

## MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

#### DEAR FRIENDS,

Since starting as president in November of 2018, I have met with a broad cross-section of the JVC family. Over the course of my travels, I visited and had dinner with each JV community serving in the USA for the 2018-19 program year. After dinner, I asked each community two questions: What could JVC be doing better? Would you recommend JVC to your best friend? These candid discussions provided rich feedback into how we might improve supporting the volunteers. As I traveled from city to city, I tried to reach out to Former Jesuit Volunteers and donors to introduce myself, hear about their experience with JVC and for me to share the future direction of the organization. Not a FJV myself, these interactions are critical to help me to stay close to the JV experience as I grow in this leadership role.

The stories FJVs told me shared a common theme: the power of the JV experience to transform the life of a volunteer. And when JVs spoke about particularly challenging and difficult years I asked, "Why did you stay?" Inevitably their responses spoke about the bonds they had formed with their community members, their loyalty to their placements and an awareness that they learned things about themselves they may not have discovered any place else.

Inside this issue, you will uncover many stories of formation and impact. We will adventure alongside our alumni who are furthering STEM research, working in the tech space or ensuring access to healthcare among underserved populations. You will be introduced to the leadership that has been assembled at JVC, which is comprised of talented individuals who bring their knowledge and experience to our work of building a strong and enduring organization that is committed to providing the JV experience for generations to come.

JVC's priorities consist of focusing on the fundamentals: recruitment with an eye towards diversifying future JV cohorts, growing our development work to ensure financial stability and opportunities for growth and building stronger connections between JVC and FJVs on both the local and national level.

Our JVC team is strong, the core of the JV program is solid and the power of the FJV community is palpable. All key ingredients for success. My hope is that you will lean in with us to build a strong JVC for the future.

Thanks,

TOM CHABOLLA PRESIDENT



Aspiring to create *a more just and hopeful world*, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps engages passionate young people in **vital service** within poor communities, fostering the growth of leaders committed to **FAITH IN ACTION**.





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Member

#### **DEAR FRIENDS.**

Here at JVC, we are committed to placing young leaders at partner organizations that are changing the narratives of those in need through the provision of services and resources. Jesuit Volunteer Corps inspires volunteers to serve populations facing oppression and marginalization for one to two years, by assisting others to lead lives of dignity no matter their circumstances.

As you will read across the stories in this issue, our formation program is an experience that engages our four core values and invites JVs to develop their personal and professional leadership skills for their lifetime. As JVs transition to Former Jesuit Volunteers, their repository of memories from JVC provide courage and inspiration as they continue to build a more just and hopeful world in their adult lives. This would not be possible without the support of our entire JVC community. It is because of your ongoing support that we have been able to channel our energy into adding four new members to JVC's Board of Directors. It is an honor to welcome Ann Greiner, Nancy Johansen, Colleen Magnus and Martin Rogers to JVC's board. Their presence will be critical to supporting the mission and governance of JVC. We are positive that their professional expertise will bring us to new heights as an organization, particularly, as we continue to improve and introduce the JV experience to more young leaders and agencies.

Thank you for your help cultivating strong and empathetic leaders of tomorrow.

OAN HOGAN GILLMAN

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ann Greiner** 

President And CEO Patient-Centered Collaborative Washington DC



Nancy T. Johansen \*\*

Ruby Data Management Team **New Jersey** 



Collen Magnus †\*

Former Middle School Teacher Ethel Walker School

Parents Association

Connecticut



**Martin Rodgers** 

Office Managing Director and Southeast Managing Director Health And Public Service Washington DC

## ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

At JVC, we rely on enthusiastic and creative professionals to fulfill our mission. How could we not?

The work we dedicate ourselves to each day is no small task. Jesuit Volunteers are becoming deeply transformed in ways that will influence them for the rest of their lives.

Former Jesuit Volunteers continue to stay engaged through mentorship of our volunteers, fundraising, or becoming retreat presenters. Our loyal donors give back financially to sustain our mission in six countries around the world. This spring, we welcomed talented professionals to move the threefold nature of our efforts forward: accompanying JVs, empowering them as leaders once they are alumni, and building relationships within communities and agencies we serve.



# MEET Maria Gaughan

# MEEI KAREN GRIFFIN

Director of Development *Karen Griffin* began working with JVC in April and has more than 18 years of fundraising experience. Karen is responsible for all fundraising efforts at JVC including donor cultivation, annual appeals, grant preparation, and the Send Me to Serve fundraiser. In this role, Karen will help us develop a more strategic and focused development plan to ensure we are able to sustain and strengthen our core mission by broadening and deepening the support of our donors.

For the last 13 years, I was working at St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. We hosted Jesuit Volunteers, which has given me a unique perspective on the tremendous impact of JVC. I look forward to meeting more Jesuit Volunteers, who increase the capacity of our agency partners and provide vital service to those on the margins. There is a solid philanthropic foundation here at the Jesuit Volunteer Corps made up of engaged and committed donors. I am looking forward to building on that foundation and incorporating a vision of the future that highlights the impact of the JVC community, past, present and future."

As Director of FJV Engagement, Partnerships and Outreach since May, Maria Gaughan (Raleigh 2004-05) most recently was a JVC In-City Coordinator for the San Diego Community (she was also the support person for the San Diego JVs from 2008 to 2011). In her new role, Maria will ensure JVC maintains strong relationships with key partners on college and university campuses to support a year-round recruitment strategy, and will steer our efforts to deepen engagements with Jesuits and Former Jesuit Volunteers at the provincial and community level. Maria formerly worked as Assistant Director of University Ministry at the University of San Diego, and held different positions at the school over the past 11 years, including: lead the Retreat and Service/Social Justice Ministries, managed the Resident Ministry staff, initiated immersion programs, started the Women's Spirituality Retreat, and founded a program for low-income, firstgeneration students.

During my time in University Ministry, I had the privilege of coordinating efforts on campus to encourage students to discern post-grad service.

