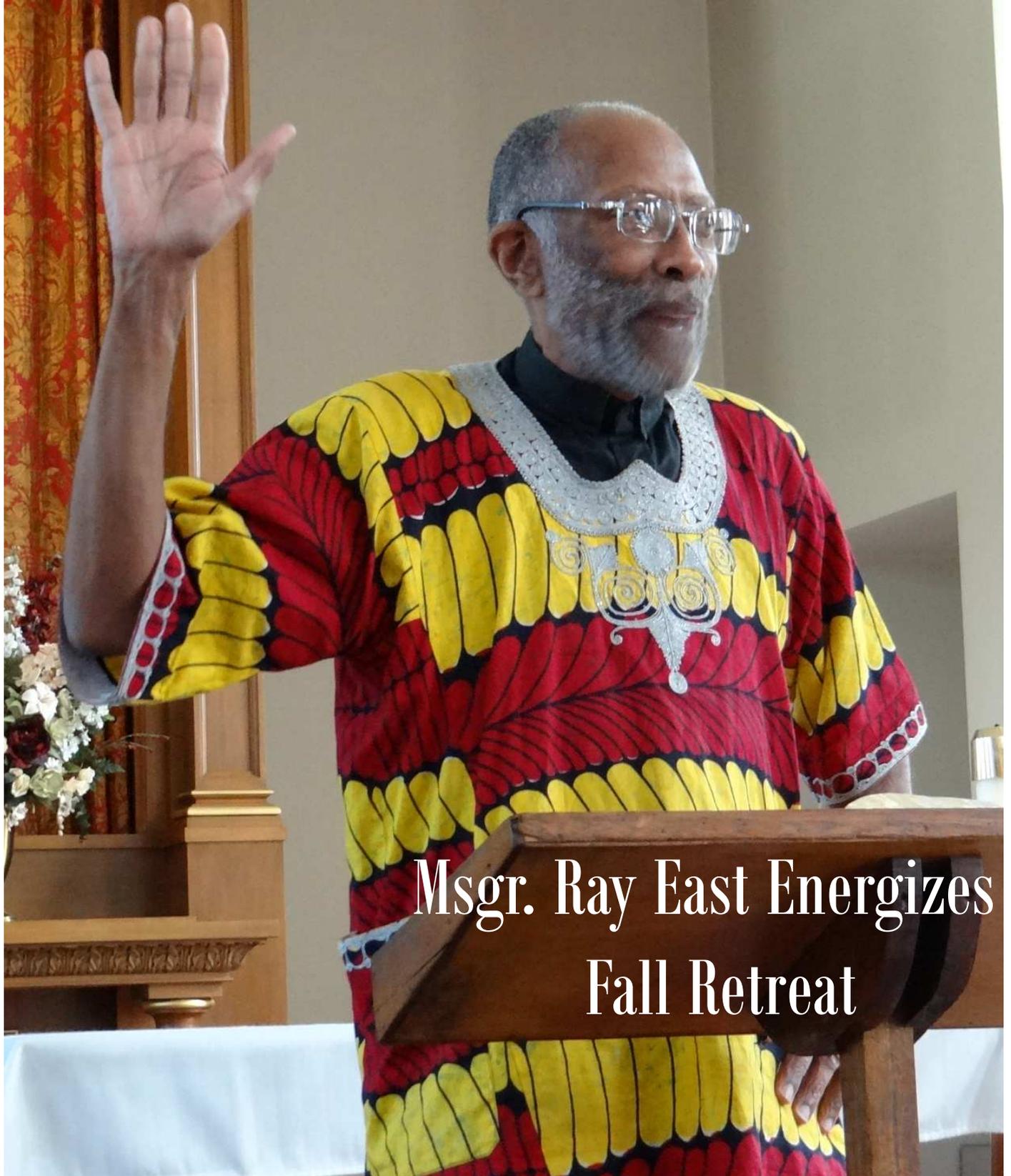


Corps Connector

Volume 8 Number 5

December 2013



Msgr. Ray East Energizes
Fall Retreat

Washington DC/
Metro Maryland
& Northern
Virginia Regional
Council

Mike Goggin
Joanie Coolidge
Regional Directors

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

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Corps Connector

is published three to four times annually by the Northern Virginia and DC/Metro Maryland Regions of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

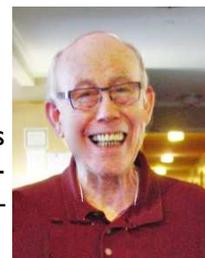
Dick Bowling, Editor

Associate Editor for Northern Virginia: **Jenny White**

Associate Editor for DC/ Metro Maryland: **Cliff Hackett**

Send submissions or comments to dbowling@ivcusa.org.

