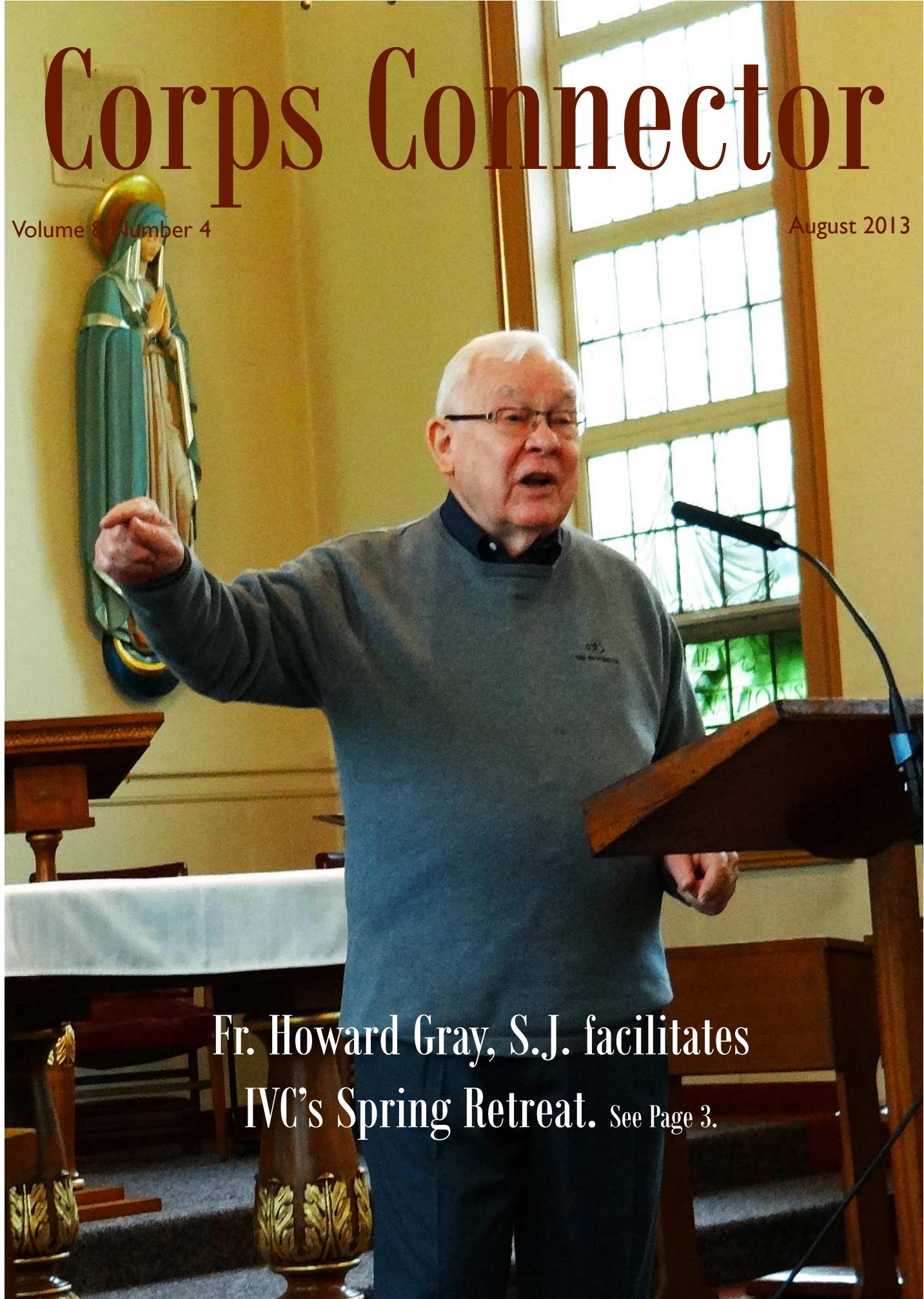


# Corps Connector

Volume 8 Number 4

August 2013



Fr. Howard Gray, S.J. facilitates  
IVC's Spring Retreat. See Page 3.

Washington DC/  
Metro Maryland  
& Northern  
Virginia Regional  
Council

Mike Goggin  
Joanie Coolidge  
*Regional Directors*

Joseph Dempsey  
James Kelley  
Pamela Lucey  
Dennis Lucey  
Joseph McCloskey, S.J.  
Francis Murphy  
Joseph Raia  
Grace Rissetto  
Richard Urban

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## Corps Connector

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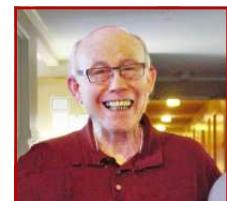
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Photos by Dick Bowling unless  
otherwise noted

# Notes from the Editor



*Dick Bowling*

**A** NEW IVC YEAR BEGINS, my ninth year assisting the Northern Virginia Regional Director with a variety of tasks. Everything from scanning monthly financial reports, to working out the group list for an upcoming retreat, to creating and editing this Newsletter. And this Fall I have the honor of assisting my third regional director: Joanie Coolidge. I've met Joanie several times so far—most recently at Patty Holley's summer swim party—where I met her three wonderful children. Joanie is truly a lovely person and shows every promise of continuing in the tradition of Jim Kelley and Patty Holley.

