



May Our Community Continue to Grow Towards Goodness



By Caroline Kirk | 2021 - 2022 Volunteer | A graduate of University of Virginia

I go by “Ms. Caroline” at school, and I get the sense that my title is helping me to develop community in ways I could not have imagined.

The first week that Mr. Mario, my fellow Bon Secours Volunteer, and I started serving at Cristo Rey Richmond High School, there was a conversation about whether we would be able to go by our first names or had to go by our last. From the moment that I walked into the school and went to introduce myself to a student, I felt the need to just say, “Hi, I am Caroline.” Of course, we would do whatever the school wanted, but I felt convicted that if I am here to be present, build relationships, and create community, then being as casual as possible would be key.

Yes, I am a volunteer. No, Cristo Rey does not pay me. Yes, I live with five other people. No, I don't have my own car. Yes, I am riding the school bus home today with you.

These are some of the things I find myself saying over and over again to students on any given day. Students who have already become friends, students who show me more love than I can fathom, students who share their stories with me, students who come from different backgrounds than my context, but with whom I'm giving and receiving support and acceptance. Though there is no way of knowing for sure, I have a sense that the small decision to go by “Ms. Caroline” broke down a barrier from the beginning that has allowed all of these questions and so many conversations to flourish quickly.

For me, community has been something to constantly strive for. Before I knew it would be one of the pillars of this BSVM year, my personal working definition of community has always included support and acceptance,

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Editor's Perch



By Emily Thrush | B SVM Site Leader

In a year of living intentionally with others and committing to giving and receiving service, healing, and compassion, there are countless holy moments that Ministry Volunteers find themselves experiencing “in places many people don’t deem to be sacred.” These holy moments could occur on a chaotic high school bus ride, or in a quiet clinical setting trying to entertain children waiting for their parents to complete their medical appointment. A holy moment could catch you off guard in the midst of wrestling with insecurities and biases, and it could occur in joyful expressions of art, music, and creativity.

This issue of *The Companion* marks another new year of service and ministry for B SVM. Highlighting a faithful ministry partnership for more than a decade, Sr. Delia Dowling, SSND shares a reflection on the mutual blessing and gift that Ministry Volunteers and Sisters Academy of Baltimore have been to each other. One of the early Ministry Volunteers became staff at the middle school and served as a dedicated Site Supervisor to our three Baltimore volunteers in the '20-'21 school year. Sr. Elaine Davia, CBS echoes Sr. Delia's gratitude for the energy, enthusiasm, and hope that Ministry Volunteers embody in their commitment to serve. The strengths and distinct personalities of each cohort of volunteers bring particular gifts that help each B SVM community express the Bon Secours charism in special ways.



Dirt doesn't scare Ally and Michael as they work hard at Shalom Farms

Two current volunteers share from their first few weeks of living in community and serving at their ministry sites. Through their stories, you're invited to see God's presence with them in the immigrant, the lonely, the dreamers, the children, and the colleagues at Care-A-Van Mobile Clinic and Cristo Rey Richmond High School. Caroline Kirk describes the surprising ways she has learned about intentionality and developing community through her ministry site at Cristo Rey, and Michael Newcome reflects on new insights that build on his previous service experiences that led him to choose B SVM for a year. Their fresh reflections reverberate with themes that alum Rebecca Judge (B SVM '18-'19) shares in her Alumni Profile: “While it may look different, life after B SVM is no less sacred. I encourage former volunteers to rejoice in the time you had in community, to pray with those memories that you hold so dear, and then to ask God how you might be called to use your experiences to creatively engage with your current community.”

No matter where you find yourself, you have the open invitation “to experience what’s holy in places many people don’t deem to be sacred.” May you be encouraged by these reflections that bear witness to the inherent goodness that exists within each person we encounter, and may you allow the charism of compassion, healing, and liberation to come alive for you today.

“God’s ears are here for the babies
For the immigrant, for the refugee
For the depressed, for the lonely
For the dreamers
The widow, the orphan
The oppressed and the helpless
Those about to make a mess or caught in the
middle of cleaning one up
Dirt don’t scare God’s ears
God is a gardener
God knows things can’t grow without sun, rain and soil.
I want to tell her to hear God
You have to be willing to experience what’s holy
in places many people don’t deem to be sacred”

From “She said, ‘How Do You Know When You are Hearing from God?’” by Amena Brown, published in *A Rhythm of Prayer*, edited by Sarah Bessey

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a place where people can come together without barriers and judgement, a place that is free from fear, where it feels easy to simply be the person I am.