Notes from the Editor



I bought *Tattoos on the Heart* by Greg Boyle, S.J., this year's book, on my Kindle. I read it on the plane to Florida for a family reunion with my sisters and brothers—there are six of the eight of us left—and as my spiritual reading during the week.

You may have discovered this happening to you, namely, every time I picked this book up the tears began to flow. By the end of the week, I finished the book and cried six five-gallon buckets. Did you get as attached to Greg's Home Boys and Girls as I did? Greg's adventure taps deeply into my memories as a young priest in Louisville, Ky. I was assigned to Ss. Simon & Jude parish in the South End. We had one of the largest housing projects in the city in the boundaries of our parish. It was the early sixties and we weren't plagued by drugs and gangs like Greg. But when you stuff so many families into small living spaces called "projects" and they barely have enough money to live on, then that's a potentially volatile mixture. A lot of the kids enrolled at Simon & Jude are from the projects and a lot of them eventually wind up in trouble with the law.

I soon get as attached to these kids as Greg, though our times and circumstances were different I found myself quite frequently sitting in Juvenile Court, speaking up for them before Judge Louis Jull, a very compassionate juvenile judge and together we keep a lot of our children out of Kentucky Village, a juvenile detention center.

I used to say, "I spend more time in Juvenile Court than I do in the rectory!" I remember one night the Louisville police, responding to a lot of complaints about juvenile crime in our area throw out a dragnet and pull in a whole raft of kids—maybe twenty or thirty—and they're to be arraigned in Juvenile Court tomorrow. Early the next morning a parishioner calls the rectory saying his son just got picked up.

Father Bill Hartlage, our pastor, takes the call, and asks me to go down to the courthouse and talk to the parents. When I get there it's chaos. Kids and parents sitting or standing all over the place. Over in a corner I find our parishioner, his wife and their sixteen year old son. When they see me I see the shame and embarrassment in their eyes. These are good people, very active in the parish. And their son has never been in trouble before. We say hello and talk about what happened.

It's about eight o'clock and they tell me his arraignment isn't scheduled until noon. So what do I want to do? Leave or stay with them? I decide to stay. So we sit there together not talking much for nearly four hours. Juvenile court isn't as formal as regular court so his son is arraigned before a young social worker. Because I'm there—a priest and I speak for him—he's released to his parents' custody. A week later Fr. Bill tells me the boy's father was just by and says how touched he was, "...and Father Bowling sat there with us the whole time, waiting!"

Isn't this what IVC volunteers do? Do you come riding in on your white stallion as savior of the poor, the homeless? Don't you rather come as servants giving of your time and talents? Doing as Jesus does? Show up for your one or two days a week and witness their pain and suffering and rarely, if ever, do you find out how special your presence is to them. Even if all we do is answer the phone, keep the books, or help raise money. Yet most often when asked about your IVC experience you remark: "I'm more blessed by them than they are by me."

Dick Bowling

Fr. Ray East Leads Us in a Retreat “Filled with Song”

with Ginny Novak

Even before we met him, we were ‘introduced’ to Fr. Ray East, the facilitator for our retreat, with a song on CD: “Take Me Home”. A song he sang with Lori True and written by David Haas. From the beginning gathering at the Loyola-on-the-Potomac retreat house on Monday (September 16) through our celebration of the Eucharist on Wednesday, our retreat was filled with song—songs of joy, of praise, petition, longing, and gratitude.

There were 60 IVCers from DC/ Metro Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Baltimore regions at our welcome gathering, including our enthusiastic directors: ‘veteran’ Mike Goggin, ‘newbie’ Joanie Coolidge, and even newer ‘newbie’ Steve Eberle.

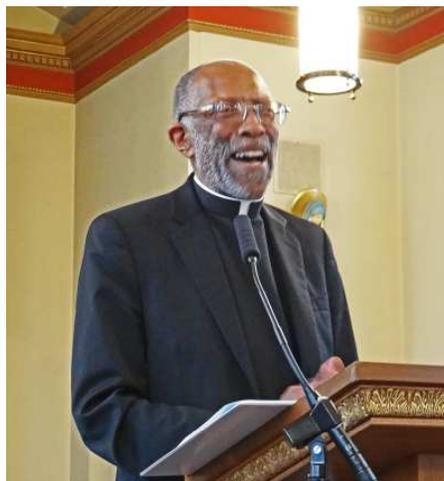
During the three days Fr. Ray presented four meditations. In keeping with our theme Social Justice, he worked his way from the Church’s beginning at Pentecost, through Models of the Church and themes of Catholic Social Teaching, to our mission now, and how we are being sent forth.