This new year also begins my ninth year journaling. (Though I did take a year off right after Carol—my very close friend of almost forty years—died in 2009.) It seems strange now after all these years of almost daily journal writing, that in 2005 I could've written in our journaling orientation evaluation: "I don't think journaling is for me." It's certainly brought me much closer to Jesus than any other spiritual practice I've ever engaged in.

I started my journal in September 2005, as sort of daily dialogue with Jesus. Literally. I wrote to Jesus and he answered me instantly. My method changed when I resumed journaling in 2010. I began to follow Marty Walsh's motto, "Don't let a day go by without making some note of its passing."

On April 1<sup>st</sup> this year I started something new in my daily journaling: something I've wanted to do for a long time. Many years ago, I wrote down on a legal pad everything I could remember about myself, from the time I was three to thirty three—recording one memory byte per line.

Obviously I can't cover all these years in this journaling project. So I have focused on the growing up years, living in the South End of Louisville on "M" street, from when I was eight and in the third grade to when I graduated from Holy Name School at thirteen.

Writing a journal is always a journey into oneself, and this voyage has been filled with many surprises. To spend around forty-five minutes every morning sharing my childhood with Jesus. To walk side by side, hand in hand with this unique kid. Me!

It's hard to explain but sometimes, as I write down my memories, I feel like I am a guardian, watching over myself back then. Helping me over rough spots. I've discovered there's a lot of leftover stuff I carry still that I need to forgive—both in myself and in others—and, because of this journaling, I'm beginning to do just that. Best of all, by going back in time, I find I'm becoming more aware and thankful for that past and for everything today.



My brother Bob (right) & me  
on "M" Street around 1947

# Fr. Howard on Dialogue

with Helen Taney

**A**FTER LUNCH THE FIRST DAY WE'RE BACK in the chapel at Loyola Retreat House for our first meditation. Fr. Howard Gray S.J. very well known for his writing, teaching and spiritual direction in the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola presents the theme of our retreat, "How to Live an Ignatian Life." Living an Ignatian life he tells us is centered on the notion of dialogue.

Dialogue he says is conversation with people in an open and loving way. Dialogue is a way of life, a way of proceeding, a way of working toward a new level of understanding. We do this with attention, reverence and devotion. Attention allows us to be truly present to and with the other person. To accept the other person where he or she is. Reverence doesn't ask the other person to change, but strives to see the grace in them and want them to be happy. Devotion follows when our attention and reverence are done with heartfelt prayer. Then we find God by ministering to the other person.

As he continues to develop this theme Fr. Gray explains that to uncover the meaning of the signs of our times we need Dialogue. To listen to and talk with others who may have different interpretations of the meaning of these signs we need Dialogue. To illustrate where he's going he distributes a handout from the preface to "The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World."

Fr. Gray asks us to think about our experiences of dialogue: both good and bad. And to ponder: how much dialogue have we experienced in the church? To help us dwell more deeply on these questions, he reviews the following terms of Ignatian prayer: colloquy, consolation, desolation, and discernment

In our second meditation Fr. Gray asks us to think about the question Jesus asked his new apostles, "What are you looking for?" And his follow-up invitation, "Come and see." He asks us to see not just with our eyes, but allow ourselves to be touched, to notice our feelings as we meditate.

Love and mutual respect are the bases of dialogue. We can learn who we are and where we're going through this love-and-respect dialogue with God and with our friends. Not by just talking, but listening from the heart.

As church we learn and find out how to love. We learn what God is like and what God wants of us and our world. We learn how we can help make things happen. We are witnesses with knees and hands. And above all, we need



Curiosity. The curiosity of Moses who wants to see what's making the bush burn and thereby encounters God on holy ground.

Fr. Gray continues his theme of dialogue in his last two meditations: dwelling on the church in dialogue with the contemporary world and dialogue as a way of life and not a technique.

Following each of Fr. Gray's wonderful and evocative meditations we have some quiet time each day to pray and reflect on his talks. After this we share our thoughts and questions with one another in our small groups.

**B**EFORE THE RETREAT BEGINS, departing Northern Virginia director, Patty Holley and D.C./Metro Maryland director, Mike Goggin, introduce and warmly welcome Joanie Coolidge, the new regional director for Northern Virginia and Steve Eberle the new Baltimore director. Each briefly tell us something about themselves and how they came to IVC.

On Monday, following the celebration of Eucharist, we enjoy a social gathering with wine and beer, cheese and fruit. We join together in lively conversation with old and new IVC friends.

After dinner on Tuesday evening IVC Executive Director Mary McGinnity gives a very fond and glowing tribute to Patty Holley who's retiring as Northern Virginia Regional Director. Jim Kelley, former Northern Virginia Director, and Joe Jones, former D.C./Metro Maryland Director, also recognize Patty for all she has done. Patty speaks of the joys and challenges of her time as director, and we're cheered when she says she expects to stay involved with IVC as a volunteer.

Later we stand outside and watch the sun set over the Potomac, then we are treated to the movie, "Babette's Feast." Although a lot of us have seen it before—many, more than once—it seems somehow new all over again and just as thought provoking. Along with the movie we enjoy the snacks and drinks that come with it.

