



# SHIFTING SANDS



## MEETING CALENDAR

### WHERE:

**Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) De Sales room/ downstairs classroom (DS), Vienna, VA**

### WHEN:

**Second Thursday of every other month. Next meetings:**

- ❖ Thursday, January 12 —  
Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM;  
PCI, 8-9 PM
- ❖ Thursday, April 12 —  
Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM;  
PCI, 8-9 PM

## EVENTS

- ❖ Friday, December 9 —  
Annual meeting with Bishop Loverde at 4 pm, reporting on 2nd collection (at Diocesan Office)
- ❖ Saturday, December 17 —  
Christmas Party, Mass/Chapel, 6 - 7 PM; Festivities 7 - 10:30 PM (at OLGC DeSales Hall)
- ❖ Saturday, February 4 —  
Founders' Day/Charity Awards Presentation, 6 - 10 pm
- ❖ Saturday, May 12 —  
Porto Derby Trivia Contest, 6 - 10 pm

### A Spiritual Message

## A month of remembering and giving thanks

Maybe it's the falling leaves and the distant smell of winter, maybe it's the autumn chill of early morning, but something about November tells us to slow down and take a glance backward. I think that it has something to do with the two feasts we celebrate as the month begins, All Saints and All Souls, which turn our gaze toward those who have preceded us in death. Saints, canonized or not, and sinners, pondered in the light of Christ's redemptive love, have been a part of each of our lives and continue a part of our memories.

One of the changes in the Liturgy of the Eucharist that become effective on the last Sunday of the month is the ability to substitute the recitation of the Apostles Creed for the more traditional Nicene Creed. I prefer it not because it is shorter but because it includes an expression of our belief in the "communion of saints." It tells of our belief in the solidarity that exists between all the members of the Body of Christ, living and dead. Or perhaps it is better to say between "the living here on Earth and those living in the fullness of life hereafter."

All of this flows nicely into our celebration of Thanksgiving, a secular celebration on the surface but a religious one in its depths. To look back and recall the people who have been – some of whom still are – in our lives, to remember those who have given us life or enhanced it in so many ways, and then to let the thoughts and feelings of gratitude flow – this is a special November exercise.

Among those whom I think of every year at this time are the men and women whom I first met in Porto, those who got me involved in the organization. I remember their dedication, their standing

at church doors, canister in hand and fez on head, asking folks to help in our outreach to the developmentally disabled. I remember their attendance and assistance at Special Olympics, at special outings, at our Porto Masses and Porto parties. And I think of those who carry on the tradition of helping, those who show up at the meetings, who add their energy and creativity to the wonderful organizations and programs that Porto and Porto Charities support. I applaud with gratitude those who organize and participate in the parties, especially those who bring our Special Children and join in their celebratory spirit.

November reminds us how our faith brings all this together – the past and the present – and how it reminds us that future is in the same hands of the same God.

*Fr. Edwin Dill, ST*

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## Grand Commander's Message

*“There lies within each person a huge reservoir of untapped potential for achievement, success, happiness, health and greater prosperity. It’s like a huge ocean unsailed, a new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities, waiting to be released and channeled toward some great good.”*

—Brian Tracy

Over the past few months, Porto 104 and Porto Charities, Inc. (PCI) have expanded their horizons in their search and actualization of solutions for employment and future housing for our Special Angels. In exploring these new projects, the Housing Committee has discovered a reservoir of talented members from very varied backgrounds. These individuals have all achieved great success in the fields of banking, management, law, investments, construction and advocacy. They have created success in their careers and will create housing possibilities for the greater good of those we strive to serve.

One housing model will not fit the needs of all so as we proceed, we will be coming up with several options to implement, some within the next twelve months, some which will take several years. I have no doubt we will succeed.

On the employment front, it has taken a year but we will shortly have good news from the Diocese on internships for 6-10 positions at their offices in Arlington. We are also working with a couple of Catholic schools on job placement. As these projects begin, more possibilities will open up in our 48 schools and 72 parishes.

Several of us attended a meeting at Linton Hall Catholic School in Bristow (Manassas), Virginia. They have plans to open the Benedictine Program (Options) in grades Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> in September 2012. Porto and PCI have pledged our help both in human talent and in support of their financial needs. Linton Hall and St. Mark’s will be great feeders into the Options programs at Paul VI and John Paul the Great. This will ensure continued success of both programs in future years.

