along the way to a firmer footing.

Another real IVC gift, aside from my assignment with ACTS, has been my IVC City Group meetings at Saint Joseph's Church in Alexandria. I had no idea how important these meetings would be to me. They provide me with a new perspective on my spiritual life, one I had long desired but had not found. Needless to say I always look forward to the readings and the discussions.

I guess I'll be around for a while with IVC, "God willing" as my mom would say.

by  
Ignatian Volunteer  
Joe Delfico



# GET TO KNOW OUR STELLAR REGIONAL COUNCIL!

Our combined Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland IVC Regional Council named on page 2 of this newsletter! is more than just a list of names. You may have met these incredible servants at the Evening of Gratitude, at one of our retreats, the January Day of Reflection or a local City Group. Here's a snapshot of them:

The current council numbers eleven members led by Regional Directors Joanie Coolidge (N VA) and Mike Goggin (DC/Metro MD).

## The 6 Northern Virginia members are:

**Jim Kelley**, former Regional Director of the combined DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia Region before it was divided. After this division he became Director of the new Northern Virginia Region. He is also, a long time IVC volunteer.

**Dennis Lucey**, has more than 40 years of business development experience and is the region's most prolific and effective supporter/fund raiser.

**Pam Lucey**, is a former member of IVC's National Board of Directors and one of the two Council members most responsible for producing the Evening of Gratitude..

**Grace Risetto**, is the creative, committed leader of all elements of the annual Evening of Gratitude program and of the many marketing and fund-raising initiatives related to it.

**Dr. Michael Silveus**, a new member of the Council, is a distinguished dental practitioner and teacher who also serves on the Board of St. Joseph's University's Institute for Catholic Bioethics.

**Richard Urban** has been a member of the Council for five years. Has been a recruiter, program facilitator, and board member for Justfaith; and has a special interest in Haiti.

## The 5 DC/Metro MD members are:

**Marsha Echols**, also a new Council member, is Director of The World Food Law Institute and a Professor at Howard University School of Law where she teaches commercial, interna-

tional business and trade law.

**Ollie Johnson**, an All American basketball player at the University of San Francisco who played with the Boston Celtics, served 30 years as an executive with Giant Foods. He is a Knight of Malta and former Board member of Providence Hospital and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

**Joe Jones**, another former Regional Director of the DC/Metro MD Region and long time and still active volunteer.

**Joe Raia**, a dynamic management consultant and organizational trouble shooter who serves as the Council's current Chairman.

**Father Joe Sobierajski, SJ**, is our resident Jesuit .

IVC currently has 17 Regional Councils: Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, New England (Boston/Providence), New York, N. Virginia, Omaha, Philadelphia, San Diego, St. Louis, Syracuse and Washington DC/Metro Maryland. Each region is guided by a staff director supported by a council comprised of a dozen or so volunteers.

The DC/Metro Maryland/Northern Virginia council is advisory, rather than policy-making, in nature. It helps the two-regional directors plan and various activities. Among its major responsibilities are the annual Evenings of Gratitude. It also aids to develop marketing and information strategies to find and secure additional volunteers, partner agencies and donors. The council members also find and recruit spiritual reflectors that provide the unique year-long spiritual dialogue that constitutes the dynamic relationship between the volunteers' faith-lives and their service to others.

Our council is unusual in that it incorporates two IVC Regions: DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia. This is an area covering volunteers and spiritual reflectors from as far north and east in Maryland as Bowie, Gaithersburg and Huntingtown and as far south and west in Virginia as Gainesville, Haymarket and Reston.

This year our Regional Council's highlight was the planning and execution of the most successful Evening of Gratitude ever. This annual fund-raiser broke all attendance and income records by wide margins: nearly 200 registrants, including 50 volunteers and spiritual reflectors and a net profit at this writing of \$54,000. The Council is also developing a Promotional Video that features the work of Ignatian Volunteers in the community, and is already planning next year's Evening of Gratitude.