What would it look like to “live in community” though? Surely I have had opportunities to cultivate community in school, on teams, or in my family, but when I began to imagine living this out every day as a group of volunteers, I kept getting stuck thinking the work of building community here would have to be quite different than it had before.

I have been surprised by the way Cristo Rey continues to illuminate the way I view our volunteer community at home. Informed by relationships at the high school and readings from the *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* that guides our weekly BSVM community prayer time, my definition of community has recently evolved to include the idea that we need to “create an environment where it is easier to be good.”

So far, the environment I have found it easiest to be good has been in the halls of the Cristo Rey Richmond High School. While some people might feel intimidated by re-entering high school, I have felt incomprehensibly welcomed. Can you call handshakes in the halls, promises to bring me birthday cards, and applause as I walk in to substitute teach anything other than signs of community? This is an environment where without a doubt it feels easy for me to be good—to be a small part of Bon Secours’ “good help” as a good friend to any student, offering a good piece of advice to high schoolers in similar situations to those I have been or am currently still in.

But beyond Cristo Rey creating an environment where it is easy for me to “be good,” I see clearly the ways in which this school has cultivated a community that prioritizes the goodness that is already inherent in every person who walks the halls. Teachers and staff know each student by name, they know their families, interests, and highlight their gifts. This is exactly the kind of community that I dream of us continuing to create at home.

Experiencing community at my ministry site is not necessarily how I imagined I would learn about community within this first month of being a volunteer, but Cristo Rey is teaching me a lot about the types of relationships I hope continue to develop within our house of volunteers and the Church Hill neighborhood that we have entered into. Goodness is inherent in my roommates Mario, Ally, Michael, Patrick, and Andrew. Goodness is inherent in Church Hill. Goodness is everywhere if we choose to see it.

Just like laughing with students on my ride home on the school bus about whatever is going on in their worlds allows me to organically enter their high school community, I need to seek out the intricacies of each of my roommates’ lives and organically enter into their stories too. Community is about entering into each other’s truths, individuality, and goodness, and together, creating an environment where we embrace our full selves.

Mario spends hours fixing up the gear shift on his bicycle, takes off for a spontaneous 25-mile ride, and comes back a new person.



2021-2022 Ministry Volunteers in their first week in Richmond



Ministry Volunteers and Site Leader challenge themselves at Genesee Valley before their Fall Retreat

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Patient-Centered Learning at Care-A-Van Mobile Clinics



By Michael Newcome

2021 - 2022 Volunteer

A graduate of University of Notre Dame

As a child, I understood the importance of serving, recognizing our shared humanity in Christ and our duty to give back to the underserved. I thought that service was a one-way street where

one party, the more fortunate, gives freely and receives nothing in return. This perspective, although drawing me to service, failed to recognize one critical component of service: that service is a two-way street.

In college, I pursued service-learning experiences, and the guided readings helped me understand the meaning of service and accompaniment. In Fr. Greg Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*, Fr. Boyle outlines four different types of service: working for others, working with others, being for others, and being with others. At those previous service experiences, I was working for others: I passed out food, stocked supply shelves, and set up for events. However, my service-learning experiences challenged me to work with others: empowering individuals to be agents of their health with Alzheimer's prevention activities. They challenged me to be for others: advocating for Spanish-speaking elders who couldn't get past English-speaking guards at Social Security offices and healthcare facilities. And they challenged me to be with others: sitting in the presence of coworkers and patients to see the face of God present in them.



Sr. Elaine Davia, CBS, blesses Michael's head, heart, and hands for service

Through all these experiences, I learned about under-resourced communities in the United States, I learned about the culture of LatinX communities, and I discovered my desire to pursue medicine. I lived the truth that volunteers can learn and grow from service just as much as the individuals with whom

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From him we learn about the power of space and distance to transform outlook and emotions. Ally has a passion for telling us stories. She reports details and intricacies I could never imagine remembering, and through this we learn about her heart for the small things. Michael could not be more go-with-the-flow as he works at the Care-A-Van clinic. Every day has a positive spin, every day he has a new idea for engaging with the children, and from him, we get to learn how creativity works in tangible ways. Patrick will talk nonstop all of dinner, and then seamlessly drift away to his keyboard. Rather than words, we hear the peaceful melody of whatever song comes to his head. From him we learn about the peace that can be found within a community, quietly in the same room or in a conversation. Andrew has an infectious positivity. Whether he laughs openly at the dinner table, or out loud to himself in another room, we hear his joy and it seeps into each of our spirits. Together, we listen and learn and enter into each other's goodness.