I was always so proud when one of my students would choose to do JVC because I knew from personal experience how life-changing it could be for them. My year as a JV transformed me, shifted my lens of the world and opened me up to experiencing God most fully and tangibly through community. My husband Curran Gaughan (Brooklyn 2003-05) is also an FJV and the four values laid a foundation that is central to how we strive to engage with others. I know this experience to be true with my fellow FJVs and am so eager and ready to connect, hear stories of their JV years, and engage them in the important work that JVC continues to do."

Read more about our Director of Programs Laura Strubeck on page 23.

### DONOR FEATURE



New Orleans communities Henriette Delille and Thomas Stahel at DisOrientation 2012.

**LILY HANNIGAN NEW ORLEANS 2011-12** 

a Jesuit Volunteer at Project Lazarus after graduating from Fordham University in the Bronx. Project Lazarus is a home for people living with HIV who would be homeless otherwise. Residents there also struggled with addiction and mental illness. My role as a Jesuit Volunteer was to organize and run on-site programming, recruit, train, and supervise volunteers, and plan excursions around the city. It was a dream JV position. I know this is a cliché, but it truly changed my life.

After my year was up, I wasn't through with JVC. Since 2013, I have helped coordinate Local Orientation, and in 2014, I became a support person. Fortunately, my placement site Project Lazarus also employed me after being a JV there. Now, I do fundraising work with a strong focus on events — this is New Orleans, after all.

I have the privilege of working with new JVs every year and recruiting them to volunteer at my events with promises of free food. I know how hard it is to figure out a challenging position in a new city. I remember how grateful I was for the strong network of FJVs and friends of JVC who were in my corner, whether they were providing professional guidance, leading a spirituality night, dropping by the house with ice cream and poboys, or giving us a much-appreciated ride to the grocery store.



66 I see the benefits of a strong organizational infrastructure, which is my personal motivation to donate financially.

After completing my service year, I felt driven to "pay it forward" and provide the same hospitality, friendship, and support to active JVs. I feel that a stronger community network leads to stronger volunteers — thus producing better outcomes for their clients and agencies where they serve. I am fortunate to witness the incredible work of JVs firsthand at Project Lazarus! I see the benefits of a strong organizational infrastructure, which is my personal motivation to donate financially. JVC is truly a unique and formative program. There many opportunities that set it apart from other service corps: such as a dedicated, local program coordinator, quarterly retreats, health insurance, and more. These assets to the program are both important to the JV and JVC's agency partners, and they are not free. I believe in providing financial support to alleviate some of these expenses from the agencies while helping JVC provide the best resources possible for current and future JVs.

DEAR LILY:

Thank you for being instrumental in helping us hold an FJV event at Project Lazarus in concert with last February's New Orleans board meeting! — JVC Board and Staff

# **AGENCY FEATURES**

JVC has partnered with Catholic Charities Atlanta's Refugee Services department for 12 years. This program provides resettlement and supportive services to those fleeing persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

ARE MORE THAN 25 MILLION REFUGEES

in the world today — more than any time in recorded history. Catholic Charities Atlanta (CCA) views the Refugee Services program as vital to its mission to provide supportive services that enable families to overcome barriers and achieve self-sufficiency, and our JV plays a crucial role in this work. The JV acts as a Refugee Resettlement Specialist, providing case management services to refugee families coming to the United States. From reception at the airport all the way through self-sufficiency, the JV assists the family along the way.

Frances McBrayer, Senior Director of Refugee Services, describes the Jesuit Volunteer's impact on the program: "Our partnership with JVC is invaluable for our clients. The energy, drive, and problem-solving skills our Jesuit Volunteers bring to the placement are put to use every day as they help new refugee families navigate life in the United States. They also contribute unique strengths to our staff team which translates into more holistic services for our clients."

The current JV, Adrian Laudani (Atlanta 2018-19), has found this role to be a great fit for her skills and interests. Adrian entered the role having served as a Resident Assistant for international students at the University of Scranton, and this experience allowed her to jump right into her work with refugee clients in Atlanta. Frances McBrayer says, "Flexibility and openness to new cultures and new experiences are very important qualities for our JV. Adrian brought that with her and has continued to develop it during her service here with CCA. She seeks out new experiences and sees challenges as opportunities. She is a great fit for our team here, and we are very thankful to have her."

Adrian has also been able to participate in outreach, education, and advocacy efforts during her time at CCA. CCA is a member of the Coalition of Refugee Service Agencies which hosts the New Americans Celebration every year at the Georgia Capitol. Adrian served as a team leader at the 2019 event encouraging refugee community members and volunteers to tell their stories to Georgia elected officials in order to communicate the social, economic, and cultural contributions that refugees make to Georgia.

# SUPPORT





#### **ABOUT CCA**

CCA's history began in 1953, when Catholic Social Services of Atlanta opened as a referral center with two full-time employees. Over the next 50 years, the agency developed and launched numerous programs and services tailored to the needs of Atlanta's most vulnerable.

Catholic Charities Atlanta has been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation for over a decade, and they continue to innovate and adapt to the needs of the expanding Atlanta Metropolitan Community. CCA employs nearly 70 professional staff, partners with foundations and other charities, engages almost 500 volunteers, and serves tens of thousands of individuals each year.

# **2018 CCA STATISTICS**

87%

of newly-arrived refugee families were working and paying their own bills within... 1,875

new Americans were placed in jobs



of their arrival in Georgia



# IN THE FIELD

HEN FINDING OUT THAT MY PLACEMENT MATCH was at Verbum Dei High School, I was filled with gratitude. I could sense my excitement to take on a challenge outside of my comfort zone and a little fear of moving across the country to do something with which I had very little experience. Verbum Dei is a Jesuit, Cristo Rey, all boys' school in California. And my JV role is as a Campus Ministry/College Guidance Assistant. Each day, I have the opportunity to counsel, mentor, and minister to the young men of South Central Los Angeles.

The College Guidance piece of my job has allowed me to work closely with the senior class. As I guide them through their senior year and the college application process, I've done everything from sending transcripts and reading personal statements, to finding scholarships for students. Accompanying the senior class through college applications is an arduous journey. At the Commitment Day ceremony, seeing students accepted into the colleges of their dreams is an experience that evokes joy and pride.



