

MANRESA MATTERS

Fall/Winter 2024

Showing the Face of God to Others





Our Mission is to help men and women grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, guidance and teaching according to the Ignatian tradition.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN



WHEN THE PUBLICATIONS TEAM MET TO CONSIDER THEMES FOR THIS ISSUE, THE HEADLINES WERE TEEMING WITH NEWS OF WARS AND NATIONS FACING MOUNTING CRISIS AND PUBLIC UNREST.

We knew the fires of societal discontent and division were being fueled by often-vitriolic social media messages, and we lamented the rising levels of anxiety, loneliness and depression among young people in particular. We wondered, "How do we as Christians respond to these tumultuous times? What can we do to help turn the tide of fear and hopelessness, to quell the storm?"

We found our direction in Sr. Linda's sharing of Pope Francis' directive to a group of religious sisters (see her column on the next page). We would encourage one another to take up our role as Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), to be intentional about showing the loving and merciful face of God to others (Eph. 5:1-2). Imagine how we might reshape our circles of influence and beyond by reflecting the fruit of our friendship with God through acts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

As Fr. Dan Dixon so eloquently conveys in his article on pages 4-5, showing the face of God to others requires a personal encounter with Jesus. The better we know Him and the closer we are to Jesus, the truer will be our reflection of who God is. Whether through prayer, reading and meditating on the Scriptures or reflecting on our lives, we experience God more deeply and, like Moses coming down from his encounter with God on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 34:29-34), our countenance shines with the light and love of God's presence, inviting others into the same grace and mercy that we ourselves have received.

As you read through this issue, you'll discover the variety of ways our writers have shown the face of God to others. We hope you'll be inspired to display the fruit of your relationship with Jesus and, in so doing, help to bring peace, hope and greater unity to your communities.

Speaking of themes ...

We'd love to hear your ideas for themes for future issues. Feel free to contact me at editor@manresa-sj.org or 248.644.4933 Ext. 106.

On the journey with you,

JoAnn Amicangelo

JoAnn Amicangelo
Publications Coordinator

Team Effort

Every issue of Manresa Matters comes to life with the help of our Publications Team, which develops themes and article ideas. Pictured from left to right: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ, Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM, Steve Raymond, JoAnn Amicangelo, Lori Kneisler and Paul Seibold.



What people are saying about their retreats at Manresa



Fr. Peter's talks and Christian artwork were very insightful and helped draw me closer to God. You are doing a wonderful job. I love coming to Manresa. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

.....
Thank you for maintaining the charm, beauty and history of Manresa. You do a great job!

.....
This is an absolute jewel of a place. I just can't articulate what a difference this retreat—and Manresa—will continue to make in my life. Bless you!

.....
Everything at Manresa is wonderful. Just viewing God's precious creatures at play is proof that Manresa is great for all of God's creations.

FROM THE *Executive Director*

Called to be the Face of God

Dear Friends,



AS A MEMBER OF THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE US, I LISTENED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TO A LARGE ZOOM

meeting with our four leaders who had recently returned from their annual meeting to Rome to visit some of the Vatican offices. They had also had a personal audience with Pope Francis, and they considered that the highlight of their visit.

Although they arrived 35 minutes early, they were touched that he was already waiting for them! One said she felt she was the only person in the room when he greeted her. Another said he represents the human face of God to her; in her view, he is present to people in the way Jesus was present to people. He was full of encouragement for them, and they felt invigorated by his humor and his own joy in his vocation.

One of the women asked him at the end if there was anything he wished to ask of them. He thought for a number of seconds and said that they must be the face of God to others in compassion, kindness, faith and joy. He urged them to live their vocations faithfully with joy.

I was deeply moved by the account of this visit, and particularly the way the Pope described how to show the face of God to others: through compassion...mercy...faith...joy. I wondered how I would describe showing the face of God. How would you? Read on to learn how others answer this question.

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM
Executive Director



“Another said he [the Pope] represents the human face of God to her; in her view, he is present to people in the way Jesus was present to people.”

Knowing the Face of Jesus, Reflecting His Face to Others

By Fr. Dan Dixon, SJ

THE HEART OF MANRESA, FOR ME, IS THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, LAID OUT ALONG A WINDING PATHWAY ON THE NORTH LAWN. IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A RETREAT HOUSE TO HAVE STATIONS, BUT MANRESA'S AFFECT ME DIFFERENTLY SOMEHOW.

Perhaps it's how they are integrated into nature, with deer and rabbits and fireflies for company at summer twilight.

Perhaps it's the striking selections of Scripture that encourage us to go deeper, to understand Jesus' emotions and feelings as He endured His hardest day.

Or perhaps it's how they remind me of my dad's journey home to God.



The theme for this issue of *Manresa Matters*—"Showing the Face of God to Others"—cannot be realized until we see the "face of God" ourselves, in our own lives, through our own prayer, relationships and experiences.

Fundamental to the Spiritual Exercises is the Meditation on the Incarnation, where we consider the Trinity looking at the world in all its beauty and suffering and deciding to become human, to become one of us. To have a face.

So much of Ignatian spirituality rests on knowing the face of Jesus, revealed to us through the Gospels, replete with expressions and emotions that remind us what it means to be human. We imagine Jesus' face moved with pity in touching the man afflicted with leprosy, his righteous anger at the moneychangers in the Temple, his delight and wonder in telling the children, "Come to me."

