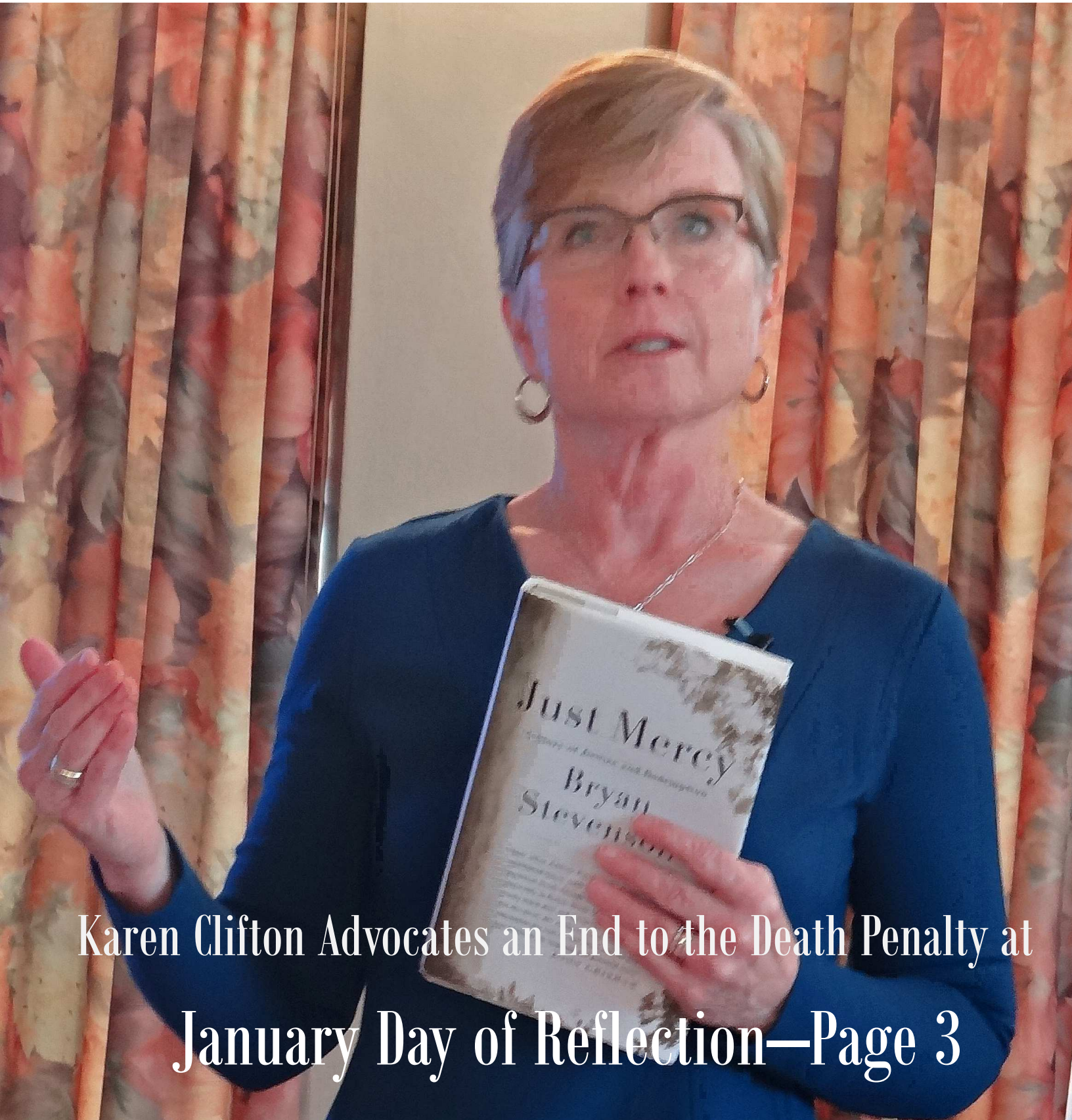


# Corps Connector

Volume 12, Number 1

March 2017



Karen Clifton Advocates an End to the Death Penalty at  
January Day of Reflection—Page 3





## St. Anthony and the Briar Patch

I must have been about five years old at the time. The little house we lived in was on a small farm in Nelson County, Kentucky. Dad was out plowing the garden. Behind our house was a huge briar patch—huge to a five year old, anyway. It was a prickly scrambling vine, an ancient blackberry patch made up of deeply intertwined canes left from many too many years of berry production.

