

**IVC  
Washington DC/  
Metro Maryland  
&  
Northern  
Virginia  
Regional  
Council**

Joseph Jones

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Regional Directors  
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Frances Butler

Joseph Dempsey

Pamela Lucey

Dennis Lucey

Joseph Matelis

Lolita McKenna

Stephen McKenna

John Rausch

Grace Risetto

Bruce Stegert, S.J.

All photos by Dick  
Bowling except as noted

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## Curtin's Receive Della Strada Award

The Curtin's, Kathleen Michael, and their son, Mike, Jr., received the Madonna Della Strada award at IVC's Evening of Gratitude on Sunday April 25. Fr. Jim Conroy, S.J., co-founder of IVC and a close personal friend of the Curtin's, presented the award.

This award honors "lives that reflect the Ignatian values of direct service to the poor and of working and educating for a more just society."

Mike Curtin, Sr. is a past IVC Board Chair, Kathleen is an IVC Spiritual Reflector and national/regional retreat

leader on Ignatian spirituality. Michael, Jr. is CEO of the DC Central Kitchen, one of IVC's partner agencies.



**l-r: Michael, Sr., Kathleen, & Michael Curtin, Jr. and Fr. Jim Conroy**

"The Curtin's have a secret," Fr. Jim stated in his presentation remarks, "**Family comes first.** From the beginning Mike and Kathleen have made choices

rooted in Christian values, faith and love. Where they live, what they do, how they raised their five children and help with their 11 grandchildren, the dinners together, the sacrifices, all these decisions are rooted in Christian love, mutual respect, value formation, always oriented to caring for others.."



**MADONNA DELLA STRADA**  
This icon of Mary and Jesus hangs in the Church of the Gesu, the Jesuit Church in Rome.

## Evening of Gratitude: Prayerful, Delightful



"God is someone who arrives on the scene of a disaster and points to its opportunities for generosity, forgiveness, and love. As Ignatian volunteers in

the Washington area, that is what you do. Rather than being gripped by fear and despair, you have answered the call of the Spirit to follow Jesus in his work on behalf of the poor and needy. Where others have seen disaster, you have seen opportunity. Where others have run away, you have run forward with enthusiasm. Where others have responded with anger, you have responded with

love." This is how Fr. Tom Reese, SJ described the Ignatian volunteers, benefactors and partners in ministry and service in his homily at IVC's Evening of Gratitude on Sunday April 25. The DC-MD/Northern Virginia Regional Council once more created an evening to remember. The food by the catering division of DC Central Kitchen was tasty and

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**Art looking cool at A-SPAN**  
Photo by Jan-Michael Sacharko

## Art Baltrym Wins A-SPAN Hall of Fame Award

“Art, congratulations on being named to the A-SPAN Volunteer Hall of Fame! On behalf of Arlington County and the staff and board of directors of A-SPAN, I thank you for giving of your time and energy unselfishly to assist chronically homeless individuals in reclaiming their lives. We have heard that in the past year you have spent countless hours every week making home visits

to two A-SPAN clients; volunteered at the Emergency Winter Shelter weekly – in addition to making special trips during the blizzards of 2010; greeted guests at the A-SPAN Client Holiday party; served meals at the Homeless Bagged Meal Program every month; and assisted A-SPAN staff with special projects at Opportunity Place. It is because of dedicated and caring people

like you that A-SPAN has been able to help thousands of homeless individuals for the past twenty years. We at Arlington County encourage all Arlingtonians to follow your lead and to make volunteering to help their neighbors in need part of their lives everyday. In gratitude,”

Jay Fisette  
Arlington Co. Board Chair”

*“Within the homes, people with and without intellectual disabilities form deep friendships, share chores and meals together, and practice their faith”*

## L'Arche, an IVC Service Agency

L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., creates inclusive communities as a model for learning how to build inclusive societies. L'Arche follows the example of Jesus, who left behind the relative security and comfort of his family of origin and made a new life with people who were pushed down and left out in his society. He lived his life with them, and they became his people.

In L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., people with, and people without, intellectual disabilities, from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds,

commit to a life together. They become each other's people.

Family-like homes are at the heart of life in L'Arche. Within the homes, people with and without intellectual disabilities form deep friendships, share chores and meals together, and practice their faith. Community members



**Lois Bundschuh, No Va Volunteer, with her core group at Highland House, L'Arche's Northern Virginia facility.**

commit to supporting each person's faith or values tradition.