The Stations of the Cross, too, reveal several contours to Jesus' face: fortitude in bearing our griefs as He falls the first time (III), compassion in meeting his afflicted mother (IV), embarrassment while being stripped of his clothes (X) and endurance while being nailed to the cross (XI).

Each of these Stations reminds us that God's face is present to us in all life's moments, from tender moments surrounded by the love of family to when we feel loneliness or even despair, when we feel like crying out, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

In the summer of 2022, my dad was diagnosed with colon cancer. I was in Guatemala at the time, seeking to improve my Spanish. A FaceTime call bearing the bad news instantly changed my focus. All I wanted was to come home. My prayer was simple and raw. *Let it not be stage IV, God. Help him beat this. Show us your face, Lord, we need you now.*

Over the next 18 months, I came to realize that the first two prayers would not be answered, but the third would be. Dad's Calvary experience was laden with suffering: from physical pain to the frustration of innumerable appointments to all the dead ends and bad news, I found myself reflecting on his behalf upon the words etched on Station IV: "Look and see whether there is any suffering like my suffering" (Lam 1:12).

Somehow, in that very difficult year, God's face became more evident, more visible in the people around us. Through the compassionate eyes of a nurse before setting up a new IV, the gentle, knowing nod of a doctor before sharing test results, or the generosity of family and friends who came to visit or drop off a meal or send a card, we saw the face of God. This face brought us comfort and strength amidst our suffering. *I know this must be so hard. You are not alone in your pain.*

So much of Ignatian spirituality rests on knowing the face of Jesus, revealed to us through the Gospels, replete with expressions and emotions that remind us what it means to be human.

Most of all, we encountered the face of God through Dad's acceptance of his journey; for example, his refusal to complain or to give in to self-pity. When words or movement became increasingly difficult, his face told us the most important story. *You are special to me. I love you.*



After Dad went home to God, on a cold February afternoon, I found myself at Manresa parked on the bench contemplating Station XIV. No deer or fireflies were in sight this time. The silence of the tomb was palpable. With heart filled with mixed emotions, missing him and thanking God for the gift of his life, I prayed with the Scripture: "Just as Christ was raised from the dead...may we too live in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

As we read through this issue, may we ask for the grace of recognizing the new ways that God's face is revealed to us each day, through a stranger or a loved one or even the Stations of the Cross. May we come to encounter more deeply our God of compassion, a God who suffers with us, a God who reminds us, even in our darkest days and years, that we are not alone. †



Fr. Dan Dixon, SJ was ordained in 2023 and serves as parochial vicar at St. Mary Student Parish at the University of Michigan. Born and raised in Birmingham, MI, he met the Jesuits while a student at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. After earning a bachelor's degree in theology at University of Notre Dame, he taught middle school

social studies and religion at Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education. He took his vows in 2014 and completed degrees in private school leadership and business administration from Columbia University. He was then missioned to help start the Welsh Academy, a middle school for families of modest economic means at Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, where he also taught high school theology and helped direct Saint Ignatius' strategic plan.

Manresa's Ministry Team reflects on *Showing the Face of God to Others*



I know it when I see it

In a 1964 US Supreme Court ruling on hard-core pornography, Justice Potter Stewart wrote that he couldn't define it but "I know it when I see it."

Like Justice Stewart, I'm not sure what the look of the face of God is, but I know it when I see it. Most frequently, I see it in the faces of those who embody the love and compassion of God.

Not long ago, I was directing a young woman through a directed retreat. She had done the meditation on seeing the world as God sees it, and she had focused on Jesus as the image of God. She said that Jesus is the embodiment of God's love; and, as she said it, her face shone with an awareness of God's love and the joy of becoming a mother.

That's just an example, and I keep looking.

—By Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Listening to others' stories

During my many years in the Society of Jesus, I have encountered a variety of Jesuit spiritual directors who showed me the face of our loving God and taught me to be a caring person for others.

I am grateful that in my different ministries, I have always been able to serve others as a spiritual director. The gift of a spiritual director is a man or woman attentive to the Spirit who welcomes each person who comes to them with a listening ear, an open mind, and a loving heart. Listening patiently and with compassion enables the one to share his or her story and see the face of God.

—By Fr. Fran Daly, SJ

Witnessing love expressed

The book of Exodus records Moses asking to see God's face. God replies, "You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." To protect Moses, God puts him in a cleft in the rock and covers his eyes with God's hand as God passed by. "I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Moses has to settle for the indirect glimpse of God's back. But...the powerful musical *Les Misérables* presents another aspect of God. As Jean Valjean is dying, the song sung to him reveals another truth about God.

Take my love for love is everlasting. And remember the truth that once was spoken:

To love another person is to see the face of God.

The invitation to see the face of God in one person loving another is profound and concrete, love expressed in deeds and not just words:

A son holding his newborn in his arms, eyes filled with unspeakable love;

Elderly parents sitting side by side, holding hands while watching TV;

A young widow reverently placing her husband's remains into the earth;

A husband washing the kitchen floor after folding the laundry.

Witnessing love expressed is seeing the face of God.

—By Ann Dillon

Making God visible in our compassion toward those in need

By Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ



IN 2014 A GROUP OF PILGRIMS FROM MANRESA VISITED THE JASNA GÓRA MONASTERY IN POLAND, the home of the famous icon of the Black Madonna, Our Lady of Częstochowa. While we were there, we also saw the extraordinary Stations of the Cross—the Golgotha of Jasna Góra—created by the Polish painter Jerzy Duda-Gracz

in 2000-2001, just three years before his death. Its sixth station picture, as usual, the story of Veronica, but it pictures it in an unusual way.