The canes were chattering and clattering in the stiff spring breeze. Mom made blackberry jam from these berries each year; it was the chief ingredient in the Christmas jam cake she baked for my little brother, Earl, who was born on Christmas Day.

It was a beautiful spring morning, my heart overflowed with joy; winter was past and Uncle Charlie had just this minute tossed me a shiny new nickel. Charlie was my Dad's older brother and the richest man I knew. He never married and one of his money-making enterprises was fattening cattle for market. Not very long before this, he had a pipeline run from the nearby J.W. Dant distillery to his cattle barn on his farm next to ours. The expended nutrient-rich mash, the by-product of the distilling process, would be piped still warm directly over to Uncle Charlie's barn and fed to the cattle.

I gripped my nickel tightly, and dashed out of the house. Out back I stopped short, my eye strangely riveted to the sight of this weird briar patch. I don't think I'd ever noticed it hanging around back there before. Like Alice in Wonderland the spot became suddenly magical and mysterious. I stood transfixed I don't know for how long. Suddenly I became aware that something was wrong; I looked down at my hand, it had gone slack and my nickel gone.

Frantically I raced up and down, back and forth, searching all through and around the patch, careful to avoid the sharp thorns sticking out in all directions. My briar friend suddenly became villainous, a thief. My nickel was gone; disappearing, I supposed, down a rabbit hole hidden somewhere deep inside the bramble. Then I started to cry—boys aren't supposed to cry, but the loss of such a valuable coin had to be an exception. I ran back to the house sobbing to tell Mom my nickel was lost.

Inside, Mom and my oldest brother Jimmy, who was ten, were taking down the wood stove in the living room. Taking the stove down until next fall was part of the ritual of spring house cleaning. Jimmy, covered in soot, was handing Mom one of the stove pipes. They had thrown an old sheet across the floor to catch the soot they were knocking out of the pipes.

Mom had a rag tied around her head to keep the soot out of her hair and there was a smear of soot on her face. She heard me crying and asked me what was the matter. I told her about the briars and my lost nickel. "Well, Dickey," she said, "I bet you forgot to say a prayer to St. Anthony, didn't you? I told you when you lose something say a prayer to him; he's the patron saint of lost articles. Now say a prayer and you go back out there and look for it again; St. Anthony will help you find it." She gave me a wane smile and went back to banging the soot out the stove pipes.

I said my prayer determined to keep faith with St. Anthony and my Mom, and went back out to confront the briar patch once again. I looked and looked, prayed and prayed, still no sign of my lost coin. Soon my faith in St. Anthony began to waver; I was ready to give up. Then I saw something flash, something shiny, barely visible, stuck down in between a couple of thick canes. It was my nickel! I got so excited. As I went in after it, a long vicious-looking thorn reached out and gave me an ugly scratch across my arm. I didn't care, I had my nickel back.

Shading my eyes, I stepped back for one last look at the briar patch and there at its very top, its ancient canes still clashing with one another in the wind. I'm sure I saw St. Anthony beaming down at me, whispering, "See, we did it, didn't we?" Did I just imagine this? I guess maybe that old briar patch wasn't so evil after all was he?

*Dick Bowling*

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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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Photos by Dick Bowling unless otherwise noted



**I**F THE IVC COMMUNITY CAME TO THE JANUARY DAY of Reflection knowing little about the prison experience and the degree to which mercy and justice apply, they certainly left with a grounded orientation if not a preliminary education on incarceration in this country. No easy task to take on.

Our January Day of Reflection took place on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Retreat House on Harewood Road NE in Washington. Karen Clifton, Executive Director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network presented the morning session, “Ending the Death Penalty.” Heather Rice-Minus, Director of Government Affairs at Prison Fellowship, followed in the afternoon with an address on “Justice that Restores.”

Karen Clifton’s talk focused on the importance of ending the death penalty. Starting off with some statistics, she said that in this country one out of three men can expect to go to prison, recidivism nationwide is around 77%, and about 10,000 prisoners are released annually in this Greater Washington Region.

Catholic Mobilizing Network’s current priorities are educating Catholics on the Death Penalty issue and starting a conversation about “restorative justice”. Some of their approaches include increasing their social media presence, further developing Spanish language education and resources, and working on uniting the Death Penalty conversation to the Pro-life message so that *all life* from cradle to grave is affirmed. She said that 62% of the public now favors incarceration over the Death Penalty.