I think these small moments are counter intuitive to what I initially thought about community—when I thought our broad common value of joining Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry and desire to serve was most important in bringing us together. But the students at Cristo Rey have shown me a different side of building community. Rather than imagining community as something that requires us to prioritize our similarities and common backgrounds, it seems to me that diving into the goodness that already exists in a person or place is actually what helps “create an environment where it is easier to be good,” which is what actually helps cultivate a community of trust and love. At home in the volunteer house, I see that it's in the appreciation of each other as we are and in embracing the smaller things that our community is growing stronger and will only continue to grow towards goodness.

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Patient-Centered Learning at Care-A-Van Mobile Clinics

they work. This aspect of BSVM's program pillar, Learn through Service with Others -- acknowledging the presence of God in others and learning from them -- speaks most strongly to me.

At the Care-A-Van Mobile Clinic, which serves uninsured patients in Richmond, VA from primarily LatinX communities, I help patients fill out clinic paperwork, I create art projects for the kids at the clinics, and I spend time with patients and coworkers. This clinic has a large population of undocumented immigrants and provides free healthcare to all its patients.



Art projects entertain children awaiting medical services via the Care-A-Van

Working at the clinic has helped me learn important lessons about teaching and being taught. While working at the clinic one day, stationed in a community center gymnasium, I led a group of kids as we folded a sheet of paper into a boat. Each kid happily finished their boat, and some kids started to teach the group how to fold bear claws and hats out of paper. Suddenly, the energy changed: one kid was called away for vaccines, and the other kids became understandably upset by the needle-induced screams echoing down the hall. I tried to refocus the kids on the paper folding activities, but to no avail.

One of the older kids noticed the energy change and asked if I had crayons and coloring books. I brought the coloring books out, and the kids were instantly mesmerized by the pictures of Iron Man, Disney princesses, and animal friends, no longer distracted by the distant sobs. They soon quieted down. I began to color with them, letting the colors and rhythm calm myself and the clinic around me.

At first, I did not know how to handle the situation. I have worked with kids before, but never with kids in a vaccination clinic. My attempts to calm the room did little to stem the terror of the kids around me. Thankfully, one of the older children was able to show me the way. She recognized her own needs and the needs of her friends -- to feel safe and less anxious -- and how to meet those needs with coloring books.

Although vaccinations are never fun, there is a right and a wrong way to do them, especially with kids. At a vaccine learning day with the Care-A-Van nurses, one nurse discussed how some kids fare when they are vaccinated at the U.S.-Mexico border and given seven to eight shots in a single day with no regard for the child's mental stress. This system fails to recognize and respect the true face of God, fully present in these patients. Though our healthcare system is resourced enough to provide care for any and all who need it, the system does not operate in that way. Patients, especially under-resourced and uninsured patients, experience the brunt of scarce and low-quality care in the larger system.

The Care-A-Van clinics do their best to operate differently and help engender trust with the patients they serve. They follow humane vaccine schedules that work to reduce stress for workers and children when it's time for vaccinations. They build up trust with the patient communities by working with the parents to vaccinate their kids, having the parents hold the children for vaccines to help calm the children down. As a Ministry Volunteer, I am understanding the importance of trust when working with under-resourced communities, especially with patients who may not have documentation that ensures their right to be in the U.S. Without trust, no patients would enter the clinics and healthcare would be even more difficult to access. Once more, I am learning that God's presence appears in the patient and the clinic workers, helping build that trust to make healthcare more accessible. By learning from these patients, I can grow closer to the face of God and deepen my understanding of working with children in stressful environments. As my time with the Care-A-Van clinic is just beginning, I look forward to this process of learning through service with the patients at this clinic.

2021-2022 Welcome & Commissioning



By Shannon Curran
BSVM Director

We are so pleased to celebrate and to commission our newest community of Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers.

Volunteers, as I looked over today's readings, I was struck by how well they align with your commissioning.

From St. Paul essentially telling the Colossians to put on the Bon Secours charism of compassion, to Psalm 150's reminder that every breath is intended to praise the Lord, to Luke's gospel instructing us in what Walter Wink calls Jesus's "third way"—or way of nonviolence—these readings, Volunteers, are the perfect playbook for you to navigate your year.

Each reading invites us to live differently than society compels us to live. Likewise, this year in ministry invites you to learn a new measure for your days, for your life. Dorothy Day tells us that "love is the measure." In today's first reading, we hear this when St. Paul asks the Colossians to, over all things, "put on love" (Col. 3:14). From Luke's gospel, we remember that "the measure with which [we] measure will in return be measured out to [us]" (Lk. 6:38).