The station recalls the story that as Jesus carried His cross on the way to Golgotha, a woman named Veronica, moved with compassion, pushed her way bravely through the crowd and with her veil wiped away the blood and sweat that covered His face. Jesus rewarded her compassion by leaving the image of His face imprinted on her veil. Many people believe that her name comes from the Latin word “vera” (true) and the Greek word “eikon” (image). Although there are earlier references to Veronica’s veil, it was not until the 13th century that she and her veil were connected to the Passion story of Christ carrying the cross.

Duda-Gracz has portrayed Mother Teresa of Calcutta in the role of Veronica, undoubtedly because of the great compassion she showed to the sick and especially to those about to die. But Mother Teresa doesn’t have a miraculous veil; she is herself the image of Christ. Once, when a child was asked what a saint was, she remembered seeing them in stained glass windows and replied, “A saint is someone who lets the light shine through.” **The light of Christ’s face shines through Mother Teresa and through those who practice Christ’s compassion and love for others, especially for those who are suffering or in need.**

Behind Christ, Mother Teresa and two nurses in their caps, we see a member of the Daughters of Charity in their distinctive white cornette as well as half a dozen sick or homeless people that she and the nurses are caring for. Neither caps nor cornettes are worn these days, but nuns and nurses still tend the sick. At the very top of the painting the image of Christ’s face appears on recently laundered linens hung out to dry, symbols of the many acts of compassion and mercy performed by the hospital staff.

To the left, behind Christ, a small child kneels holding a sign the meaning of which isn’t clear. The text is so fragmented that Polish speakers might be moved to ponder the exact meaning, which may be what Duda-Gracz intended. It’s probably asking the hospital staff to help her sick grandmother, but we might also think it is asking us to care for those who are sick. To the right,



Jerzy Duda-Gracz (1941-2004), *The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus* (2000-2001), oil on fiberboard, 72.8 × 42.1 inches, Jasna Góra Monastery, Częstochowa, Poland.

behind Mother Teresa, we see the grandmother herself and, with her, a younger woman who is possibly helping to feed her.

This younger woman’s red dress makes her stand out a little like the small girl in *Schindler’s List*. She seems to be a volunteer or member of the hospital staff rather than a patient. The artist has painted her features more realistically than he usually does, so it could be a portrait of someone he knows. **He looks at us, engaging us, inviting us to come into the scene, to be compassionate with people in need and so to be ourselves images of Christ.** For the true image of Jesus is not on any veil but is the woman or man who sees other people suffering and comes to their aid. †

Fr. Peter Fennessy is serving his second term as superior of the Jesuit Community at Manresa. Since studying Theology and Art and Buddhist Aesthetics during a sabbatical year at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, he uses fine arts to illustrate his preached retreats.

God's face revealed at sunrise; the blessing of shared experiences

By Sergio Pagés



**ON JUNE 18, 2024,
I WOKE UP AT 5:10
AM IN A ROOM**

at the Santa Clara dormitory of Loyola University in Chicago, located on the shores of Lake Michigan. The

sun was rising on the lake's horizon, and this was unfamiliar to me, for I was used to experiencing sunsets over the western shores of Michigan.

I went outside to continue my morning contemplative experience, and I encountered another person who was likewise captivated by the beauty that was so palpable that we both expressed to each other how God's presence was embracing us simultaneously.

Wearing a traditional Mexican farmer hat, Meregildo had come to Chicago, like me, for the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network Conference attended by migrant farmworkers from around the country. He told me that he was from Mecca, California, a very different topography from our Great Lake state. He was struck by the contrast of this large body of water and cloudy blue sky with the beauty of the arid and often-cloudless desert region of his hometown, which sits below sea level

and radiates God's glory in its rich agriculture that includes grapes.

As I listened to him with the sun behind his back, I could not see his face clearly because his silhouette was eclipsing the sun.

Our conversation developed beyond the contrasting beauty of both geographies to the contrast between the culture of his native indigenous tribe of Purépecha in the region of Michoacán, Mexico, and the culture that he and his family were now part of in this country. He highlighted similarities in family values and the different ways of demonstrating them. An example of his culture is that a man traditionally walks in front of his wife and children because of his role as protector, yet when it comes to family decisions, the women have the most influence. To an outsider this can be perceived as a male-driven culture without understanding the nuances of the strong value of respect between their corresponding roles. He shared his desire for his children to adopt the best of both cultures.

As I continued to listen with the sun behind him, I felt God's face shining directly on us.

I spent a week with Meregildo and many others from different areas of



Sergio and Meregildo

the US, many of whom had a similar experience at each morning sunrise of feeling God's face shining on us and through us to each other. One of the many conference speakers shared that, like Moses returning from Mount Sinai with his face aglow from God's glory, we are all a reflection of His light, like the moon reflects the light of the sun. †

Sergio Pagés graduated from Manresa's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality in 2011 and served on Manresa's Board of Directors. He gives the Spiritual Exercises and has led several workshops on Ignatian Spirituality in both Spanish and English.

Hearing God's call through spiritual direction



Janice reads to her youngest parishioners during a Christmas Eve service.

By The Rev. Janice Locke



AS A REGISTERED NURSE AND NURSE PRACTITIONER FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, I HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW THE face of God to my patients and co-workers.

