



## How blessed are we?

**Barbara Lee** is a practicing spiritual director who lives in New York City. She is a retired attorney, a former U.S. magistrate judge, and a long-serving member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (17+ years). She is author of God Isn't Finished with Me Yet: Discovering the Spiritual Graces of Later Life. IVC may be studying Barbara's book next service year, especially since our theme is Ignatian Spirituality!

On May 24th, Barbara will be facilitating our prayerful, Spring Retreat at the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky. To get a feel for Barbara's wisdom check out her Lenten Prayer Adventure at <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/27049/love-and-freedom>

On Feb. 18th. an article appeared in the New York Times, entitled "Wealthy Enough to Retire; Too Bored to Stay Retired" Barbara responded to the article with:

*"Dear Workologist,  
I am disappointed that your advice to a person who is bored with retirement is to go back to work. A person who is financially able to retire at 55 has a wonderful opportunity to "give back" in whatever form of service he is comfortable with (for example, mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering with an organization that does something completely*

*new to him). Alternatively, or at the same time, he might want to devote some time to reflecting on why our identities are so bound up with what we do for a living.*

*I enjoy your column and find most of your advice sound. But there is more to life than work!*

*Sincerely yours, Barbara A Lee"*

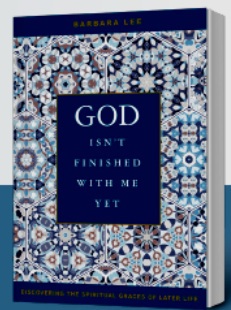
And from her book: *My experience as an Ignatian Volunteer has led me to understand that those of us who have retired from full-time paid work have entered a new stage of life—a new kind of vocation, with a unique charism. Not everyone has the ability or the opportunity to do volunteer work, but we can all experience the graces particular to this stage of life. Ignatian Spirituality...can open us to those graces.*

We are blessed indeed to reflect with Barbara on May 24th!

Barbara's book, God Isn't Finished with Me Yet

## I'm not finished with my life... and neither is God.

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## Ignatian Volunteer Ed Harvey shares...

The few hours that I spend at the MEAC pantry are truly gratifying. It demonstrates how a well run organization can fuse the charitable largess of many to deliver much needed assistance to individuals and families of a local community. The recipients of this effort experience a warm and inviting facility that is matched only by the commitment of its volunteers.

Those in the community who find this pantry an ongoing response to their needs come with a glad and open heart. They are most pleasant to be with for the brief shopping period and many end their tour with a "God bless your day". No greater "thanks" than that!

## Sue Lennert continues to serve...

What does an Ignatian Volunteer do when she can no longer serve at an agency? Like the retired Jesuits at Colombiere who pray for concerns listed at <https://jesuitprayer.org/submit-a-prayer/> —Sue Lennert IVC alum, prays for all the active volunteers who share prayer concerns at our monthly gatherings.

Peg Dillon was the first retired volunteer I had asked to take the position. She asked what had inspired me to ask her and I told her about the Colombiere pray-ers." "Do you know about my brother?" she asked. "No." I responded—I didn't know she had a brother. "He was a Jesuit and he's the one who started that prayer ministry at Colombiere."

So it shouldn't surprise me when a volunteer and his wife went on a rafting trip on the Colorado river, tethered their raft to the shore to sleep for the night, and woke to find themselves moving towards rapids. Long story short they made it back frantically paddling to the shore and were helicoptered out to treat health issues that arose in the chaos of getting back to their team. "It's a miracle," he shared when he returned. "All the professionals kept saying they don't know how we made it out alive!"

As I walked in to share prayer concerns with Sue Lennert the next week, she asked, "How are Tim and his wife? I couldn't stop praying for them. They were on my mind all month!" I couldn't help but feel her constant prayers were answered by that "miracle" on the Colorado River!



## Interfaith & Ecumenical Dialogue

This year's IVC study book is Go Into the Streets... in the chapter "A Dialogic Church", renewing the spirit of Vatican II, Pope Francis encourages "interreligious and ecumenical dialogue."

**Paula Yerke** is working as an Ignatian Volunteer in the Catholic Social Action office of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In the past year she has focused much of her energy into Ecumenical and Interfaith dialogue in the following areas.

### Catholic- Lutheran Dialogue

2017 brought the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Following Pope Francis' and Lutheran World Federation's recognition of this occasion, the Archdiocese established a new, life-giving relationship with the ELCA Southern Ohio Synod, motivated to forge greater Christian unity. The commemoration year gave rise to:

- Dozens of Catholic and Lutheran churches sponsoring dialogue sessions and special events for hundreds of parishioners;
- Panel presentations by Catholic and Lutheran experts on the history of the Reformation;
- Formation of a joint Catholic-Lutheran Task force to address the opioid and addiction crisis;
- Common Prayer Service, celebrated by Bishop Joseph Binzer and Bishop Dillahunt in Centerville;
- Tour of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral with Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt.