Restorative justice is a newer approach being successfully used with the incarcerated. Restorative Justice seeks to repair harm caused by the crime. The process emphasizes dialogue and negotiation between the perpetrator and victims. Prisoners hear the stories of victims (not their victims) and these encounters help change lives. The prisoners start to own what they did and ask themselves what they can do to make it right for those

harmed. Recidivism drops from 77% to under 20% when restorative justice is used.

Heather Rice-Minus of Prison Fellowship (an organization founded in 1976 by the late Chuck Colson) further elaborated on “Justice that Restores”. This is the name that Prison Fellowship gives to what Karen Clifton called Restorative Justice which, for all intents and purposes, is one and the same. Justice that Restores, she said, is the framework for all that Prison Fellowship does. Such restorative justice promotes accountability for the perpetrator, prioritizes victim participation, and cultivates community engagement. The victim needs :

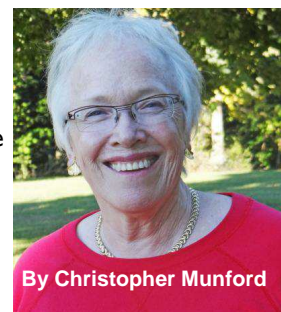
1) “validation” for the harm done with justice addressing the victim’s needs and rights, and 2) participation in the criminal justice process via impact statements, input on sentencing recommendations, and victim-offender mediation. The offender (the “responsible party”) needs proportional punishment in which accountability and sentencing fit the crime. Examples of key reforms for the offender include alternative courts, reclassifying certain felonies as misdemeanors, reducing mandatory minimums, limiting solitary confinement, and restoring voting rights and second chance hiring practices.



Heather Rice-Minus

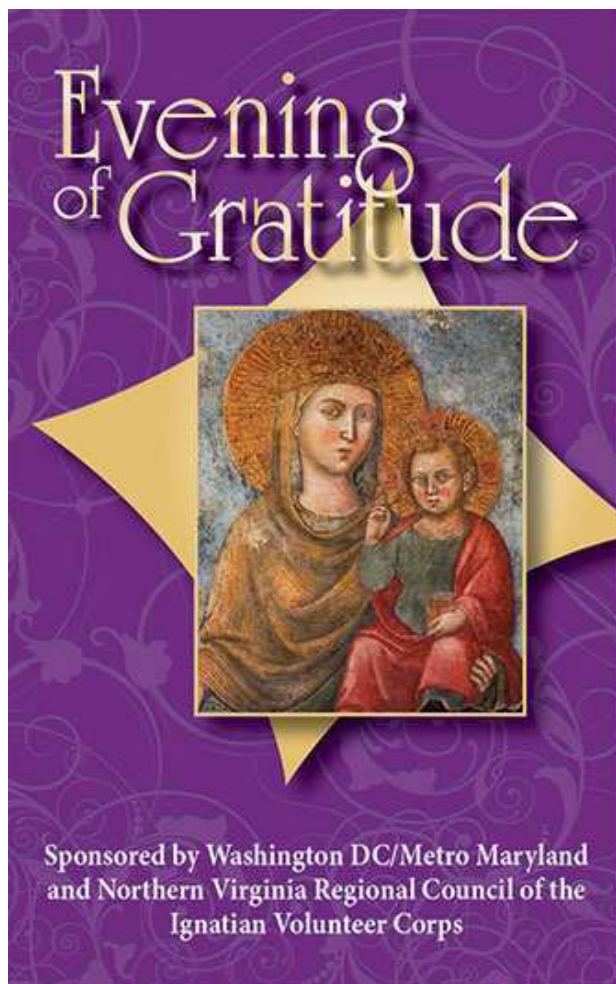
Is it victim care, visiting prisoners, advocating for sentencing reform, or eliminating the death penalty? We were all implicitly left with the challenge to ask ourselves: what practical steps are we, as individuals or as part of a parish, called to take to restore those affected by crime and punishment, whether inside or outside prison walls?

This year’s Day of Reflection hosted one of the largest turnouts with nearly 79 IVCers and guests attending. The Day closed with a Mass and very inspiring homily by Fr. Ted Keating, SM. He spoke of the Violence of Language, quoting Rabbi Abraham Hershel: “The Holocaust began with the violence of language, only later by the force of arms.” Then we all went outside for a group picture.



By Christopher Munford





# Save the Date!

Sunday, April 23, 2017

*Eleventh*  
Annual

*Honoring our Della Strada Award recipients:*

**Fr. Gerry Creedon** Pastor, Holy Family Parish (Dale City) and Chair of the Diocese of Arlington Peace and Justice Commission.