The Regional Council at work. At left, 2 representatives from L'Arche, present their agency's work with IVC



by Joe Jones



**S**AMARITAN MINISTRY WAS FOUNDED IN 1986 BY 12 EPISCOPAL PARISHES IN the DC metropolitan area. They decided they could do more together than separately, Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) gets its name from the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel who helps a wounded fellow traveler, to recover and continue his journey. Each year SMGW helps improve the lives of more than 700 people who are homeless or otherwise in

need of our innovative *Next Step* program.

I was placed at this faith-based community as an IVC volunteer in May 2015, and became a caseworker which has been a unique and fulfilling experience. Earlier in my working life, I spent over 40 years advocating for affordable housing at the national level. This was in an era of shrinking federal resources. Now at the community level working with needy individuals, I see first-hand the difficulties they face and often overcome.

I volunteer at SMGW on Mondays and Tuesday. As a caseworker I am responsible for registration and in-take of new participants as well as seeing those who are returning. Our job is to help participants set goals and help them break those goals down into achievable *Next Steps*. For 30 years staff and volunteers have welcomed participants in a supportive environment that allows them to choose their own goals. They are given the resources and support they need to fulfill these goals: housing and employment search guidance, coaching, referrals to partner service providers and more. Of the participants we served, 58% were male and 42% female. Sixty-six percent were between the ages of 41-65 and 87% were African-American. Sixty-eight percent were homeless while 36% were ex-offenders.

Meeting participants where they are and patiently letting them work at their own pace is the hallmark of good casework. It is not easy. It takes patience. Here are three examples of participants I have worked with over the last year. Consider "Allison. When she came to SMGW, she was homeless and in need of a job. Over the 9 months she worked with me and several other caseworkers she was able to find affordable housing and at first get a part-time job and finally full-time work as a METRO bus driver.

"Martha" came to SMGW in October 2015. She had been living in a NW DC shelter since 2001 and had no income except food stamps. Martha has been on the DC public housing agency's waiting list but has moved very little and still awaits a unit. She is estranged from her mother, father and sister, timid, and lacking in self-confidence, Martha was looking for a job in the hospitality industry, but had no experience. Working with SMGW caseworkers she discovered a training program in hospitality offered by the Community College of the University of the District of Columbia. In January 2016 she applied for the course but was rejected. We encouraged her to try again in February. This time she was successful and began a two-month training program in March. I hope that with her determination she will graduate and find the position she deserves in the hospitality industry.

Because of her addiction problem, "Deborah," lost her daughters, her home and her job. She has been living in a shelter since 2014, where she feared for her own personal safety and faced the constant threat to her identity and having her belongings stolen. One morning, as she approached my desk to check in, I had just read an email about an opening at a residential treatment center for substance abusers. I told her about it, and she seemed interested. I gave her the facility's phone number and asked her to call about eligibility. I hope she followed through and is on her way to recover from her addiction. I am waiting for her to call or drop-by.

However, casework is not all I do at SMGW. At times I find myself receiving, sorting and shelving donated food. Participants receive a food bag each month, if supplies permit; they also receive toiletries, which like the food must be sorted, shelved and packaged. SMGW also receives donated clothing for participants to use in interviews. Also over the past year, I updated the Casework Associate Manual and the Front Office Coordinator Manual, both of which in the beginning were useful guides to understanding the background of SMGW, and its approach to casework.

