



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 meeting:

- ❖ Thursday, November 10 — Porto 104 Divan, 7-8 PM; PCI, 8-9 PM

EVENTS

- ❖ Friday, October 7 — PCI 4th Annual Golf Tournament, Haymarket, VA
- ❖ Sunday, October 2 — Bishop Loverde's Disabilities Awareness Mass, 5 PM, St. Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington; reception after Mass
- ❖ Saturday, October 29 — Oktoberfest (open to all); Annual Meeting & Election of Officers (at OLGC DeSales Hall at Church)
- ❖ 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; Dinner 7-10 PM (at OLGC DeSales Hall)

A Spiritual Message

Lessons to be learned

I am writing this a few days following the earthquake that hit our area and as we are awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Irene. (An irony I have not seen mentioned in the media is that "Irene" has its roots in the Greek word for "peace.") These days remind me of the three earthquakes I had experienced previously – none serious – and of my travels along the paths of destruction left by two of the largest hurricanes to hit this county, Camille in 1969 and Katrina in 2005. I am reminded, too, that the power of nature is perhaps nowhere or at no time more apparent than when it is destructive. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods – all of them can wreak havoc on life and property and can change the very land formations we have come to depend on.

Some preachers, especially of the TV variety, use these occasions to mine the apocalyptic language of the Books of Daniel and Revelation. They point out that these powerful phenomena of nature are sure signs that the end is near or that these eruptions of geophysical forces are signs of God's displeasure at whatever sin happens to be bugging them at the time.

We know better. We know, first of all, that God – as he has definitively revealed himself in Jesus – is a God of love, not of vengeance. And we know that science, itself a gift of God mediated by the intelligence he gave us, can explain these powerful forces as part of a formative process that has been going on for billions of years.

But there are spiritual lessons to be learned. Number one is that, ultimately, we are not in charge. As much as we may plan our days and our lives, as much as we may presume to impose order on the forces that shape our future, it is all ultimately out of our hands. Jesus spoke often about the virtue of being prepared, of not knowing "the day or the hour," and nothing is a better object lesson in this than a sudden, unforeseen calamity close to home. I can imagine Jesus voicing a parable for us today: "The Kingdom of God is like an earthquake that comes upon us without warning. It is like a hurricane that we know is coming but can do nothing to stop its arrival or stem its power. But after the earthquake, after the winds and the rain, the sun comes up again to calm and heal and make all things new." And we would know, without it being said, that the reappearing sun equals the fullness of that Kingdom, that it means resurrection.

Fr. Edwin Dill, ST

IN THIS ISSUE

Spiritual Message	1
Grand Commander's Message	2
Member Profile	3
Grand Advocate's Report	3
Porto Charities President's Message	4
Special Event	4
The Future is Ours!	5
Organizations Porto Supports	6
Golf Outing	7
Oktoberfest and Annual Meeting	9
Porto 104 Membership Application	10
Porto Charities Membership Appl.	11
About Porto 104 & Porto Charities	12

Grand Commander's Message

"Spend eighty percent of your time focusing on the opportunities of tomorrow rather than the problems of yesterday."

--Brian Tracy

Human nature tends to focus on past problems and failures. We discuss the systems of support available to those we serve with intellectual differences and dwell on their shortfalls. Porto 104 and Porto Charities, Inc. are focusing on the future. What can we do to enhance their lives in the areas of employment, education, entertainment activities, and housing? How can this be done in an affordable and sustainable way that will remain when we are gone?

Our initial step was to meet with the ARC of northern Virginia and request a seminar on the Medicaid waiver process. We came away with the realization we cannot count on the Commonwealth of Virginia and Medicaid waivers as a means of support for housing for 99% of our population.

Housing committee members have traveled to Glen Allen, Virginia, to visit Good Neighbor Village, a very impressive group of three homes housing eighteen young adults. It is an excellent operation funded at a very reasonable cost of \$2,250 per month per resident.