### Catholic – Muslim Dialogue

Catholic Social Action designed a three-week, small group dialogue series for Catholics and Muslims to learn about each other's traditions. The program was successfully piloted at St. Susanna (Mason) and St. Francis de Sales (East Walnut Hills), and the office looks forward to offering it to more parishes in 2018.

### Festival of Faiths

In 2018, the Archdiocese is a sponsor of Cincinnati's first **Festival of Faiths to be held June 24, 2018 at the Cintas Center**. The mission of the Festival of Faiths is to (a) showcase Cincinnati's religious diversity, (b) celebrate religion's contributions to our community's quality of life, (c) develop our community's exemplary interfaith relations and collaboration, and (d) build and enhance interfaith unity.

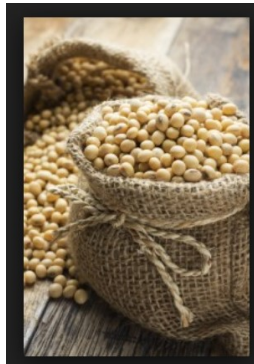
I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – Jn17:21 Thank you Paula for building bridges!

## Thank You to Our Recent Donors!

Barry Aldemeyer  
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Paula and Gary Yerke

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Luke 6:38



## Congratulations to the Ignatian Spirituality Project ...

on your 20th Anniversary! ISP is one of our partner agencies. Both Cincinnati Women's & Men's Team Leaders are members of IVC, Anne Shaffer and Tim Boyle. *It started with a simple question: figure out a way to bring the Spiritual Exercises to the materially poor. Thus, in 1998, the Ignatian Spirituality Project was born, setting in motion a journey that, over the past 20 years, has touched the lives of over 12,000 men & women experiencing homelessness & in recovery from addiction, offering hope & the chance to reclaim their lives.*



## Thank You to Our “IVC Representatives”

When a family showed up at Winton Hills Academy after the deadline for family holiday gifts, the resource coordinator shared that she was heartbroken that there were no representative organizations left to assign the family too. Naively, I suggested IVC Cincinnati. When I found out it was more than a gift per child listed on a giving “Angel” hanging on the parish tree, I wasn't sure we could do it. I brought the list to participants at December's Tuesday gathering and each person in the family had been claimed by a volunteer within minutes. (Making Sense of Language Arts, one of our partner agencies, has 7 IVC volunteers at Winton Hills.)

Thanks for your gifts!

Alfonso Barnes  
Anne Shaffer  
Diane Bley  
Tim Boyle  
Sr. Carolyn Brink  
Chris Hils  
Don Ottke  
Judy Singer  
Diane Sundrup

## Churches Active in Northside

one of our partnering agencies is asking for help with **SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS.**

Fill a bag to bless a family this Spring!

Follow list and fill a reusable bag with necessities below or contact CAIN for a ready-to-fill bag!

- 1 tube toothpaste
  - 1 toothbrush
  - 1 stick deodorant
  - 1 bottle/tube hand/body lotion
  - 1 ethnic hair care product
  - 1 bar/bottle hand soap
  - 1 pkg. razors
  - 1 pkg. tampons or pads
  - 1 pkg. of 4 roll toilet paper
  - 1 roll of paper towels (wrapped)
- PLEASE RETURN to CAIN by APRIL 1 (no foolin!)  
(or as early as possible in Lent)



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Website: [ivcusa.org](http://ivcusa.org)

Thank you to those of you receiving this by email. Not only are you empowering us to “Care for Our Common Home” as Pope Francis urges, you save the expenses we would incur.

To support the Ignatian Volunteer Corps Cincinnati with a tax deductible donation you can do so online at <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2033&AID=1984> (Be sure to designate Cincinnati in the drop down menu.)

Or send your donation to:  
IVC Cincinnati  
4714 Chickering Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232



About this time of year I flashback to a scene that played out in 1977 when I lived and worked as a religious education coordinator in the tiny town of Clyde, New York. We had a “release time” program and would send a bus to the elementary school to pick the children up for classes. I remember the time when a young boy showed up on the bus who was a stranger to me—turns out he got on the bus to avoid a test he hadn’t studied for.

We always started with prayer in the church before heading to the school for classes. As he entered the church he was overwhelmed and began to cry. That’s when I first noticed the “hitchhiker” and went to the back of church to be with him. I knelt to be at his level and asked him what was wrong. It took some time for him to compose himself enough to answer. He gazed up at the cross above the altar. I followed his stare and was suddenly overwhelmed by the vivid portrayal of the crucifixion, (I had never seen how gruesome it was). “Who is that man and what have they done to him?” he sobbed. I introduced him to Jesus; or better yet the young boy introduced me to Jesus.

Billy Graham used to say we inoculate ourselves from the truth. We have heard the stories and memorized them, but are we moved by them? Do we see the wounds of Christ? Are our hearts pierced by the blood that flows from His side? We know, “the rest of the story,” so it’s easy to gloss over it to Easter. May we this Lent be moved by God’s love for us. May we “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1 Share that love this Lent, Easter, and always!