By making the decision to say yes to BSVM, by showing up, by working your way through orientation, you've accepted this invitation to live a little differently, to focus on love and compassion as your measure.

We are grateful for your commitment and for the chance to walk with you this year as we all strive to both "put on love" and to keep it as our measure.

With a blessing after communion today, we celebrate the good news of your commitment to BSVM.

Welcome

2021-2022 BSVM Volunteers



Caroline Kirk

University of Virginia
Hometown: Tallahassee, FL
Placement: Cristo Rey
Richmond High School



Patrick Kollman

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Ann Arbor, MI
Placement: Emergency
Department, Richmond
Community Hospital



Michael Newcome

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: St. Paul, MN
Placement: Care-A-Van,
Bon Secours Richmond



Andrew Paik

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Diamond Bar, CA
Placement: Spiritual Care
Partners, Richmond
Community Hospital



Mario Sultan

Florida Institute of
Technology
Hometown: Palm Bay, FL
Placement: Cristo Rey
Richmond High School



Ally Staresinic

University of Notre Dame
Hometown: Gibsonia, PA
Placement: Behavioral
Health, Richmond
Community Hospital

Sisters' Corner

Commissioning a new group of Ministry Volunteers



Fr. Sam Lupico presided over this year's Commissioning Liturgy

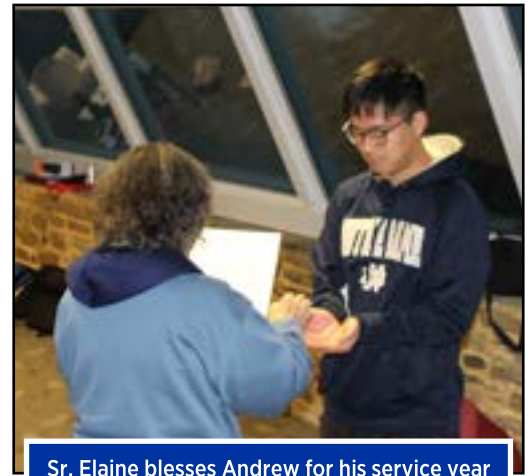
By Emily Thrush | BSMV Site Leader

September 2021 marked the beginning of a new year of ministry and service for six Ministry Volunteers from across the country (including Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, and California).

At the end of two intensive weeks of orientation, we were blessed to gather in Marriottsville at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center and participate in a Commissioning Ceremony and Liturgy. Fr. Sam Lupico presided over the liturgy and spoke with his conviction, passion, and power that we have appreciated over many years. Sr. Elaine Davia, CBS then offered a blessing over the Ministry Volunteers, anointing them with oil

and the sign of the cross over their heart, shoulders, and hands, "that Christ may be known in you and in your deeds." Several sisters joined the Commissioning service in the midst of their full week, and many others joined in praying over the volunteers in spirit.

Sr. Elaine was pleased to be present and a part of the commissioning of the new volunteers. As she reflected on the start of this new ministry year, she shared: "I'm so grateful that six more men and women will be imbibing our charism into their own lives and then taking it out to the world. Thank you Caroline, Patrick, Michael, Andrew, Ally, and Mario for having the generosity and courage to give a year of your life to Bon Secours and the people we serve." When she thinks of the Ministry Volunteers she's known in the past and considers the new group, she said, "I always feel so much youthful energy and hope. That spirit rubs off on me and gives me hope and energy for our world."



Sr. Elaine blesses Andrew for his service year

BSVM staff and volunteers are blessed to follow in the great legacy of the Sisters of Bon Secours, and we are grateful for the energy, hope, and mission that the sisters have lived into and that we strive to follow in this year of transformation through service with others.



L-R: Sr. Ji, Michael, Caroline, Sr. Fran, Sr. Rosie, Ally, Mario, Sr. Pat, Patrick, Sr. Elaine after the Commissioning Liturgy at the Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center

A Legacy of Mutual Blessing



By Sister Delia Dowling, SSND

Sr. Delia Dowling, SSND is President of Sisters Academy of Baltimore and describes the special relationship between the middle school and BSVM over many years. In every ministry site placement, our hope is that Ministry Volunteers bring their unique gifts to the good and faithful work already occurring, and that compassion, healing, and liberation can be offered and received. We are grateful for the enduring presence and partnership with Sisters Academy of Baltimore!