We have found a group in Mission, Kansas, with seven rental apartments housing 15 residents, run by a parents' corporation. Their main focus is a jobs program with an employment coordinator and entertainment activities. This is also an affordable model without up-front purchasing costs.

Assisi House in Virginia Beach is a corporation raising funds to build a home on church property donated by their parish and Diocese. Can it be emulated in the Arlington Diocese?

We traveled to Richmond and met with Dr. Fuller. We received information on various avenues of funding available through use of government monies and bonds. All these will be explored. All indications lead us to believe we had better spend 80% of our time focusing on raising our own funds and coming up with our own job creation endeavors. Wildflour Bakery and Catering is a fine example of job creation. They currently provide daily work for over 25 of our young people.

The GMU LIFE internship program is another avenue which is making lots of progress in finding meaningful jobs and employment coaches. The model works and shows great results for the future.

There are many opportunities out there. Members currently involved in this search realize **we must do it ourselves**. We also know it can't be done by a group of 6-10 individuals. **Every member** must offer to serve on committees, help in fundraising efforts and spend 80% of their time focusing on the opportunities of tomorrow created by Porto 104 and Porto Charities, Inc.

If we all have this attitude, we will succeed and will not be spending our valuable time discussing the problems of yesterday. We will provide a life for our young adults where their self esteem soars as they have successful job experiences and independent living opportunities.

GC Leo Alonso

GRAND DIVAN CANDIDATES FOR 2011-2012

The following SNs were nominated for the new Divan that will be voted in at the Oktoberfest this year:

- Leo Alonso, *Grand Commander*
- Bill Mundy, *Vice Grand Commander*
- Chris Wnuk, *Grand Scribe*
- Pat Cross, *Scribe of the Exchequer*
- Rick Vranesh, *Grand Chamberlain*
- 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*
- Rick Vranesh, *Past Grand Commander*

ON THE ROAD WITH PORTO:

Past Grand Commanders Norb Reiner and Rick Vranesh rode to Alexandria this Summer to visit SN Don Christie in Sunrise Assisted Living. Don was in fine spirits, has a new girlfriend, whom we met there, and would like us all to keep him in our prayers and contact him whenever possible.



MEMBER PROFILE

EVAN PATCHETT

One of the newest young adult members of Alhambra is Evan Patchett, a 2011 graduate of the Paul VI Catholic High School Options Program. Evan, who turned 19 this summer, will attend the Davis Career Center this fall. Evan lives in Reston, VA, with his parents, Donna and Ed Patchett, his brother, Daniel, and his golden retriever, Lucy.

Evan brings tremendous enthusiasm to everything he does, and has numerous hobbies and interests. A major fan of the Washington Capitals hockey team, Evan has attended several games. He also enjoys watching the Capitals practice at the Kettler Iceplex, where he has collected numerous player and coach autographs, though the prized Ovechkin autograph continues to elude him. Evan's interest in the Capitals developed through his friendship with several members of the PVI hockey team. On many cold Friday nights, he can be found cheering on the team at Reston Skatequest.

From a young age, Evan has been a movie buff. He particularly enjoys comedies and action movies, especially movies based on comic book superheroes such as the X-Men, Spiderman, and Batman, among others. Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, and James Bond are also among his favorites. Evan also enjoys a wide variety of TV shows, from anime cartoons like Avatar, to the Simpsons, and the Travel Channel series on "extreme foods," "extreme superstores," etc.

Building and playing with Legos is another long-time hobby of Evan's. He loves to create elaborate scenarios with Lego buildings, vehicles and minifigures. He has attended the

Lego convention, "Brickfair," for several years.

In addition to these hobbies and interests, Evan loves to travel. This summer he went on a cruise to Bermuda, and traveled to Las Vegas to see illusionist Criss Angel's show, *Believe*. He likes to visit his grandparents in Florida and Philadelphia, enjoys trips to the beach, and last year took a memorable trip to Spain with his family.