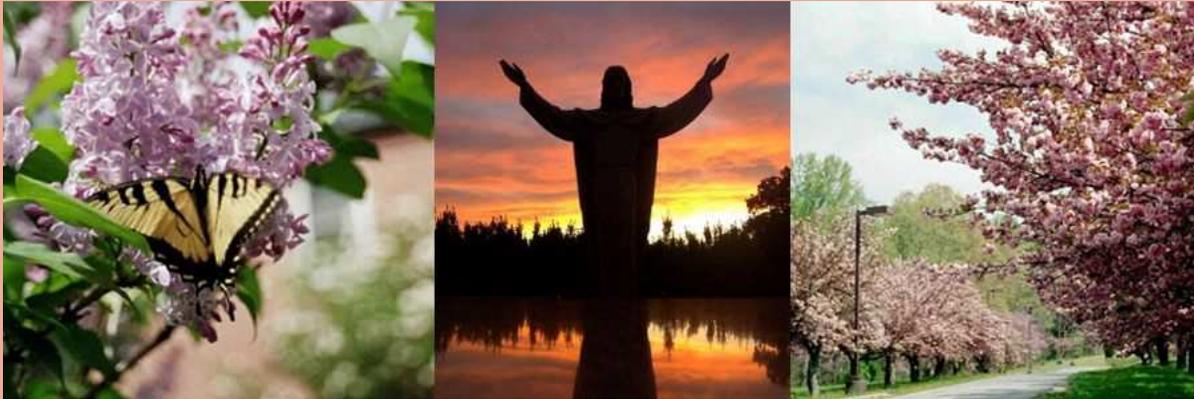
Casework at SMGW has opened my eyes to life on the fringes. It is hard work, but very rewarding.



# Save the Date: September 12-14, 2016

## Fall Retreat at Loyola-on-the-Potomac

### Faulkner, Maryland



Photos from: [www.facebook.com/Loyola-on-the-Potomac](http://www.facebook.com/Loyola-on-the-Potomac)

## Scammers Can Fake Caller ID Information

Your phone rings. You recognize the number, but when you pick up, it's someone else. What's the deal?

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), scammers are using fake caller ID information to trick you into thinking they are someone local, someone you trust—like a government agency, police department or a company you do business with such as your bank or cable provider. The practice is called caller ID spoofing, and scammers don't care whose phone number they dial. One scammer recently used the phone number of an FTC employee.

Don't rely on caller ID to verify who's calling. It can be nearly impossible to tell whether the caller ID information is real. Here are the FTC's tips for handling these calls:

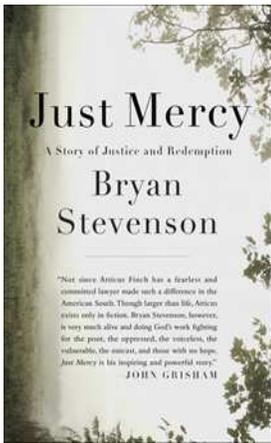
If you get a strange call from the government, hang up. If you want to check it out, visit the official (.gov) website for contact information. Government employees won't call out of the blue to demand money or account information.

Don't give out—or confirm—your personal or financial information to someone who calls.

Don't wire money or send money using a reloadable card. In fact, never pay someone who calls out of the blue, even if the name or number on the caller ID looks legitimate.

Feeling pressured to act immediately? Hang up. That's a sure sign of a scam. If you've received a call from a scammer, with or without fake caller ID information, report it to the FTC at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

From: the Golden Gazette Newsletter: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/goldengazette.htm>



## IVC's City-Group Book for 2016-17 'Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption' by Bryan Stevenson, a book review

Reviewed by Rob Warden

*Rob Warden is executive director emeritus of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law.*

**B**RYAN STEVENSON, THE VISIONARY FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the Montgomery-based Equal Justice Initiative, surely has done as much as any other living American to vindicate the innocent and temper justice with mercy for the guilty — efforts that have brought him, among myriad honors, a MacArthur genius grant and honorary degrees from Yale, Penn and Georgetown. Now 54, Stevenson has made his latest contribution to criminal justice in the form of an inspiring memoir titled *Just Mercy*.

It will come as no surprise to those who have heard Stevenson speak or perused any of his briefs that “Just Mercy” is an easy read — a work of style, substance and clarity. Mixing commentary and reportage, he adroitly juxtaposes triumph and failure, neither of which is in short supply, against an unfolding backdrop of the saga of Walter McMillian, an innocent black Alabaman sentenced to death for the 1986 murder of an 18-year-old white woman.