Sisters Academy of Baltimore, an independent, Catholic, tuition-free middle school for girls (grades 5 – 8), is a collaborative ministry co-sponsored by congregations of women religious: the Sisters of Bon Secours, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy, and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. As one of the four co-sponsors, the Sisters of Bon Secours serve on the Board of Members, appoint a representative to the Board of Directors, commit resources, and promote, support, influence, and nurture the Academy.

Representing the Sisters of Bon Secours, Sr. Alice Talone has served faithfully as a founding member of our Board of Members. As we prepared for the opening of the school, Sr. Alice introduced Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry to us. When Sisters Academy opened with the fifth grade in September 2004, we were proud to have a Ministry Volunteer on our staff. Sarah Ann Gillis taught music and technology, tutored small groups of students, and helped in every way possible during the unpredictable first year of the school.

Beth Wood Lorete came as a Ministry Volunteer in 2006 and taught art. She found a new home at Sisters Academy, where the school's mission and vision aligned with her own creativity and desire to empower young girls through education. After her year as a volunteer, we hired Beth as a teacher and she has served continuously for the past 15 years. Through Beth's steady commitment and effective teaching, hundreds of middle school girls have discovered the beauty of creation and the joy of making art.



L-R: Brion Harris (BSVM 20-21), Beth Lorete (BSVM 06-07), Kelly Flynn (BSVM 20-21), Sara Snowden (BSVM 20-21)

In 2012, Sisters Academy determined that we no longer needed the residence on Mount Street that had been used by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and had been deeded to us by Viva House, the Baltimore Catholic Worker. During the same year, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry was seeking a new home for the volunteers. We quickly discerned that we would deed the Mount Street house to the Sisters of Bon Secours for the volunteers. The house where many of our best ideas were dreamed and discussed served us well through eight foundational years. We were gratified to know that the house on Mount Street would continue to be sacred space used in service of those in southwest Baltimore by the Bon Secours Ministry Volunteers.

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Year after year, the Ministry Volunteers have brought their youthful enthusiasm to our mission. They share their spiritual journeys with teachers and staff and inspire our students through their extraordinary gift of service for an entire year. Living simply in their local community helps them become contributing members of our school community. Volunteers practice God's justice as they engage in difficult conversations with students who are beginning to think critically about important issues that they know from their experiences. Throughout their year, volunteers help the charism of compassion, healing, and liberation come alive at Sisters Academy of Baltimore.



Kelly Flynn (BSVM 20-21) helps a student at Sisters Academy during her service year

DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG ADULT WHO IS:

- motivated by an open and giving spirit
- interested in practicing justice by building relationships based in service
- open to reflecting upon the connection between service and spirituality
- willing to live in community with other volunteers and to live simply during the year of service?

REFER THEM TO BSVM FOR OUR
2022-2023 MINISTRY YEAR!

Send contact info to volunteer@bshsi.org or fill out contact form at bit.ly/BSVMapply



Alumni Profile: Rebecca Judge



By Rebecca Judge | BSVM 2018-2019

How did your experience with BSVM shape the years following your year of service?

The Bon Secours charism of compassion, healing, and liberation weaved its way into my ministry as I worked as a Campus Minister for first-year students at the University of Dayton. In walking with young people through their transition to college life, grieving with them after tragic losses, and supporting their spiritual growth amid a pandemic, I was challenged to offer a pastoral presence to others while I myself felt quite fragile. The practice of facing my own insecurities and moving toward freedom with God shaped my time with BSVM. As I grew to see myself as a sacred listener while serving as a Spiritual Care Partner in the hospital, I found myself drawn to

the fields of ministry and counseling. The first steps toward healing that I took during my time with BSVM have grown over the years and have culminated in my passion for guiding others through navigating a life of faith. Now that I'm working as a Director of Youth Ministry at a parish and will soon be working towards becoming a licensed professional counselor, I hope to tenderly accompany those who long for peace with God and others. My service experience continues to empower me to listen deeply to the presence of God's Spirit that dwells within us all amid the times of tension, mourning, and joy that we will inevitably encounter in this life.

What advice do you have to offer former volunteers as they continue to process their BSVM experience?