66 I have committed to do an additional year as a Jesuit Volunteer...to gain more experience in the field of education.

**MOLLY FRULAND**LOS ANGELES 2018-20

During campus ministry's three service immersion trips, students experience, question, and reflect upon the gritty realities of the world. Students gain a deeper understanding of social justice issues, building community, and exploring spirituality in new ways. Each of these service immersion trips left me in awe of my students and inspired by their curiosity, passion for justice, and love for all people. Every year, for all four years, students at Verbum Dei attend a Charis retreat to grow in their faith and to strengthen their bonds with their classmates. Retreats are an opportunity to witness students encounter God and explore their spirituality. Getting to plan, coordinate, and lead these retreats is such an honor.

In addition to the wonderful community of faculty, staff, and students at Verbum Dei, JVC has also placed me in a loving and supportive community of other Jesuit Volunteers. I would not be able to do JVC if it was not for the support that my community provides me.

My experience in JVC has made me a more confident, patient, and empathetic person. I am often brought to tears when I describe my year of service to others. These are tears of joy, happiness, and pride for my students, co-workers, community, and support system in Los Angeles. JVC has given me a sense of belonging and has inspired me to change my career path from one as a corporate businesswoman to a life of service through education. To help me with my discernment process for my career and graduate school, I have committed to do an additional year as a Jesuit Volunteer at Verbum Dei to gain more experience in the field of education and grow in the four values of community, simple living, spirituality, and social justice.

#### WHAT IS THE AY PROGRAM?

The Additional Year (AY) Formation
Program gives current Jesuit Volunteers
the opportunity to continue living in
community while working for peace
and justice. By serving another one or
two years as a JV, AY participants delve
deeper into the four values and further
discern how to pursue justice in their
future careers and communities.

# MEET OUR OTHER AY VOLUNTEERS CONTINUING WITH JVC...



Morgan Crawford Mobile 2018-19 Sacramento 2019-20



Carlos Rodriguez San Antonio 2018-19 Albuquerque 2019-20



Matthew Scott Cleveland 2018-19 San Diego 2019-20



"[This past year] has been both challenging and very fulfilling. I am ready to continue my journey as a JV in the international program.

#### REBEKAH DUDEVOIR CAMDEN 2018-19 DAR ES SALAAM 2019-21

THERE WERE A SINGLE WORD TO DESCRIBE JVC, it would be intentional. When I was applying to JVC last year, I never guessed that the four values would be so pertinent to my life and work here. I thought that they might eventually be in a corner, gathering cobwebs. It has been a welcome surprise to see how I was wrong. Whether or not we think about the JV values or intentionally practice them every day, they are a fundamental part of the experience.

Spirituality and faith has played a large role in our community life. In our house, we all practice faith in different ways. For one of my housemates, it follows a more structured path of attending weekly mass, prayers, and a relationship with God. For another, it consists of meditation and openness to other organized religions. For me, spirituality is more of instinct than concrete, organized practice. It is about seeing the humanity in every person I come across and unraveling the complexities of our existence. It has been refreshing to see differing images of spirituality and to have my own accepted. I have incorporated some of my housemates' practices into my own, and have found it an enriching experience. I know that this is an area where I am still growing and changing.

Serving as a JV has taught me that if something is worth doing, it should be done wholeheartedly, and that nothing is as clean as it may seem on the surface. I have grown a lot since my time as a Jesuit Volunteer began. I am learning what faith in action really means: that kindness and patience work best, and that my actions are as important as my words. I see the dedication of my managers at my placement site to the kids we serve at the Margaret Donnelly O'Connor Education Center. They seem tireless in their belief that all the kids can succeed. They have shown me what commitment and leadership really mean — not giving up, not letting go of the end goal, and always being there for us, the JVs, and the families of the community.

This past year as a JV has been amazing. It's been both challenging and very fulfilling. I have made some great friends, and built relationships that I will always value. I am ready to continue my journey as a Jesuit Volunteer in the international program.

## JV SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

# EMBRACING 21ST CENTURY OFFERINGS: SPIRITUAL DIRECTION GOES VIRTUAL FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

CONTINUE OUR INVESTMENT in the spiritual formation of Jesuit Volunteers by finding unique and modern methods of support. Those serving internationally began their first few weeks as JVs with some additional time on a silent retreat, including guidance from a spiritual director. During critical times of transition in our program, JVC piloted virtual spiritual direction for a select number of our volunteers who were in anticipation of beginning their JV experience.

By working in partnership with Pat Cassidy (Punta Gorda, Belize 2008-10; JVC Staff 2010-15), JVC offered spiritual accompaniment for Jesuit Volunteers every three to four weeks over a video conference call. Pat says he approaches his learning and spiritual direction from an antiracist, queer, and feminist perspective.

Pat shares that during his time as a Jesuit Volunteer, he learned unexpected things about his faith, which ultimately inspired him to seek out ways to continue offering spiritual development opportunities to others.

Our mission of forming young leaders goes beyond the service opportunities that volunteers partake in each program year. We offer formation retreats to deepen engagement with our four values and create space for JVs to learn more about themselves.

Spiritual Director Ana Lopez attended JVC's silent retreat this service year. Previously, she served as a volunteer in a similar program Ecuador. When thinking about the importance of this invitation for our volunteers, Ana shares:

"Something unique about the Ignatian tradition is the belief that the spiritual life is interwoven with every other part of the fabric that is our self. The invitation for volunteers in Spiritual Direction, then, is to pay close attention to what is happening in the interior, as they experience what's out there.

While on retreat, one volunteer said to me, 'I can't believe you listened to me ramble on and on for an hour. No one does that.' I replied, 'How did that make you feel?' Her eyes watered, 'Like I am worthy of being heard.' I never know what will come out of session but it brings me joy to know that I can be a reminder to people that not only are we worthy of being heard but that God is longing to listen to us — that God's hammock is there for us to lay in and that God can't wait to hear about what is going on in our lives."

"It was really transformative and profound for me as a young adult to see how folks relied on spirituality and prayer in their relationship with God. I think particularly as a white person who is coming to understand my own racial identity and how that greatly informed my perceptions and understandings of God and religion. I ended up leaving my JVC experience with brand new resources and opportunities and connections with God and with others. Ones that I didn't know existed or were possible before entering into the experience. It was incredibly formative for me in terms of my faith and spirituality."