**IVC Volunteer Karen Rumble contributes her time to L'Arche in DC and divides her time between the Euclid House and the Ontario House.**

These strong relationships are the very center of L'Arche, and the home is where they are created and nurtured. L'Arche communities are places of welcome and support for families and friends, volunteers and neighbors, schools, religious congregations, and social service groups.

# Putting a Human Face on Immigration at Bethany Day Care Center

By Carolyn Burstein

About 85% of the women are African-American at Bethany Day Center for homeless women at N Street Village in the District, where I volunteer; the remainder are recent immigrants and Caucasian women. These are women who lived in neighborhoods in the central city in close proximity with recent immigrants and whose family members competed for jobs with these immigrants.

Every staff person and volunteer at Bethany Day Center is expected to offer a 45-60 minute activity each week. I decided to offer an activity called "Challenges in Our World" which I hoped would expand their horizons beyond their own personal problems. I have been astounded by their re-



sponse to the topics offered, and not necessarily in a way I would have anticipated, none more so than their response to the topic of immigration. We spent about six "classes" re-viewing the historical context of immigration in America from about 1820 to 1920 (when it was severely restricted), re-viewing the various waves of

immigrants from Britain, Ireland, Germany, Italy and Eastern Europe. We noted the abject poverty and different customs of the immigrants and yet their typically American dreams of a better life.

We also reviewed the raft of legislation passed to prevent their expansion in America; e.g. quotas for certain countries and regions. We discussed how each wave of immigrants faced the same discrimination and problems. When in 1965 immigration was extended for the first time beyond Europe to Africa, Latin America and Asia, we then applied what we had learned to this more recent immigration the country was experiencing.

Research on immigration clearly attests to the fact that for every 10% increase in illegal immigration there is a 3% decrease in jobs for black males in areas where they both live. We spent time discussing this statistic when one of the women made a derogatory remark about Koreans in the District who own "Mom and Pop" grocery stores and charge exorbitant prices. Immediately, another woman countered by putting a human face on the issue by saying: "I lived next door to a Korean extended-family of 8 adults, all of whom worked long hours at menial jobs, shared one car and genuinely cared for each other." She asked, "How many of your black neighbors worked long hours in menial jobs and helped other family members? Don't anyone ever criticize Koreans in front of me!" This outburst galvanized several women who related personal and posi-



tive stories about Hispanics, Africans or Asians they knew or lived near. This led to excellent discussions about the meaning of immigration, legal and illegal, to neighboring Americans. These stories made the problems of immigration come alive for the women, especially those with little personal experience with recent immigrants.

I was pleasantly surprised at the end of our immigration sessions when 100% of the women indicated by secret ballot that they unequivocally favored giving legal status to currently illegal immigrants (with certain restraints; e.g., no criminal records) and extending immigration to 1 million plus persons annually. Interestingly, the most favorable U.S. public opinion survey (CBS/NY Times) on the treatment of illegal immigration indicates that only 61% of Americans favor giving legal status to illegal immigrants and then, only with relatively harsh restrictions. I knew the women's response was due to those who put a human face on an otherwise abstract issue for them. Another example of my learning more than I taught, and receiving more than I gave in volunteer work!

*"I lived next door to a Korean extended-family of 8 adults, all of whom worked long hours at menial jobs, shared one car and genuinely cared for each other."*



## A Visit with Pat Dunigan, DC/MD Volunteer



Twice a week, Pat spends all day with a class which is getting ready for kindergarten with firm preparation and directed classroom discipline.

With eight children, 20 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, all in the Washington area, one might think Pat Dunigan had enough family activities to last a lifetime. But she has found new energy and a new volunteer life as an IVC worker at Rosemount Center in Northwest DC. At Rosemount, dozens of small children from infants through five years find a Head Start program which operates easily in a cheery bilingual atmosphere. Pat helps with one class of young learners who master their alphabet and number recognition along with drawing and manipulative skills. She works with a teacher and an aide and finds the day exhilarating.

