

Manresa Memos

Issue 64 | Aug-Sept 2024



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

A message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Manresa,



Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

At the end of July, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, which is the religious community that sponsors Manresa. Ignatian spirituality is a gift to the Church and the world, influencing many beyond the Jesuits themselves.

Why is Manresa a name given to a number of Jesuit ministries? Manresa is a town in Spain where Ignatius spent around 11 months after his initial conversion to following Christ, and it was quite significant in Ignatius' continued spiritual growth. He worked in a hospital there and spent many hours daily in prayer. Ideas for *The Spiritual Exercises* began to take shape there. It was a time of great suffering as he died to his own will and surrendered to God more fully.

Manresa in Ignatius' life reminds us that spending time alone with God can be a valuable aid to our spiritual growth. It reminds us, too, that conversion is an on-going process. Our new Fall programs are presented in this issue of *Manresa Memos*. May you find something that can help you in your continued spiritual growth at this place of prayer.

May the Spirit guide you in the months ahead,

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Executive Director

JOIN US

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday
8:00 AM in the main chapel
We remember all deceased retreatants the last Friday of each month at the 8:00 AM Mass.

Make a Note of It

No Mass on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. (House and office closed; grounds open to the public until 6:00 PM)

Tuesday Prayer

Stay for 30 minutes of private Christian meditation following 8:00 AM Mass on Tuesdays.

Learn More

Visit manresa-sj.org/events for a full listing of our programs and retreats.



MANRESA JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

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Manresa News

At the end of June, the staff was treated to a delightful, just-for-fun concert by Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ ... or Scully as he was dubbed for the concert named *Concert for Bangladesh ... um, I mean Jenny*.

Donned in Elvis attire, Scully entered singing "Don't Be Cruel," evoking squeals of laughter and applause from the audience. He followed with "Puff the Magic Dragon," accompanied by Arthur the Dragon with the help of Ruth Ann Stevens, and a few of the staff's favorite tunes, including "City of New Orleans," "Irene Goodnight" and some of Fr. Scullin's original work from his chart-topping CD *And It's So Clear*. Adding to the fun, his roadies – Ruth Ann Stevens and Jenny Chapman – shamelessly pedaled custom merchandise at a concession stand.

The staff is ever grateful to Fr. Scullin for always bringing joy to our work days at Manresa.



Lectio Prayer Group



Engaging with the Living Word of God

How do we draw closer to God amidst the challenges of modern life? The ancient prayer practice of *lectio divina*, enhanced with guidance from St. Ignatius' teachings, can help us discover how God is speaking to us today, in our daily life. We listen deeply to God's Word, we have the opportunity to share what God is saying to us, what we are feeling and experiencing, and we pray for the specific grace we seek. Manresa's Lectio Prayer Group provides a way to grow in our journey to finding God in all things. Consider joining us.

Facilitators: Paula Dow and Kay Dodson completed Manresa's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality. They are both experienced in leading *lectio divina*.

**Mondays,
10:00–11:00 AM (EST)
via Zoom***

Sept. 9 | Oct. 14

Nov. 11 | Dec. 9

Fee: \$30 due at registration.

Fee is non-refundable,
non-transferable.

**Register at
manresa-sj.org/090924-lectio
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.**

*Registered participants will receive an email reminder prior to each meeting with a Zoom link to connect to the meeting.

A Day to Call Your Own



Step away from the cares of your world.

What could be better than a day all to yourself? A day to do something good for your soul. A day to relax, refresh and reflect in a beautiful setting.

There's no better place to spend a day like that than at Manresa. **Enjoy the quiet, away from the busyness of everyday life.** We provide you with a private room and a simple lunch; the rest is for you to decide how you want to spend your day. So many options: **reflect, pray, walk the property, read or just BE.** (No director is available or required.) Mark your calendar now to take some well-deserved time for yourself.