Finding ways to incorporate this learning into the lives of others and experiences of Jesuit Volunteers has been an important mission to Pat. During a candid conversation about the experience, he shares, "Throughout the years, I have been thinking about how we can resource volunteers with spiritual direction opportunities, so as I was moving into my graduate studies, offering virtual spiritual direction was a great opportunity to accompany both early departure volunteers and late departure volunteers for about a five month period. I think being a spiritual director with volunteers was a great way as a former Jesuit Volunteer to reconnect with my own experience and to be present with those who are having their own."

JVC offers our volunteers methods and tools for learning that they can take with them outside of their day-to-day responsibilities at their placement site. Spiritual direction is one such tool that Jesuit Volunteers can opt-into. We believe spiritual direction can open up new possibilities within a faith journey. For our volunteers, this manifests as new insights to help them grow as leaders. Spiritual direction is an offering that we introduce or reaffirm as available to volunteers within their cities of service on both the domestic and the international level too. We look forward to how this offering, both virtually and in person, can add texture to an individual's faith journey and, by proxy, influence the intentional communities volunteers build together.

# "And where, in all of this, do you find the divine?"

AFTER BURSTING OUT STORIES, THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS—
REGALING PAT, MY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR WITH BOTH THE
MUNDANE AND EXCITING PARTS OF LIFE AS A JV IN BELIZE—
THE QUESTIONS HE ASKED ALWAYS SEEMED TO BOIL DOWN
TO THAT ONE.

Where do you find the divine?

At first, it felt difficult to answer. And awkward. Who talks about this kind of stuff aloud, anyways? Was the divine in my community mates or coworkers? Or the golden sunset over the sea? The silence during my yoga and meditation practice? Or my sense of gratitude for our dog, Jack, meeting me at the gate to our yard? Was it in my tears, laughter, sweat, hugs? In feelings of love or being lost? What, or who, even is the divine?



VIRGINIA SCHERER BELIZE CITY 2018-20



With every Pat-chat we had, I grew simultaneously more comfortable and uncomfortable with the question. On one hand, I was prepared to have the question asked; on the other, I never felt ready to answer it. I found myself responding in long jumbled thoughts. My progress in this spiritual direction thing left me feeling as if I was categorically regressing. After a few months and many conversations, shouldn't my responses be quicker and feel easier? More questions emerged every time we chatted, prompted by that original one and myself. I found myself voicing concerns and doubts about why I was here in the first place.

Pat never pretended to have the answers. Instead, he listened. He heard both the things I meant to say and those I did not. Over time, he introduced new material to reflect on and exercises to practice, encouraging me to continue down this path of questioning and deepening my connection to the divine and to myself. I learned (and am still learning) that spirituality is more complex than I ever gave it credit. There are no rights or wrongs when it comes to exploring it further.

My Pat-chats gave me life. They gave me a smiling face to greet me, an unbiased conversation partner to talk things through with, an outside person to listen to me. They gave me an opportunity to share my every day, the triumphs and the struggles, without judgment. We talked about chores, work, language, culture, simple living, and nature. We talked about the head versus the heart, social justice, intentional community, yoga, music...you name it, we chatted it.

Thanks in part to this mentorship with Pat, I am now challenging myself with my questions and pushing the boundaries of my concept of a divine. I find myself widening the net of my concept of spirituality, recognizing the sacredness and connectivity that is simply being human. Pat taught me to be gentle — with the process, with people, with myself. I won't find the answers to all my questions today or tomorrow, or even in my two years here. But I can try — I can dig a little deeper. And really, that's what I signed up for in the end.



# FJV JOINS ALL-FEMALE EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA



**KATE PIAZZA** BALTIMORE 2013-14

ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, I WAS HEADING TO THE ANNUAL SILENT RETREAT ON THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC RIVER.

Just before leaving, I had submitted my application for a teaching assistantship at SUNY Oswego where I intended to study for my Master's Degree in Chemistry. As we know, the intention of the Silent Retreat is to discern our next steps — how do we use our experience as Jesuit Volunteer to continue to be an advocate for social justice?

If someone had told me at the end of our retreat that I would be volunteering as a conservation activist in my spare time I would have been sure they had the wrong person. But my evenings over the past year have been filled with reading scientific journals in environmental topics, writing personal emails to local philanthropists, and midnight video conferences with some of the most brilliant women in the world. And soon, we will all be boarding a ship together in the name of diversity, inclusion, and climate. This is Homeward Bound.

In 2018, I was selected to be one of ninety-five women in the world to participate in this groundbreaking, global leadership initiative. The goal is to train scientists with the skills needed to advocate for policy that protects and improves the sustainability of our planet. Since joining the mission, I have had the privilege of collaborating with women in STEMM fields from all around the globe. And next November, at the culmination of the program, we will meet in Argentina and set sail for a 21-day Antarctic expedition where the final parts of the program will be

delivered. This historic voyage will be the largest ever, all-female expedition to Antarctica. At sea, we will witness the effects of climate change in real time, and put our new leadership and collaboration skills to the test in the most isolated location on earth.

My participation with Homeward Bound makes me grateful to reflect on my experience as a Jesuit Volunteer. Scientists and activists often focus on the ways humans are influencing climate change and negatively impacting the environment, but what is truly astounding is the way that climate change is impacting our communities as well. As JVs we have a heightened sense of awareness about these social justice issues and I know that my time spent living intentionally allowed me to further cultivate this perspective as a scientist. The evidence no longer supports that the climate crisis is *imminent* — it is happening *now* — and as humanitarians our hearts are pulled to each and every manifestation of it.

Communities around the world are undisputedly disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental disasters. We find ourselves in the same bind over and over, yet again: the actions of the most fortunate are continually at the expense of the least fortunate and most helpless among us. So, as our lives go on and we move further away from the days of scheduled retreats and spirituality nights, it is imperative to discern and realign ourselves with what brought us there in the first place. As global citizens, climate change is one struggle in which we can all make a difference.





If we can root all our actions and relationships in agapic love, we will no longer be working to transform the world into the garden. We will have all transformed, with the world, into the garden. We will have all transformed, with the world, into the Kingdom of God.