With gratitude for this grace-filled time we leave beautiful Loyola. Leave revitalized and so full of thanks for the opportunity the Ignatian Volunteer Corps has given us to pray, reflect, dialogue, renew friendships and recommit ourselves to the mission of IVC.

**Helen is a DC/Metro MD volunteer & Spiritual Reflector.**



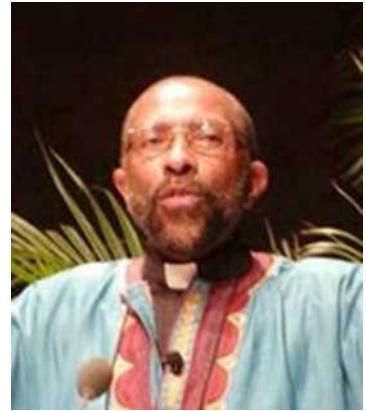
Save the  
Date  
Sept. 16-  
18, 2013

**Fall 2013  
RETREAT  
Loyola-on-the-  
Potomac  
Faulkner, Maryland**

**The theme for the Fall  
Retreat will be:  
“Church As  
Servant of the World.”**

# Monsignor Ray East Will Facilitate our September Retreat

Monsignor Ray East is pastor of St. Teresa of Avila parish in southeast Washington DC, a vibrant African American Catholic community deeply engaged in catechetical, evangelization, and service ministries to its members, the surrounding neighborhood, and the Archdiocese of Washington.



In 2005 Fr. East received Pax Christi USA's Teacher of Peace award. In presenting the award, the presenter noted: "There's a saying from St. Francis of Assisi, which is "preach the gospel at all times, using words, if necessary" and it fits Fr. East. Yet if you have heard him use words to preach, if you have heard him sing with the Spirit that pours out of him—you know you are listening to a prophet—one whose bold and courageous voice speaks to the urgent needs of our times with passion and clarity."

Fr. East was born in Newark, New Jersey and raised in San Diego. His grandparents were Baptist missionaries to South Africa. His parents were the late Thomas and Gwendolyn East. Father East graduated with a degree in Business Administration from the University of San Diego, and his position with the National Association of Minority Contractors brought him to Washington, D.C., where he later experienced a call to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1981 by Cardinal Hickey. Father East served in six Washington parishes before being named director of the archdiocesan Office of Black Catholics and Vicar for Evangelization.

Fr. East recalled once having to field a call from an angry parent whose child was being taught at the parish grade school that Jesus had grown up Jewish. "Why are you teaching falsehood?" he recalled the parent saying. "Jesus wasn't Jewish. He was Catholic!" Fr. East said that Jesus was an "Afro-Asiatic Jew." He noted the location of Jesus' birth would be considered Asia, and that the Holy Family fled to Egypt -- in Africa -- to escape Herod.



WJA Website Photo

## LEARNING WITH THE STUDENTS: LIFE AT WASHINGTON JESUIT ACADEMY

By Nancy Brouillard McKenzie

Washington Jesuit Academy (WJA) in Northeast Washington is an inner city school for students in low-income communities. Known for a rigorous academic program that focuses on improving students' academic skills and advancing their spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth, WJA seeks to replace the cycle of poverty in its student body with a cycle of hope, determination, and success.

I've worked for the past year as a tutor and study hall monitor for WJA's first fifth grade class.,as an Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) volunteer. I've recently retired from the government as an attorney. I was recruited by a friend and longtime IVC volunteer. IVC had me at the first shoulder tap.

I was enjoying retirement, but also wanted to do something meaningful—something that would use my spiritual and educational experiences with the Religious of the Sacred Heart and the Jesuits. Why? Both instill in their alumni the love, courage, and confidence that impels us to live our faith. WJA allows me to do that.

Brian Becker, WJA's assistant headmaster, and Colleen Gannon, WJA's Learning and Curriculum Specialist, welcomed me to the WJA community and family. They guided me as I worked with students. Being a tutor was a huge learning experience for me. It took me a while to realize that I needed to overhaul myself—I needed to put my own life experiences aside so I could begin to see life from the perspective of my students. That changes everything.

Naturally, I met resistance, particularly in study hall. However, I would expect the same resistance from any fifth grade class.

WJA holds students to very high standards of behavior. Study hall monitors grade students' behavior in study hall. The assistant headmaster reviews these grades. Fifth grade students do not receive "Justice under God" (detention). Instead, Mr. Becker talks at breakfast with students who receive low grades. In the Jesuit tradition, WJA uses "cura personalis" (care for the whole person) to address misbehavior.

After a run-in during study hall that disrupted the whole class, one of my students had "Breakfast with Mr. Becker" to reassess his behavior. The breakfast and their discussion were never mentioned to me, but the student did stop challenging my authority. A calm returned to the study hall.

One day a few weeks later, I brought cookies in for a treat, and my former breakfast student handed them out for me. Because I had miscalculated, we were short and I was embarrassed. Although both he and another student told me not to worry about it, I sensed their hurt feelings. The next day, as they left class, I ran after them and gave them candy bars and freshly made cookies. Both students thanked me, but my former breakfast student seemed to acknowledge that we'd both made mistakes and all was now forgiven. He looked at me and said, "That is so thoughtful."