8:00 AM–3:30 PM

Monday, Sept. 16
manresa-sj.org/091624-day

Wednesday, Oct. 9
manresa-sj.org/100924-day

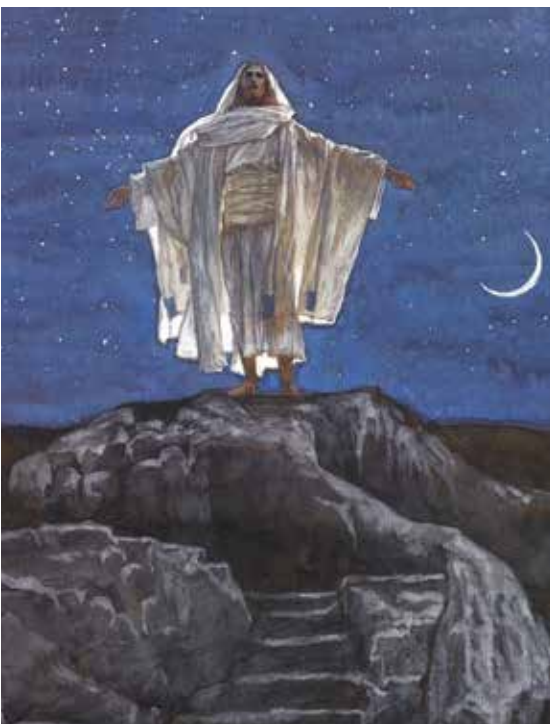
Tuesday, Nov. 19
manresa-sj.org/111924-day

Friday, Dec. 13
manresa-sj.org/121324-day

Fee: \$50 due at registration.
Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable. Pre-registration is required. (Space is limited.)

To register, go to the links above or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Praying with Art: James Tissot's Life of Christ - Part I



After a powerful religious experience in 1885, the French society painter James Tissot abandoned his worldly art and ways, dedicating himself for ten years to producing 350 paintings of the life of Christ. For authenticity's sake, he based his paintings on three years of sketching and photographing in the Holy Land, thought to be at that time virtually unchanged from the time of Christ.

For the next two semesters we will discuss and pray with some of these images. For participants who want something to read besides the Scriptures, we will coordinate the images with *The Life of Jesus* by Andrea Torielli, although this is not a required text.

Facilitator: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ is a long-time member of Manresa's ministerial team.

Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 PM

Sept. 17 | Oct. 1, 15, 29
Nov. 12, 26 | Dec. 10

Fee: \$100 due at registration.
Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.

Register at
manresa-sj.org/091724-art
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Scripture Study: Wisdom Literature



In a famous song from *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye sings “Tradition.” Before tradition, there was wisdom. What was wisdom? It was the understanding of how a person with faith lived in a changing world—an ancient need, a current need. How do we live in a world with many and diverse intellectual perspectives? Learning from the past is a clue to the present.

We will study three books from different moments in the history of wisdom: The Wisdom of Solomon, The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) and one of Philo’s essays. Join us as we study the past to find a way to the future!

Instructor: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ is Co-director of the Internship in Spiritual Companionship and a popular retreat director at Manresa.

**Tuesdays,
9:30–11:30 AM (EST)**

**Sept. 10, 24 | Oct. 8, 22
Nov. 5, 12 | Dec. 3**

This course is offered onsite (space limited to 16) or via Zoom. Instructions for Zoom meetings will be emailed to registered participants prior to each session.

Fee: \$100 due at registration.
Fee is non-refundable,
non-transferable.

Register at
manresa-sj.org/091024-scripture
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Learning from the Mystics: Teresa of Avila

Mondays, 6:30–8:00 PM (EST) via Zoom*
Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 | Oct. 7, 14, 21

In St. Teresa of Avila’s spiritual classic, *The Interior Castle*, she leads us along the seven stages of soul development, offering profound and inspiring reflections on such subjects as self-knowledge, humility, detachment and suffering.

In this seven-week series, we will listen to and discuss Dr. James Finley’s reflections on St. Teresa’s *Castle*. A clinical psychologist, author and modern mystic, Finley invites us to be drawn into deeper communion with God.

We will use the podcasts from Season 2 of “Turning to the Mystics” (free from cac.org/podcast/turning-to-the-mystics). Participants are asked to spend 30-40 minutes a day listening to part of a podcast, reflecting on it, briefly journaling and sitting in silence with it. Before the first class, please listen to the episode titled “Turning to Teresa of Avila (8/24/20)” and the bonus episode “The Life and Work of Teresa (6/15/20).”