Fr. Ray not only talks the talk and walks the walk he clearly ‘sings the song’! He is pastor, servant/ leader of St. Teresa of Avila in DC. He still finds time to work in a soup kitchen, deliver meals on wheels, and gather with other pastors/ministers to promote the good of Southeast Washington.

The first meditation began, most appropriately, with songs and prayer to the Holy Spirit. We reflected on the Spirit’s activity from the Church’s birth at Pentecost through the gifts of the Spirit we received at our own Baptism. For Fr. Ray “The doors of the church are open...it is a hospital

for sinners, not a museum of saints.” Each day included time for personal prayer and reflection, small group sharing and a lively celebration of the Eucharist, enhanced by accompanist Caroline Park, cantor Steve Eberle and Fr. Ray’s exuberant, often spontaneous singing. As the Scriptures suggest, Fr. Ray encouraged us to lift up our hands and add movement as we sang.

On the 2nd day Fr. Ray, following the lead of Avery Dulles S.J., reflected on the Models of the Church and in particular, the Church as Servant. He spoke of Vatican II’s *Lumen Gentium*:



the church being the visible light of Christ in the world. The results of a Church as Servant is our working to do what Jesus did. It is a Church as Listener, with mutual reconciliation of all humanity, welcoming the undocumented, the mentally ill and people in pain. Our role is to be a people of the Beatitudes, to invite all into union with God.

Our next meditation began with Fr. Ray singing—and all joining in: “Keep so busy, working for my Jesus, I ain’t got time to die.” He then did a ‘speed review’ of Catholic Social Teaching starting with Leo XIII’s *Rerum Novarum* to Vatican II’s *Gaudium et Spes*. The Church comes into the world with its joy, hope, grief, anguish, not to condemn but to invite. The Church recognizes the dignity of the human person.

Fr. Ray presented Seven Themes of

Catholic Social Teaching. They apply universally so that even a person without faith can subscribe to them:

- 1) Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- 2) Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- 3) Rights and Responsibilities
- 4) Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- 5) The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
- 6) Solidarity
- 7) Care for God’s Creation

He challenged us with the question “How do we effect these in a parish?” And further, “The wisdom for this is right in this room.” We responded in our small group discussions by reflecting on the work of the Ignatian Volunteers and noted how ‘right on’ the IVC mission is with these themes.

On Tuesday evening there was no better display of God’s magnificence than the sunset at Loyola. After the sunset some folks watched the DVD *Walmart: Lowest Prices at What Price?* followed by a lively discussion.

On the third and last day, Fr. Ray continued to challenge us: With eyes wide open, we are sent ‘from the center to the edge.’ We’ve looked at Scripture, Vatican II documents, and the documents on Social Justice. Where do we go now? With God, there is always a sending forth. We could look at it as a 3-fold dynamic: God gathers us to Godself, sends us to the edge, and keeps his promise to remain with us. It is important for us to see that Christ is always present as he sends us forth.

How do we open our eyes to new possibilities? Do we have the confidence/ faith for this coming year?

Our Closing Eucharist included a recommitment, and was again filled with song, perhaps the most poignant of these, a reprise of *The Servant Song*, now filled with new meanings.



Save the

Date

January 15,

2014

January Day of
Reflection

Washington Retreat
House

4000 Harewood Rd NE
Washington, D.C.

Theme: "From Principles to
Policy"

"I am my sister's keeper. I am my brother's keeper. While we were in Toledo, I met 10-year-old twins Matt and Mark, who had gotten into trouble at school for fighting. Sister Virginia and the staff at the Padua Center took them in when they were suspended and discovered on a home visit that these 10-year-olds were trying to care for their bedridden mother who has MS and diabetes.

They were her only caregivers. The sisters got her medical help and are giving the boys some stability. Now the boys are free to claim much of the childhood they were losing. Clearly, we all share responsibility for the Matts and Marks in our nation."

—Sr. Simone, Speaking at the 2012
Democratic National Convention

Sr. Simone Campbell Will

Facilitate January Day of Reflection

Sister Simone Campbell,SSS was born October 22, 1945. In 1964 she took her religious vows after joining the Sisters of Social Service—an international Roman Catholic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. She received her bachelor's degree in 1969 from Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, and in 1977 her doctorate in law from the University of California, Davis, where she was the editor of the *UC Davis Law Review*. She was the founder and lead attorney for the Community Law Center in Oakland, California.

As general director of the Sisters of Social Service, she oversaw the activities of her religious community in the United States, Mexico, Taiwan, and the Philippines. She gained national exposure as the executive director of Jericho, an interfaith interest group advocating on behalf of the poor. Since 2004 she has been executive director of NETWORK, a Roman Catholic group promoting social justice in public policy. As an advocate for the poor, she lobbies on issues of healthcare, economic policy, and immigration reform.