**Mr. William B. Whitaker** Founding President, The Washington Jesuit Academy and 2016 *Washingtonian* of the Year.

*Our Celebration:*

Mass: 4:00 pm – Eucharistic Liturgy  
at St. Aloysius Church

Reception: 5:00 pm – The Commons  
Gonzaga College High School

*Sponsorships and Tribute Ads Available:*

[mgoggin@ivcusa.org](mailto:mgoggin@ivcusa.org)

[jcoolidge@ivcusa.org](mailto:jcoolidge@ivcusa.org)

Invitation to follow



**O**N SUNDAY, APRIL 23 THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS, WILL HONOR two social justice champions, Fr. Gerry Creedon and Mr. William Whitaker, at its annual Evening of Gratitude celebration.

They will each receive the Della Strada Award, IVC's highest honor. The award is named after the church St. Ignatius and the early Jesuits acquired to serve the urban poor in Rome, Santa Maria Della Strada, and is presented each year to one or more local leaders who exemplify IVC's mission of community service and promoting social justice.

Fr. Creedon is the pastor of Holy Family Parish in Dale City, VA and a former pastor of St. Charles Parish in Arlington. Throughout his career, he has brought his invaluable leadership skills to such organizations as the Diocese of Arlington Peace and Justice Commission; Catholics for Housing; Gabriel Homes; Catholic Charities; Catholic Relief Services; and Social Action Linking Together. Fr. Gerry has faithfully supported the IVC and worked closely with Ignatian Volunteer Susan Kral and Regional Director Joanie Coolidge to develop the *Think God, It's Friday* program at Holy Family.

Bill Whitaker is the founding president of the Washington Jesuit Academy, a tuition-free middle school in Northeast D.C. that has provided hundreds of young men the opportunity to academically thrive in a highly challenging yet supportive environment. A leader in urban education, school administration and poverty alleviation, Bill has served on the IVC National Board and in January, 2017, *Washingtonian* magazine named him as one of its 2016 Washingtonians of the Year.



with Mary Campbell

Photos & Logo from website

### Why and how Culpepper Garden came to be:

In the early 1970's, many faith communities became very concerned about the lack of affordable housing; it was then that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington formed a nonprofit organization to promote affordable housing for seniors. Dr. Charles Culpepper, a member of the Unitarian church, agreed to sell his five-acre property at a discount to create housing for low-income seniors—thus the name, Culpepper Garden. Since 1975, Culpepper Garden has helped Arlington seniors age in place with grace and dignity. It now provides 267 apartments for independent living and 73 apartments for assisted living.

### How I came to volunteer at Culpepper Garden and what I do:

In the spring of 2016, Linda Kelleher, Executive Director of the Arlington Retirement Housing Corporation (ARHC), the nonprofit owner of Culpepper Garden, met with Joanie Coolidge to request an IVC volunteer. In May 2016, after I had volunteered six-years at 'Bridges to Independence,' I began volunteering at Culpepper Garden on Wednesdays.

As Culpepper Garden has not had an IVC volunteer before, Linda and I have gotten together often to consider what our needs are and to find areas where I can help. Since then, I have surveyed the residents to determine what activities they are most interested in; I have called supporters of Culpepper Garden to confirm whether or not they planned to attend our fundraiser in June, (it was very successful). I have also helped organize a small library that had been neglected, and have supported some of Culpepper Garden's administrative needs. My main activity thus far has been to interview residents and write articles about them for the "Resident Spotlight" section of the *Clarion*, our monthly newsletter.

Through this, I've been getting to know residents of many different backgrounds and traditions: for instance, there is a woman here from Bolivia who came to the U.S. as an adult, worked as a nanny for 20 years, and now leads a Spanish book club; and a wonderful resident who plays the piano for Assisted Living and other residents, and teaches a music therapy class for autistic children once a week in Washington, D.C.; a Korean War veteran from Oklahoma who loves Civil War history; a Jack-of-all trades who can fix anything; a former NOVA history professor who now conducts current-events discussions; and a Jewish woman born in Luxembourg who at age 9 escaped with her family to the U.S. before the Nazis moved in.

I believe that each of us has a "story" to tell and I plan to do some in-depth recordings of Life Stories for interested residents. My life has been enriched through these contacts with residents and staff—and I'm becoming a part of Culpepper Garden.





