

CORPS Connector

May, 2007

An Occasional Newsletter of the Washington DC-Northern Virginia Region

Volume 1, Number 2

**IVC
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Northern
Virginia
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Gratitude



(l. to r.) Joe McCloskey, SJ, IVC Spiritual Reflector; Tuck Grinnell, IVC Spiritual Reflector & Pastor, St. Anthony Church, Falls Church; Al Novotny, SJ, Pres., Gonzaga College High School & IVC/Wash—No. Va. Regional Council; William Byron, SJ, Pres., St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Philadelphia

Gratitude is a habit of the heart. At its root, a habit of gratitude implies a personal relationship. This relationship can be with a parent, a mentor, a friend or with God. Moreover, this relationship rests on the experience of a gift freely given, without expectation. So I have simply to say thanks. But once we open a channel of communication, we become attuned to the possibility of giving as a way of life; to sharing with others what we have bountifully received. One of the sayings of Jesus pushes this point even further, indeed to its counter-intuitive extreme: "It is better to give than to receive."

Ideally the habit of gratitude flows directly into service. "Service of the Divine Majesty" ranked near the top of Ignatius' spiritual priorities. This meant helping people attain the end for which they were created: to praise, revere and serve God. During Ignatius' lifetime, Jesuits cared for plague victims, founded schools, served as theological experts at the Council of Trent, wrote catechisms, and went to foreign lands as missionaries.

Thus, "Service of the Divine Majesty" translates immediately into service of one's neighbor. Service and volunteer programs have a special place, by moving us toward action. Love, Ignatius claimed, is best expressed in deeds.

Extracted from "Three Habits for Ignatian Partners: Reflection, Gratitude and Service" by John Breslin, S.J

SPRING 2007 BRINGS NEW FEATURES TO IVC

ALIVE! (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically), Rising Hope, Bethlehem House, Campus Kitchens Project, and L'Arche of NoVA are **new partner agencies** in the IVC/Washington DC-Northern Virginia Region.

"IVC's **new logo**," Executive Director Suzanne Geaney explains, "retains the image of the cross, which signifies IVC's roots in the Gospel story and our call to live a life of faith in service. We have added the tagline 'Experience. Service. Action,' the path that men and women follow as Ignatian Volunteers. They bring their lifetimes of experience to the service of others, aided by reflection on their work as they find God is in the midst of their participation in IVC."

IVC/Washington DC—Northern Virginia Region has moved to a **new office** at 131 Great Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. IVC friends and supporters, Michael and Marianne Gick, volunteer Joe Jones and his wife Julie, and spiritual reflector Dick Bowling generously contributed furniture and equipment to the new office.

New contact information for the regional office is: 703.533.7322 and wash-nova@ivcusa.org. IVC's **new website** is www.ivcusa.org.

IVC WASHINGTON, DC/NORTHERN VIRGINIA 2007-8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Retreat:

May 15-16, 2007

Loyola Retreat House
Faulkner, MD

“Ignatian Spirituality:
What it is and how it
can enrich our lives”



KATHLEEN CURTIN
RETREAT FACILITATOR

- ¶ Kathleen has facilitated six retreats for IVC; three for the Washington/Northern Virginia Region.
- ¶ Her education includes: BS Degree in Humanities, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY; Trinity College EPS program in 1986; and continuing education courses at Washington Theological Union since the early '90s
- ¶ She made the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises under Fr. Jim Conroy, co-founder of IVC; Fr. Jerry Campbell, SJ trained her as a director of the Exercises.
- ¶ She has been an IVC Spiritual Reflector since 2000, serving on the National Spiritual Formation Committee since it was formed.
- ¶ A member of Most Blessed Sacrament parish in Washington, DC, she has served as a catechist for 30+ years, including four years as Director of Religious Education.
- ¶ Married in 1963, she and Mike have 5 children and 9 grandchildren

Monthly City Group Meetings

Washington, DC – Josephite Seminary	Northern Virginia -- St. Anthony of Padua
October 9, 2007	October 11, 2007
November 13, 2007	November 8, 2007
December 11, 2007	December 13, 2007
February 12, 2008	February 14, 2008
March 11, 2008	March 13, 2008
April 8, 2008	April 10, 2008

- Orientation/Retreat: Sept. 17-19, 2007 — Rev. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS, Facilitator; Faulkner, MD
- Days of Reflection(Facilitators Jim & Diane Bayne): Jan. 8, 2008 – Wash., DC – Josephite Seminary
January 10, 2008-- Northern Virginia -- St. Anthony of Padua
- Retreat: May 13-14, 2008 — Rev. Joseph Nangle, OFM, Facilitator; Faulkner, MD

Journaling

Dick Bowling would like to share with you a Journal entry from Feb.12, 2007. His Journal always takes the form of a conversation between Jesus and himself.

Dick: Good morning Jesus. I have been reading *The Biology of Transcendence* by Joseph Chilton Pearce where he speaks about how great the human potential is. And I believe that you achieved that potential. Yet for me that places you so far above the rest of us; how can there be any connection between you and us?

Jesus: Good morning, Dick. Yes, you are certainly right that I have attained to the highest potential a human being is capable of; but I take exception to your saying this creates an unbridgeable gulf between us. I am the most human that a person can be; so I know and experience all human emotions and I know what being human is really like. What you know and suffer, I know and suffer; only I know it and suffer it to an exponential degree. I am just more human. I know what it is to love fully, I also know what it is to hate fully and how to transform that hatred into a deeper relationship with others and with my Father. I can pray so deeply, unite with my Father so comprehensibly. This doesn't separate me from you; it makes me so much more like you; I realize we are not at a distance from one another; but how close all of us human beings are to one another. O Dick, if you only knew what it is to be truly human; if you could only experience it from my perspective. And you can and you will.

Dick: When Lord?

Jesus: Soon. I will lead you. Don't ever give up hope. Trust in me, trust in my Father. I know what it means to be created in the image of God and I will lead you there. I love you.