

## Available Placements

Here are a few of over 20 open placements we have for potential volunteers. Check out <https://ivcusa.org/ivc-offices/welcome-to-ivc-baltimore/> to see all the placements and for more information.

- Loyola Early Learning Center: *Teaching and Classroom Assistant*
- Project PLASE: *Central Intake Worker, Medical Monitor, Veteran Representative* (3 positions)
- St. Peter's Adult Learning Center: *Program Assistant*
- Caroline Center: *Financial Planning Instructor, Math Tutor, Volunteer Coordinator* (3 positions)
- Esperanza Center: *Youth ESOL Program Assistant*

### Partner Events/ Ignatian News:

- Catholic Charities: Shrimp & Bull Roast for Sarah's House, Apr 6; Bridesmaid Bingo for My Sister's Place, May 15
- The ARC of Baltimore: Golf Tournament, May 14
- GEDCO: Golf Tournament, May 15
- The Samaritan Community: Movie Gala at The Charles, May 21

**Ignatian Volunteer Corps Baltimore**  
112 E. Madison St., Ste.301  
Baltimore, MD 21202



The topic of this month's newsletter has been generously supported by "Finding God in Ordinary Time" by Christine Eberle. Visit <https://christine-marie-eberle.com/2019/02/20/finding-god-at-my-feet/> to read an excerpt reflecting on the dignity



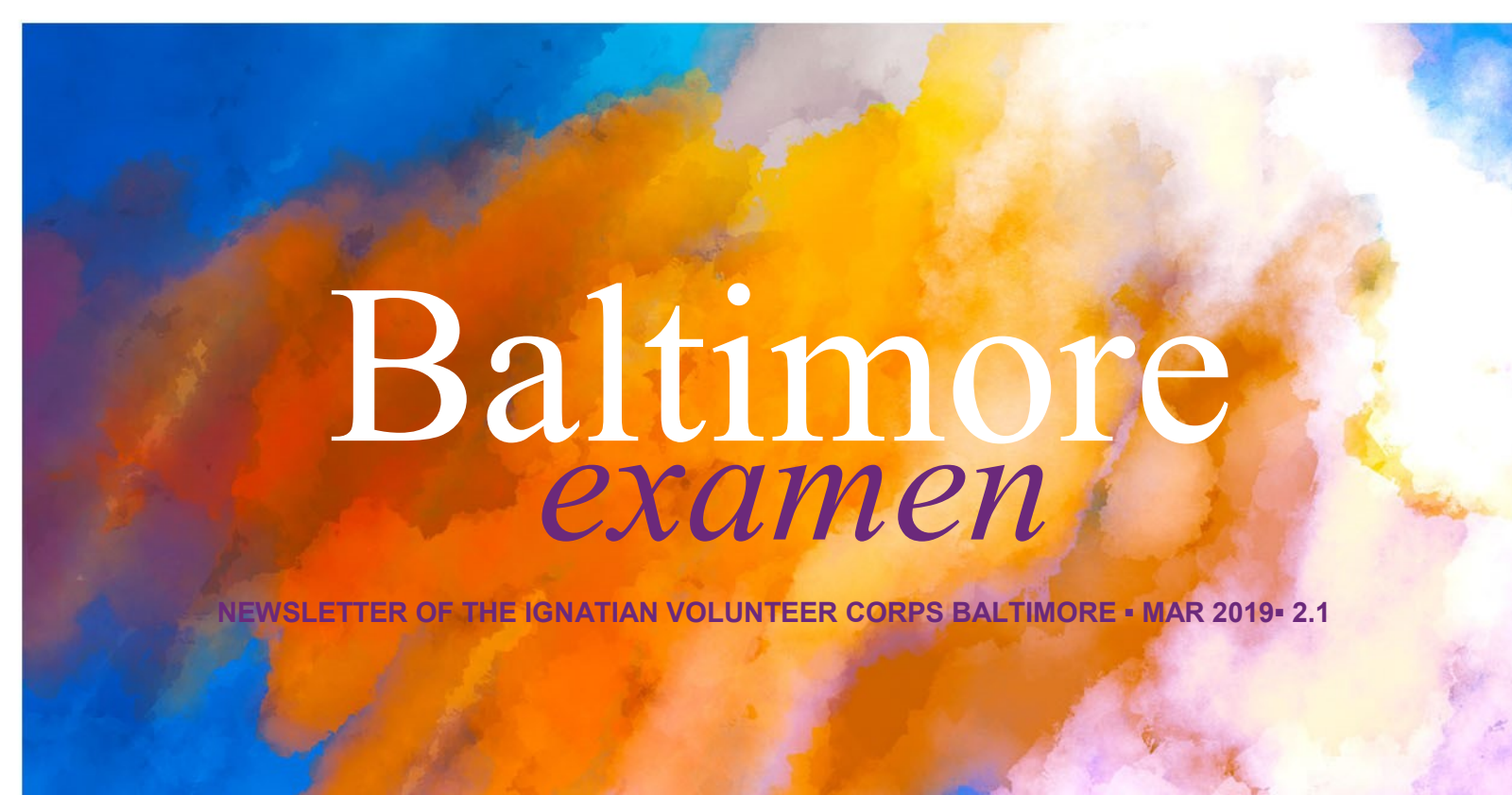
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# Baltimore *examen*