I am in awe of Mr. Becker and the rest of the staff. I am so happy to be even a small part of this wonderful school and in IVC.

[Nancy is looking for gently used guitars with cases for music students at WJA.  
IVCers can contact her at [Newton885@bc.edu](mailto:Newton885@bc.edu) about a pick up.]

*Nancy is a volunteer for the Washington DC/Metro Maryland Region.*

# **“I Loved the People and the Mission of IVC,”**

## **Patty Holley Says as She Retires as Northern Virginia Regional Director**

**O**f her three years (October 2010 to August 2013) as Regional Director for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) in Northern Virginia, Patty says with simple eloquence, “I loved the people and mission of IVC.” All who know her respond heartily, “Right back at you, Patty!”

Patty brought to her IVC role a life steeped in social justice, most recently in her parish, St. John Neumann, where she initiated a social justice program, including notably a hypothermia program for the homeless; in her employment with Fairfax County assisting homeless teen-agers; and personally during her vacation trips to Mexico.

Her post-IVC retirement plans for the future include service as an IVC volunteer. Patty continues to be steeped in social justice and we all welcome her into the ranks of the volunteers.

IVC in DC/Metro Maryland and in Northern Virginia has successfully carried out bi-regional programs with great success. Strong leadership succession helps to explain this success. There have been four changes in leadership during the period 2010 to 2013. Patty has contributed magnificently to three of these four successions as the receiver and/or giver of training, support, and collaboration. Now, she is mentoring Joanie Coolidge who will replace Patty mid-August 2013.

One of the IVC programs that Patty has taken special interest and pride in is the retreats and days of reflection in September, January, and June. She took the IVC lead in organizing the retreats which were facilitated by Rose Mary Dougherty, SSND, Deacon Ed McCormack, and Howard Gray, SJ. Patty sought successfully to assure meaningful retreat experiences for the participants, which included volunteers, spiritual reflectors and regional council members from DC/MD, NoVA and Baltimore – tri-regional successes.

During her watch as IVC/NoVA Regional Director Patty also successfully forged new partnerships with:

Pathway Homes, where she subcontracted for IVC/NoVA office space, in addition to the placement of two volunteers;

Catholic Distance Learning;

St. Charles Primary School in Clarendon;

St. Joseph Primary School in Herndon;

NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby, headed by Sr. Simone Campbell.

IVC/DC/MD and IVC/NoVA Regional Council members agreed that the annual Evening of Gratitude (celebrated April 21, 2013) was the 7<sup>th</sup> and best event yet, thanks to the collaborative leadership and organization of Patty and Grace Rissetto.

Happily, IVC’s relationship with Patty Holley is a “Good-by!” and “Hello!” story. Bidding Patty a fond adieu after her having completed three years of service as the IVC/NoVA Regional Director, IVC can now welcome Patty to the ranks of the IVC/NoVA volunteers, assignment yet to be determined. Bless you, Patty!



Patty Holley (L) receives a plaque of gratitude from IVC Executive Director Mary McGinnity at 2013 Spring Retreat at Loyola Retreat House as she retires.

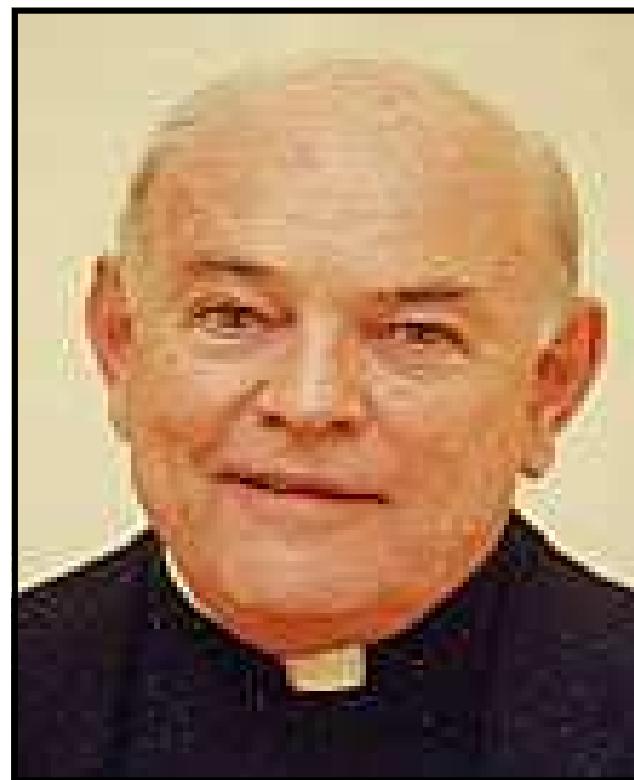
*By Jim Kelley, former Northern Virginia Regional Director*



# In Memoriam



**Ruth Johnson**  
June 25, 1930—July 29, 2013



**Jon O'Brien, S.J.**  
May 22, 1926—July 31, 2013

When Ruth (mother of eight and grandmother of eleven) retired she knew she had to continue her lifetime work of service to others. When she came across a reference to the Ignatian Volunteer Corps she was immediately attracted to its two-fold approach of combining volunteering with spiritual development. Ruth volunteered with the United Community Ministries (UCM), in lower Fairfax County. UCM provides low income people with emergency assistance, job counseling, family counseling and pre-school programs. Ruth became a Basic Needs Counselor in the Social Services section. She met two days a week with clients, assessed their needs and provided food, financial assistance and referrals to other agencies.