Sr. Simone took an active though informal role in the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), a coalition representing the majority of American sisters. In 2012 when the Vatican announced that it was investigating the LCWR regarding its respect for or departure from established Catholic teaching, Campbell became one of the main public figures disputing the American hierarchy in this.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office responsible for upholding doctrinal discipline within the church, released a report that found discrepancies between basic Catholic doctrine and the teaching and actions of the LCWR, particularly on the issues of same-sex marriage and abortion, and ordered the LCWR to revise its statutes. Campbell rejected the report and argued that the sisters' work for social justice actually manifested their fidelity to the gospel.

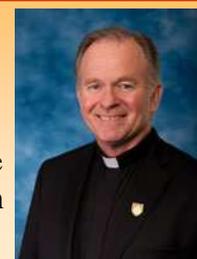
Most recently she's received widespread attention for her role in organizing the 2010 "Nuns on the Bus" tour, where she led her fellow sisters through 9 states across the country in opposition to Paul Ryan's budget.



Internet Photo

Father Pat Conroy, S. J., Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, to Celebrate the Eucharist at Jan. Day of Reflection

In May of 2011 Fr. Conroy was nominated as the 60th Chaplain to United States House of Representatives by Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH), in consultation with Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and was elected by the House and sworn in by the Speaker on May 25, 2011.



Internet Photo

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

by Lynda Dendtler

Follow the path with me to Stevenson Place, my IVC service site, where some of our poorest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters live. It is a privilege to ring the bell to enter Stevenson Place and have a resident greet me by name at the door of his/her home.

In 1998, Pathway Homes, continuing its mission to make housing available to people with mental illness, and with the Falls Church/Fairfax Community Services Board, established the first assisted living residence in the northern Virginia area for chronically mentally ill persons. Built as part of Habitat for Humanity housing in Fairfax, Virginia, Stevenson Place offers a permanent home for 36 men and women who might otherwise be homeless. Families are often no longer able to provide or sustain complicated and consistent care, nor is the person with mental illness always able to identify and provide for even his/her basic needs. By permanent is meant that each person

“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

...A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring.”

*US Conference of Catholic Bishops,
Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching*

can live here as long as they wish and many have called this home since Stevenson Place opened.

Residents have struggled with profound mental illness most of their lives and have often been institutionalized. To live at Stevenson Place is an example that with appropriate services a degree of recovery is possible. Some residents go on to live even more independently in the wider community.

In addition to just a fine, warm roof over their heads, the dedicated staff at Stevenson Place provides nourishing meals, psychiatric care, group activities, and daily medication oversight. Residents can come



Stevenson Place

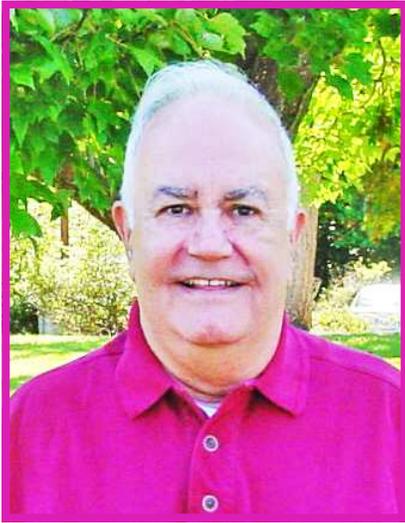
and go to work, family visits, social events, exercise and shopping with oversight by trained mental health counselors. Activities for Daily Living (ADL) assistance is provided by Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) on whom each person can rely to help them sort through the issues of daily life. Housekeeping, nursing, personal money management, or mental health, staff members unfailingly respond to each resident with great kindness and great respect. Ever alert to changes in mental or medical status, staff members work as a team to help a resident maintain stability.

As seen in traditional assisted living facilities, there are “neighborhoods” where several men and women live each with a private room, and each neighborhood shares a common living room. Some are more able to socialize than others; one has to be sensitive to the signals that interaction might not be welcome. By and large, residents respond to the sincere interest that is taken in their well being and return the kindness.

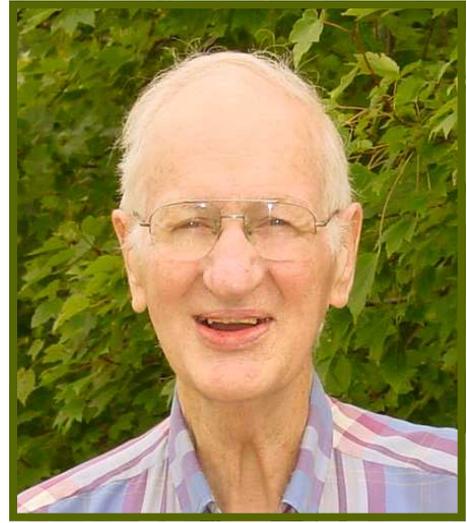
There is an atmosphere of profound respect for each person and his/her limitations; I have seen every effort made to recognize and honor the dignity of “the least of these”. These are not “throw away” people; on the contrary they are the people Jesus sought out and loved best. And they are loved at Stevenson Place, their home.