NEWSLETTER OF THE IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS BALTIMORE • MAR 2019 • 2.1

## IVC: Working for Workers' Rights

*"Let us pray that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good."*  
(Pope Francis prayer intention, October 2017)

International Workers Day, also known as May Day, is coming up in a few short weeks, so this issue of *The Baltimore Examen* is focused on the dignity of work. You'll read how our service partner, St. Peter's Adult Learning Center, has been providing work and volunteer opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities for over 30 years.

In 1955, the Church designated May Day as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, in part to emphasize that according to Catholic Social Teaching, the dignity of the worker stems from a reverence for all human life. Dignity doesn't come from work. Rather, it is the worker who possesses inherent dignity by virtue of being created in the image and likeness of God.

One of the biggest factors in Baltimore's struggle with poverty is unemployment. Nearly every Ignatian Volunteer is helping people overcome employment problems. All around the Baltimore area, Ignatian Volunteers honor the inherent dignity of each

person they serve by helping them gain the skills they need to find a job or achieve a just wage. Some teach students looking to advance in their careers; others mentor job seekers through the inscrutable terrain of the job search and interview process; still others work to break down the structures that perpetuate economic injustice. A key tenant in Catholic Social Teaching states that the economy must serve the people, not the other way around.

Ignatian Volunteers also find meaning and dignity in their volunteer work, and a strong faith community to help bolster their work in challenging times.

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker reminds us honest and humble labor is one source of true human dignity. As we seek meaningful employment opportunities for all our brothers and sisters, we also must be mindful that the dignity of human work is rooted in the worker who is called to co-creation with God.

## Events

### Information Sessions:

- Mar 31: 1 pm, St. Matthew's Catholic Church
- Apr 9: 12:30 pm, Loyola University, Timonium Campus
- Apr 24: 6:30 pm, Loyola University, Main (Evergreen) Campus
- May 18: 6:15 pm, Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City

Monthly Meeting: Apr 9

Monthly Meeting: May 10

Service Year-end Gathering of Graces and Potluck: Jun 7

# Making a Difference in Baltimore City

*St. Peter's Adult Learning Center strives to empower adults with developmental disabilities to be contributing members of society. We reverence the uniqueness of each person, promoting self-sufficiency, community integration, and quality of life with vocational and recreational programs and services.*

In the early 1980s, Sister of Mercy Katherine Nueslein, moved to Baltimore to live and work among the city's poor. She quickly came to realize many of her neighbors in Southwest Baltimore had intellectual disabilities, sitting home each day with no meaningful activities in their lives. She started a small Day Program for ten adult members which today provides life-enhancing services, including a Supported Employment Program, to 90+ Baltimore residents with intellectual disabilities.

