

A Note from the Director...

God’s peace be with you! I write this article at the close of a few days off which coincided with the papal visit giving me the opportunity to watch the Pope’s Masses and various meetings. I was very impressed with the coverage provided by the major networks, especially FOX News. It was of a very high caliber and extremely dignified.

While surfing the channels curious as to coverage by other networks I happened upon EWTN and caught their comments regarding the Mass at Nationals Stadium in Washington. The commentators on EWTN summarized the Mass by referring to it as a “mish-mash,” and “liturgical stew” with “Amazon” music while the other networks praised the “parish like atmosphere” of that particular liturgy. No other network would ever have said that about a Catholic Mass or any other worship service. The EWTN commentator went on to say that he knew exactly how the Pope was thinking and that the Pope was not pleased with this liturgy and someone will be hearing about this following the Mass. What audacity and how divisive! This Mass obviously did not meet the standards set forth by EWTN. Having appreciated the universality of that particular liturgy, I guess I am out of the fold.

And then at St. Patrick’s Cathedral I heard Pope Benedict say to all of us: “Where the Church seems legalistic and institutional to many people, our most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God’s love.”

My sisters and brothers of Voluntas Dei, we as consecrated seculars have our work cut out for us not only in the secular world but also within the Church. It is our responsibility “to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God’s love.” And this is done by the way we live our consecration today.

Our role is not to criticize but to build up the people of God pointing to the love of God exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ – filling people’s lives with peace and hope. Let us be women and men of prayer so that our ministry in the Church will be positive and bring others to a deeper appreciation and awareness of God in our midst.

See you in August.

Fr. George F. Hazler

August Retreat/Congress. . .

Our guest speaker for the August Congress will be Dr. Greg L. Finch, who, for more than a decade, has developed transdisciplinary affiliations in the arts, spirituality, medicine and education. These affiliations generate nexus partnerships that guide the work of his firm, Wild Geese Among Us. Greg concurrently serves as Associate for Collaborative Projects at the Washington National Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage in Washington DC.

Greg has served in a range of health, spiritual life and education roles in areas of transformational education, medical education, aesthetics and spiritual life and healthcare consultancy in both healthcare and ecclesial settings. He serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University School of Medicine as well as adjunct faculty at Wesley Theological Seminary and The Princeton Theological Seminary Center for Continuing Education. Greg is a consultant for the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and serves on the Editorial Review Board of their new journal, *Arts & Health: An International Journal of Research, Policy and Practice*.

Greg holds a doctorate in medicine, spirituality and aesthetics along with graduate degrees with honors in divinity, spirituality and the arts, spirituality and medicine, arts management and architecture— from Princeton Theological Seminary, Wesley Theological Seminary, The American University, and Texas A&M University and was an Associate Fellow with Dr. Christina Puchalski at the George Washington Institute for Spirituality and Health (GWish). He is a national speaker and conference and retreat leader in aesthetics, spiritual life, worship, creative arts and healthcare.

The Art of Spiritual Leadership

Many of us have lost touch with the great joy of color, sound, movement so available throughout our every day lives... and with that loss, we miss some of the wellness-producing agents designed into our bodies. We are going to experience hands-on exploration and gentle reflection to guide our times of learning. We will reacquire

ourselves with the renewing sights, smells, touch, and movement of wellness. Further, we will extend that to the corporate activity of the church in liturgy and life as we seek to understand the role of creativity in enhancing wellness. This all serves a great end— the bringing of the kingdom of God among us. We become spiritually well to make well the world. We will build on the *Voluntas Dei* mission to be healing peacemakers in the midst of the world.

From the spiritual impulse that inaugurates wellness to the sensory resources and creative collaborations that sustain it, we seek to invite and entertain physical and spiritual wellness. This wellness enlivens and empowers our ability to lead. Through sight, sound, touch, movement, and memory we will awaken and embrace renewing resources that flow within us and are readily available throughout our lives. And we will talk about what it means to be leaders who are whole. We will approach each aspect with gentleness and a respect for our own journey.