I remember consoling a man whose wife was dying. He sat at her bedside from early morning till late at night, often holding her hand with tears streaming down his cheeks. While I provided physical care for his wife, he and I would talk. He told me about the trips they had enjoyed together, their now-grown children and the fun they had with their grandchildren. During those moments, his tears slowed to a stop. He smiled as he shared his memories and heard about my plans to travel to Scotland. Our conversations gave him a brief respite from his grief, reminding him he was not alone.

I was aware of being the face of God to a co-worker dealing with her son's addiction. God's healing power was very present as we spent time together in quiet companionship. Often, no words were spoken; I simply sat next to her with my arm around her shoulder. Other times, she cried while expressing frustration at her inability to change her son and anger at him for not understanding the tremendous impact his addiction was having on the whole family. I was there to listen and love her.

I'm also aware of the times that others have been the face of God to me through their words and actions. This was especially true as I worked with my spiritual director to discern a call to leave my nursing practice for ordained

ministry. While I loved working as a nurse, I began to feel a pull toward something different—a desire to engage in something more spiritual in nature. I had struggled with that feeling for more than 30 years when one day my pastor referred me to Manresa for spiritual direction.

I began meeting with my director about seven years ago. Her commitment to walk this path with me has been a tangible expression of God's presence in my life. She knew the right questions to ask to help me to open myself to the Spirit. She encouraged me to try different spiritual practices like *lectio divina*. My reading of Mark 4:38-40 where Jesus is asleep in the boat while his disciples are trying to stay afloat in a raging storm continues to comfort me, especially when I am facing a "raging storm" of my own. The work that we have done together has been invaluable in helping me see God in my life and to follow God's call.

In 2019, I left my career in health care at the age of 60 to enroll in seminary. I graduated from United Lutheran Seminary and became ordained in the Ministry of Word and Sacrament through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2022. As pastor of a small rural church for just over two years now, I know I am exactly where God wants me to be. And whether presiding over a Sunday morning service, offering comfort to the grieving or simply enjoying time with parishioners, I am aware of the privilege it is to be the face of God to others and to see God's face in theirs. †

Janice Locke was ordained June 5, 2022 and serves as pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Dundee, Michigan.

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023-24

FROM THE *Finance Director*.....

Greetings and God's peace to you,



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED MANRESA DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AS

we continue to help men and women grow spiritually according to the Ignatian tradition.

We were pleased many retreatants returned to our conference retreats, increasing participation by nine percent this year after 30 percent the prior year. Many of you recognized our ongoing financial needs and supported our Annual Fund/Adopt-A-Retreatant Program, delivering \$309,000. Our Spirit of Manresa Banquet was a resounding success, raising \$188,000 for our Mission. Furthermore, our Capital Fund raised \$219,000 for refreshing our chapel and adding new windows throughout the house as well as new heating and cooling equipment in the outbuildings.

We continue to envision improvements in our infrastructure, particularly reimagining our courtyard area, and evaluating new heating and cooling systems for our main building.

Finally, we are thankful for the dedication of our Investment Committee and investment advisors whose actions increased our McGrail Fund balance this fiscal year by approximately \$745,000. This endowment continues to provide for Manresa's future.

We have increased our capacity and access to Manresa so please continue to come for our weekday Masses, retreats and other Ignatian programs.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Timothy Neis".

Tim Neis
Finance Director

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

OPERATING REVENUE

Adult Conference Retreats	\$409,393
Ignatian Formation, Youth Retreats, IDRs	\$158,290
Use of Building	\$68,069
Other Revenue from Operations	\$146,294
Cell Tower Revenue	\$126,059
Total Operating Revenue	\$908,105

DONATIONS & OTHER REVENUE

Annual Fund/Adopt-A-Retreatant	\$309,402
Capital and Other Restricted Funds	\$250,405
Special Events	\$187,827
McGrail Fund	\$40,320
Jesuit Community Gifts	\$31,713
Total Donations & Other Revenue	\$819,667

TOTAL REVENUE \$1,727,772

EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$920,013
Building and Administrative	\$317,140
Food Service	\$321,729
Special Events	\$62,093
Depreciation	\$178,409
Other, including McGrail Investment	\$133,391

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,932,774

THE ST. IGNATIUS Legacy Society

THE ST. IGNATIUS LEGACY SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED TO HONOR MEMBERS OF THE MANRESA COMMUNITY WHO HAVE INCLUDED MANRESA IN THEIR WILL OR TRUST OR with a planned gift. These individuals demonstrate their commitment to Manresa's Mission through gifts that will preserve this sacred place for future generations.

Your membership involves no dues, obligations or solicitations, but it does allow us to thank you for the plans you have made and it may inspire generosity in others. St. Ignatius Legacy Society members are invited to Manresa's annual Appreciation Dinner.

How do you become a member? Just let us know of your plans by checking the box on the enclosed envelope and returning it to the attention of Steve Raymond. You may contact Steve via email at sraymond@manresa-sj.org or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 111.

Adopt-A-Retreatant

As part of our Annual Fund, the **Adopt-A-Retreatant** program allows Manresa to continue its policy of relying on voluntary donations (beyond a \$50 deposit) for group retreats, a tradition that dates back to Manresa's founding in 1926.

McGrail Fund

The **McGrail Fund** is generally used as an endowment to maintain the financial stability of Manresa, but with explicit Board approval, the funds can also be used for capital improvements and operational support.

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

[CLICK HERE](#)

to make a donation today.

