



Winter 2017-2018

### **Bridges Seeking Applicants for Two Positions**

Cheryl Rauschenbach is stepping down from the Bridges Foundation Executive Director position that she has handled so well for the past several years. We are grateful to Cheryl for her outstanding service to Bridges. She has agreed to stay in her current position until May, 2018 if needed.

The Bridges Foundation is seeking applicants from within the Bridges community for two positions, Executive Director and Promotion Coordinator.

Job descriptions for each of the two positions are posted online (see below). A stipend will be provided. Both positions may be held by the same person in which case, the stipend will be combined. If interested, please send your cover letter and resume to Dave Harpring at [dharpring@juno.com](mailto:dharpring@juno.com) by January 5, 2018.

Preference will be given to applicants who have received the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

#### *Executive Director Position*

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f7f37923b9004cd074335a7af/files/a6794018-f5b9-4bd5-bc76-71279896dba1/Bridges\\_Foundation\\_Executive\\_Director\\_Job\\_Description\\_Rev\\_B.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f7f37923b9004cd074335a7af/files/a6794018-f5b9-4bd5-bc76-71279896dba1/Bridges_Foundation_Executive_Director_Job_Description_Rev_B.pdf)

#### *Promotion Coordinator Position*

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f7f37923b9004cd074335a7af/files/ba89005c-54f0-4bb0-bada-7f9f3501b218/Bridges\\_Foundation\\_Promotion\\_Coordinator\\_Job\\_Description.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/f7f37923b9004cd074335a7af/files/ba89005c-54f0-4bb0-bada-7f9f3501b218/Bridges_Foundation_Promotion_Coordinator_Job_Description.pdf)

**2018  
ANNUAL  
MEETING**

### **Bridges Annual Meeting February 17, 2018**

The Bridges Annual Meeting is to be held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 12:15 to 2:00 p.m. at Webster Groves Christian Church, 1320 West Lockwood in Glendale. All are welcome. A light lunch will be served during the Open Meeting and reports will be given by each committee. Following the meeting, there will be a Listening Session for all attendees with the Board Members.

RSVP by February 9, 2018 to Cheryl Rauschenbach at 636-225-8433 or [Cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org](mailto:Cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org).

### **The Shepherds**

Luke 2:8-20

*First Point. The birth of Christ our Lord is made known to the shepherds by an angel: "I bring you good news of great joy, for this day is born*

*to you the Savior of the world."*

*Second Point. The shepherds go to Bethlehem: "They came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in the manger."*

*Third Point. "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God."*

[Spiritual Exercises 265]

**Peter Claver, S.J.  
(1580-1654)**

Peter Claver, S.J. is remembered as the human rights defender of slaves brought to South America often in inhumane conditions in the 17th century. He was born in Verdu, Catalonia, in northeastern Spain (about 54 miles from Barcelona) on June 26, 1580, where his father made a living as a farmer. He earned a degree from the University of Barcelona and entered the Jesuit novitiate at Tarragona, Spain at age 20. While Claver was studying philosophy at Majorca in 1605, his teacher Alphonsus Rodriguez learned from God the future mission of his young associate, and persistently encouraged Claver to evangelize the Spanish possessions in America. In 1610 Claver crossed the Atlantic Ocean and arrived at Cartagena, Bolivar, a large port city on the Caribbean Sea in northern Colombia.



Peter Claver, S.J.

In early seventeenth century Colombia, human rights apparently were not a concern of those in authority. Laborers were needed to tend to the land and to work the gold mines, but the indigenous people were not up to the task, as it was very difficult work and they were physically incapable of doing it. So slaves were brought in

from Africa, primarily captured on the coasts of Guinea, the Congo, and Angola. Slave traders were more than happy to capture these people against their will and sell them into slavery, and the South American property owners were eager to acquire more and more of them. The slave dealers could buy them for 2 and sell them for 200 écus apiece. It grew to be a lucrative business. A thousand slaves landed in Cartagena each month and the city became the top slave market in the New World. Half the cargo might die in the trans-Atlantic crossing, but enough survived to make it very profitable for the greedy slave traders. Despite strenuous objections from the pope and other Catholic moralists, the strong demand and enormous profits kept the trade thriving. Missionaries in the New World were powerless to stop the slave trade but worked to alleviate it. One of these, Peter Claver, emerged as the champion of the oppressed being brought in to Cartagena.