MICHAEL O'CONNELL NEW ORLEANS 2018-19



# Redefine what is possible. Consider a gift today.

A donation to JVC allows our dedicated corps of volunteers to commit to agapic love for our human family. Jesuit Volunteers provide vital service to our agency partners. Their work alongside those on the margins is redefining what is possible for our world. We thank you for your generous support.

jesuitvolunteers.org/support-jvc



"...the Ignatian tradition in striving to make wise choices are all lessons and values that help animate the work I perform today...

# CAPTURING THE SERVICE OF JESUIT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

**COLIN CROWELL** AREQUIPA, PERU 1986-89

AS A JESUIT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER IN THE LATE 80s IN AREQUIPA, PERU, I TAUGHT ENGLISH, MATH, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE AT COLEGIO SAN JOSE, A JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL. I also worked at a community soup kitchen in a nearby pueblo joven and volunteered at an orphanage in the center of the city. Pueblos jóvenes (literally "young towns") were communities established on the outskirts of the city through land invasions, populated by Peruvians coming down to Arequipa from the sierra, often to escape difficult economic conditions or violence in the mountains. I lived in one of these pueblos jóvenes with a fellow volunteer from Boston College and was directly exposed to both the economic poverty and the spiritual and cultural richness of the community.

While my experience could often be challenging and draining, I learned a tremendous amount from

my students, the Jesuit community at the school, and the larger community. Working side by side with my Arequipan neighbors helped me to appreciate the struggle of many families to better their lives but also that the hopes and aspirations they had for their kids were little different from families in the U.S.

Upon my return to the States, I switched from volunteer service to public service in government. For over 20 years I worked as an aide on Capitol Hill to Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) on telecommunications and Internet policy issues, a job which availed me of the opportunity to help shape dramatic changes in law and regulation compelled by the advent of digital technologies and the rise of the Internet.

Though my Peruvian experience as a Jesuit International Volunteer is now many years ago, it has never been far from my thoughts. Nor has the experience of seeing God in all things. The experience of teaching high school boys and encouraging them to become men for others, the use of discernment in the Ignatian tradition in striving to make wise choices are all lessons and values that help animate the work I perform today as Vice President of Global Public Policy & Philanthropy at Twitter and in my personal life.

## Jesuits to Sponsor International Volunteers

The National Office of Jesuit Missions has announced the formation of the Jesuit International Volunteer Corps (JIVC). The organization will be involved in the direct recruiting, training, and placement of lay men and women in sites overseas. JIVC is being modeled after the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and embraces the same values of justice, faith, community, and life-style.

The Jesuit International Volunteer Corps will be under the leadership of Ted Dziak, S.J. Father Dziak is a former Peace Corps volunteer and has been a Jesuit since 1975. He currently works at Boston College and is finishing his graduate studies

at the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The new organization will begin operations this summer and will have its offices in Washington, D.C. During the planning year energies will be spent on structuring, financing, establishing procedures and liaisons. JIVC will also seek to collaborate with existing international volunteer programs such as those at Boston College Georgetown. Placement with the Jesuit International Volunteer Corps will be for one or two years, with the possibility of short-term programs during the year or in the summer. Placement will begin in 1985.

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#### Colin Crowell @

@ColinCrowell

VP at @Twitter, leading the Public Policy, Government, and Corporate Philanthropy efforts @policy, @TwitterGov, & @TwitterforGood. Go @BostonCollege, @RedSox.



# THE UNLIKELY MERGING OF TWO WORLDS

**MARYKATE GLENN SACRAMENTO 2017-18** 

MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE OFF-BROADWAY REVIVAL OF DAN BERRIGAN'S PLAY, THE TRIAL OF THE CATONSVILLE NINE, WAS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, A GRACE-FILLED, GOD-AFFIRMED ACCIDENT. I was four months into my transition back to New York City after finishing my JV year in Sacramento, when I was hired as the Assistant Director on the production. I had inadvertently clicked on the posting for the position at a time when I did not intend to seek more directing work. But upon reading the project description — an experimental new adaptation of the nine Catholic activists who burned nearly 400 draft files in 1968 — I impulsively sent an email of interest.

My email was less about my theatrical qualifications, and more about my ties to radical Catholic activism, Jesuit-rooted communities and the world from which the Berrigans came. Within minutes, the director replied. He'd held final interviews for the position that day, but because of my "knowledge of Berrigan" and my "Jesuit background," he wanted to interview me. Twenty-four hours later, he offered me the position, along with another young director who has since become one of my dear friends.

The spring of my JV year was spent in deep discernment, starting with a near certainty that I was going to move into a Catholic Worker House full-time, and ending with the same level of certainty that I had to return to New York to work in theatre. Getting to sit around a rehearsal table and discuss with a room of actors and

artists what the Catholic Worker is and how Catholic Social Teaching grew out of Jesus' ministry, was a mindreeling experience of: "This is your life. You actually get to do this every day." Discussions about Jesus, an anti-institutional activist who risked his safety and ultimately his life to seek justice and dignity for all, is the same model that the nine felt called and compelled to follow at Catonsville. Outside of rehearsal, I was spending more time at St. Joseph's House, which is one of the two original Catholic Worker Houses in the East Village. I would hear stories the workers shared about their friendships with the Berrigans and their own experiences as activists.

The merging of these two worlds was a beautiful and unlikely amalgamation of everything that had become important to me over the last year and a half, and I understand these experiences to be entirely dependent on my time as a Jesuit Volunteer. I firmly believe that I share so deeply about my time in Sacramento as a JV, because it is so utterly formative to who I am as a person and therefore who I am as an artist. I credit the communities I was a part of during my JV year as leading me to the communities that mean so much to me now, The Worker being a prime example. My support people and community in Sacramento modeled what love-filled communities dedicated to justice look like, which in turn has allowed me to seek out these types of spaces in my transition back to New York. My time as a JV also taught me to trust the gentle (and sometimes not so gentle) pull of God when you feel it, even when that means frantically applying to a production of *The* Trial of the Catonsville Nine that you didn't know you wanted at 1 AM on a Tuesday.