Together we will cultivate new patterns for spiritual renewal that reacquire us with spiritual and physical wellness, acquaintances that were once so familiar to us as children. We will enter into conversations about healing and wellness and we will discover clues that have been provided for us in the narratives of scripture. We will explore our own lives for places of growth and renewal. We will experience simple tools for renewing spiritual health in our lives. We are all leaders; the question remains, how will we lead?



RETREAT AND CONGRESS INFORMATION

Please direct any questions regarding the Retreat and/or Congress to Elaine Basile at 732-571-3372 or domelainebasile@comcast.net

You will find a reservation form at the end of this newsletter.

Date: August 5 through August 9, 2008
Beginning at 12:30 pm with lunch on Tuesday, August 5th, and ending with lunch on Saturday, August 9th.

Place: Daylesford Abbey 220 South Valley Road Paoli, PA 19301	Accommodations:	Rooms w/meals for couples:	\$520
		Single rooms w/meals:	\$360
		Meals at Abbey (for those staying at hotel):	\$160/person

To make reservations at the Abbey, please contact Elaine Basile. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Alternate accommodations are available at: Valley Forge Suites/Embassy Suites
888 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA 19087

Price per night: \$124.20 (including tax and hot buffet breakfast)

There is shuttle service at the hotel from Monday to Friday, first-come, first-served basis.

To make reservations at the hotel, please call: (610) 647-6700 and mention the *Voluntas Dei* Conference to receive the special rate of \$124.20.

CONGRESS ONLY INFORMATION

Date: August 7 through August 9, 2008
Beginning at 1:00 pm Thursday, August 7th, and ending after lunch on Saturday, August 9th.

Place: Daylesford Abbey 220 South Valley Road Paoli, PA 19301	Accommodations	Rooms w/meals for couples:	\$260
		Single rooms w/meals:	\$185
		Meals at Abbey (for those staying at hotel):	\$ 80/person

To make reservations at the Abbey, please contact Elaine Basile. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Alternate accommodations are available at: Valley Forge Suites/Embassy Suites
888 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA 19087

Price per night: \$124.20 (including tax and hot buffet breakfast)

There is shuttle service at the hotel from Monday to Friday, first-come, first-served basis.

To make reservations at the hotel, please call: (610) 647-6700 and mention the *Voluntas Dei* Conference to receive the special rate of \$124.20.



Reflections. . .

This is a beautiful image created by Greg Kremer based on his study of the vows he is preparing to make at the August Congress.



My Date with Mother Teresa of Calcutta Fr. Damian Colicchio

It was an April morning in 1978. I was Rector of St. Francis Prep Seminary in Newton, New Jersey. About 9:30 a.m., two or three brothers came to my office and asked, to my surprise, if I would call Mother Teresa and invite her to speak to our community. They had the number to the Harlem convent. Knowing such requests are not arranged in such a simple manner, I doubted if this were possible. But the brothers begged and pleaded that I at least try. So I did.

I dialed the number, identified myself and was told to hold. Within seconds, Mother Teresa was talking and I was tongue-tied. I blurted out asking if she would consider coming to talk to our students and friars and her answer was instant, "Of Course!" Thinking I had to go through some elaborate system, I answered, "When, Mother?"

"Today!" pick me up at 2:30." Click. Holy Moses! I just made a date with Mother Teresa!

I immediately called the community together, declared an end to all classes and planned for every possible contingency. I warned everyone that when I returned with Mother Teresa every spec of dust had better be gone. After we invited the Salesians, religious sisters and Brothers, and local clergy, Brother Pat Magee and I began our drive to Harlem.

Upon our arrival we were told to sit outside the chapel. There were some 20 or so Indian priests lined up to see Mother. Since the Sisters had no doors in the house, just beaded drapes, we could hear Mother Teresa scolding each one as they requested that she intervene for them to stay in the United States. "Go back to India where you are needed!" As she sternly rebuked each one, I began to dread coming face to face with my "date."

We waited about two hours. Brother Pat and I were the only ones left. Mother Teresa came bouncing in, we introduced ourselves and her first question was, "How many will be there?" I stammered, "About 100."