Stevenson is something of an enigma. A lifelong bachelor, seemingly married to his work, he grew up in a working-class African American family in southern Delaware. Born five years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, he endured the indignities of the vestiges of Jim Crow. That, of course, might have set him on a path to champion the downtrodden.

When he was 16, however, his 86-year-old grandfather was murdered by adolescent marauders bent on nothing more than stealing the elderly man's black-and-white TV. The trauma surrounding the senseless tragedy — occurring as it did in the wake of racially coded political rhetoric about crime — might have turned a lesser person into a reactionary zealot, but Stevenson took a higher road. Within a decade, as a newly minted lawyer, he forsook the wealth that was virtually guaranteed by his degrees from Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government, taking what amounted to a vow of poverty to pursue civil rights law in the South. He began at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta before moving to Alabama to start the Equal Justice Initiative.

Thirty years on, he has won relief for scores of condemned prisoners; exonerated a number of innocent ones; fought to end the death penalty and life sentences without parole for juveniles; and confronted, with admirable albeit limited success, abuse of the mentally ill, the mentally handicapped and children in prison. Of all the victories, Stevenson clearly takes the greatest satisfaction in the exoneration of McMillian, whose case played out in Monroeville, Ala. — a town immortalized by Harper Lee in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. McMillian's conviction rested on testimony so preposterous that it's astonishing anyone could have believed it, especially in the face of six alibi witnesses, including a police officer, who placed him at a fish fry 11 miles from the scene of the crime when it occurred.

The prosecution sponsored two key witnesses, both of whom lied and one of whom complained in a tape-recorded pretrial interview withheld from the defense that he was being coerced to lie. The other witness, seeking favorable treatment from the prosecution for crimes of his own, testified that he'd seen McMillian's low-rider truck near the crime scene. It turned out, however, that McMillian had not modified his truck into a low-rider until weeks after the crime.

A jury from which the prosecution had systematically excluded African Americans found McMillian guilty but recommended a life sentence, rather than death. In 34 of the 36 states with death penalties then on their books, jury recommendations were binding, the exceptions being Alabama and Florida, where judges were — and still are — empowered to override jury recommendations. That's what evocatively named Judge Robert E. Lee Key Jr. did in the McMillian case.

McMillian most likely would have been executed had Stevenson not turned to an unconventional court of last resort — “60 Minutes,” which in late 1992 aired a devastating segment on the case. Three months later, the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals granted McMillian a new trial, and a few days after that, the prosecution dropped the charges.

From: [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/book-review-just-mercy-a-story-of-justice-and-redemption-by-bryan-stevenson/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/book-review-just-mercy-a-story-of-justice-and-redemption-by-bryan-stevenson/)

# Upcoming Events

**Fall Retreat**  
 Sept 12-14, 2016  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD.  
 Facilitator TBD

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

## Northern Virginia Region 2016-17 City Groups

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Our Lady Queen of Peace</b><br>2700 19th Street South<br>Arlington, VA 22204<br>2nd Tuesday<br>10:00 am-12:00 noon | <b>Saint Ann's</b><br>5300 North 10th Street<br>Arlington, Virginia 22205<br><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday<br>10:00 am-12:00 noon | <b>St. John Neumann's</b><br>11900 Lawyers Road<br>Reston VA 20191<br>Last Thursday<br>10:00 am-12:00 noon | <b>St. Joseph's</b><br>711 Columbus Street, N.<br>Alexandria, VA 22314<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday<br>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><br>5814 Ogden Court,<br>Bethesda, MD 20816<br>1st. Thurs.—9:30–11:30 | <b>Wash. Jesuit Academy</b><br>900 Varnum St., NE<br>Washington, DC 20017<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday—11:00-1:00 | <b>Riderwood</b><br>3140 Gracefield Rd.<br>Silver Spring, MD 20904<br>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  |

