

Baltimore *examen*

NEWSLETTER OF THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS BALTIMORE • NOV 2018 • 1.3

IVC: Promoting Lay Leadership in the Church

*As the saying goes, "May you live in interesting times."
Interesting times, indeed!*

Inside the Catholic Church and in society in general, we may feel our confidence in reliable structures crumbling. As we move through another wave of heartbreak due to clericalism, we can find inspiration and consolation in the commitment of lay leaders within the Church.

The Church as we know it was shaped by the Council of Trent (1545-1563) which did not allow for the laity to have meaningful leadership responsibility. That door wasn't opened until the Second Vatican Council proclaimed laypeople share in "Christ's office of priest, prophet, and king," are holders of an important vision, and critical participants in fulfilling the mission of the Church. In 1983, the 33rd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus stated, "*We must work more closely with lay men and women... supporting their distinct vocation and responsibility in the Church and in the world.*" Soon after, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) was founded.

What does lay leadership look like in the IVC? In Baltimore, our Regional Advisory Council is composed of lay women and men who help guide the

region's growth and operations. We honor lay leaders through the *Madonna Della Strada* and *Ed Sommerfeldt* Awards. (See Steve's letter for the names of this year's winners.) We provide opportunities for laypeople to support each other through faith sharing and spiritual reflection. We form lay leaders.

Lay leadership doesn't mean being free from the church's hierarchical problems; rather, it means heeding our call to engage directly with them. In *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis writes, "*Complacency is seductive; it tells us that there is no point in trying to change things, that there is nothing we can do...Let us rethink our usual way of doing things...let us be... unsettled by the living and effective word of the risen Lord.*" (137)

We can change things—God calls us to do so. As a lay person, St. Francis heard a heavenly voice say, "Rebuild my church." In these interesting times, it is vitally important to have our ears open and attuned to God's calling to rebuild the Church. In order to move forward, we must listen and act.

Events

- **Advent Awards Mass and Concert: Dec 9, 2-4 pm at St. Ignatius Church (see the enclosed postcard invitation for information)**
- **Monthly Meeting: Dec 10**
- **Mid-year Day of Recollection: Jan 19**
- **Monthly Meeting: Feb 12**
- **Monthly Meeting: Mar 11**

Making a Difference in Anne Arundel

As part of Catholic Charities, Sarah's House 'Cherishes the Divine Within' by offering emergency shelter, project-based supportive housing, and an array of other services for families experiencing homelessness in Anne Arundel County.

Thirty-one years ago, Catholic Charities entered into a unique partnership with Anne Arundel County and the U.S. Army. Some unused barracks at Ft. Meade were reconfigured to become a place of shelter and hope for local families in crisis: Sarah's House opened its doors. Its mission was, as it is now, to provide shelter for and services to families experiencing homelessness in Anne Arundel, with the goal of restoring their independence.

Today, Sarah's House serves up to 125 people daily, half of whom are children. It is one of the only shelters in the area that admits men, with the goal of keeping families together. Emergency shelter is available for up to three months, and there is a licensed childcare facility on the premises so parents can work. The guests who come to Sarah's House are often people who have recently lost their jobs and homes. Most live on the edge, struggling to find safe, affordable housing and better-paying jobs.

Guests receive case management, employment, substance abuse counseling, after-school programs, transportation assistance, parenting classes, mental health counseling, computer and financial literacy training, and GED classes.

Making a Difference at Sarah's House

Three Ignatian Volunteers—three examples of service and spiritual growth.

It was 1999 when Tom Cotter first walked through the door of Sarah's House as an Ignatian Volunteer. For the next 18 years, Tom was a fixture there, rarely missing his twice-a-week 9 am-12:30 pm shift. When asked about his duties, Tom replied with a list of tasks: *Set up the kitchen and dining room for lunch, make the drinks and prepare the lunch, mop the floor, etc. Oh yes, and clean up any 'agony' problems at breakfast!* Tom's listening ear and grandfatherly presence were always available to the guests to help them through difficult times. When Tom 'retired' last year, Sarah's House presented him with an award for his years of service. Tom has now joined the ranks of IVC's emeritus volunteers, still active in IVC's spiritual development and social activities.

Bernadette Amato started volunteering at Sarah's House in October 2015. Eight hours a week, from September through June, she assists guests with securing employment by helping with on-line job searches, resume development, and interviewing skills.