Facilitator: Rosemary Insley is a retired chaplain and bereavement counselor with master’s degrees in pastoral studies and social work. As a spiritual companion, she guides others in the Spiritual Exercises and in retreats.

Fee: \$60 due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.
Register at manresa-sj.org/090924-teresa or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

*Zoom instructions will be emailed to registered participants prior to each session.
For any technical issues, email Rosemary at rinsley@aol.com.



Sunday Afternoon Reflection: Surprised by Joy

This afternoon reflection is designed for those who are looking for joy in their daily lives. We know that people in the early church found this joy in manifestations of the Spirit. What had they found? As Pope Francis put it, “the joy of the gospel.” That’s a treasure worth finding! Come, relax, pray and find the 2,100-year-old secret to happiness. No fads. No gimmicks. No books or trinkets to purchase. Just the possibility of joy that comes from the Christian life.

The afternoon includes two talks, time for private prayer/devotion, Sunday Mass and a delicious meal to round out the day. Your retreat begins



at 2:00 PM; however, you may arrive any time after 1:30 PM for refreshments and fellowship.

Facilitator: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ is Co-director of the Internship in Spiritual Companionship and a popular retreat director at Manresa.

Fee: \$50 due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.
Register at manresa-sj.org/101324-SAR-joy or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Christian Yoga for body, mind & *spirit*

Christian Yoga is a form of prayer in which we place ourselves in a position to be present in the moment with God, with a focus on breath. **As we move through postures accompanied by meditative quiet and prayer, we find balance, strength and union of our whole self with God.**

In the end, this brings us to our quiet center to be still with God and to know His peace. Join us for this healthy, healing practice in an atmosphere of prayer and meditation.

Instructor: Mary Gresens is a graduate of Manresa’s Internship in Spiritual Companionship, certified yoga instructor and first degree black belt Nia teacher.

*Zoom instructions will be emailed to registered participants prior to each session.



Fall
Mondays, 7:00–8:00 PM
(EST) via Zoom*

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28
Nov. 4, 11

Fee: \$120 due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.

Register at
manresa-sj.org/090924-yoga
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Winter 1
Mondays, 7:00–8:00 PM
(EST) via Zoom*

Nov. 18, 25
Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Jan. 6, 13, 20

Fee: \$120 due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.

Register at
manresa-sj.org/111824-yoga
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Domingos de oración contemplativa

Sunday Afternoon Contemplative Prayer



Pasa una tarde en Manresa percibiendo, reflexionando y meditando sobre temas de la espiritualidad ignaciana. Tendrás la oportunidad para practicar el silencio y la oración individual y con otros, disfrutando de la belleza de nuestros jardines, capillas e instalaciones.

Cada sesión es facilitada por un equipo de acompañantes espirituales con experiencia en la tradición ignaciana. Estos espacios de meditación y reflexión son preparados para ayudarte a cultivar tu formación espiritual, así como temas basados en discernimiento, la gratitud, la oración con las Escrituras y el examen del consiente. Cada tarde le ayudará a profundizar su fe a medida que conozca, ame y sirva mejor a Dios en su vida diaria.

Spend a Sunday afternoon at Manresa listening, reflecting and meditating on topics of Ignatian spirituality. This is an opportunity to practice silence and prayer on your own and with others, while enjoying the beauty of our grounds and facility. Each session is facilitated by a team of Spanish-speaking spiritual companions with experience in the Ignatian tradition.

These experiences of meditation and reflection are prepared to help you cultivate your formation in Ignatian spirituality, along with discernment, gratitude, prayer with the Scriptures and examination of consciousness. Each afternoon will help you to deepen your faith as you come to know, love and serve God better in your daily life.

Domingo de 1:30 a 5:00 PM

15 de septiembre | 20 de octubre
17 de noviembre

Costo: Tu donativo es bienvenido

Se alienta a los participantes a donar a Manresa Jesuit Retreat House en apoyo de su Misión.