McGrail Fund Performance

FISCAL YEAR	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Opening Balance	\$8,250,959	\$7,723,408	\$8,239,546
Contributions/ Other Income	\$71,144	\$59,451	\$40,320
Transfers/Expenses	(\$262,810)	(\$413,933)	(\$389,845)
Interest/Dividends	\$204,403	\$232,949	\$233,611
Receivables	\$6,290	\$41,143	—
Appreciation/ (Depreciation)	(\$546,578)	\$596,528	\$860,792
Closing Balance	\$7,723,408	\$8,239,546	\$8,984,424

Major Grants Received

- Robert E. Burke Memorial Trust
- E. William & France Kenyon Foundation
- Koch Foundation
- Gino & Luciana DiClemente Foundation
- Leo E. & Ann June Mainville Foundation
- Alexander & Ellen Nick Foundation

From suburban comfort to inner city compassion:

A journey of spiritual sight



By Carol Zellner



SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN OTHERS. WE HEAR THIS STATEMENT SO OFTEN THAT IT RISKS BECOMING A CLICHÉ, AN elemental foundation of our spiritual life reduced to the mundane. At least for me, it had devolved into being significantly less of a thought-provoking spiritual meditation and merely a statement I could gloss over in prayer.

After all, there were so many people in my life who were so easy to love; of course, I could see the face of God in them.

And then, at 50 years of age, when I found myself matriculating in seminary for a Master of Divinity degree, I discovered that God had plans for me that would challenge my ability to see the face of God in others.

As a requirement of graduation, I needed two semesters of field education, and God gifted me with a field education ministry to the men and women of the streets of Detroit. I found myself leaving my suburban house at 6:15 in the morning and driving my brand-new Cadillac to an inner-city church warming center. When the doors of the church were opened at 7:00, I welcomed men and women who had spent their night in a shelter, at Hart Plaza or in an abandoned building. These men and women were truly “the other” for me. I had no reference in my life for relating

to how they were living their lives. I became aware very quickly that I was a stranger in a strange land.

There is something about living on the streets and struggling with addiction that requires one to be brutally honest with oneself. There is no defense mechanism that can justify the reality of waking up on the streets every morning. God helped me to understand this early on in my time at the warming center and was calling me to the same honesty with myself. I could not hide behind my suburban, white, comfortable life. I, too, had to face the reality of my life. Only in doing so could I meet the other on common ground.

The common ground between the guests of the warming center and me was that we are all beloved children of God. Only when I started to see the men and women as beloved, and with compassion, could I see God's face in them. God was asking me to set down all other images of myself as well as my preconceived notions of people living with addiction and on the streets of Detroit. God was asking me to simply show up as a beloved child to interact with other beloved children of God. Only then was my heart able to see—and be—the face of God in another. †

Carol Zellner's life experiences include being a wife, mother, grandmother, nurse, pastoral minister and spiritual director. She holds degrees in Nursing and Theology and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

U-D High School students reflect the face of God by serving others

FOCUS: Hope Food Program



By JoAnn Amicangelo

THIS OCTOBER MARKS THE 36TH YEAR THAT STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL and Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, have been the face of God to senior citizens through the Focus: HOPE Food Program in Detroit.

Every month about 40 students deliver non-perishable food items to 90 different residents in two apartment buildings in Detroit. Each box represents 25 percent of a resident's calories for the month.

The program is one of many service projects that U-D Jesuit students can participate in to meet service hour requirements for each year.

"This is the most consistent service project we do at the school," said Dan Piaskowski, a Campus Ministry and Service Coordinator at U-D Jesuit High School for the past two and a half years.

Under the guidance of adult chaperones, students serving in this

ministry have the opportunity to assume leadership roles.

"They take ownership of the program, working together to make decisions and organize the deliveries. It's a great option for students who may not have leadership opportunities through other school programs like sports or clubs," said Dan. "If they're willing to show up and do the work, they can be a leader."

He said it's also an eye-opening experience for many of the students as they realize how much the people depend on and are grateful for the one box of food each month.

"It's been a good reminder of why the school encourages our boys to be 'men for others.' It's not just about serving others, but seeing that there are injustices in the world," he said. "We want our boys to recognize that and to want to do something about it. You can really see students changed from making that connection, Dan said. †

Pallbearer Ministry



THE YOUNG MEN WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATEA PALLBEARER

Ministry of U-D Jesuit High School offer God's presence to mostly the poor and indigent by carrying deceased men and women, who have little or no family, to their final resting place.

Named after the man who buried Jesus Christ, St. Joseph of Arimathea, the ministry is open to juniors and seniors and serves the metropolitan community by offering a corporal work of mercy by assisting at a funeral. Members are trained for the role of someone who prays and assists by serving as a pallbearer, a student role accompanied by adult companions from among the faculty and staff.

Rick Mazyck, a Campus Ministry and Service Coordinator, said the ministry is intended to signify the dignity of the deceased's soul and honor the person—and God, in whose image they are made.

"As the students serve and pray, it becomes an opportunity for reflection on their own mortality and often serves as inspiration for deep, contemplative dialogue and even a little catechesis accompanied by pastoral consolation," Rick said. †

Advent & Christmas:

Contemplating the incarnation, discovering the face of God in others

By Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



THE SEASON OF ADVENT INVITES US TO TURN TO THE Lord as we focus on the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We can pray with the words of Psalm 80: "Lord, make us

turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

God has indeed let us see His face. He showed us His face in sending us His Son. Jesus is not merely a great prophet like Elijah or John the Baptist. Jesus is not just some great religious figure in history. He is the Face of God. Pope Benedict XVI once said that God's face is "the Face of mercy, the Face of pardon and love, the Face of the encounter with us."