In Memoriam



Jim August, Spiritual Reflector
July 17, 1940- November 16, 2013



Art McNeill, Volunteer
August 10, 1929 - September 19th, 2013

A Eulogy

by Fr. Joe McCloskey

I HAVE SEEN HIM UNDER MANY LABELS: Husband, Father. Grandfather and Friend. The label that belongs to me is friend.

I was a young Jesuit Scholastic in 1957. He was a student at Gonzaga and a member of the band I was moderator of. He made holy noise. Our paths separated in my time on the missions. I came back to Gonzaga as a priest. We were soon involved in the Cursillo together. He became over the years a team member. I was a Spiritual director. He became Lay Director of the Diocese and I was the spiritual director of the Diocese with him. We went together to Regional Meeting and he became Regional Lay Director. He brought me along as Regional Spiritual Director. We had long drives together to meetings and our Spiritual friendship deepened. We talked about life and how it made sense in relationship to Christ. But it also opened up to being golf buddies.

Gonzaga was a love of his to which he sent his two boys. Our paths were joined for many years with a deepening spiritual relationship in what we did together. We shared the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius together. It is hard for me to say who the spiritual director in our relationship was. We saw each other once a month to share our spiritual journey.

Continued next page

A Holy Man for All Seasons

By Marty Walsh, IVC Spiritual Reflector

ART MCNEILL, MY GOOD FRIEND and fellow IVC volunteer, died on September 19 at age 84. His Mass of Celebration took place at a packed Blessed Sacrament church in Alexandria on October 5. Art was a most amazing man, filled with the Spirit of God. He joined IVC in August, 2006 after a successful career in the CIA, and then, in conflict management resolution. IVC was the perfect match for his deep spirituality, church leadership and life-long commitment to social justice. Art lived the Gospel. That was why he was so real and why he inspired so many people.

"I loved Art. He volunteered in our culinary kitchen for several years before his health came undone. He had a major impact on so many here. His loving spirit came through in everything he did. We've received so many gifts in Art's name." **Kevin Tansey, IVC National Board member and DC Central Kitchen staff**

"I met Art in 2006. He did the most thorough job in discerning where to volunteer. He liked DC Central Kitchen but wondered if the workers, mostly ex-prisoners, would accept him. It didn't take long for everyone to realize he was a gem. Sometimes they asked Art to pray with them. He resigned in 2008 after several medical incidents. That's when I invited Art to facilitate our Virginia

Continued next page

We were literally companions of the journey. I would call him one of the closest companions of my spiritual walk even as I would hope he would call me the same. I know Jim as a wonderful companion of Christ by his work, his sharing and his love of the Church. I know him as a man of God. He did many wonderful things in his retirement years. His career as an economist is dwarfed by all the ways he found to share Christ.

All I can say is what is there not to like about you, Jim.? You were always there for all of us. You are what makes a good friend special. You never held back. You gave yourself to life all your life. The last nineteen months of your life spoke your courage and willingness to love life by holding unto it. The love of your life, Sue, made it possible for you to go on until you had no more strength to share. The celebration of the 50 years of your marriage made a special day in the lives of many of us. Sue spoke your regard for friends in the simplicity of "You are always welcomed."

My last memory of you is your insisting to get out of bed to receive the Eucharist and another anointing. You will be with us wherever we go because that is the type of friend you are. The resurrection for us is the reality of your being with us in all that we do. As much as we would like to keep you for ourselves, the truth is you now belong to all of us. In the goodness of your life, our goodness will find an echo of you. Thank you Jim for all that you have done to be so much more than a friend by the giving of your life for us. I did not feel the least bit guilty in asking you to offer your suffering for me. I know you did it for all your friends. You stay in our world by our love of you.