Ruth always said that “the best thing that can happen on any given day is when I can get a client to relax a bit, or even smile.”

Fr. Jon served as a Spiritual Reflector for the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro MD regions of IVC from at least 2005 until his death in 2013. He will be deeply missed by all in IVC who knew and loved him, especially by his devoted following from the many volunteers he served.

The following obituary appeared in the Washington Post:

“On July 31, 2013 of the Georgetown Jesuit Community. A Jesuit for 60 years and a priest for 50 years. He is survived by his Jesuit brothers and many loving nieces and nephews, including Bonnie, Robert and Richard Johnson, Patricia Skopal, Nancy, George, Kevin and Sharon O’Brien, James and Brian Smale. “



Art work by Craig Patak,  
a client of Pathway Homes  
Photo courtesy: InRoads, January 2013

## The Dawn

Out of the darkness, up from the ashes we rise.

Sometimes the light is blinding, and we retreat back to what we know.

Sinking back into the past to try again another day, or die not trying.

I am among the blessed for in the dawn of new life there were outstretched hands, and the words 'hold on for dear life.'

And I did.

Over and over, until I no longer felt darkness as comfortable and safe.

And I was drawn, hands still held, to the joy of the dawn.

Garcia Ferguson,  
a client of Pathway Homes  
Originally published in InRoads,  
October 2012

# It's All About Recovery—AND Bravery!

by Mary Anne Cummins

There are two things you should know about Pathway Homes: the people we serve are among the bravest people you could ever meet, and it is one of the best non-profits to work for, literally! Let me elaborate...

How to describe Pathway Homes? The short and sweet version is that Pathway Homes is a non-profit which provides housing and supportive services in Northern Virginia to adults with serious mental illness. We currently serve more than 400 adults in community-based homes.

The mission statement says it best, though:

*Pathway Homes embodies the spirit of recovery: embracing an attitude of hope, self-determination and partnering with each individual on their personal journey toward achieving self-fulfillment and realizing their dreams. We fulfill our mission by making available to individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disabilities a variety of non-time-limited housing and services to enable them to realize their individual potential.*

Did you catch that? It's not about the housing – it's about recovery.

The people we serve are some of the bravest people I know. They haven't had it easy and they haven't given up. Last year I participated in the 'Hearing Voices' training where we try to do ordinary tasks such as reading an article and answering interview questions, all the while wearing ear buds and listening to voices constantly talking, sometimes saying unpleasant or confusing things, similar to what someone experiencing auditory hallucinations might hear. After just 20 minutes of this I was exhausted. Imagine having to deal with voices 24 hours a day. It'd take courage just to get out of bed in the morning.

Even though one in five Americans experiences a mental health disorder during his or her lifetime, there is still an enormous stigma attached to mental illness. Despite the stigma, our clients acknowledge their illness, reach out, accept help, set goals, learn new skills and deal with their issues. It's hard work and it takes guts.

The best part of working here is hearing people's stories. One of the individuals we work with spent two months in New Jersey helping clean up after Hurricane Sandy. A 54 year old gentleman registered to vote and voted for the first time in the 2012 election. Another person recently graduated with a degree from George Mason University. In July we put on an exhibit of residents' artwork at two local restaurants. You can read these and other stories of individuals on a journey of recovery from mental illness in our 'InRoads' newsletter (<http://www.pathwayhomes.org/publications/>.)

In February, to kick off the 100,000 Homes – Fairfax Campaign, over 200 volunteers hit the streets, woods and shelters to find and interview people without homes in the community. They surveyed 462 individuals who were homeless, 36% of whom disclosed that they have a mental illness. The need is enormous, obviously. But now you know --housing is only a first step on the long path to recovery. Everyone on that path is an inspiration to me; they're the bravest people I know.

Oh, and about that other thing - for the second year in a row Pathway Homes has been selected by the *NonProfit Times* as one of the nation's 50 Best Non-Profit Organizations to Work For. Thank you, IVC, it's a great service site!

Mary Anne is a Northern Virginia Region Volunteer.



# A Letter from Joanie



August 2013

Dear IVC Volunteers and Reflectors,

It is with deep gratitude and stirring anticipation that I step into the shoes of former Northern Regional Directors, Patty Holley and Jim Kelley. The vision and faithfulness of these two leaders set a high bar for the development of IVC's mission to bless communities through service and loving companionship. My first glimpse of IVC at the June retreat left me humbled and eager to sojourn among the IVC community who seek authentic faith. Thank you for your generous welcome.

As I hope to get to know each of you more in the coming months, I also want to be known by you. I plan to share a few reflective pieces about myself via email this fall. I am writing this first piece from California, where I grew up, a middle child of five siblings, to loving Catholic parents. I tend to joke that being a "middle child" led me to my profession in conflict resolution; so did living in urban DC, after graduating from UCLA, as one of few whites in a poor African American neighborhood. From a young age my faith drew me to justice issues – some that I fell into precariously – others I sought out.