"All right – you don't mind if all seven sisters and I come?"

"Not at all."

"They will follow in a van – I will come with you."

Our car was old, no shocks. The New York streets were full of potholes. We placed Mother Teresa in the front seat between the two of us. It was an old, old car. Just

then the sisters smashed the van into the wall. Mother told them gently, "Leave it and get in the back." Seven sisters piled in the back of our car in three layers, laughing, singing, giggling while Mother Teresa smiled away. Off we went and I prayed quietly that no policeman would stop us (ten in a circus-like car) as we journeyed, hitting every pothole between Harlem and Newton.

We arrived at the seminary about 6 p.m. Thinking they might be hungry I asked Mother if she and the Sisters would like to eat. "That would be nice." Contingency one was ready. They ate in the friars' dining room. The food was prepared by Brother Hilary and everyone was asked to leave the Sisters in peace. I then checked the auditorium. It was packed to the gym beams with about 800 people. They came from Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and all parts of New Jersey. The word had spread rapidly. I went back to the dining room, shaking my head in disbelief.

As the sisters exited the dining room I led them to the gym. When Mother Teresa entered and saw the crowd she turned to me and said, "Father, you are such a liar!" I thought for sure I had been sentenced to hell. Then Mother smiled. A sigh of relief could be heard as I exhaled.



"Father, you are such a liar!"

Mother Teresa's talk was inspiring. She told us how she was given the courage to work with the "poorest of the poor." She went on to say that the United States was economically rich but spiritually poor. And finally she spoke of St. Francis of Assisi as her inspiration. It was because of St. Francis that she re-directed her life to

serve and live with the poor and the dying. When she finished her talk everyone made a mad dash to take a photo with Mother, or get her autograph.

I tried to intervene but her firm voice told me to leave them alone. She said she made a deal with God. "One soul out of purgatory for every photo taken of me or for each time I sign my name." We waited and waited and waited. It was now almost 10:30 p.m. I suggested that we end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Her eyes beamed. "You are the first priest to suggest that – yes! absolutely."



"One Soul Out of Purgatory"

Our large chapel was filled from wall to wall. No one had left. Our students and visitors sang with one glorious voice. When it was over she came to me and I could see that I was in her good graces. It was 11 p.m. and time for our next contingency.

"Father, please have the brothers drive the sisters home." And, according to the arrangements we made for our "date," I was to drive Mother Teresa to visit a paralyzed woman who lived in Jersey City. We arrived at the woman's home after midnight. Her house was easy to find because all of the lights were on and hundreds of people surrounded the building.

As we left the seminary, Father Gene Romano jumped in the car to keep us company. Mother Teresa explained that this paraplegic woman offered her suffering for her. Every time Mother Teresa visited the United States she paid her a visit. When we arrived, Mother asked Father Romano and me to come meet the woman, bless her and then go home. She said the woman's husband would drive her back to Harlem. Like two little altar boys we did as we were told. I thanked her and invited her to come back for a second "date." Her response was, "I never go to a place a second time."

My notes and transcript of her talk were printed in a small magazine, but in 1999 Flood Floyd destroyed the only copy I had. However, my "date" with Mother Teresa has stayed in my memory as if it happened yesterday. It was one of the Lord's greatest blessings in my lifetime.



The Wolves in Our Lives

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, forgiveness, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



FOCUS. . .

Pam and Ernie Chaplin

We professed our final vows on September 20, 1986 in front of 350 of our closest friends and family! I am an only child whose mother's name is Mary and father's name is Joseph, and yes, my dad was a carpenter! Ernie is the youngest of 3 boys, who began his business career at the tender age of 7 as a top-notch paperboy. We grew up in Milford, MA approximately one mile from each other, but did not know each other until mutual friends introduced us after college.

Central to our life together is our family and our faith. Our family consists of our sons, Stephen (20), a 3rd year student at Berklee College of Music majoring in Jazz piano performance and Music Business, and Gregory (17), a double bass player who will perform with the Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensembles at the 50th Grammy Awards. Our daughter, Carolyn (12) is a 7th grader who loves musical theater, soccer and softball, and our dog, Benson is a soft-coated Irish Wheaten Terrier, who thinks he is human!