After my time in Richmond, I remember feeling displaced in my privileged graduate school bubble. It was lonely in my single dorm room, and I mourned the loss of my community. I quickly noticed myself making comparisons to my new life in Ohio, noting how difficult it was for me to integrate my habits from my time with BSVM into my new environment in grad school. Over time, I learned to offer myself some more grace, acknowledging that despite my efforts, I would not be able to recreate my year of service. It was an act of surrender to honor that experience without creating unrealistic expectations for myself in a new environment. I had been so desperately trying to recreate what I had experienced in Richmond that I neglected to intentionally explore how I might bring the charism of Bon Secours and mission of BSVM to my new state of life. While it may look different, life after BSVM is no less sacred. I encourage former volunteers to rejoice in the time you had in community, to pray with those memories that you hold so dear, and then to ask God how you might be called to use your experiences to creatively engage with your current community.



Rebecca and her cohort of Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants from her time at the University of Dayton.

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What reading have you found to be informative, helpful and/or inspirational for volunteers in the BSVM formation or for those wishing to continue to explore the pillars of BSVM?

I narrowed it down to two books. The first is *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* by Cyprian Davis. It's a difficult read yet deeply moving. Davis surveys the African roots of Catholicism that have been silenced for centuries despite being foundational to the establishment of the Catholic Church in the U.S. This book helped me recognize that the way I worship and relate with God has been profoundly influenced by the Black experience. The second book I've found to be fruitful in my spiritual life is *John the Theologian and his Paschal Gospel: A Prologue to Theology* by John Behr. It is a mystical exploration of John's Gospel which invites readers to see the Incarnation not merely as an event of the past, but rather as the enfleshment of Christ in our very Beings today. While deeply theological, this work moved me to return to the presence of Christ in my midst - a presence that was so tangible during my year of service but which can feel more difficult to access post-BSVM. Take the time to go through these books slowly, as they are both stretching and nourishing.



Rebecca joined the choir at Holy Rosary Catholic Church during her service year



L-R: BSVM 2018-2019: Chris Dethlefs, Fiona Shorrock, Rebecca Judge, and Maggie Rybak

What were some of the gifts you received during your time of service? Have any of these gifts helped you specifically during this time of pandemic?

One gift that I received during my year was the fruit that came from investing in our local parish. In the beginning of the program, my community and I were tempted to church hop until we found a Catholic community that best suited us. But in the end, we decided to plant ourselves in our geographical parish down the road. It was a humbling experience as I faced my discomfort and prejudice. Yet, as the year went on, I shifted my mindset to see that I could cultivate a relationship of mutuality with my church and its parishioners. I began to see that my time participating in the Mass and in parish life was meant to be a transformational encounter. During the pandemic, I found it difficult to remain connected to my faith community once Masses were livestreamed. The experience felt transactional to me, and there were many times that I wanted to skip Mass altogether. During those moments of apathy, I found it helpful to recall my time with BSVM. Amid feelings of indifference, I was reminded that my participation in Mass extends well beyond my present feelings which naturally ebb and flow. I grew to cherish the beauty of coming together - even virtually - to commemorate, lament, and worship collectively throughout the world.



Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry

Sisters of Bon Secours, USA

1525 Marriottsville Road,
Marriottsville, MD 21104

Cover Photo

Sr. Elaine blesses our 2021-2022 BSVM Volunteers during our fall Commissioning Ceremony. Taken by Liesel Rupprecht, Program Coordinator.

BSVM Staff

Shannon Curran, *Director*

Emily Thrush, *Site Leader*

Liesel Rupprecht, *Program Coordinator*

Our Mission

Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry, sponsored by the Sisters of Bon Secours, provides the opportunity for women and men to participate in the Sisters' commitment to justice in radical solidarity with the poor, the suffering, and those most in need. By sharing the Bon Secours charism of compassion, healing, and liberation, the ministry nurtures and sustains individuals in their personal and communal journeys towards transformation through service with others.

To nurture this transformative journey, Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry supports individuals through a year of spiritual formation. The ministry is structured with five pillars that support this growth. Volunteers commit to: grow spiritually, develop an intentional community, live simply, practice God's justice, and learn through service with others. Throughout this year, volunteers discover that by sharing the charism of compassion, healing, and liberation with others they, in turn, receive the charism from those they serve.

Support BSVM

Share your time and enthusiasm. Your personal presence is one of the best ways to support the program. Send a letter of support, or schedule a time to visit our community outside or over Zoom. Contact BSVMoffice@bshsi.org.

Support the program financially. It costs about \$16,000 to support one volunteer for the year, including rent, health insurance, stipend and funds for community support. Monetary donations or gently used furnishings for the volunteer houses are greatly appreciated.

Donations are tax-deductible

BY MAIL

Make checks payable to Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry & mail to:

*Bon Secours Volunteer Ministry
1525 Marriottsville Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104*

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