Advent and Christmas teach us to recognize God's face in "the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Jesus came into the world to reveal to us the face of His Father and our Father. Pope Benedict said Jesus came into the world "to speak to us of the Father; to make Him known to us, His lost children; and to revive in our hearts the joy of belonging to Him, the hope of being forgiven and restored to our full dignity, and the desire to dwell forever in His house which is also our house."

Advent and Christmas are seasons of joy and hope. We are filled with joy and hope because God has a human face. This is the great truth of Christianity, that God became one of us, that He is our Savior. He overcomes sin and death. He is the Prince of Peace who gives us the power of peace that no one else can give us. God is not a reality known only from afar. He came close to us, to bring heaven to us.



As Christians, we are called to discover the Face of Jesus Christ especially in people who are poor and suffering, in the marginalized and forgotten. When we pray Psalm 80: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved," we know that we can see God's face, the face of Jesus, in the sick and the poor whom we are called to love and serve. In faith, we look upon them and their needs with new eyes. In them, we are called to see the Face of Christ, and we discover the mysterious Face of God. When we care for a suffering person, we discover Christ's face while hanging on the cross. We can also glimpse, through faith, the radiant face of the risen Christ who tells us that suffering and sickness will not have the last word in our human lives. It is Christ whom we serve when we show love and compassion to those in need.

In the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas, let us contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery and grace of God becoming man, of His assuming our human nature. We can say, therefore, that God has a human face. †

Bishop Rhoades was installed as the 9th bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend on January 13, 2010. This article can be read in its entirety at todayscatholic.org/author/bishoprhoades.

Caring for Our Common Home

With Pope Francis and Superior General Father Arturo Sosa, the Jesuits worldwide identified four Universal Apostolic Preferences that will influence our ministry and work through 2029. In our last issue we focused on Preference C, *Journeying with Youth*. Here Fr. Scullin addresses the fourth Preference.

**Preference D:
CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME**
Collaborate, with Gospel depth,
for the protection and renewal of
God's Creation

By Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ



**I FIND HUMOR
FROM AN OLD
CARTOON:**

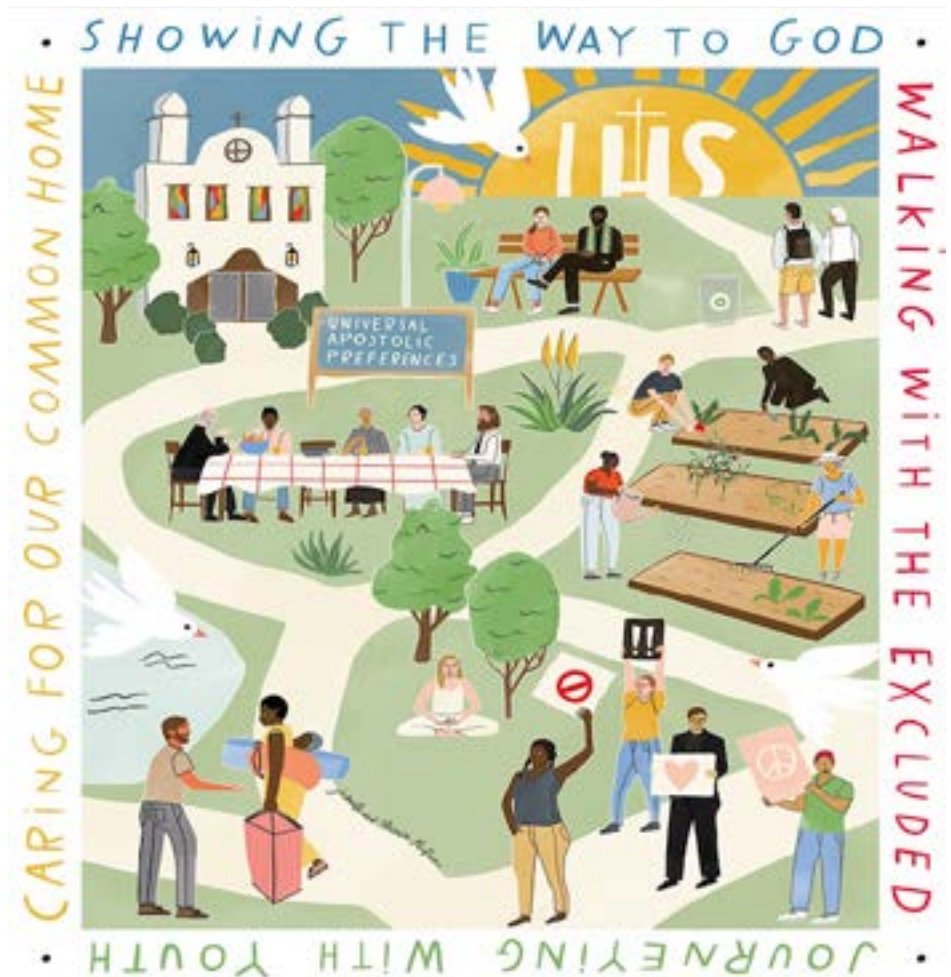
Chicken Little was lying on his back with his feet in the air while others were scurrying about, convinced

that "the sky is falling." Asked what he was doing lying on his back with his feet in the air, he replied, "One does what one can."