Para registrarse, llame al
248.644.4933 Ext. 128 o correo electrónico
ignacianosdemanresa@gmail.com.

Sundays, 1:30-5:00 PM

Sept. 15 | Oct. 20 | Nov. 17

Fee: Donations gratefully accepted

Participants are encouraged to donate to Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in support of its Mission.

To register, phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 128 or
email ignacianosdemanresa@gmail.com.

Sunday Afternoon Reflection: Advent



Sunday, Dec. 8 | 2:00–7:00 PM

Advent is a season of waiting, of being drawn into the spiritual discipline of anticipation. Our spiritual director is Mary, the one in whom we see revealed the patience of God.

As Mary waits for the Messiah, she invites us into a way of life that welcomes the gospel through our own experience of waiting and longing.

The afternoon includes two talks, time for private prayer/devotion, Sunday Mass and a delicious meal to round out the day. Your retreat begins at 2:00 PM; however, you may arrive any time after 1:30 PM for refreshments and fellowship.

Come join us as we prepare for Christmas ... waiting with Mary.

Facilitators: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ was ordained in 1972 and has extensive experience teaching Ignatian spirituality and leading the Spiritual Exercises. From 2014 to 2021 he was executive director of Manresa, where he continues to facilitate retreats and days of reflection. Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM graduated from Mundelein College with a master's degree in religious studies and spirituality and is currently the director of Visitation North Spirituality Center in Bloomfield Hills, where she is also a presenter and facilitator.

Fee: \$50 due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable. Register at manresa-sj.org/120824-SAR-advent or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

11 Days | Northern Italy to Rome Pilgrimage



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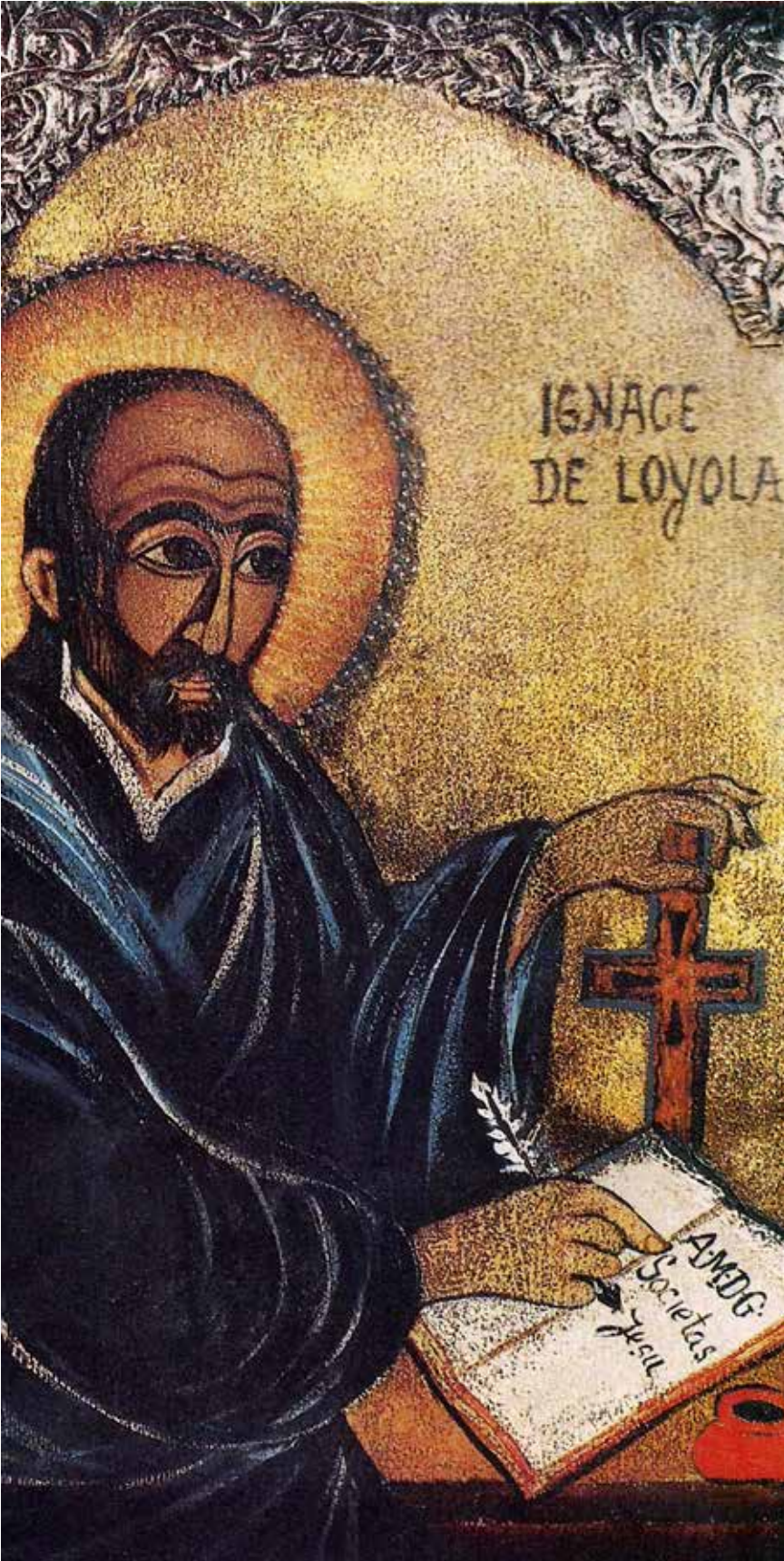
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Praying with the Spiritual Exercises