Delivered at Jim's Funeral Mass, November 20, 2013



City group and retreat discussions. So many people loved and admired Art." **Jim Kelley, Retired Regional Director**

"Art is one of my heroes. I never missed an opportunity to speak with him at the retreat or day long meetings. He had so much wisdom. His smile and laugh lit up the room. He was so alive, filled with joy and gratitude—the sign of holiness!" **Bob Stewart, IVC Volunteer**

"Art had a lot of Fr. Greg Boyle SJ, (Tattoos on the Heart) in him. He was such a bright, moral, ethical and honest guy. He spoke the truth with love and caring. One of my best decisions was asking him to run our monthly City Group meetings." **Joe Jones, Retired Regional Director, Washington DC/Maryland**

"Art was a wonderful combination of humility and authentic qualities, including wit, intelligence, skill in facilitating human dialogue and relationships, loyalty, commitment, and faith. I greatly admired him." **Neota Hall, City Group member**

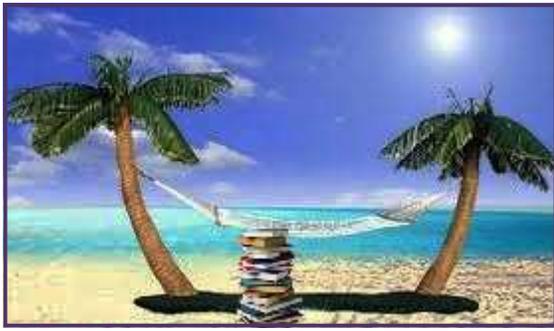
"I only knew Art from our monthly discussion group. Yet his death touched me deeply. There was something very special about him. He was a sweet and caring person who cared for everybody." **Art Baltrym, City Group Member**

"I didn't know Art that well, though I wish I did. He was so welcoming and open. He listened intently to what everyone had to say. I'm a better person for having met Art!" **Carol Mournighan, IVC volunteer**

When I think of Art today—loving husband, father, grandfather and mediator in bringing people together—the words of St. Irenaeus come to mind: "The Glory of God is a human being, fully alive." How blessed we are to



Remember the Date!
Sunday, April 27, 2014
Evening of Gratitude
Liturgy: St. Aloysius Church
5:00 pm
Reception: Gonzaga College High School



Internet Photo

Desert Island Spirituality

with Dick Bowling, Editor

“If you knew you were to be stranded on a desert island for ten or more years, what five spiritual books including the Bible would you take with you?” I sent this question to the Spiritual Reflectors and selected others in the DC/Metro Maryland and Northern Virginia regions. These books were to include what Bible translation they would take, a couple of

Spiritual “Classics” and a selection of Contemporary Spiritual Books. From time to time I will publish in the Newsletter a selection of the books they said they’d like to have by their side. Here are some of their suggestions:

Bibles (according to the translations used):

- *The Complete Parallel Bible with the Apocryphal Deuterocanonical Books: Oxford University Press.*
(Presents four of the most highly respected modern language Bible translations arranged side by side for easy comparison:

- *The Letters of Catherine of Siena*-- Suzanne Noffke
- *The Devout Life, Francis De Sales*—John K. Ryan

Contemporary Spiritual Books:

- *The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day*
- *Guidelines to Mystical Prayer*-- Ruth Burrows, OCD
- *The Wisdom Jesus*--Cynthia Bourgeault;
- *Uncommon Gratitude*--Joan Chittister;
- *Living in Love*--Gerald May Daily
- *Rilke's Book of Hours* --Joanna Macy,

Favorite Spiritual Classics:

- *The Way to Love*-- Anthony de Mello
- *Open Mind, Open Heart*— Fr. Thomas Keating
- *The Interior Castle*--Teresa of Avila

Jenny White, New Intern, Joins IVC NOVA Staff

MY NAME IS JENNY WHITE, and I am excited to begin my internship with IVC as *Community Outreach Publicist!*



I grew up in the Methodist church, and was exposed to the work of non-profits and community service at a young age. My parents have always emphasized engagement with our community in my hometown and service to our brothers and sisters all around the world. I am so grateful for their example of love and service and the way it has impacted my life.

I was blessed to be involved in the youth ministry at my church. It emphasized mission, and I have been on 10 different mission trips both domestically and abroad since I joined my youth group. At age 16, God transformed my heart on my first international mission trip to Brazil. He gave me new eyes to see not only the global community, but also my own community and the impact I can make wherever I am.

When we view each day as we walk out the door as a new opportunity to enter into the mission field, we give Christ the power to work his transforming love through us and in those around us. My desire to serve Christ in word and deed led me to George Mason University. I am currently an Accelerated Master's student in the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. As I study past and current conflicts around the world, it is easy to see the need for service to the poor and non-profit work.

I hope to go on to Seminary and become a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. My goal is to work within the body of Christ in community development to help heal and rebuild communities in the US and internationally that have experienced conflict.

I am so excited to learn more about community development from all of you! I look forward to working alongside you as we serve Christ through serving the poor together.

The Gift of Poverty in Spiritual Reflection

by Jean Noon, Northern Virginia Spiritual Reflector

Judy Ashburn spoke to a gathering of spiritual reflectors from the Nova/DC-Metro regions at Missionhurst on October 16, 2013. The theme: "The Gift of Poverty in Spiritual Reflection."