And we can do what we can to honor the fourth UAP: Caring for Our Common Home.

We know the drill well: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. We meet that challenge at various retail entities: Bring your own (reusable) bag. We know, more or less, the individual size of our carbon footprint. Get on a plane and watch the immediate gargantuan size of your footprint expand. Will good restraint, staying home and recyclable practices make a real difference as we watch the seas rise and global temperatures climb?

Yes, they will! Especially by what we do (or refrain from doing) in North America and beyond. Incrementally whatever we do will affect global perspectives and actions that may bring us back from tipping points and the "cliff."



The wisdom of Genesis and the Book of Revelation can inspire in us our deep, intimate love of the earth—gardens and deserts, mountains and plains.

We have the gift of Ignatian imagination to envision "a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). What practical step can I take today? Here are some suggestions:

- Walk, bike, or share rides more; drive less.
- Volunteer for cleanups in your community.
- Plant a tree or two. Trees provide food and oxygen, and they help clean the air.
- Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and workplace.

- Conserve water. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth, fix leaky faucets.
- Recycle trash, don't waste energy and water, buy eco-friendly products.
- Support a pro-ecological agenda.
- Learn more about ecological issues by visiting jesuits.global/uap and ecojesuit.com.
- Inspire others by sharing these ideas with your friends.

The Climate Clock is running (climateclock.net). Let's collectively slow it down.†

Fr. Scullin came to Manresa in 2021, after his term as superior of the Colombiere Jesuit Community in Clarkston for three years. He has served in a number of Hispanic and African American parishes.

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AWARDS

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Charles Vigneau
Mary Catherine Wright

Manresa Blazer
(50 retreats)

Thomas J. DeWitt

BORN INTO RESURRECTION

Gilbert Bousho, 15 retreats

Robert Chrzanowski,
46 retreats

John Flintosh, 37 retreats

Virginia "Ginny" Joliet, 2 retreats

Sr. Mary Jane Kleindorfer, HVM,
21 retreats

Arthur Orlowski, 61 retreats

Milestones January-June 2024

CONFERENCE RETREATS

Retreats for Men

2024

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 18-20

Patron: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, SJ
Theme: Keeping the End in Mind: Being a Hope-Filled People **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Fr. Daniel Kennedy, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 25-27

Patron: St. Stanislaus Kosta, SJ **Theme:** Wisdom from the Mystics **Format:** Silent **Directors:** Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 1-3

Patron: Blessed Rupert Mayer, SJ **Theme:** (Re)created in Christ: Meditating on Scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Fr. Christopher Alt, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 6-8

Patron: St. Francis Xavier, SJ **Theme:** Discipleship in the Spiritual Exercises: Creative and Challenging **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

2025

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 3-5

Patron: Fr. John Courtney Murray, SJ
Theme: Pathways to Hope with Jesus
Format: Silent **Director:** Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 10-12

Patron: Fr. Jacques Marquette, SJ
Theme: TBD **Format:** TBD **Director:** Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 Men in Recovery

Patron: Fr. John C. Ford, SJ **Theme:** TBD **Format:** Silent **Director:** TBD

Friday-Sunday, Mar. 7-9

Patron: St. Robert Southwell, SJ
Theme: Hope Springs Forth **Format:** Silent & Optional Sharing **Director:** Sr. Linda Sevcik, SJ

Friday -Sunday, Mar. 14-16

Patron: St. Andrew Bobola, SJ **Theme:** Living the Life of the Kingdom of God **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Friday -Sunday, Mar. 28-Mar. 30

Patron: Blessed Francis Page, SJ
Theme: Living the Life of the Kingdom of God **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 11-13 Palm Sunday

Patron: St. Gabriel Lalemant, SJ
Theme: Palm Sunday **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 25-27

Patron: Our Lady of the Way **Theme:** To Know Christ Jesus **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ



A non-refundable, non-transferable \$50 deposit per person is required for all retreats.
To register for retreats, click on the retreat date or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Retreats for Women

2024

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 10-13

Patron: Blessed Dominic Collins, SJ
Theme: Discipleship in the Spiritual Exercises: Creative and Challenging **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 8-10

Patron: Blessed Miguel Pro **Theme:** Living the Life of the Kingdom of God **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 22-24 (Women in Recovery)

Patron: Fr. Ed Dowling, SJ **Theme:** 12-Step Spirituality **Format:** Silent and Sharing **Director:** Sr. LuAnn Brown, BVM

2025

Tuesday-Thursday, Jan. 7-9

Patron: The Archduchess, Joanna of Austria **Theme:** TBD **Format:** TBD **Director:** Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26 (AI-Anon)

Patron: Fr. James Cullen, SJ **Theme:** AI Anon **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Fr. Lorn Snow, SJ & Madeline Bialecki

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 7-Feb. 9

Patron: St. John de Brito, SJ **Theme:** Discipleship in the Spiritual Exercises: Creative and Challenging **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Friday-Sunday, May 9-11 Mother's Day Weekend

Patron: Mother of the Society of Jesus **Theme:** Hope Springs Forth **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Friday-Sunday, May 23-25 Women in Recovery

Patron: Fr. Frederick A. Harkins, SJ
Theme: TBD **Format:** TBD **Director:** TBD

OCTOBER 2024-MAY 2025

Retreats for *Men and Women*

2024

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 15-17 (Jesuit Alumni and Seekers)