Ernie and I have grown up in church and have always been involved in various capacities. Ernie was involved and lived in the Newman Center in college and I worked in my parish rectory throughout high school and nursing school. Collectively, we have worked in youth ministry, pastoral planning, Confirmation preparation, various formation and liturgical ministries.

Currently, Ernie is the VP of Sales and Marketing for a company that supplies the pharmaceutical industry with printed components and I am the ministry coordinator at Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale, working daily with Fr. Bill Konicki. My work at Sacred Heart has resulted in creating and implementing a new parish structure that supports parish life in the absence of a full-time pastor as well as life-long, whole community catechesis. The success of this structure is dependant on the new roles, relationships and dynamics that are emerging, especially the partnership between clergy and laity.

As we experience our rapidly changing church, Ernie and I are aware that we must learn to be church in a different way. Our journey to Voluntas Dei has been by invitation and we have felt very welcomed by the Institute's members. We are amazed by the simplicity of the Institute's spirituality, yet how difficult it is to truly live.

Reflecting on the presentation, "Mary in our lives," from the November meeting, Ernie was particularly moved by the calm "belief in purpose and promise" that Mary carried with her all of her life. From such a young age through adulthood, the beauty of Mary in our lives that connects with Voluntas Dei is the caring "purpose and promise" that Voluntas brings to all of us by walking the Gospel in deliberate steps that lead us to greater faith in each other.

Our desire is to live our marriage vows in a way that is pleasing to God and to each other and pass on our faith and values to our children. It is our hope and prayer that Voluntas Dei is that community that will support us on our journey.

Pam & Ernie



**UPDATES FROM
THE FORMATION
TEAM**

The Formation Team continues to work hard to deal with the important questions and concerns that will strengthen our formation programs and national gatherings. I was happy at the March meeting to share with the entire membership our formation document and the process in which we are engaged to make sure that this is a living document that will serve as material for ongoing conversation among the entire USA district in formation.

There are several important items that I want to bring to your attention in preparation for our August gathering:

**FOR THOSE READY TO MOVE TO THE NEXT STEP
OF FORMATION:**

**Please make sure that you have your application
and all necessary documents to George Hazler by
JULY 1.**

Team facilitators should send your letters of support for candidates in your team who are applying to me by JULY 1.

**FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RENEW
VOWS/COMMITMENTS AT THE AUGUST
CONGRESS:**

*Please send your letter of intent to George Hazler
by JULY 1.*

**SPECIAL MEETINGS WITH AFFILIATES AND
TEAM FACILITATORS**

The Formation Team has scheduled brief meetings for the affiliates and team facilitators at the August Congress. The following is the schedule:

Thursday, August 7, 4:15 PM-4:45 PM - Team Facilitators.

Please prepare a one-page summary of the format of your team meetings. Highlight things that we might include as "best practices" that can be shared with the entire membership. There will also be an opportunity for you to share any concerns or suggestions you might have.

Thursday, August 7, 4:50 PM-5:30 PM - Affiliates

This will be a listening session. Please bring a one-page reflection of your experience of being an affiliate and your suggestions/proposals on how we can strengthen our affiliate program.

I look forward to being with all of you in August. Until then let us continue to pray for each other and to meet each day in the Eucharist.

Peace & Blessings,
Tony Ciorra



In order to keep the
address list updated
with any changes,
please send any
corrections,
additions or
deletions to Eleanor
Suroweic at
robte1@comcast.net
prior to each
national meeting.

News From Our Members. . .

Dear Friends,

Following the meeting in March, I was privileged to travel to Trinidad and meet with the team there. Jack and I have been appointed to be the Team Animators and so we will make the effort to meet with the Team every other month.