St. Ann’s in Arlington has accepted a Down Syndrome student this year. Through our financial support of the Keyboard for Kids program, the office of the Diocesan special services coordinator has been able to provide the necessary tools for its success. St. Ann, of course, will be leading this new frontier and setting an example for the other schools in the Diocese. Through our efforts, Bishop O’Connell has become involved with Special Olympics in Arlington, holding movie nights and dances for special kids in the future.

We sent a Disabilities Awareness binder to Pope Paul II Catholic High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. They requested information upon reading the articles in the Arlington Catholic Herald. The Bishop’s Mass was once again a great success. Bishop Loverde supports our efforts with all his heart. Those present were very moved by his homily on behalf of God’s Special Angels.

Porto and PCI are sailing the oceans. We are exploring the world of possibilities for those with disAbilities. We are releasing and channeling the talents of our members toward the greater good.

With all of these efforts underway, we should have 300 members. Others should not be left at the port on dry land. Each of us needs to access the reservoir of untapped talent and bring them on board our sailing ship! YOU, our members, need to reach out for the greater good.

GC Leo Alonso

## Please Pray for...

- The soul of Sultana Alice Finley who passed away on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. May her soul rest in peace.
- Past Regional Director Fred Sheridan. In the course of having a duo knee replacement, his right knee contracted a staff infection causing a subsequent bout of pneumonia. He was in the ICU for seven days but now is doing well. Prayers are solicited for the redo operation on his right knee.
- Betty Ubbens mother who is now living at Sunrise Assisted Living Facility in Arlington due to conditions of health.



Call PGC Rick Vranesh (703-241-9526) if you know of anyone in need of our prayers, comfort or support.



## MEMBER PROFILE

**BOB PIZZANO SR.**  
**TOMMY PIZZANO**  
**BOB PIZZANO JR.**

Bob Pizzano Sr. has been a member of Alhambra for more than 30 years. He was given Bishop Wash’s Fez when he left the Arlington Diocese at his initiation. Bob’s passion for helping individuals with disabilities goes back many years prior to becoming the grandfather of three grandsons with disabilities. Bob’s son, Bob Pizzano Jr. and grandson Robert “Tommy” Pizzano became members in 2010.

Three of the Bob Pizzano Jr.’s eight children were born with developmental challenges and one of them, Joey, died in a drowning accident at the age of six. After Joey’s death, the Pizzano Family started the Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund (JPMF)

in the hopes of making a difference for other children like Joey.

Thanks to Porto 104, Porto Charities, and many other individuals and organizations with that same passion for individuals with disabilities, the Pizzanos celebrated this spring with the opening of Our Special Harbor, a 7,000-square-foot, zero-water-depth “spray ground” in Joey’s honor. Joey loved the water, and the Pizzanos often went to the Chesapeake Bay to spend time together as a family. It was a special place for them and so when they built their “spray ground,” they hoped that other families would adopt it as “their special place.”

JPMF also started “JPMF Splash”, which is dedicated to providing funds and classes for water safety education for those with special needs. JPMF Splash is a volunteer-based program that teaches swim safety rules using games.

The Pizzanos enjoy the active involvement in Porto Charities because they know they get so much more from the experience. They also know that organizations with a common cause working together can attain so much more. They look forward to advancing employment and living options through the good works of Porto Charities in unison with other organizations with common interests. ■

### **Porto Charities, Inc. Special Kids (SK-SN) Collection Surpasses \$80,000**

PCI’s Special-Kids-Special Needs Collection Chairman Charlie Sullivan reports that 43 out of 68, or 63% of Arlington Diocesan parishes are participating in this year’s collection appeal. With all 43 parishes successfully responding to this year’s appeal, collection totaled \$81,506.16. This compares favorably with the \$82,445.78 collected last year. PCI Directors will be meeting with Bishop Loverde at the Chancery

on December 9th to present our 2011 SK-SN collection report.

Special Needs grant award requests are now being received, processed, and evaluated. As in the past, all funds collected will be disbursed in their entirety, unencumbered and without any administrative cost assessment. This year’s awards will be presented to grant recipients at Porto’s Founders Day celebration next February. ■

### **Porto Charities, Inc., President's Message**

I hope all is well with you and your family. I also hope you all are excited about the fast approaching Holidays.