St. Peter's partners with 26 volunteer sites throughout the city where the members of the Employment Program volunteer over 13,000 hours each year. Many are able to learn valuable skills that can lead to gainful employment at one of St. Peter's 12 employment partner sites. One of the program's members has worked at the same employer for 18 years! Last year, members worked an amazing 32,032 hours, earning \$432,160 and contributing fully to the system by paying income and social security taxes.

# Making a Difference at St. Peter's

*The blessings at St. Peter's make it worth the drive.*

When Pat Barron walked into St. Peter's Adult Learning Center three years ago, she knew right away this was the volunteer site she had hoped for: *"I'm a strong believer in the dignity of all human life and St. Peter's provides a much needed service to special needs adults and their families. Once you start at St. Peter's, you're hooked. You grow to love the clients and the staff."*

Two days a week, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, Pat drives into Baltimore from Ellicott City. She had looked at placement closer to home, but it was an office job, and she had just retired from 38 years of office jobs and wanted something different. So now, on most Wednesdays, Pat takes a couple of the members of St. Peter's to the Carrie Murray Nature Center where they assist by volunteering to help clean up. On Thursdays, she takes a different group from the Day Program out into the community to visit a museum, library, or park. And they always look forward to participating in Special Olympics activities in the area.

The current director, Chip Woods, has been with St. Peter's for 15 years, and has had the joy of seeing many wonderful success stories over the years. Kareem, who four years ago was earning less than \$10 every two weeks, now works 35 hours a week (plus traveling 3 hours roundtrip per day!) making \$ 11.50 per hour.

Despite the constant challenges of seeking funding and adhering to a myriad of regulations and policies, Chip is always grateful: *"Of course, the greatest joy is seeing members transform from dependence to independence. But there are also the little things, like watching the community refer to our members by name, and not just as 'those people,' that make me smile every day."*

St. Peter's was one of IVC's first partners 25 years ago, and is proud to be a part of the compassionate mission of this wonderful organization.



She appreciates the flexibility of the volunteering through IVC. The addition of new grandsons over the past two year has necessitated some last-minute schedule changes, and as big Orioles fans, she and her husband have just returned from the annual Spring Training trip to Sarasota. *"The staff and other volunteers at St. Peter's always pitch in to cover when family needs take priority. Vacations are not problem either."*

When asked about how IVC adds to her volunteer experience, she comments, *"I really appreciate the support of a network of other volunteers who share love and compassion for others, and the commitment to social justice, but,"* she adds with a big smile, *"my favorite part is working with St. Peter's members and staff."*

Pat is a great supporter of IVC through her volunteer efforts, financial support, and helping recruit new volunteers: *"I recommend it to anyone in or nearing retirement. The opportunity was God-sent exactly when I needed it the most."*

*"Aside from the obvious contributions IVC volunteers have made to St. Peter's over the years, I also have been supported in my own spiritual journey through participation in IVC Spiritual Programs. I always feel I am welcomed and cared for member of the IVC community."*

**Chip Woods,  
Director,  
St. Peter's Adult  
Learning Center**

# For God's Greater Glory

*Elaine Ireland, IVC Baltimore's Spiritual Formation Associate looks at "the Call of the King" as it relates to the rights and dignity of workers.*

## The King is Calling

No, not Elvis.

Midway through the second movement (or "week") of St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises, he offers a prayer experience entitled, "The Contemplation of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ," also known as "The Call of the King." For those unfamiliar with the exercises, the second movement is all about experiencing the life of Jesus from his birth through his earthly ministry. In this prayer exercise, Ignatius first asks us to consider the type of person we'd be willing to follow, a human leader we admire who is striving for some noble cause. What attracts us to this person? What traits does he or she have that we would like to imitate?

We then imagine this person calls to us to model our lives after theirs, to be content with the same lifestyle: the same food, lodging, clothes, working environment, schedule, etc. (Ignatius' imagery is medieval and militaristic, so we are encouraged to think of someone whose goal is charitable or peace work or other social justice causes.) How do we respond to their call?