# **RUINED FOR LIFE BY JVC?**

Might as well continue the journey!

Many FJVs like Claire Stewart (Houston 2014-15) and Heidi Cerneka (Belize 1987-89) extend their faith-inspired work for social justice as Maryknoll lay missioners.

Claire, who has been teaching art to vulnerable children in São Paulo, says, "Maryknoll Lay Missioners stands for a humility that aims to cross borders, enter hearts and transform the world with hope. This is what I strive for."

Heidi, a Maryknoll lay missioner since 1996, has accompanied incarcerated women in Brazil and Kenya and now serves as an immigration attorney at the U.S.-Mexico border. She says, "I wanted to live my call to mission along with other lay people searching for the same depth and faith commitment while working for a more just world."

If you're still hearing a call to faith-based international service, contact us:

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#### ARRIVALS //

Allana Hayes Walsh (Belize City 2009-11) and Justin Walsh welcomed their first child into their hearts on January 24, 2019. Audrey has brought so much joy and love into the home! \$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{B}\$

Ellen Fisher (Derby) (Chuuk, Micronesia 2006-08), husband Mike and big sister Mary, age 3, welcomed Leo Michael in September 2018. ❖ ♀

#### REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS //

Mary Florence Sullivan, Megan Helbling, Kraig Cook,
Bianca Paraguya and Christine Burke (Brooklyn 2011-12)
gathered in Washington DC to say farewell as Kraig
departs for an assignment as a Foreign Service Officer
in Kraków, Poland. ♣ L

Barbara Silva (Dar es Salaam 2014-16), Olivia Traina (Dar es Salaam 2016-18), Rob Callus (Dar es Salaam 2015-17), and Tessa Bloechl (Dodoma 2016-18) gathered with staff and students from Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, during a recent exchange trip between the school and BC High. The four FJVs and the two staff members, Sister Columba and Daudi Kalimi, held a brunch hosted at Barbara's home in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Casa Pedro Arrupe of San Jose 2017-18 (Kevin Martin, Abigail Kilcullen, Kimmy Schlafly, Molly Roach, Preston Reisig, Katie DeFusco, and Chad Baron) reunited in Philadelphia for the first time altogether since their JV year ended.

Brendan Sculley (New Orleans 2008-09), Michael O'Connell (New Orleans 2018-19), Katey Lantto (New Orleans 2017-18), Dan Thelen (New Orleans 2007-08), Julie Connelly (New Orleans 2011-12; In-City Coordinator for New Orleans), and Emily (Bussen) Wein (New Orleans 2004-05) all gathered for Alisa Bright's (New Orleans 2006-07) wedding, spanning seven generations of FJVs who did their year of service at the Harry Thompson Center in New Orleans.

Julie Dowd, Megan (Shiflet) Carnell, Linda (Neilan) Dus and Emily (Swart) Barisonek (San Francisco 1994-95) have had many a girls' weekend since their days in the Lower Haight, but for the first time ever last June, the four gathered with their spouses and 10 children for a weekend of fun in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Casa Dorothy Kazel of Los Angeles reunited in New York
City last spring to reminisce about their JV year and
catch up on life's more current events. ❖ H

The Portland, Maine 2016-17 community, including Sarah Marr, Michaila Czarnik, Linnea Brandt, Kaylyn Shiira-Armstrong, and Stephanie Johnson gathered for Sarah's wedding in October 2018 in Spokane, Washington. They will be gathering again in October 2019 for Linnea's wedding in New York. ❖ M

#### COMMITMENTS //

A Midwest crew met up on the east coast this summer when Meghan Deering and Sarah Kirschbaum (Kansas City 2013-14) flew out to celebrate the wedding of their fellow housemate Lindsay Kramer Custer.

Sarah Neitz (Albuquerque 2012-13, Detroit 2013-14)
married Sam Fisher on March 9, 2019, in Gettysburg,
Pennsylvania, surrounded by family and FJVs. ♥ F

Patrick Humpal (Santiago 2015-17) and Natalia Arévalo tied the knot in May in the parish were Patrick lived as a JV in Santiago, Chile, and where the couple first met.

Patrick Decker (Belize 2013-15) and Bobby Tonnesen (Chicago 2016-17) became engaged on August 6, 2018, while on a canoe trip in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. The two first met while attending Mount St. Mary's University. ❖ I

Krista Zabor, Jess Gibson, Noah Oliver, PJ Mahoney, and Jen McCann (Camden 2005-2006) and Matt Black (Philadelphia 2005-2006) came from California, Louisiana, Oregon and Rhode Island for a wonderful reunion in Baltimore in celebration of Victoria Rentz's (Camden 2005-2006) marriage to John Damond on July 28, 2018.

Marynoelyn Jacob (Bridgeport 2011-12; Sacramento 2012-13) and Glenn Oviatt (Phoenix 2011-2012; JVC Staff 2012-15) officially became the Jacob-Oviatts in San Jose, California, on October 6, 2018. They celebrated with dolmades, dogs, and dancing among the trees with their friends, family and FJVs on October 7 in Saratoga, California.

Shawn Wehan (Mobile 2007-08) married Lindsey Burris on the beach in Las Gaviotas, Mexico. Stay tuned for little ones on the way. ❖ N

#### WORK AND LIFE //

Maura Walsh-O'Brien (San Francisco 1981-82) and husband AJ O'Brien visited their daughter, current JV Rose O'Brien (Tucson 2018-19), and her JV housemates. They enjoyed dinner prepared by Rose's co-workers at Pio Decimo Center, saw Gates Pass at sunset, and prayed for justice at the US-Mexico border. ❖ R

Janelle Peregoy (Los Angeles 2004-05; JVC Staff 2009-13) recently assumed a new role at the Diocese of San Diego as the Associate Director for Separated and Divorced Ministry. She aims to help build more inclusive ministries for all Catholics. Janelle and her husband, Richard, are expecting their second son in May 2019. \$\infty\$ D

Molly (Weise) Kalafut (New Orleans 1986-87) and her husband Mike Kalafut have been married for 28 years. And they couldn't be prouder of the three children they have in college. Molly works in the field of public mental health as an LPC, and loves learning to play guitar, reading, RVing/travel, volunteering with Special Olympics, and gardening.