Judy is a licensed professional counselor and Director of the Intensive Recovery Program at Samaritan Inns of Washington, D.C. This program allows homeless and addicted men and women the chance to rebuild their lives. She shared many of her own powerful stories showing how authenticity creates family and connection that heals. Using passages from a book about Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, Ms. Ashburn shared important insights about poverty, both *material* and *spiritual*, and explained that it's important to think of poverty in terms of both *negative* and *positive* poverty.



Judy Ashburn

<p>Negative material poverty means to be deprived of the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothes, shelter and education.</p>	<p>Positive material poverty means one freely and joyfully chooses to live a simpler life, happy to be content with the basic necessities of life in imitation of Jesus who was born poor, lived poorer, died poorest, and desires to have less than more.</p>
<p>Negative spiritual poverty is an attitude, a mentality of indifference toward God, apathy toward religion, a feeling of natural self-sufficiency and autonomy; in effect the person becomes his own God.</p>	<p>Positive spiritual poverty means the awareness and the conviction that without God he/she can do nothing. "I am what I am by the grace of God" (St Paul)--that the way to power lies through the realization of helplessness, the way to victory lies through the admission of defeat, that the way to goodness lies through the acknowledgement and confession of sin, that the way to independence lies through dependence, and the way to freedom lies through surrender.</p>

Personally I found this outline to be extremely helpful to clarify what we mean when we talk about poverty. Back in the late 1980's when my family lived in the Philippines I once had a conversation with a man at church about the poverty that I saw. I told him that I yearned to experience poverty as many of my good Filipina friends did. He was puzzled. He was translating the word poverty to mean *negative material* poverty when I was actually talking about *positive spiritual* poverty. The joy and total detachment to outcomes that I witnessed in many of my Filipina friends was beyond compare.

Judy also discussed portions of the work of Dr. David Allen, author of *Shame: The Human Nemesis*. We looked at the natural self at birth (Figure 1, page 9) which is rooted in trust, connection, empowerment and safety. We then looked at what happens to the human person when shame, humiliation, rejection and abandonment are experienced (Figure 2). A 'false self' emerges which comes to be rooted in fear and anger (Figure 3) . Where once there was connection/affection/esteem there is now self-gratification/addictive tendencies/blaming as defense mechanisms to rejection. Where once there was a sense of empowerment ('I can do it myself' says the 4-year-old getting dressed for the day) there is now an inward focus/overly controlling/judging perfectionism as defense mechanisms to a sense of humiliation;. Where once there was a sense of safety/security there is now self-absorption as a defense mechanism for not having needs met, for a sense of abandonment. Healing and transformation to the 'authentic gracious self' (Figure 4) is found through surrender to God, or a 'higher power' as the *Alcoholics Anonymous* program calls God. Through surrender to God, the self becomes, once again, rooted in love/compassion; empathic connection/forgiveness is created where once there was a focus on self-gratification; understanding/humility/gratitude is created where once there was a 'control' tendency; and community outreach is valued where once there was self-absorption.

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Figure 1. Natural Self at Birth

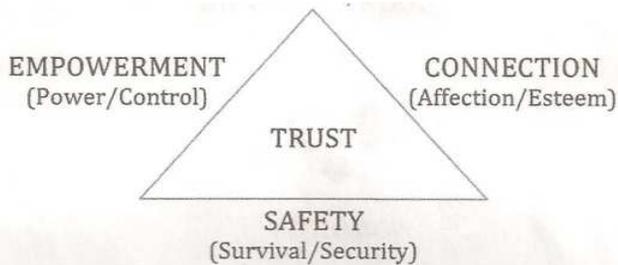


Figure 2. Shame Self

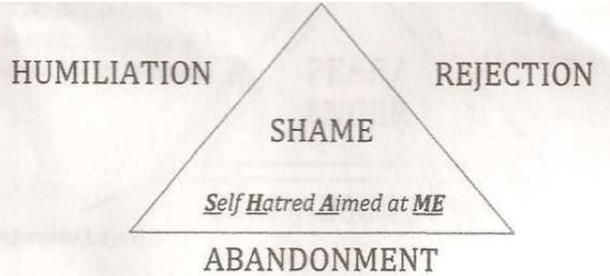


Figure 3. Shame False Self

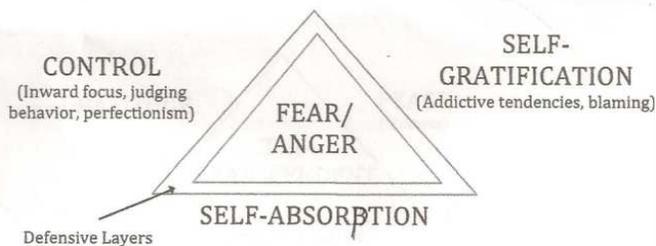


Figure 4. Authentic Gracious Self



In addition to Ms. Ashburn’s wonderful program we had an extended period of silent meditation, group discussion, a reflection on peer groups and an introduction to this year’s book *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle. Hearty thanks to Mary Lou Miller and Judy Allison who facilitated our gathering, and Joanie Coolidge and Mike Goggin for their enduring faithfulness to coordinating, attending and directing our regions’ *Ignatian Volunteer Corps* activities.