# Keep These Dates Open: June 12 —14 June Retreat

## Edwina Gateley, Facilitator

**B**orn in Lancaster England, Edwina Gateley earned a Teacher's Degree from her home country, a Master's in Theology from the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and certification as an HIV counselor in Illinois.



### Retreat Theme: Call to Personal and Global Transformation

In the midst of our violent and hurting world, we will explore how God as Lover and Healer, ever invites us to new possibilities and to believe in our potential to make a difference. Through Scripture and Contemporary stories we will be stretched and challenged to believe in our call to become mystics, saints and prophets. We will laugh, cry and celebrate as we recognize more deeply the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

From 1981 to 1982, Edwina lived for nine months in prayer and solitude in a hermitage in Illinois. In 1983, she spent over a year on the streets of Chicago walking with the homeless and women involved in prostitution. Also in 1983, Edwina founded *Genesis House*—a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution.

Numerous groups and individuals, including the Mayor of Chicago, the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, and Bill Clinton, former President of the United States, have publicly commended Edwina's work and ministry. Edwina has also been featured on CBS's "60 Minutes" and "48 Hours."

Edwina is currently writing, giving talks and leading retreats nationally and internationally. Her programs include weekends and week-long retreats as well as parish missions. Topics include her own Faith Journey, Discipleship, Women in Scripture, Justice, Mission, Spirituality, Mysticism, and the Feminine Divine.

[ From [www.edwinagateley.com/about/](http://www.edwinagateley.com/about/) ]

**"I FIRST MET EDWINA** twenty years ago when she gave a Retreat at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD . I had just returned from my stint in Swaziland as a Peace Corps volunteer and was wondering what kind of ministry I could get into. I was so impressed with the work she was doing I asked if I might join her at *Genesis House*, a home she had established for prostitutes trying to change their lives. In her wisdom she advised me to find some ministry here closer to where I live. It was great advice and led me to many different ministries.

"Now twenty years later I attended another Retreat she gave at Bon Secours I so enjoyed being with her again. It was a chatty but deeply prayerful Retreat .I returned home to find my own prayer life had deepened. Edwina is wise and witty. I hope you will enjoy our Retreat with her in June."

Jeannette Herbert, IVC Northern Virginia Spiritual Reflector



# *DC/Metro Maryland City Group Christmas Party*







# *Northern Virginia City Group Christmas Party*





# Treating the Physical, Emotional and Mental Health Needs of the Poor



Photos from

The Anchor website

by Jim Goedert

**M**Y WIFE AND I WERE STRONGLY ATTRACTED TO IVC'S MODEL OF COMMUNITY, SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT, and part-time, hands-on service. The September retreat, the Advent/Christmas celebration, the monthly City Group meetings, and our service assignments fulfilled our expectations.

For 36 years I worked as a physician at the National Institutes of Health, studying the causes, the spread of, and control of infectious diseases (especially HIV, hepatitis and herpes viruses) that contribute to cancer risk. I also maintained my clinical skills, evaluating and treating outpatients one evening per month at Catholic Charity's Spanish Catholic Center clinic in Wheaton. I also went on a mission to Ghana with my college alumni association, and five missions to Haiti with my parish, St. John the Baptist Catholic Community in Silver Spring. Those hands-on experiences were very rewarding, so I discussed with Mike Goggin, DC/Metro MD Regional Director, to assign me to a local clinic where I could apply my training and skills. So he assigned me to Catholic Charities' Spanish Catholic Center clinic in Washington's Mount Pleasant neighborhood for the first day of my volunteer service.

Although I have barely started, the experience of evaluating and treating adult patients with both acute and chronic health problems has certainly opened my heart, and also my eyes to the clinical, emotional, social, financial, and administrative challenges that are routine in an inner city clinic. Most of the patients have common health problems, such as allergies, colds, aches and pains. Diabetes is distressingly prevalent.

The majority of patients are immigrants from Latin America, but there are also many from Africa. Regardless of their origins, their emotional and social problems can be subtle, such as the young adults who want a "health check" without an explicit concern about infectious disease or pregnancy. The financial challenges for the clients at the Spanish Catholic Center include not merely poverty but also insurance obstacles; the Archdiocese, of which SCC is part, does not accept Medicaid because of its policy on contraception.

I find the staff here warmhearted and deeply committed. The front office is efficient and courteous. The medical assistants and nurses are really patient with me and my limited conversational Spanish. And the full-time clinicians are smart, experienced, and teaching me a lot about the many medications that have become available since my training in the late 1970s. I also am learning electronic medical record systems that greatly improve documenting, standardizing, disseminating, and retrieving information. But I sometimes feel guilty sitting in front of a computer screen, when I could be meeting a patient face to face and observing his or her physical behavior.