In college I tutored underprivileged children and worked in a homeless shelter; after college, I lived what I learned by co-founding an intentional Christian Community called Esther House in Washington D.C. I learned about yellow-ticker tape, the poverty of neglect and structural alienation, and that some DC kids never leave their neighborhoods or visit a Smithsonian, walking distance from their home. I also learned that loving Christ with abandon (our community's motto) meant experiencing extraordinary grace for tough times, unspeakable joy, and that God works all things together for his good for those who love him. Most importantly, I learned that absolutely *nothing* is outside of God's redeeming love.

While living in community, I worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Alan Cranston's (D-CA) Committee of Veterans' Affairs, the Association for Public Justice, and the D.C. Mediation Service. From there, I started grad school in George Mason University's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (S-CAR) doing practicums in community conflict intervention, youth gang and police dialogue, and some international peacemaking processes. I also took to traveling, visiting 20+ countries — and I am not finished yet!

I taught International Relations with the American Studies Program, a semester in Washington program for college students to learn about public policy and to intern with local agencies. Then, I fell in love with a Georgetown law student, marrying Dave Coolidge in 1993. We were blessed with six babies, three surviving children Daniel, Sam and Rosie whom you met at the picnic. Tragically, when they were just 5, 4 and 2 years old, their Dad died from brain cancer. As many of you know this grief-ridden trial, we experienced first-hand the *cross-of-purifying-love*. While family and friends buoyed our faith and daily living, I left my doctoral program to be with the children, homeschooling for a while, and then simply being at-home running the show.

I returned to S-CAR and finished my doctorate in 2009 and starting Adjunct Teaching two weeks later. I continued that work until joining IVC. Clearly, the Lord is opening a new chapter in my life. I look forward to working alongside you, serving you wholeheartedly, and learning more about the graciousness of God through each of you.

--Joanie Coolidge

# [IVC's Book for the Year]

## A spiritual journey into L.A.'s gang culture

### 'Tattoos on the Heart' by Father Greg Boyle is destined to become a classic of both urban reportage and contemporary spirituality.

Reviewed by: Tim Rutten. *Los Angeles Times*

In my business, there are few sounds more ominous than that of a good friend's book landing on your desk. When that friend isn't a professional writer, the desire to run can be almost irresistible: "Your book? No, I never saw it. You know I've been in Costa Rica. Beautiful place, but I lost my sight to a rare tropical parasite."

Father Greg Boyle, the Jesuit priest who founded Homeboy Industries -- Los Angeles' most successful effort to fruitfully engage young men and women caught up in the gang life -- has been my friend for more than two decades. We go back to the days when he was the freshly minted young pastor at Dolores Mission, the poor East L.A. parish that the Jesuits have helped residents of the adjacent housing projects turn into a vibrant center of community organizing built on the principles of liberation theology. Greg found his particular calling working with the area's many gang members. Homeboy Industries, which he now directs, is the miraculous result.

Even so, I sat down with his first book, "Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion," with a friend's trepidation. I got up glowing with the exhilaration that contact with first-rate literature confers. "Tattoos on the Heart" is destined to become a classic of both urban reportage and contemporary spirituality.

Its structure is simple: a series of dialogue-rich stories of the "homies" with whom Boyle has worked over the years, each leading to an unpretentious spiritual reflection rich in literary and scriptural allusion.

No other contemporary Los Angeles writer has so deftly captured the expressive flavor of the distinctive Spanglish patois spoken by the young people of East L.A. That alone makes "Tattoos on the Heart" remarkable literature. But something more is accomplished: An entire community made invisible by the wider city's indifference and distaste comes urgently to life on these pages. In the process, we obtain as well a kind of autobiography of Boyle.

"What the American poet William Carlos Williams said of poetry could well be applied to the living of our lives: 'If it ain't a pleasure, it ain't a poem,' " he writes. "My director of novices, Leo Rock, used to say, 'God created us -- because He thought we'd enjoy it.'

"We try to find a way, then, to hold our fingertips gently to the pulse of God. We watch as our hearts begin to beat as one with the One who delights in our being. Then what do we do? We exhale that same spirit of delight into the world and hope for poetry."

There is poetry aplenty in this book, some of it quoted by an erudite author, most of it spilling from the lives and mouths of the young people whose stories and conversations he recounts. It all is singularly free of sentimentality and the treacle of conventional piety.

At one point, Boyle quips that "some on my senior staff wanted to change our motto, printed on our T-shirts, from 'Nothing stops a bullet like a job' to 'You just can't disappoint us enough.' . . . You stand with the least likely to succeed until success is succeeded by something more valuable: kinship. You stand with the belligerent, the surly and the badly behaved until bad behavior is recognized for the language it is: the vocabulary of the deeply wounded and of those whose burdens are more than they can bear."

The late Henri Nouwen, one of the 20th century's great masters of practical spirituality, once said: "The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing . . . not healing, not curing . . . that is a friend who cares."