I am sure you will agree with me that the events and programs of October's Second Annual Disabilities Awareness Month were very triumphant. October began with a most wonderful celebration, the Disabilities Awareness Mass under the auspices of Bishop Loverde at St. Thomas More Cathedral. Indeed the pews were full and our young adults, the Special Angels who participated in the Mass, did an especially splendid job. Throughout the month, around the Diocese and in the schools, Disability Awareness occasions were held to raise consciousness about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as the many fine programs and organizations available to assist them.

The Fourth Annual Porto Charities Inc. Golf Outing was a profitable venture and fun too. For those of you who attended the Oktoberfest (and I must say extremely well attended) witnessed first hand the sociability and camaraderie that is prevalent in Porto Caravan 104 and Porto Charities, Inc. The party was a most festive event to cap off the month. I extend a heartfelt thank you and

hearty congratulations to all those who orchestrated this year's Disabilities Awareness Month.

Another event that occurred in October was a meeting of the Housing Committee established to explore long-term residence options for our children with intellectual differences. The Committee discussed numerous ideas and issues including locations, site opportunities, financing and ongoing funding considerations, residence styles and secure environment. The Committee has an ambitious agenda and the members have pledged to dedicate their time to accomplish their objectives. They plan to work in concert with the Porto 104/PCI Employment Committee, a natural liaison with common objectives.

Enclosed in this edition of *Shifting Sands* is an application for Porto Charities membership. Please take the time to tell your relatives and friends about Porto Charities. Encourage them to join our organization. Just think if each PCI family signs up another family, our membership will double in size!

In closing, I sincerely wish you all an Abundant Thanksgiving and a most Glorious Holiday Season. I also hope you have a Healthy and Prosperous 2012.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Porto Charities Inc.

*Carmen DiPlacido*

### **PORTO WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE FUNDRAISER**

Grand Commander Leo Alonso has lost 28 pounds since the Porto Derby on May 14th. The final weigh-in will be at our Christmas Party on December 17th at Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The goal was 40 lbs. or more. Grand Commander Leo feels confident he will meet the challenge in the remaining six weeks. Pledges so far are at \$198 per lb.; the goal was \$300 per lb. There is still time to pledge. E-mail [bettyleo@aol.com](mailto:bettyleo@aol.com) with your pledge.

Come cheer as our Grand Commander enters the arena with his new physique to the sound of Rocky's theme song!



## ORGANIZATIONS PORTO SUPPORTS

**PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS PROGRAM, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA**

Porto 104 and Porto Charities have been supporting the Options Program at Paul VI Catholic High School (PVI) since its inception in 1998.

Options provides a quality modified inclusive education in a Catholic Christian environment for high school age students with intellectual disabilities. PVI Options nurtures the maturation of inquisitive, creative, confident and motivated students. Its mission is to maximize students' potential while enabling their independence.

A primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community. Options places a strong commitment on academics with significant emphasis towards students' vocation/transitional exploration which they achieve through a modified inclusion approach, based on each student's ability to be successful in the included environment. The modified inclusion program means students receive their core academics in a designated Options classroom with inclusion in physical education, liturgy, lunch,

home room and in elective classes, as well as extracurricular activities such as clubs, school plays, and sports teams.

A unique feature of the program is the Student Peer Mentors. This year, over 125 general education students serve as peer mentors to the Options students, tutoring in academic classes, assisting with extracurricular activities, and helping the students in the Options Program develop appropriate social interactions.

The program is also involved with local businesses. As the students enter their junior and senior years, they are assigned off-campus jobs, providing practical work experience. The businesses partner with Options to provide real life work experience for the students. Some of the current partners include The Boyd School, Weber's Pet Store, and Cardinal Bank. At PVI, office staffers also provide work opportunities for the Options students.

The PVI Options program would like to offer our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the financial support of Porto 104 and Porto Charities,

and for their efforts to include students with intellectual disabilities in area Catholic schools. Your support validates our common belief that inclusive secondary education changes futures and makes the world a better place. The gifts which you have given allows Paul VI to support families who otherwise could not afford to send their sons/daughters to the Paul VI Options Program. You have also supported the efforts of the Student Peer Mentors and the PVI Options staff have benefited by being able to attend professional development events, and, in general, the funds have provided sustainability for the future of the program.

