



Opening Remarks
Kathleen Groh, Regional Director,
IVC St. Paul and Minneapolis

As the IVC Director, it is my privilege to lead **22 retired or semi-retired IVC volunteers** who extend the staff of **16 non-profits that serve those who are poor or vulnerable in the Metro Area.**

You may recognize some of the non-profits where they serve. Two IVC volunteers serve at **Cristo Rey Jesuit H.S.** We have some of these students helping here tonight. There is an IVC volunteer at **Sara's ...and Oasis for women. It is a shelter** that is not too far from this church. Former teachers are serving in schools like **Risen Christ School** in South Minneapolis where 92% of the children receive a free school lunch. **An IVC volunteer works in the office of MICAH**, that lobbies the legislature for affordable housing. They are seen at **Community Centers** where they help adults learn English and adapt to the American culture. In North Minneapolis IVC volunteers are helping at **Cookie Cart and Hospitality House** where kids and teens are off the streets in after school programs doing their homework or learning new skills.

- These IVC volunteers bring their talents, work experience and skills to these non-profits to support their staffs **amid stretched budgets.** They can offer increased assistance whether it is in direct service or administrative help **two days a week. Their experience is making a difference for the non-profits and for those who come to them seeking help and hope.**
- As a Jesuit-affiliated organization, the **IVC members come together** for three retreat days and **meet once a month** in



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- community to reflect on their lives and the changes they have experienced from their encounters with those in need.

The members share where **God was found in all that they are seeing, doing and witnessing.** Upon reflection with their Spiritual Reflector or in the group, they come to realize that these experiences have made a **difference in their spiritual lives as well.**

In a few minutes you will hear more about Cookie Cart from the people who work and serve there. Dan Sullivan, an IVC volunteer, will tell you about the difference being an IVC volunteer there has made in his life, too.

I invite anyone who is interested in giving back as an IVC volunteer **in gratitude for the gifts that have been given, to contact me.** If you know of a non-profit that could use our assistance, have them give me a call, too! I'm often referred to as "**the Matchmaker.**" And I will try hard to make it happen.

We give out \$13,000 in sponsorships to struggling non-profits where they serve. There are additional envelopes on your table to take with you if you would like to join them. Your donation will help us recruit, train and support more IVC volunteers as we continue to grow in the Metro area and across the nation.



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Introductory Remarks

Good Evening and Welcome to an evening with Fr. Greg Boyle! I am Kathleen Groh, the IVC Director of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Region. When we first came up with this plan, we had an idea of a small intimate evening...but that wouldn't be once the word got out that Fr. Greg was coming to town!

Before we introduce Fr. Boyle, I would like to briefly explain just what IS the Ignatian Volunteer Corps! Many of you may have heard about the **Jesuit Volunteer Corps**, the **JVC**, for young adults who graduate from Jesuit colleges and Universities. They give a year of volunteer service in gratitude for their gift of a Jesuit education. Well, **we are the IVC made up of their retired or semi-retired parents and grandparents!**

The IVC is a **national organization** with 20 Regions across the United States with over 500 volunteers. We are Region 8 and have **22** mature men and women serving in **16 non-profit** organizations who open their doors to those who are poor and vulnerable in the Metro area.

These remarkable volunteers come to non-profit sites with their talents, skills and a lifetime of experience and extend their staff. They are at **Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Risen Christ School** in South Minneapolis, **Hospitality House and Cookie Cart** in North Minneapolis and now in St. Paul. They help newly arrived immigrants learn English and assist them as they navigate this American culture. You will find one at **Sara's an Oasis for women**. Many teachers are found in



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Community Organizations or working in offices for affordable housing.

They make a difference in the lives of those who are in need of hope and the boundless compassion. They remind our brothers and sisters of their dignity and sense of their own worth.

In all of this, **IVC volunteer lives are changed, too.** Meeting once a month and attending Days of Reflection, they begin to see the face of Christ in all those they encounter. It is in these times of discernment and reflection in the Ignatian tradition, they begin to find God in all things.