Evan is very tech-savvy and spends hours on his laptop or iPhone. Anyone who wants to get to know him better or keep in touch in between Alhambra events is welcome to "friend" him on Facebook! ▀

Grand Advocate Report

Ron Gutkowski reviewed the report of this year's Alhambra Convention in Dearborn, MI, July 11-July 13. There were several petitions that were adopted/approved. Here is a brief summary on the results.

- Petition #2: Opens membership to any Catholic over 18 years of age or older. (Women can join.)
- Petition #4: Deletes the requirement that the Supreme Advocate be a lawyer.
- Petition #6: Changes the deadline for payment of per capita from 90

days after March 1st notice to 30 days before disbanding the Caravan.

- Petition #7: Changes the per capita billing date to September with a due date of November 1st. If not paid within 30 days after November 1st the Caravan will be disbanded.
- Petition #8: Sets the administration fee for the Charity Fund at 30% of the revenues received each year.
- Petition #9: Limits "free" clergy members to one per Caravan.
- Petition #15: Sets the symbol of rank for Deputy Supreme

Directors and the Editor as a Silver Tassel.

- Petition #25: Eliminates the broken service requirement of an additional 25 years of membership to become a Life Member.
- Resolution to name "Our Lady of Fatima" as the heavenly Protectress of the Order, along with our present heavenly Protector, St. Francis of Assisi.
- Sets the 2012 per capita at \$60.

Accordingly, the bylaws of Porto Caravan no. 104 will be amended to reflect the above. ▀

Porto Charities, Inc., President's Message

Fundraising and Fun-raising

I trust you all are well and that you escaped any serious damage from the earthquake and Hurricane Irene. As summer is rapidly fading away and fall swiftly comes upon us, we are headed into a very active time of the year for PCI.

On the fundraising front, our "Golf Pro" Bill Mundy is avidly working on the final touches of the Fourth Annual Porto Charities Inc. Golf Outing. This year's tournament will again be held at the Regency at Dominion Valley Golf Club on Friday, October 7. Enclosed in this edition of *Shifting Sands* is a descriptive flyer with all the details of this extremely fun and charitable event. As a major annual PCI fundraiser, please participate. I also urge that you solicit sponsors for the Tournament at the levels shown on the flyer. Let's exceed last year's record-setting contributions. Please call upon your friends, relatives, neighbors, business associates, and local businesses to ascertain if they would graciously sponsor this fabulous event. Bill can be contacted at 703.978.7544 or BillM10049@aol.com, if you have any questions about the tournament or if you have found sponsors. Your assistance will be gratefully appreciated.

Also on the fundraising scene, keep in mind that our Grand Commander Leo is sacrificing his deep infatuation for food in order to passionately lose weight to raise funds. Leo needs encouragement so if you haven't pledged a "per pound" donation yet, please do so. Leo is down 22 pounds so far. Keep up the good work, Leo!

On the fun-raising side of PCI, the Board is enthusiastically developing an autonomous social program for the young adults. We call this program the Porto Chariots Club, a vehicle for fun and sociability. The young adults could plan their own independent social events such as movies, concerts, ball games and even dinner dances. We will have more information soon about this program and we will be seeking volunteers to organize the Club. Stay tuned!

In closing, I am pleased to announce and I wholeheartedly welcome Patrick Cross and Michael Eisenberg to the Porto Charities Board of Directors. We all look forward to working with them and I am certain that they both will bring enthusiasm and diligence to the table.

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

Carmen DiPlacido

PORTO CHARITIES/PORTO 104 SPECIAL EVENT

**BISHOP LOVERDE MASS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011**

5:00 PM

**ST. THOMAS MORE CATHEDRAL
3901 CATHEDRAL LANE
ARLINGTON, VA**

Kick-off for October 2011 Diocese of Arlington Disabilities Awareness Month

Let's fill the Cathedral with our "Special Angels" and supporters of Porto and PCI.

(We need special volunteers to be altar servers, readers, and gift bearers. Please contact Bill Dalgetty at 703.938.5247 (or bdalgetty@cox.net), or Pat Hammeke at 703.300.5211 (or coachpath@aol.com) if interested.