For my second day of service each week, Catholic Charities very recently assigned me to 'The Anchor' a mental health center located near Catholic University. It is a large facility that provides psychiatric, nutritional, and a wide range of social services to well over 1000 outpatients with schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions. I have just started at Anchor and will serve as a consultant to the staff psychiatrists, perform general health assessments and physical exams for patients who don't have consistent primary medical care. Language shouldn't be a challenge here since most of the Anchor population is African American.

These clinical experiences differ starkly from the research I used to do. My work then focused primarily on populations, identifying factors that contribute to illness or death. The rewards were abstract. While my clinical practice has similar goals, there's the immediate reward of a handshake and especially a smile.



**Jim Goedert**  
DC/Metro MD Volunteer

# Working with Climate Issues at Catholic Climate Covenant

with Antonio Gomes Pereira

**BELIEVE ME, IT WAS GABI, MY GRANDDAUGHTER, WHO INSPIRED ME TO KNOCK AT IVC'S DOOR.** Gabi (Gabriela) enchanted us with her love of family, as a bright student at her beloved Saint Elizabeth School, and her heroic struggle with congenital Loey's-Dietz syndrome, of which she died in May 2016 at 14 years of age. Gabi left us a message of love, friendship and happiness. IVC is my response to her message.

I felt I wanted to volunteer at an agency that would draw on my previous education and experience. That agency is the Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC). I am an educator by training and although I have no formal training in climate issues, I have participated intensively and professionally in them. CCC has opened promising insights for me into the educational mission of parishes and schools throughout the country. In addition, my work with Latin America left me with a working knowledge of Spanish, which is spoken by a considerable segment of our clientele.

To implement Catholic social teaching on ecology within the US Church, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) helped form Catholic Climate Covenant. It began operating in 2006. CCC's mission is based on three operational strategies:

**Education**, sharing Catholic teaching on climate change with schools, parishes and communities;

**Public Witness**, participating in advocacy initiatives and supporting those most affected by climate impacts;

**Resources**, providing tools and technical assistance to help institutions and communities reduce carbon footprints.

Catholic Climate Covenant offices occupy a quiet corner in the McCormick Pavilion at the Theological College of the Catholic University campus. Some of the CCC members work in the field so on Wednesdays we have weekly teleconferences. It's impressive how half a dozen of these colleagues are able to interact with so many people in so many different corners of the country. I believe that their technical competency and an inter-institutional cooperative strategy underlie this success.

After five months, I am convinced that there is a place for me in the CCC. Needs are countless. As an IVC volunteer I feel privileged to cooperate in the activities of the CCC. I find it fulfilling to put something together like the translation of a circular for a kindergarten class, or an article on climate change in the Amazon basin. "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* #14). Thanks IVC. Thanks CCC. Thanks, Gabi.



Antonio Gomes Pereira  
DC/MD Volunteer



**Special Thanks to Our DC/MD Associate Editor, Ruth Coyne, for soliciting the articles from her region that appear on pages 9 & 10 of this issue.**



# Upcoming Events

**Save the Date**  
**Sunday April 23, 2017**  
**Evening of Gratitude**  
 Honoring our  
 Della Strada recipients:  
 Fr. Gerry Creedon &  
 Mr. William Whitaker  
 Liturgy: 4:00 pm, Reception: 5:00 pm

**June Retreat**  
 June 12-14, 2017  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD  
 Facilitated by  
 Edwina Gateley

**Fall Retreat**  
 Sept 11-13, 2017  
 Loyola Retreat House  
 Faulkner, MD  
 Facilitator  
 TBA

## 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>The Broadway</b> 502 W. Broad St. Falls Church, VA 22046 2nd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon	<b>Saint Ann's</b> 5300 North 10th Street Arlington, VA 22205 2nd Thursday 10:00 am-12:00 no	<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, Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00 am-12:00 noon
April 11, 2017	April 12, 2017	April 13, 2017	April 18, 2017	April 19, 2017
May 9, 2017	May 10, 2017	May 11, 2017	May 16, 2017	May 17, 2017

## 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 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00	<b>Riderwood</b> 3140 Gracefield Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20904 Last Wednesday—10:00– 12:00
April 6, 2017	April 11, 2017	April 26, 2017
May 4, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 31, 2017