PVI Options has and continues to provide special memories and friendships that extend well beyond the walls of the school for students with intellectual disabilities. PVI Options is grateful to Porto 104 and Porto Charities for making it possible!

*For more information about the program, please contact Mrs. Christina Desmarais, Options Program director, at 703-352-0925, ext 333 or [cdesmarais@paulvi.net](mailto:cdesmarais@paulvi.net).* ■

## Porto Charities, Inc. Charity Golf Outing

Porto Charities held its Fourth Annual Charity Golf Outing on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Regency at Dominion Valley Golf Course. The weather was beautiful –sunny with a high of 72– and the golf course was in terrific shape. Our own Bob Pizzano and his team won first place for low gross and Paul Tierney’s team took second place. After a fun round of golf on the Arnold Palmer-designed course, all of the participants enjoyed a delicious lunch in the clubhouse which was followed by an exciting live auction with some great prizes. The tournament raised more than \$10,000 which will be used to support our charitable endeavors. The golf committee (Leo Alonso, Ed Patchett, Paul Tierney, and Bill Mundy) wish to thank our many sponsors who made the tournament a fun and profitable day for all of us. Our tournament next year will be held on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Fore! ■



**PORTO CHARITIES/PORTO 104  
EVENT**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Saturday, December 17th**



6:00 pm Mass with Father Dill (OLGC Chapel)

7:00 pm Oasis and Salsa Lessons

8:00 pm Dinner

9:00 to 10:30 pm Dance

**MENU**

London Broil/Roasted Turkey Breast (gluten free)  
Wild Rice / Mushroom Gravy  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes/Sweet Potatoes w/Pecans  
Roasted Vegetables  
Assorted Pies

**COST**

ADULTS - \$30  
YOUNG ADULTS - \$20  
KIDS - \$15

**RSVP by December 13 to [bettyleo@aol.com](mailto:bettyleo@aol.com) or call 703.626.2051.**



**Order of the Alhambra**  
*Founded February 29, 1904*  
**Application for Membership**

**Last Name** ..... **First Name** .....

Home address ..... City ..... State..... Zip .....

Home Telephone ..... Cell Phone ..... Business phone .....

E-mail address .....

Married?  Yes  No If yes, wife's name .....

Birth date ..... What Parish do you attend? .....

To what Catholic organizations do you belong? .....

How did you learn about the Order of Alhambra? .....

*I HEREBY AGREE, if admitted to membership in the ORDER OF ALHAMBRA, to obey the constitution, bylaws, and other rules enacted, or the Supreme Divan, the Council of Viziers, the Executive Committee or the Grand Divan of my Caravan may hereafter enact.*

*I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am in good standing in the Catholic Church and that the above answers are true to the best of my knowledge.*

Applicant's Signature ..... Date .....

Signed in presence of ..... Size of FEZ .....  
Proposer

Forward this application with your check for  \$93.00 Individual or  \$143.00 Family membership payable to Porto Caravan No. 104.

**Mail application and payment to:**

Porto Caravan No. 104, Order of the Alhambra, Post Office Box 7266, Arlington, VA 22207  
Email: bettyleo@aol.com | Telephone: 703.626.2051

**CARAVAN INSTRUCTIONS**

**COMPLETE FOR HEADQUARTERS OFFICE RECORDS**

Caravan Name ..... Number .....

Applicant's name .....

Forward this application with the Caravan's check for \$10 to the Headquarters Office within ten (10) days after the candidate's initiation.

Upon receipt, the Executive Director will assign the member's official number in the Order and forward it to the Scribe of the Exchequer for the Caravan's permanent records.

Novice ceremony  Qualifying

Ceremonial

Date .....

Initiated by .....

At .....

Certified by .....

Scribe of the Exchequer



**Porto Charities, Inc.  
Application for Membership**

**Last Name** ..... **First Name** .....

Residence address ..... City ..... State..... Zip .....

E-mail address ..... Home Telephone ..... Cell Phone .....

Employment/profession .....

Business address ..... City ..... State..... Zip .....

Business phone .....

Type of Membership:       Single       Family

*Members of Applicant's Immediate Family*

Full name	Relationship	Age	Address and email (if different)	Special Needs?
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

I/we hereby request admission to membership of Porto Charities Inc. I/We understand that I/We must be sponsored for membership by a current member in good standing of Porto Charities Inc. If admitted to membership in the Porto Charities Inc., I/we hereby agree to obey all of the bylaws of Porto Charities Inc. and any other rules or regulations enacted and implemented by the Board of Directors of Porto Charities Inc.