PORTO CHARITIES, INC. (PCI)**THE FUTURE IS OURS!**

The following committees are made up of Porto Charities members who are involved in producing results for our membership. Committees are open to anyone who would like to get involved. Please contact Leo Alonso at bettyleo@aol.com or (703) 626-2051.

Website/Communications/Public Relations

Includes design/production of PCI & Porto 104 websites; redesign and editing *Shifting Sands*; public relations activities such as writing articles and organizing activities

PCI committee members: Pat Cross, Sara Adkins-Blanch, and Tom Ryan

Porto Choir

Songbook for Masses; songbook for activities and merriment

PCI committee members: Bill Dalgetty, Susan Lambert, and Casey Hammeke

Golf Tournament

Preparations for 4th annual tournament; attract sponsors; secure door prizes; and secure auction items, among others.

PCI committee members: Bill Mundy, Ed Patchett, Paul Tierney, and Leo Alonso

Disabilities Awareness Month (October)

Coordinate with schools; lesson planning material for PreK-4 grades; update information for ID groups we support; articles for Catholic Herald; PR to local papers; and Bishop's Mass October 2nd.

PCI committee members: Leo Alonso, Bill Dalgetty, Paul and Connie Murray, and Ann DiPlacido

Housing

Housing groups to manage homes; Alhambra fundraising; raising funds from government/private grants; single family/th/condo/apt; residential asst. support; transportation proximity; leasing basement apts. (in existing homes); and building additions to homes.

PCI committee members: Bob Pizzano, Bill Mundy, Fausto Vasquez, Ron Gutkowski, Brendan Hammeke, and Stephanie Lee

Charity Awards

Vetting of groups requesting grants; disseminate 990s and mission statement of groups.

PCI committee members: Leo Alonso, Pat Hammeke, Carmen DiPlacido, Bill Mundy, Charlie Sullivan, and John Anderson

Special Kids/Special Needs Second Collection

Phone calls and visits to Pastors of non-participating parishes (44 of 78) to get more involvement by either holding a second collection or tithing

PCI committee members: Charlie Sullivan, Carmen DiPlacido, and John Anderson

Employment/Jobs

Lack of satisfaction with vendors; availability of jobs and permanency; types of jobs/hrs. per week; paid or non-paid (SS issues); transportation; county self-directed funds; becoming a vendor or club; using GMU as center for job coaches and transportation training; placement at Diocesan offices and schools

PCI committee members: Leo Alonso, Pat Hammeke, Brendan Hammeke, Donna Vasquez, Mark Baker, Pat Cross, and Ann DiPlacido



ORGANIZATIONS PORTO SUPPORTS

ARTSTREAM: A UNIQUE THEATER COMPANY

From the ArtStream Arlington Inclusive Theatre production of "The Mystery of the Well: A Bollywood Musical", directed and scripted by Patricia Woolsey, music and lyrics by Daniel Villar.

Actors from left to right: Ramee Gentry, Tracy Ormes, Frank Stephens, Brendan Hammeke, and Suzan Basoglu.

Photo is by ArtStream

ArtStream is a consortium of professional artists who are passionate about the idea of taking arts programs into communities generally under-served by the arts.

We believe that the transformative power of the arts should be available to everyone, especially those who are challenged by disabilities or difficult life circumstances. It is the fervent mission of ArtStream to fill the gap in arts programming between what is currently being provided in these communities and what is needed.

Porto Charities has generously donated to ArtStream for several years and we are so grateful for the support. ArtStream has used the money for the two Inclusive Theatre Companies located in Arlington, VA. ArtStream develops original musicals with actors with disabilities that are performed for the general public. The actors collaborate with the director/writer to come up with a story, characters, and setting through

theatre improvisations. The script is tailored specifically to the unique talents of the actors that are part of the production that year. In this way a wide range of abilities can be accommodated. Each actor is able to shine on stage.