Karina Smyth (Albuquerque 2014-15) and Kelsey Gibbs (Kansas City 2014-15) graduated in May 2019 from California State University, Monterey Bay with their Masters of Social Work and Pupil Personnel Services Credentials. 

★ K

Samii Hartman (Raleigh 2010-11) has been working at TOMS shoe company since July 2018, and is responsible for planning and going on Giving Trips around the world. ❖ ○

Adam Whalen (Baltimore 2015-16) will be attending the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in the fall of 2019 for his Masters of Public Health. Inspired in part by his JV year, he will be studying epidemiology, with a focus on social epidemiology and the social determinants of health. & c

Frances Vandal (Tacoma 1977-78) went into retirement on August 31, 2018 from a company in the Los Angeles region, is moving to Whidbey Island, Washington in 2019, and is looking to reconnect with FJVs in Seattle/ Tacoma area.

Stephen Dypiangco (Camden 2002-03) launched
Dadventures, a company helping to connect parents
to great local experiences in Los Angeles, with plans
to expand to other cities this year. \$\mathcal{G}\$ J

**Deanna Johnson (Camden 2006-07)** recently launched a business, Kansas City Like a Local, that provides personalized itineraries for visitors to the city or for people looking to explore their hometown with fresh eyes. Each itinerary recommends handpicked sights, activities, food, and drinks.

Adrian Laudani (Atlanta 2018-19) just completed her JV year, and will be working as a Program Coordinator at Spring Hill College's Italy Center in Bologna, Italy, helping to coordinate service and social justice events for students studying abroad.

Kathleen McNally Durkin (Baltimore 1987-88) was promoted to CEO of The Arc Baltimore, one of the nation's largest providers of support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

After 20 years on the east coast, Cathy Buescher (Portland, Maine 1993-94; Jersey City 1994-95) moved to Chicago in 2013 to pursue a doctorate in theology at Loyola University Chicago. In 2016, she married Tom Kobilarcik, an engineering physicist at Fermilab National Accelerator Lab. They currently reside in Palatine, Illinois, where Cathy divides her time between writing her dissertation on the role of silence and forgiveness in inter- and intra-religious dialogue, and tending the grapes, strawberries, herbs, vegetables, and flowers that grace their backyard.

Julia Erdlen (Detroit 2018-19) began coursework for her MDiv at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry.

Timothy Stockert (Camden 1989-91; JVC Staff 1991-94) permanently moved to Singapore in January with his husband for work. Timothy will be building out an advertising technology solution for 16 countries in Southeastern Asia.

Margaret Lane (Baltimore 1982-84) enjoyed gathering with other FJVs in the San Francisco Bay Area to welcome her fellow LMU graduate and current JVC president Tom Chabolla to the west coast.

Callie Kozlak (Raleigh 2004-05) received a political appointment as Associate Superintendent of Policy and Government Relations at the Arizona Department of Education in Phoenix. ❖ G

Michael O'Neill (South Dakota 2013-14) graduated from the University of Notre Dame with his Master of Divinity on May 18, 2019. He is returning to Boston to begin a CPE residency with Brigham and Women's Hospital starting in September.

Carolina Dominguez (Belize City 2013-15), Hannah Jones (Belize City 2014-16), Andrew Carrell (Detroit 2009-10; JVC Staff 2010-13), Greg Hamilton (Washington, DC 2016-17), and Maddie Jonagan (Managua 2013-15) are all graduating from their Masters Degree Progam in Social Work (Greg from Social Justice) from the MAGIS Program at Loyola University Chicago.

**Brigid Farrell Dunn (Camden 1986-87)** has been working as a chaplain since 2009 and became Board Certified in 2015. She works at SUNY Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse, New York, and resides in Fayettevile with her husband and two teenage daughters. She gets together with **Beth Scanlon (Webster 1978-80; JVC Staff)** as often as possible.

**Kate Nowakowski (Kansas City 2013-14)** graduated from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine with her Doctor of Medicine in May 2019.

Cynthia Chovan-Dalton (Boston 1990-91; Brooklyn 1991-92) has returned to her roots in volunteer programs, and now works for New York Cares, New York City's largest volunteer organization, as Director of Development.

Courtney Romans (Nashville 2017-18) is currently in graduate school at Fordham Graduate School of Social Service pursuing a Masters in Social Work. She was inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society during the spring of 2019, for high marks in her coursework.

Erin O'Brien Garcia (Chicago 1999-00; JVC Staff 2000-03) recently obtained her Clinical Social Work license after working with adults with chronic mental health problems for more than eight years. Erin continues to live as a proud South Philadelphian with her husband Jose and daughter Susie, age 4.5. In 2018, Erin was elected by her neighbors to be a Democratic City Committeeperson. As it is a big anniversary year, Erin would love to reconnect with fellow FJVs of the Midwest from the turn of the millennium!



**Brad Mills (Bolivia and Peru 2006-08)** recently moved to Bogotá, Colombia, to begin three years of theology studies, the final phase of formation before ordination as a Jesuit priest. He's excited to be back living in Latin America again.

**Megan Gaskin (Sacramento 2015-16)** started a new job as a Senior Assistant in the Alumni Affairs Department at Hofstra University.

#### MEDIA //

Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello's (Kansas City 1995-96) new book *Modern Bonds: Redefining Community in Early Twentieth-Century St. Paul*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in June 2018. The book, inspired and shaped by her JVC experience is an interdisciplinary look at how the concept of community was reshaped a century ago and the critical implications of that reshaping for our own moment, particularly related to issues of racial and economic justice. She's had a wonderful time speaking about the book with activists, academics and the general public. She is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Salem State University.