Jean also volunteers at O.A.R. (Offender Aid and Restoration)



Three Volunteers of the DC/Metro Maryland Region Receive Awards

THREE VOLUNTEERS OF THE DC / METRO Maryland region have received awards in recent months from their partner agencies. They are Julia Albrecht, Tony Albrecht and Vicki Bell.

At the annual Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing of Mentors the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, November 9, **Julia Albrecht** received an award for “Excellent Volunteer Service” from Catholic Charities in gratitude for the six years that she has spent writing resumes for prisoners at the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center in Rockville. Previously, Julia has twice been honored as a volunteer of the year by the Montgomery County Department of Corrections – in 2008 and 2012.



Julia’s husband Tony was likewise honored for the volunteer work he does for Catholic Charities during the organization’s annual Caritas Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at an evening reception on October 25 at the Pepco Edison Gallery. Catholic Charities’ website says

about him, “A volunteer since October 2005, Anthony Albrecht is an instructor for Catholic Charities’ Pre-Apprenticeship Green Construction Program at our Spanish Catholic Center. His work helps uplift men and women through education and empowerment that opens their doors to new, sustainable careers that give back to our community.” Tony was one of eleven volunteers honored that night.

On October 29 at Adas Israel Congregation in northwest DC, **Vicki Bell** was one of five individuals honored by Friendship Place during that organiza-

tion’s 16th Annual Benjamin E. Cooper Awards. Vicki received the Volunteer Service Award and former Regional Director Joe Jones was extremely eloquent in presenting Vicki for the award. The printed program from the event said of her, “With a special talent for creating, implementing and overseeing organizational systems, Vicki fearlessly took on a host of challenges. She reorganized two decades of administrative files; served as liaison to the Board; set up systems for maintaining Board and staff contact information; and created an organizational master calendar. In addition, she put her big-picture thinking to work as a member of the task force that developed the initial concept for our AimHire employment program (and she gave the program its name!); served on the committee that developed our new messaging and brand strategy; and, most important, led the overhaul of procedures for program quality assurance and reporting of outcomes.”



A number of people from the IVC family were able to share in the moment with Vicki. Jim Kelley, Kathleen Curtin, Joe Jones and Mike Goggin all attended the reception along with Vicki’s husband Jim Carpenter and several college friends.

In addition to these awards, fellow IVC volunteer Vicki Malone is currently being honored by having her artwork displayed prominently in the Duffy Parish Center at the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, 3630 Quesada Street NW near Chevy Chase Circle in DC. Vicki was the guest of honor at an Artist Reception held at the church on Friday night, December 6 and her art can be viewed there through January 3, 2014.

IVC is so proud of all of these accomplishments achieved by our volunteers!

Upcoming Events

January Day of Reflection
January 15, 2014
 Washington Retreat House
 4000 Harewood Rd., NE
 Washington, DC
SR. SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS, FACILITATOR

Spring 2014 Retreat:
June 10-12, 2014
 Loyola Retreat House
 Faulkner, MD.
JOHN CARR, FACILITATOR

Evening of Gratitude
April 27, 2014
Gonzaga College High School
Lower Commons

Northern Virginia Region 2013-2014 City Groups

Our Lady Queen of Peace 2700 19th Street South Arlington, VA 22204 2nd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	St. Charles 3304 Washington Blvd Arlington, VA 22201 Room 103 2nd Thursday 10:00-12:00	St. John Neumann's 11900 Lawyers Road Reston VA 20191 3rd Tuesday 10:00-12:00	St. Joseph's 701 Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314 3rd Wednesday 10:00-12:00
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

Albrechts' 5814 Ogden Court Bethesda, MD 20816 1st Thurs.—9:30-11:30	Wash. Jesuit Academy 900 Varnum St., NE Washington, DC 2nd Tuesday—11:00-1:00
Feb. 6, 2014 Mar. 6, 2014 Apr. 3, 2014 May 1, 2014	Feb. 11, 2014 Mar. 11, 2014 Apr. 8, 2014 * May 13, 2014 * an alternative location may need to be found , likely the nearby Stuart Center