One former guest who found her family displaced due to a fire, speaks highly of Sarah's House and what she learned there, particularly in the area of financial management. The skills she acquired helped her get reestablished in a new job and home, and she hopes to start studying for a master's degree in social work.

Since 1987, Sarah's House has provided shelter and supportive services to more than 16,000 guests, served more than 1.7 million meals, and helped 3,000 families find permanent housing. During that time, more than 27,000 volunteers have worked there to improve the lives of people in need.

2019 marks IVC's 20th year of partnering with Sarah's House. We are proud and pleased to have made a difference for this charity and the people they serve.



"In my years of working with IVC volunteers, several characteristics stand out: each has been professional and caring; they willingly share their gifts, offering knowledge, companionship, and a listening ear. Their commitment to doing God's work is in their hearts. Many thanks to Tom, Bernadette, and Ginny! Our guests, staff, and I have been fortunate to have your presence at Sarah's House!"

**Kathryn Philliben,
Director,
Sarah's House**

She says of her IVC experience: *"The spiritual enrichment I receive from the IVC enables me to reach out to the guests with an authentic and sincere compassion and empathy. The IVC has helped me remain spiritually healthy and accepting of whatever my service work presents."*

Ginny Matthias just joined Bernadette this year as the second Ignatian Volunteer at Sarah's House. She is

currently assisting with fundraising for the Christmas season, and will also help out in the main reception office. Ginny hopes to be an example of the Christian gratitude and service she has nourished through her IVC participation.

Ginny has been an Ignatian Volunteer for 3 years, taking full advantage of IVC's spiritual offerings and trying out different placements each year to find the best fit for her schedule, skills, and lifestyle.

IVC is blessed to have 40 volunteers and emeriti like Tom, Bernadette, and Ginny. Would you like to find out about joining IVC? See the list of available placements in this newsletter and contact Steve Eberle at 410-752-4686.

For God's Greater Glory

Rev. Mr. Vinny Marchionni S.J. joined the Society of Jesus in 2008 and currently studies at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in Berkeley, CA. He is a former member of IVC Baltimore's Regional Council. Steve spoke with Vinny about co-laboring—collaboration between clergy and lay people.

How do you define co-laboring? "Co-laboring is when each member of the Body of Christ—lay and clergy—is active in bearing Christ to others. This flourishes when there are healthy relationships, when each member sees and affirms others as bearers of Christ in their own way. Pope Francis has encouraged each of us to be a missionary disciple, and I think missionary zeal between the laity and clergy is the key ingredient to authentic co-laboring."

What are the challenges to co-laboring you see from a priest's perspective? "For us, I think simple things like our interactions with the laity matter the most. Are we inviting and approachable? Are we competent in our own ministry? Do we acknowledge the laity have gifts that we lack, and do we encourage them in cultivating those gifts? Do we know the People of God well enough to approach someone and encourage her to serve in a way that makes sense to her? If we can answer yes to these questions and follow through humbly, I think there's the possibility for true, healthy co-laboring."

What do you see as the challenges to co-laboring for the laity? "Keeping up the grueling pace as a missionary disciple is a challenge. We can also get complacent, used to doing the same ministry in the same way over and over again. How can the laity be refreshed spiritually and emotionally to continue to serve and reach out? How can we as a Church incorporate new members, especially the youth, to have active hands and voices in the Church? How can we include more people to keep the Body fresh and ready to serve?"

What brings you hope? "What gives me hope is the way the Holy Spirit is already at work with the People of God. Whether we clergy sense it or not, the spirit is already there with the people because of their baptism and being created in God's image. I work in a parish in Oakland, California and seeing how the people really support the parish – how the People of God ARE the Church—has been very moving for me. There are a lot of obstacles to faith—large ones like the current crisis in leadership or smaller obstacles—but the People of God keep showing up! People continue to want communion with God and with each other. As a seminarian, I want to help them with that. God is calling me because God has called them."

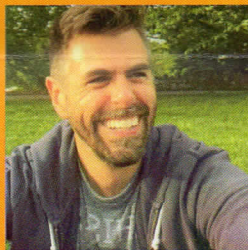
From Steve

Give Yourself a Hand!