Greg Mellor (Sacramento 2004-05) was published online by America Media in early March. His article, titled "The wisdom of 'The Work': self-discovery inside a prison's walls," reflects on his JV year as a prison chaplain at New Folsom Prison and the 2017 documentary, "The Work," which features men's groups at New Folsom Prison. This summer, after 10 years of working in Jesuit college and high school campus ministry, Greg will return to Sacramento to pursue prison work. ♣ A

Adam Plantinga (Houston 1995-96) is a sergeant on the San Francisco Police Department. Adam's second nonfiction book on law enforcement, *Police Craft*, came out in December. \$\infty\$ P





















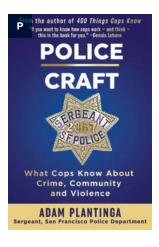
















#### IN MEMORIAM //

**Carol (Laura) Quigley, IHM,** a member of JVC Midwest's board of directors from 1995 to 2001, died at the age of 78. As a religious woman, she was committed to many works over the years and we pray that she rests in peace, knowing that she made a lasting impact on the JVC community and our volunteers.

\* Dozens of former Cleveland Jesuit Volunteers and friends are mourning the death of Tom Shea. His life long legacy as a peacemaker and activist will be forever remembered, and for penning the early JVC motto: *Ruined for Life*.

#### **DENISE ROWLAND**

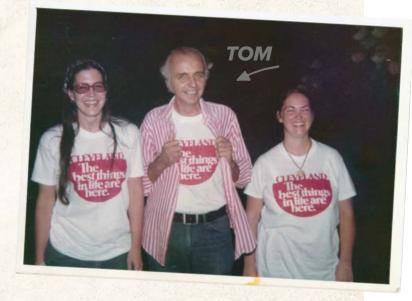
CLEVELAND 1975-77; CLEVELAND SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER 1986-92

#### Rest in Peace, Dear Friend

**LIBBY AVITABILE JVC MIDWEST 1975-77** 

1975, I was getting ready to graduate college with a teaching degree, but there was a hiring freeze at the time. My family received the Jesuit magazine and I saw an article about the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, which was in its infancy in the eastern part of the U.S. I applied and was accepted to the fledgling JVC Midwest. For this Brooklyn girl who had not gone away to college, it was a bit scary and a culture shock to leave the big city for a small town in Ohio.

At the airport, a tall, lanky man picked me up. That man was Tom Shea, who was a Jesuit at the time. As our JVC director (Our Fearless Leader), he was always positive and encouraging with a big smile and a great laugh. We were a small group in the Midwest. It was the second year and Tom would say we were expanding about 10 miles each year. The rate of expansion suited Tom, who valued having personal relationships with the volunteers. He led by example and introduced many of us to social justice and peace issues. He would also come out to my placement site in Avon. While there, he would say mass at the home for special needs children, Our Lady of the Wayside.



Over his lifetime, he was involved in promoting peace issues, whether in Traverse City with the Michigan Peace Team or later on with his wife Darylene in the Seattle area with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

We kept in touch for many years. He appreciated getting updates on my family and I enjoyed hearing about his gardening and his continued dedication to social action. He was committed and steadfast in his pursuit of peace and social justice. May he ever be remembered for his smile and dedication.

"We will remember his peaceful and submersive presence. Presente!

**GROUND ZERO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION** 





As the Director of Programs, Laura Strubeck (Syracuse 2008-09; San Diego 2009-10) is responsible for providing strategic and operational oversight for JVC's formation and service program.

#### HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT JVC?

My first exposure to JVC was in high school. I went to Scranton Prep in Pennsylvania and one of my absolute favorite teachers is a former Jesuit Volunteer. She spoke about her experience serving in Portland quite a bit. It planted that seed early on for me. When I continued my education at University of Scranton, I felt like many of my mentors happened to be FJVs too. The main opportunity that really influenced me strongly was the International Service Program at the University of Scranton. My notion of service shifted after that experience serving in Mexico. I found that it was less about doing and more about being in relationship with others. It seemed like a natural progression for me to do JVC after graduation.



Laura (third from the right) with her Syracuse JV community.

## WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT ROLE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION?

I support Jesuit Volunteers during their year or two of commitment to our program and formation as leaders. My job is facilitating agency partnerships and retreats along with our wonderful program staff and In-City Coordinators.

## WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY FROM THE WORK YOU ARE DOING AT JVC?

Working directly with our volunteers is the most rewarding for me. I feel so privileged to accompany them on their own journey throughout the year(s). I'm learning that their time as JVs is similar to what I experienced, and I am grateful that this transformation is still happening. I am always reminded of this during area visits and certainly, while being present with them on retreats. DisOrientation was so significant for me last year. We invited a number of volunteers to share reflections on one of the four values and in listening to their stories, witnessing the transformation and connection first hand — I realized that I am exactly where I need to be.

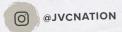
#### WHAT MAKES JVC RETREATS SO FULFILLING?

I think it's so Ignatian of us at JVC to say: you can't necessarily be working in this field or providing any type of service without having a space to process it. A space where you can take yourself out of it for a few days. A place where you can discern, pray and process. To have those designated three to four days where you can be present with God and unpack all your feelings and experiences. It is so important to me to create an environment that is true to our values but also welcoming and inclusive for volunteers wherever they are with God. I spend a lot of time thinking about creating a space where any volunteer can come and feel some sort of connection or presence regardless of their religious background.

#### WHAT DO YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT JVC?

I think there is an expectation on our recent college graduates to rush through things after college without really knowing their true selves or what gives them a sense of joy or passion. In my own experience, JVC played a critical role in helping me determine my place in the world — my purpose. The two years I served with JVC really opened my eyes. And once you feel that, you cannot ever not feel it, not see it, not experience it. JVC takes you on this path that you're not ready for and influences you in ways that you didn't think it would.

# Every dollar given makes a difference in the lives of Jesuit Volunteers, agency partners, and those they serve.



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# READ OUR STORIES ONLINE

Get the inside scoop on what our former Jesuit Volunteers have been up to since their term of service. Head to **jesuitvolunteers.org/alumni-features** where you'll find stories from just a few of the over 10,000 FJVs, transformed by their JVC experience, committed to a life of putting their faith into action.

#### Cover Image

JVs Hannah Petersen and Faith Kersey-Bronec walk in the Semana Santa procession, an important part of the Easter celebration in Peru. These processions walk the stations of the cross in local neighborhoods, stopping at different houses which have been designated as stations of the cross. There, families read a prayer and ask for a blessing of their home. (photo taken by student)

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