Applicant's Signature ..... Date .....

Applicant's Signature ..... Date .....

Name of Sponsoring Porto Charities Inc. member .....

Signature of Sponsor..... Date .....

Forward this application with your check for  \$93.00 Individual or  \$143.00 Family membership payable to Porto Charities Inc.

The Board of Directors of Porto Charities Inc. reserves the right to:

- ❖ Disapprove an application for membership
- ❖ Assess annual dues for membership.
- ❖ Cancel a membership.
- ❖ Conduct a criminal history background check for any applicant for membership.

**Mail application and payment to:**

Carmen DiPlacido, President, Porto Charities, Inc., Post Office Box 7266, Arlington, VA 22207

**Treasurer's Administrative Action**

COMPLETE FOR PORTO CHARITIES, INC. RECORDS

Date Approved..... Membership number.....

Certified by:.....Treasurer of the Board of Directors.....

## GRAND DIVAN 2010-2011

### Porto Caravan no. 104

**REV. EDWIN DILL, S.T.**  
Chaplain

**LEO ALONSO**  
Grand Commander

**BILL MUNDY**  
Vice Grand Commander

**CHRIS WNUK**  
Grand Scribe

**PAT CROSS**  
Scribe of the Exchequer

**RICK VRANESH**  
Grand Chamberlain and  
Past Grand Commander

**BILL HINGSTON**  
Master of the Oasis

**TOM BRITTON**  
Master of the Wardrobe

**TOM RYAN**  
Captain of the Bodyguard

**WILLIAM HINGSTON III**  
Sentinel of the Tower

**PAUL TIERNEY**  
Sentinel of the Desert

**RONALD GUTKOWSKI**  
Grand Advocate

### Porto Charities, Inc.

**CARMEN DIPLACIDO**  
President

**BILL MUNDY**  
Vice President

**CHARLIE SULLIVAN**  
Treasurer

**PAT HAMMEKE**  
Secretary

**LEO ALONSO** (Grand  
Commander)

**PAT CROSS**  
**MICHAEL EISENBERG**  
Directors

**SARA ADKINS-BLANCH**  
*Shifting Sands* editor

## The International Order of Alhambra and Porto Caravan 104

The International Order of Alhambra is a fraternal organization of Catholic men dedicated to assisting persons with intellectual disabilities. The Order's mission is to:

- ❖ Provide assistance, education and residences for persons developmentally disabled;
- ❖ Identify, mark, preserve, and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance;
- ❖ Promote fraternalism and sociability among its members and their families.

Porto Caravan No. 104 was chartered in 1956 and is an active Caravan in the International Order of Alhambra with a membership of about 100. Porto Caravan No. 104 is located in the Commonwealth of Virginia environs of the Nation's Capital. Any male practicing Catholic who is 18 years of age or older is eligible to apply for membership.

### Contact Information:

Porto Caravan #104 | Order of Alhambra  
Post Office Box 7266 | Arlington, VA 22207  
Telephone: 703.626.2051 | Email: [bettyleo@aol.com](mailto:bettyleo@aol.com)

### Porto Charities Inc.

Porto Charities, Inc. is an I.R.C. 501(c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to actively assisting people with developmental or intellectual disabilities; their community and their environment. Our mission is to:

- ❖ Raise and provide funds, resources, assistance, education, residences and overall improved quality of life for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities; and
- ❖ Promote education, awareness, friendship and social forums among members, their families and the community.

Our vision is to:

- ❖ Focus our efforts on providing assistance and resources to people with developmental or intellectual disabilities and their environment through our charitable programs and projects while also emphasizing friendship, mutual support and social events for its members.

### Contact Information:

Carmen A. DiPlacido, President | Porto Charities, Inc.  
Post Office Box 7266 | Arlington, VA 22207  
Telephone: 703.746.0101 | Email: [cd.cadco@att.net](mailto:cd.cadco@att.net)

**If you would like to submit a story, article, or  
news piece to *Shifting Sands*, please email  
[adkins\\_blanch@verizon.net](mailto:adkins_blanch@verizon.net).**