

# Reflections from Members Taking Next Steps

## Joseph Dietz

As I reflect this Pentecost upon the movements of the Holy Spirit in my life, I recognize a coherence I could not recognize for many years. It isn't until we are able to let go of our ego demands that we come to understand the unifying threads that the Spirit has woven into our lives. As I have matured physically, emotionally and, hopefully, spiritually I have come to understand Jesus' promise to not leave us orphans, to be with us always, to send us his Holy Spirit: from my struggles in childhood, the angst of adolescence, my time in a Trappist monastery, movement into a professional life in Social Work and then onto the priesthood and my descent into alcoholism some 25 years ago. Though I thought there was no hope of recovery, Jesus knew differently. "Lazarus come out of your grave," and so I did 23 years ago.

Why do I come to Voluntas Dei at age 76? Because I recognize doing the will of the Father is what Jesus was all about and what I must be all about and I can best do that in the midst of a faith community intent on doing God's Will. The path to enlightenment must include fellow travellers. I am blessed to be with you all on this journey.