"An astonishing book . . . about suffering and dignity, death and resurrection, one of my favorite books in years. It is lovely and tough and tender beyond my ability to describe and left me in tears of both sorrow and laughter." —ANNE LAMOTT, AUTHOR OF *GRACE (EVENTUALLY)*

## Tattoos on the Heart

THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION



Gregory Boyle

FOUNDER OF HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES

# Priesthood: After Fifty Years

by Joe McCloskey, a homily

Thirty years ago I wrote about priesthood after twenty years. The first sentence was "You are a priest forever!" Now I know that is true. Fifty years seems forever. What I then called a dream has become over the years a reality. There is so much before and after that I find it hard to know where to begin. Knowing all the so many better people for the Lord to have called, made it hard to accept priesthood for myself.

As the years went by special people became ordinary and the ordinary people became special. What is so special about being a priest is how God uses your ordinariness for his work. In the ordinary the special of the Lord becomes visible. I invite the Lord into my life when I use my favorite aspiration, "Lord, make up the difference." In this way I ask him to cover up the difference between what I did and what I could have done or even should have done. I realize that all the love of God is in this moment, this now. Only the now touches the eternal now of God. John said it again and again. God is love. Each moment of life in its nowness has the fullness of the love of God. God is not capable of loving less. The only limit on God's love is our acceptance. The fifty years of my priesthood today were made possible by the Hidden Life Graces. The faces on those graces are all your faces.

One of the big fifty year moments of my life was at my 50-years-a-Jesuit celebration. Walter Burghardt was the homilist. And I heard me say to myself as I listened to him: I could like this guy Walter is describing! It was really the first time I liked the person I was becoming. Walter was able to take the different events of my Jesuit life and weave them into the three points of a good sermon. Walter was able to take the hidden moments of my life and make them into the story of how God takes our littleness and makes something important of it.

All those little moments of my life came together and continue to come together as the Priesthood of Joe. The

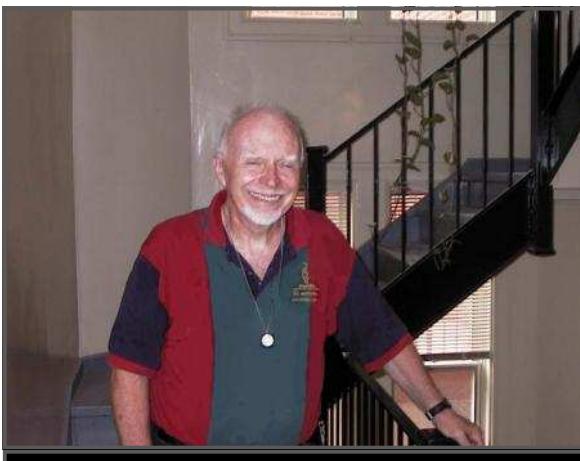
hidden life grace takes all the boredom out of life as each moment takes on the possibility of a march for life. A thousand years are lived in each moment when we walk in the shoes of Christ, the Priest.

The love of God includes the cross of Christ. The third point I would make in the story of the Priesthood of Joe is the love of the Cross of Christ. I realize that whom God loves He purifies. Graces are gifts of God. We do not deserve our graces. There is no bypass of the cross of Christ if we want the Resurrection. That includes even the Cross moments of our lives. How well we accept our crosses of life is itself a grace. The love of Christ brings us to the willingness to share his love and hopefully to see his love in all the crosses of life, even dying. The Resurrection is the victory won. How we live his victory is seen in the joy of our lives. My Spiritual Director defines joy as "happiness on tip toes." In Forever is the priesthood of Christ. It flows out of each hidden moment of life lived in his shoes. The hidden life grace, the insignificant becoming significant, reveals the Sacrament of the Present Moment. Each moment of life in its

nowness touches the eternal nowness of the God who calls himself "The 'I am' God." The joy of the Resurrection we can walk gently and lovingly in these graces of our lives.

Fifty years of priesthood have brought me to the happiness of loving the work that I have a chance to do. I can live with never being satisfied with doing enough. It is easier at 80 years to let Christ make up the difference. There is incredible joy in being able to stand in for Christ by priesthood. I now pray the Lord make up the difference between what I have said and what he would say through my words. I give it all to him. I rejoice that I have all of you to share with. I realize that my family is all of you.

Fr. Joe is a DC/Metro MD and Northern Virginia Spiritual Reflector. He delivered this homily on June 16, 2013 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Washington, DC for a crowd invited especially for the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



Fr. Joe McCloskey, S.J.

Internet photo



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Living Wages Website Photo

## Living Wages Pays Off

by Cliff Hackett—DC/Metro MD Associate Editor

In the universe of IVC agencies, Living Wages is one of its bright stars. Like the heavenly bodies, it can be judged by origins, by direction, by longevity and by brilliance. Living Wages started with the conviction of Sister Betsy Hartson and some Sacred Heart colleagues in 1998 that homelessness was an urban problem to be solved and ending poverty was the key. Together with Bob Crittenden, a colleague at Catholic Charities where Sister Betsy and Bob both worked, they soon concluded that this meant bringing the poor up to basic educational levels for work, self-reliance and productive citizenship.

IVC joined this effort almost from the beginning. Eventually there were many IVC tutors helping bring Southeast and other DC residents to prepare for the General Equivalency Diploma (GED). In 2002 an External Diploma Program was added. Some of the original former IVC volunteers are still at Living Wages, setting a mark for longevity.