Twice a week, Pat spends all day with a class which is getting ready for kindergarten with firm preparation and directed classroom discipline. Rosemount specializes in guiding disadvantaged children and other children whose parents take the opportunity of having them learn English or Spanish at an early age along with experiencing Washington's diverse culture. Her teacher is bilingual in Spanish and English and the teacher's aide handles Spanish mostly. Pat provides an English speaking model of patience and experience.

many Latino children but also young learners from Asia and the Middle East and, of course, kids from native DC families. Children stay at Rosemount until they are five, and many start there as infants so Pat has good opportunities to see them grow from year to year. Rosemount is a typically American blend of neighborhood, city, national and volunteer initiatives. Sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church and located on church property, the Center is supported by DC and federal programs and private tuitions. Pat is one of two IVC volunteers currently at Rosemount.

The Center, where Pat has worked for two years, has



Pat with her kids at Rosemount on Halloween (Photo courtesy Rosemount)

Photos  
Left: Curtin family and friends,

Right: Mary McGinnity, IVC Executive Director

### Evening of Gratitude, 2010 Photos



# Fr. Frank Kaminski, June Retreat Facilitator



**Father Frank Kaminski** was born and raised in Baltimore, MD, in 1968 he entered the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. During his Novitiate days in Wernersville, he was sent for a summer experience to Guatemala and in 1970 went for an extended experience at the Jesuit school in Osorno, Chile to work with the children attending Colegio San Mateo. Osorno was then a city of about 60,000. The area, he recalls, was graced with a backdrop of mountains, volcanic Mount Osorno and a gorgeous lake. These two

opportunities opened an unsuspected direction for his Jesuit life: work in direct service to the poor and the promotion of Ignatian spirituality.

He completed theology at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, MA and was ordained in 1976. He returned to Chile where he was assigned to a parish in Arica a town near the Peruvian border known to be in the driest desert in the world. Three years later he went to the Missouri Province for Tertianship (the final formal period of formation in the Society of Jesus).

After taking final vows in August, 1981, he went back to Chile. This time he worked with university level Christian Life Communities (CLC) in Santiago while accompanying Jesuit Scholastics in their Formation Communities. Here he organized groups for young people after college, led retreats, offered Mass and moderated meetings. He called it "campus ministry without a campus." It was a time of armed

police on street corners and demonstrations against the government. The young people of the CLCs became very active; they contacted Filipino CLCs to learn how they had demonstrated against the regime of Ferdinand Marcos. "That was an education for me," he said. He quickly saw their desire for change, their Christian commitment to be "agents for change in a good way."

In 1992 he left Chile and returned to the Maryland Province. After a sabbatical year at Weston, he was sent to Holy Name Parish in Camden New Jersey ministering to the Spanish-speaking population. In 2000, he was assigned to Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD where he has spent the last nine years. "I'm doing this because of the CLC." It was in Chile that he became convinced of the value of St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises for lay Catholics, particularly how the Exercises evoked a strong Christian commitment.

**Spring Retreat  
June 15-17,  
2010  
Faulkner, MD**

*It was in Chile that he became convinced of the value of St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises for lay Catholics, particularly how the Exercises evoked a strong Christian commitment.*

## Calendar of Events

### Fall 2010 Retreat

September 14-15, 2010  
Facilitator: Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM

### Evening of Gratitude:(Continued from p.1)

delightful. Whole Foods of Vienna VA donated the coffee and created a platter of desserts that were to die for.

**Chris Swift proclaims the first reading at the 2010 Evening of Gratitude Liturgy**



### A Special 'Evening of Gratitude' Thanks ...

- ...to Pam Lucey for her beautiful gift of flowers
- ...to John Rausch for his gift of four cases of Virginia wine
- ...to Carlos Hillman for his gift of a case of Malbec from Argentina
- ...to Whole Foods of Vienna for their gifts of coffee and desserts

### 2010 IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS "EVENING OF GRATITUDE"



### MADONNA DELLA STRADA

"Our Lady of the Way" hangs in the Church of the *Gesù*, the mother church of the Society of Jesus, obtained to serve the urban poor in the center of Rome.

### DELLA STRADA AWARD

This IVC award honors "lives that reflect the Ignatian values of direct service to the poor and of working and educating for a more just society." The initial award recipients for the IVC Washington DC/Metro Maryland & Northern Virginia Regions are members of "**the first family of IVC**" in our area – **Michael and Kathleen Curtin and their oldest son, Michael, Jr.** Mike Curtin, Sr. is a past IVC Board Chair, Kathleen is an IVC Spiritual Reflector & national/regional retreat leader on Ignatian spirituality, and Michael, Jr. is CEO of the DC Central Kitchen, one of IVC's premier partner agencies.