Finally, Ignatius invites us to imagine Christ calling us in the same way. Are we willing to live the life of service and poverty he lived? What would that look like for us? How do we respond to *his* call?

*"Although not everyone is called to live a life of actual poverty, we are all called to live simply and in freedom with respect to the riches we do have...material possessions, talents, reputation, or influence."* (from *The Ignatian Adventure*, Kevin O'Brien, SJ)

Christ the King asks us to live in solidarity with the poor, many of whom work tirelessly but fail to get ahead due to inadequate wages, lack of benefits, and dangerous work environments. But how do we live in solidarity, especially when we have established life commitments? We volunteer our time and share our other resources to help people find decent work. We advocate for a living wage, good education and job training programs, health care and other benefits to help the poor regain hope. We treat everyone we encounter with respect, realizing that many who serve in menial roles are working two or three jobs just so that their families can survive.

## The King is calling. Will you answer the call?

*(IVC's integrated program of service and spirituality helps our volunteers keep a poverty of spirit, reliance on God for strength and wisdom as they serve the poor and disadvantaged in Baltimore. Your donation goes directly to fund spiritual enrichment. Thank you!)*

# From Steve

Thank you for taking the time to read through our newsletter.

Both St. Peter's Adult Learning Center and IVC know the value of operating a "high-touch" service model. St. Peter's reverences the dignity of everyone that comes through their door by building a relationship and setting a path to help them realize their dreams. At IVC, we take the time to get to know the individuals who apply to volunteer, so we can find placements that not only match their skillset, but also compliment their personality and sync with their schedule to find the best overall fit.

It's springtime, which means our volunteer recruitment season is in full bloom here at IVC Baltimore. Do you know anyone who would make a great Ignatian Volunteer?

IVC Baltimore is much more than a volunteer service agency. We are a kind of mobile faith community that places the individuals we serve front and center. As theologian Gustavo Gutierrez once said, *"If there is no friendship with them [the poor] and no sharing of the life of the poor, then there is no authentic commitment to liberation, because love exists only among equals."*

Your prayers and financial support allow us to prioritize the dignity and need of every individual we touch. By combining volunteer work with reflection, IVC Baltimore's unique program transforms volunteers' activity from service to mission. Thank you for all that you do to keep us going!



Steve Eberle, Director, Ignatian Volunteer Corps Baltimore  
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# Making a Difference for IVC Baltimore

**November 1, 2018---March 13, 2019**

## \$500-\$1,500

Mitzvah Fund for Good Deeds  
J. Norris Byrnes  
Carl & Pamela Freidhoff  
Kathy Gross  
Christine Tucker

## \$100--\$499

Ronald & Janice Allen  
Kay Bee  
Michael Bielefeld  
Michael Byres  
Paul & Kathleen Casey  
Rosemary Chang  
Nicholas & Francine Civillico  
Beverly Cooper  
Tom & Mary Agnes Cotter  
Elaine Crawford & Bill Millen  
Leonard & Eileen DeStefano  
Christine Eberle & Porter Bush  
Marti Eckert  
Mark & Joanne Fitz-Patrick  
Frank Gorman  
John Green  
Dennis & Kathleen Narango  
Joan Rosenhauer & Robert Vasilak  
Ed & Robbie Sabin  
Charles & Eileen Tydlacka  
Lucinda Ware

## \$1-\$99

Janine Marie Boulad  
Ann Marie Brennan-Zelenka  
Christine Buckley  
Kerrie Burch DeLuca  
Mary Ann Burke  
Steve Eberle  
Michael & Roseanne Green  
Erin Hayden  
Mary Hines  
Richard & Maria Amelia Horwitz  
Ann Hurleypalmer  
Mollie Kilbourne  
Bob Lenzen  
Richard Lynch  
Tony & Peg Mann  
Cindy McCabe  
John & Barbara Meninger  
Joanne Pressimone  
Pat Skarupa  
Nickie Summerfeldt  
Margaret Strahan  
Gregory & Beth Ann Szczepaniak  
Mary Anne Wilson  
Louise Wright