Thanks to you, in 2018, Ignatian Volunteers saved our partners \$660,000 in personnel costs, allowing their agencies to steward those resources directly into programs that serve the poor. You've read about the valuable work Tom, Bernadette, and Ginny provide at Sarah's House. Without your help, we could never have found these incredibly talented volunteers, nor could we provide the ongoing support and community that turns an ordinary volunteer into an Ignatian Volunteer.

As 2018 comes to a close, **I invite you to celebrate with us at our Sixth Annual Advent Concert**, featuring the choir from Loyola Blakefield. Join us **on December 9th** for reflection, prayer, and song **as we award Mary Slicher, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Project PLASE with the Madonna Della Strada Award, and Fr. Joe Muth, pastor of St. Matthew's Church, with the Ed Sommerfeldt Award.** Both Mary and Fr. Joe have long been good friends of IVC, inspiring our volunteers to find God even in the bleakest of circumstances. Both winners were nominated and chosen by our community of Ignatian Volunteers; they represent the ideals of IVC. The enclosed post card provides information about how to RSVP for the event.

You nourish our community. You sustain our work. Your prayers, your time, and your financial investments help Ignatian Volunteers bring their lifetimes of experience and knowledge to serve the poorest in our region. Thank you!



Steve Eberle,
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Making a Difference for IVC, Baltimore

July 16--October 31, 2018

\$500+

Carl & Pamela Freidhoff
John & Barbara Schubert

\$201-\$499

Nicholas & Francine
Civillico
Richard & Maria Amelia
Horwitt
Dennis & Ginny Matthias
Dolores Royston
Richard & Seung Ja Sinatra

\$100-\$200

Pat and Robert Barron
Lawrence Bendik
Frank & Kerrie Burch DeLuca
Rosemary Chang
Robyn Costello
Tom & Mary Agnes Cotter

Christine Eberle

Tom & Cynthia Fitzgerald
Mary Hines
Mark & Elaine Ireland
Paul Lomobardi
Leon & Patricia Miamidian
Ed & Robbie Sabin
Tom & Mary Jane Ulrich
Richard & Sherrie Weil

\$1-\$99

Hannah Bryson
Mary Ann Burke
Steve Eberle
Donna Ioppolo
Cindy McCabe
John McLoughlin
Susan Moscareillo
Mary Peroutka
Jeannie Yep

Available Placements/Partner Events/Ignatian News

- Loyola Early Learning Center: *Teaching and Classroom Assistant*
- Project PLASE: *Donation Transporter, Central Intake Worker, Medical Monitor, Veteran Representative* (4 positions)
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps: *Human Resources Specialist*
- Stella Maris Apostleship of the Sea: *Seafarer Assistant*
- ARC of Baltimore: *Developmental Disabilities Assistant*
- St. Peter's Adult Learning Center: *Program Assistant*
- Hosanna House: *Volunteer Resident Advocate*
- Catholic Charities Housing and Shelter Services: *Donation Coordinator*
- St. Elizabeth Nursing Center: *Pastoral Assistant*
- Cristo Rey High School: *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Our Daily Bread: *Program Assistant*
- Weinberg Housing & Resource Center: *Volunteer Coordination Assistant*

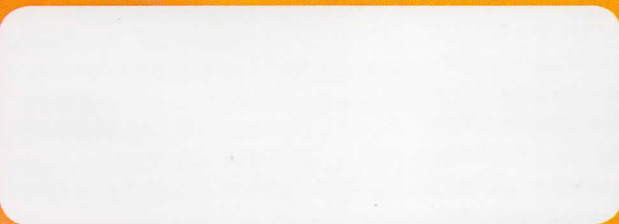
- The Samaritan Women: *Financial Systems Assistant, Development/Donor Research Volunteer, Human Resources Compliance Volunteer, Teachers* (4+ positions)
- Innovation Works: *Curriculum Development Coordinator, Coordinator of Community Partnership* (2 positions)
- Moveable Feast: *Registered Dietitian*
- The Franciscan Center: *Cook*

For more details about the placements, contact Steve Eberle at 410-752-4686.

Partner Events/ Ignatian News:

- Catholic Charities: "Toys and Trivia," Nov 28; "Christmas at the Basilica," Dec 6.
- The Franciscan Center: "Giving Tree," Week of December 10

Ignatian Volunteer Corps Baltimore
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Join us for an Afternoon of Recognition and Joyful Anticipation...