The tuition and box office sales only cover a portion of the expenses associated with the theatre productions. We also offer scholarships to actors who need it and have several students in this situation in the Arlington companies. We feel strongly that no one should be turned away because of financial difficulties. The money from Porto Charities helps ensure that the productions are of the highest quality and that we can move forward in the future.

We also hope to challenge the community at large in pre-conceived notions about what people with disabilities can accomplish. We have seen that people are surprised and

emotionally moved when they experience an ArtStream Inclusive Production. The members of ArtStream seek to be advocates for people with disabilities.

We hope to see you at our 6th Arlington Inclusive Production March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24, 2012. Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm at Gunston Theatre One in Arlington, VA.

We don't know what the play will be about yet (the actors decide on that) but we guarantee you will enjoy it!

Again...thank you for all of your support!

*Patricia Woolsey
Executive Director, ArtStream, Inc.*

ArtStream will be holding auditions for the Arlington Inclusive Theatre Companies on September 15th. For more information, visit: <http://www.artstream.org/inclusive#arlington>



**Fourth Annual Porto Charities Inc.,
Golf Outing**

**Regency at
Dominion Valley Golf Club
Haymarket, Virginia**

October 7, 2011

- ~~ 18 holes on an Arnold Palmer executive course ~~
- ~~ 9:30 am shotgun start — Captain's Choice ~~
- ~~ \$95.00 per person (includes green fees, cart, and lunch) ~~

Gold Sponsor (signage, foursome and lunch)	\$5,000
Lunch Sponsor (signage, foursome and lunch)	\$2,500
Silver Sponsor (foursome and lunch)	\$1,000
Bronze Sponsor (hole sponsor and lunch for 4)	\$500
Hole Sponsor	\$200
Lunch only	\$30

Contributions are tax deductible under Federal 501 (c) (3) guidelines

Make checks payable to Porto Charities Inc. and mail to:

Bill Mundy, 4519 Gilbertson Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Registration deadline is September 20, 2011

Registration Form

Fourth Annual Porto Charities Inc., Golf Outing Friday, October 7, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Company Name/Type of business _____

Home/Business phone _____

Email _____

I am registering for the following (please check all that apply):

Gold Sponsorship (Event banner) **	\$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch/Gift Sponsorship	\$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Silver Sponsorship**	\$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bronze Sponsorship (hole or tee sponsor and lunch for 4)	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tee or Hole Sponsor	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foursome Registration (golf and lunch for 4)	\$380	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Registration (golf and lunch for 1)	\$95	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunch for 1	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to attend, but would like to contribute	Amount:	

**Sponsorship includes foursome and lunch, hole sponsorship, and special recognition

My foursome will include the following players:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Questions? Please contact Bill Mundy at 703.978.7544 or BillM10049@aol.com. Please send your registration form and check made payable to Porto Charities, Inc., to: Bill Mundy, 4519 Gilbertson Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. **Deadline is September 20, 2011.**

**PORTO CHARITIES/PORTO 104
EVENT**

**OKTOBERFEST AND
ANNUAL MEETING**

**FREE TO MEMBER
FAMILIES**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011
Our Lady of Good Counsel DeSales Hall
(next to Church)**

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

7:00 to 8:00 pm Oasis and Dinner

8:00 to 8:30 pm Elections and Bylaw Changes

8:30 to 9:30 pm Bingo and Prizes

MENU

German Bratwurst Sausages

Potato Salad

Traditional Sauerbraten with Red Cabbage and Boiled Potatoes

Dinner Rolls

Yellow and Chocolate Sheet Cakes

RSVP by October 21st to bettyleo@aol.com or call Leo at 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 \$85.00 Individual or \$133.00 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 INSTRUCTIONSCOMPLETE 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 \$85.00 Individual or \$133.00 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

RICK VRANESH

Scribe of the Exchequer

PETE FRIESEN

Grand Chamberlain

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

RICK VRANESH

Past Grand Commander

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

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

If you would like to submit a story, article, or news piece to *Shifting Sands*, please email adkins_blanch@verizon.net.