The team in Trinidad is alive and active and inspiring. We focused this month's meeting on what it means "To Be". Many of the members are familiar with Opus Dei as they have very good friends who are members. They are very aware of the difference in the spiritualities, Opus Dei's spirituality is "To Do", Voluntas Dei's is "To Be". They fully embraced the concept of Being for Christ in all parts of life, bringing Him into every situation. The discussion moved into living in the Present Moment, taking the past and learning from that, but not carrying it with us so that we miss the moments that are happening. The meeting was great, all the members were enthused and hoping beyond hope to be able to come to the meeting in August. The meeting closed with a great sing-a-long and it was suggested that they bring their musical instruments to the August meeting so the songs could go on!

The Jersey Shore team is kind enough to host a garage sale to raise money to cover part of the cost of the retreat for the members of Trinidad Team when they come in August. That will take place May 17th in Little Silver, NJ. Please say a prayer for the success of that sale. Jersey Shore team will also house the members of the Trinidad Team when they arrive. It is a wonderful gift for all...we are the Voluntas Dei Family reaching to all parts of the world. Praise God!

Skip & Mary Buckman

Dear and Respected Rev. Father,

Hearty Greetings from the Institute Voluntas Dei, India Region!

With immense joy and profound gratitude to the Almighty God and to the Blessed Mother, I together with Voluntas Dei family, most cordially invite you to thank and glorify God and to grade the occasion with your prayers with the Voluntas Dei family and especially with our beloved Deacons:

Eugene Britto
Shaiju Dassayyan
Victor V. Everystus
Martin Muttickal
Johnny Puthenveettil

On the gracious occasion of their Ordination to Ministerial Priesthood to be conferred by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. M. Soosa Pakiam, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Trivandrum at 1530 hrs. on Thursday, the 27th March 2008 at St. Joseph's Metropolitan Cathedral, Palayam, Trivandrum. Kindly bless this occasion with your kind prayers.

With love and prayers,
Fr. Joseph Thannikot, IV Dei
Regional Director

As of June 15 Tim Sullivan's address will be:
160 Hinesburg Road, S. Burlington, VT
05403 Telephone: 802-318-5192.

Mark Your Calendars. . .

**The November Gathering
will take place on
November 7 & 8, 2008, at
the Newark Airport
Marriott.**

**2009 National Meetings
are:**

**March 6 & 7
August 6, 7 & 8
November 6 & 7**

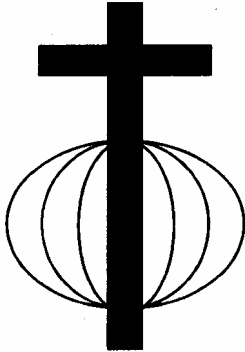
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

&

HAPPY SUMMER



VOLUNTAS DEI SUMMER RETREAT 2008



August 5 to August 7, 2008
Daylesford Abbey
220 South Valley Road
Paoli, PA 19301

An opportunity for enrichment and reflection on Voluntas Dei Spirituality preceding the IVD Summer Congress. Conferences will be given by Fr. John Campoli.

- Members living abroad or in distant USA places, and those members moving to the next stage of formation are encouraged to attend.
- All other Voluntas Dei members are welcome.

Abbey accommodations: The following prices are for the Retreat AND the Congress; beginning with lunch on Tuesday, August 5 and ending with lunch, Saturday, August 9.

Room with meals for couples	\$520	Four nights
Single room with meals	\$360	Four nights
Meals only	\$160	Four days (For those staying at hotel)

Reservations for the Abbey will be on a first come-first served basis. For information on alternative accommodation and the retreat schedule, please see reverse side of flyer.

For further information contact: Carol and Joel Livingston, 908-439-9704, jrlivin@patmedia.net

PLEASE PRINT INFO and send before July 15 with a check made out to "Elaine Basile" to:
Mrs. Elaine Basile, 11 Central Road, Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750, Tel. 732-571-3372

Name:	Telephone:
Street:	Cell:
City:	Email:
State:	Zip:

Please circle preference:		Four Nights	Four Days
Abbey – Double Room w/ meals	\$520		Abbey – Meals only \$160
Abbey - Single Room w/meals	\$360		(For those staying at hotel)