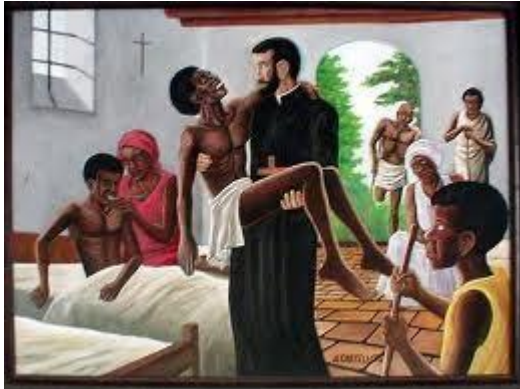
Claver had been trained well by missionary Père Alfonso de Sandoval and was determined to diminish the suffering of the people he found on the slave ships. Shy and a bit short on self-confidence but also devoid of ego and resolute in his mission, he left each month on a captain's boat to bring food and other supplies to the terrified Africans held in the hold of the incoming ships. The unfortunate slaves-to-be were scared and suffering, not knowing what fate awaited them. Claver greeted each person individually to provide what comfort he could, always showing kindness and assuring them that they had an advocate in their strange new surroundings. The Africans would be herded into pens near the docks, from which they would later be disbursed and sold. They spoke many different dialects, and Claver assembled a team of translators and catechists.

*(continues on page 3)*

## **Peter Claver, S.J.**

*(continued from page 2)*

The newcomers came to trust Claver, who would instruct them in the Faith, perform many baptisms, and address their needs. Claver met with much opposition; he welcomed the new arrivals into his Church, thereby alienating many of the locals, who would no longer support him. Claver was undeterred by various false allegations leveled against him, but when his superiors heard some of the unfounded criticisms, they grew concerned about his activities. Claver carried on with little support, but relied on his Jesuit training and faith in God to sustain his spirits. Over time he developed a reputation as the oracle of Cartagena, and became somewhat of a hero of the people. Claver instructed and baptized over 300,000 Africans in his lifetime.



His work led to his illness, and for the last four years of his life he was unable to leave his room. A slave was assigned to care for him but physically abused and starved him, and eventually his plight went neglected and unnoticed. Claver did not complain, regarding the harsh treatment as an opportunity to atone for his sins. He passed away on September 8, 1654 at age 74 in Cartagena. Previously regarded by city leaders as a nuisance for his

*To love God as He ought to be loved, we must be detached from all temporal love. We must love nothing but Him, or if we love anything else, we must love it only for His sake.*

– St. Peter Claver

persistent advocacy of the needs of the slaves, he was given a large, ceremonial public funeral to acknowledge the extent of his contributions to human dignity, and it was only after his death that the realization became apparent of just how many people he had aided in his lifetime. Along with Alphonsus Rodriguez, Peter Claver was canonized in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII, who later named Claver as the patron of missionary work among all African peoples. There is a major shrine at the Church of St. Peter Claver in Cartagena. Peter Claver's feast day is celebrated on September 9. He is the patron saint of slaves, seafarers, Colombia, race relations, and ministry to African-Americans.

## Pope Francis' Lamborghini

Pope Francis got the keys to a new Lamborghini Huracán RWD Coupe, white with gold trim, on November 15. It is a gift to him from the Italian manufacturer of luxury sports cars. On receiving it the Pope blessed and signed the automobile.

But he has no plans to ever drive it. Instead, the special edition Huracán will be auctioned off by Sotheby's on May 12, 2018. The proceeds will be distributed to three charities, including one dedicated to helping rebuild Christian communities in Iraq that were devastated by the Islamic State group. Base prices for the Huracán start at around 183,000 euros (\$217,000). A special edition built for a papal charity would be expected to fetch far more at auction.



Francis, who traveled around in his native Buenos Aires using public transportation, has complained about people who buy the latest model cars or cell phones. As pope, he uses a blue Ford Focus in the Vatican, and on all his foreign trips he has led by example by turning down bullet-proof SUVs and instead choosing Fiats or Kias for transportation.

Pope Francis is an ardent follower of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who maintained that love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than by words.

May God fill  
your life with  
love, joy and  
peace this  
Holiday Season  
and throughout  
the New Year.

This is the newsletter of the Bridges Foundation of St. Louis. The newsletter is published quarterly and distributed as a PDF file via email, free to anyone who would like to receive it. Thank you to the contributor to this issue: Tom Simon.

Quarterly issues are sent late in the months of March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of material is on the 15th day of each of those months for inclusion in the issue to be mailed later that month. Look for your next issue around the time that the seasons change.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue of the Bridges Newsletter is March 15, 2018. Please send articles, letters, mailing list additions and deletions, and other correspondence to: Tom Simon, Editor, 1730 Derrynane, Manchester, MO 63021, or by email to [tsimon@tsimon.com](mailto:tsimon@tsimon.com).