And for luminosity. Living Wages glows with the success of over 400 students who have earned a diploma. The program is a tribute to Sister Betsy and Bob Crittenden, the founding co-directors, and to their perseverance through the years of stress and success. Over the years, the many IVC volunteers became the top cheerleaders of Living Wages.

Since its founding, the mission of Living Wages has been tapered and refined. The GED preparation was in 2008 left to others. Earlier the agency expanded to include the External Diploma Program, now its main program. Open to all DC residents over age 25, the EDP is based on 65 specific tasks and five "books" where competence must be demonstrated. The program helps those with some work experience to bring up their skills over 6 to 24 months.

The IVC and former IVC volunteers bring special skills and experiences to the students who have their work evaluated by an assessor who can certify their work to Ballou High School which awards the diplomas. Ed Prendergast, a former IVC volunteer, was a stock broker trained to bring security to anxious investors. Today he is doing the same for equally anxious learners. Tony Carroll, a current IVC volunteer, was a successful engineer who brings math and analytical skills to basic education. "It is so gratifying to see the great variety of people in this program. Imagine grandmothers working hard alongside their kids and grandkids and all getting their high school diplomas!" Ed says.

Many entrants to the program must concentrate on the 9th grade level of remedial work. That mastered, they can go on through the high school curriculum. The goal is always the same: solve poverty through education. We're dealing with the basics here," Tony Carroll notes : "reading, writing, simple math, in a simple but disciplined way."

Students work at their own pace and schedule. There are no timed tests for the computer-based Curriculum. They must be able to attend at least 20 hours a week and pay modest enrollment and instructional fees.

Living Wages started modestly in the basement of a Section 8 housing unit. It then moved to a house at the St Thomas More parish in far SE.. Eventually, the program expanded to a second campus at nearby St. Teresa of Avila Community Center on V St SE. The direct IVC role has varied over 15 years. At one time, after IVC increased the fees paid by Living Wages (and other agencies), some of the tutors reacted by leaving IVC. They've stayed on as independent volunteers. Later, the IVC role resumed to the great satisfaction of both the Living Wages' leadership and the Ignatian support team.

Ed Prendergast, the former IVC veteran, and Tony Carroll, its newest recruit at Living Wages, share a fierce commitment to the program's mission: to help adult learners compete for jobs and become live-long learners and productive citizens through basic education.

In short, great ambitions, brilliantly executed, and still moving forward.



# Upcoming Events

## Fall 2013

### Retreat:

**September 16-18, 2013**

Loyola Retreat House  
Faulkner, MD.

FACILITATOR MSGR. RAY EAST

## New Volunteer Orientation

**September 25, 2013**

Missionhurst  
4651 25th Street, N  
Arlington, VA 222017

## January Day of Reflection

**January . 2014**

Dominican Retreat House  
7103 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101  
FACILITATOR

## Northern Virginia Region 2013-2014 City Groups

<b>Our Lady Queen of Peace</b> <b>2700 19th Street South</b> <b>Arlington, VA 22204</b> <b>2nd Tuesday</b> <b>10:00-12:00 am</b>	<b>St. Charles</b> 3304 Washington Blvd Arlington, VA 22201 Room 103 2nd Thursday 9:15-11:15 am	<b>St. John Neumann's</b> <b>11900 Lawyers Road</b> <b>Reston VA 20191</b> <b>3rd Tuesday</b> <b>10:00-12:00 am</b>	<b>St. Joseph's</b> <b>701 Columbus Street</b> <b>Alexandria, VA 22314</b> <b>3rd Wednesday</b> <b>10:00-12:00 am</b>
Oct. 8, 2013	Oct. 10, 2013	Oct. 15, 2013	Oct. 16, 2013
Nov. 12, 2013	Nov. 14, 2013	Nov. 19, 2013	Nov. 20, 2013
Dec. TBD.	Dec. TBD	Dec. TBD	Dec. TBD
Feb. 11, 2014	Feb. 13, 2014	Feb 18, 2014	Feb. 19, 2014
Mar. 11, 2014	Mar. 13, 2014	Mar. 18, 2014	Mar. 19, 2014
Apr. 8, 2014	Apr. 10, 2014	Apr. 15, 2014	Apr. 16 2014
May 13, 2014	May 8, 2014	May 20, 2014	May 21, 2014

## DC/Metro MD Region 2013-2014 City Groups

<b>The Albrecht's</b> 5814 Ogden Court, Bethesda, MD 20816 1st <b>1st. Thurs.—</b> <b>10:00– Noon</b>  Oct. 3, 2013 Nov. 7, 2013 Feb. 6, 2014 Mar. 6, 2014 Apr. 3, 2014 May 1, 2014	<b>TBA</b> <b>2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00</b>  Oct. 8, 2013 Nov. 12, 2013 Feb. 11, 2014 Mar. 11, 2014 Apr. 8, 2014 May 13, 2014	<b>Barthomelow House</b> <b>6904 River Road</b> <b>Bethesda, MD</b> <b>1st Thur. 9:30-11:30</b>  Oct. 3, 2013 Nov. 7, 2013 Feb. 6, 2014 Mar. 6, 2014 Apr. 3, 2014 May 1, 2014
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