Patron: St. John Berchmans, SJ **Theme:** Ignatian Spirituality **Format:** Silent and Sharing **Directors:** Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ, Fr. Francis Daly, SJ and Fr. Trevor Rainwater, SJ

2025

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 17-19

Patron: St. Isaac Jogues, SJ **Theme:** Celtic Spirituality **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Terry Sullivan

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26

Theme: Spiritual Freedom **Format:** Silent with Some Sharing **Director:** Rosemary Insley

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 21-Feb. 23 Jesuit Alumni and Seekers

Patron: Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ **Theme:** Ignatian Spirituality **Format:** Silent & Optional Sharing **Directors:** Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ, Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and Fr. Trevor Rainwater, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 28-Mar. 2

Patron: St. Nicholas Owen, SJ **Theme:** Boundless Compassion **Format:** Silent and Optional Sharing **Director:** Sr. Mary Dean Pfahler, SND

Friday-Sunday, Mar. 21-23 Healing Retreat

Patron: St. John de Brebeuf, SJ **Theme:** Healing **Format:** Silent **Directors:** Fr. John Esper and Debbie Tourville **Note:** Dinner on Friday at 6:00 PM

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 4-6

Patron: St. Peter Canisius, SJ **Theme:** To Know Christ Jesus **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Thursday-Saturday, Apr. 17-19 Holy Week

Patron: Fr. Pierre Teilard de Chardin, SJ **Theme:** Holy Week **Format:** Silent **Director:** Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ **Note:** No lunch on Saturday

Friday-Sunday, May 2-4 Christian Meditation

Patron: Fr. Roberto de Nobili, SJ **Theme:** Christian Meditation **Format:** Silent **Directors:** Fr. Leo Cachet, SJ, Mary Gresens and DiAnne Schultz **Note:** No dinner on Friday; ends after lunch on Sunday

Friday-Sunday, May 30-June 1 For Spanish-speaking Adults

Patron: St. Alberto Hurtado, SJ **Theme:** TBD **Format:** TBD **Directors:** Team led by Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ **Note:** Ends Sunday at 3:00 PM, lunch included

Individually Directed *Retreats* 2025

In Session

- IDR Session I **May 13-22,**
- IDR Session II **June 10-19**
- IDR Session III **July 15-24**
- IDR Session IV **Aug. 7-16**

These sessions allow for four-to-eight-day retreats (minimum of four full consecutive days/maximum of eight full consecutive days within session dates/times).

Arrival time begins at 5:00 PM on the opening date of the retreat session, dinner is at 6:00 PM and the retreat itself begins at 7:30 PM. The retreat ends at 10:00 AM on the closing date of the retreat session.

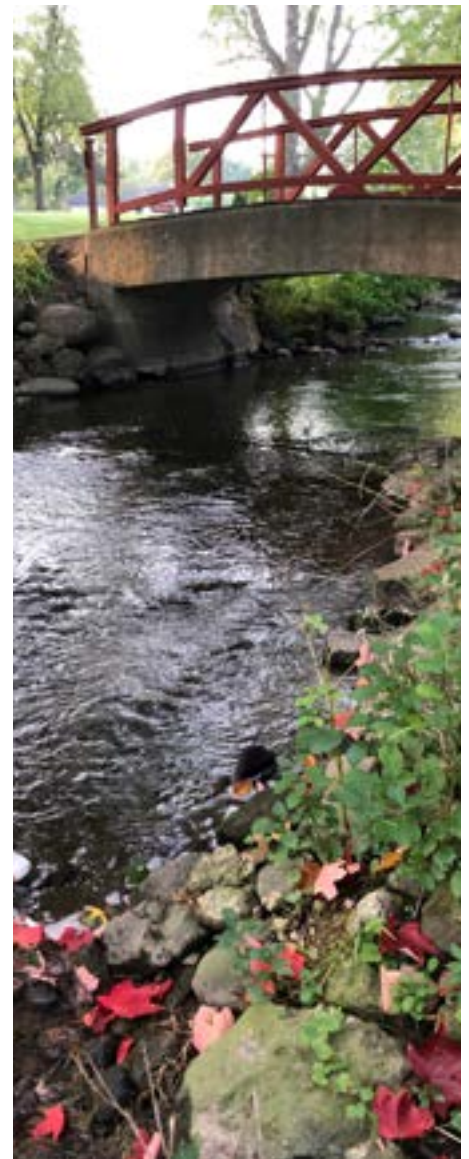
In-Session IDRs are \$90 per day with a \$90 non-refundable, non-

transferable deposit. Application and \$90 deposit required. To schedule an In-Session retreat, go to manresa-sj.org/retreats or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0 for an application.

Out-of-Session IDRs

Alternately, individuals may schedule four-to-eight day IDRs between September and April as space and staff allow.

Out-of-Session IDRs are \$95 per day with a \$95 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit. To schedule an Out-of-Session retreat, call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.



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The Face of God

By J. Patrick Murphy

I've seen the face of God

in western skies

When sunlight utters farewell to the day,
It's clearer still **in children's cheerful eyes**
When they engage in their creative play.

I see the face of God **as flowers grow**,
Their petals spreading in resplendent
bloom.

And all the more when'er **two lovers know**
That they are **destined to be** bride
and groom.

And then I see the **tears of a wounded soul**,
Despaired of hope, she cannot persevere,
And the pain inside her cannot be
consoled.

A soul like hers is one I most revere,
For in due time she'll **rise up from her fall**,
And I'll **see the face of God** there
most of all.