The Spiritual Exercises, developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, offer a way to grow in prayer; to develop a real and personal relationship with God; to see more clearly God's presence in creation, your personal life story and current life circumstances; and to know Jesus more intimately, love Him more deeply and follow Him more closely.

At Manresa we offer several ways of praying and reflecting on the meditations and themes of the Spiritual Exercises in the midst of your daily life. Each experience requires a significant commitment of time for daily prayer on specific Scripture selections and weekly meetings with a director via Zoom, Facetime, phone or in person. *An offering of \$25 per session is appropriate.* Retreatants are also responsible for the cost of materials as required.

A home retreat that starts whenever you're ready

Choose the format that works best for you:

- **Eight Weeks** — Pray daily for 30 minutes for eight weeks using retreat content offered online.
- **12 Weeks** — Pray daily for 30 to 45 minutes for 12 weeks using a prayer workbook/journal with daily scripture and reflections.
- **30 Days** — Pray daily for 30 to 45 minutes aided by 30 sequential reflections for prayer and meditation available in a book or online.
- **10 Months (19th Annotation Retreat)** — A daily commitment of 60 to 90 minutes of prayer and reflection centered on the themes of the *Exercises* for approximately nine or 10 months.

If you are interested, contact Ann Dillon, Director of Ignatian Formation, at adillon@manresa-sj.org or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 107.

Upcoming Conference Retreats



Retreats for Men

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 23-25

Patron: St. Stephen Pongrácz, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Living the Life of the Kingdom of God | **Retreat Format:** Silence | **Director:** Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 6-8

Patron: Blessed Sebastian Kimura, SJ
Retreat Theme: To Know Christ Jesus |
Retreat Format: Silence | **Director:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 27-29

Patron: St. Francis Borgia, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Jesus the Good Shepherd | **Retreat Format:** Silence | **Director:** Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 3-6

Patron: St. John Ogilvie, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Praying with Our Tears | **Retreat Format:** Silence and Optional Sharing | **Director:** Fr. Patrick Hyland, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 18-20

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

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 25-27

Patron: St. Stanislaus Kostka, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Wisdom from the Mystics | **Retreat Format:** Silence | **Directors:** Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 1-3

Patron: Blessed Rupert Mayer, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** (Re)created in Christ: Meditating

on Scripture and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola | **Retreat Format:** Silence and Optional Sharing | **Director:** Fr. Christopher Alt, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 6-8

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

Retreats for Men & Women

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (Christian Yoga Retreat)

Patron: Fr. John LaFarge, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Gift and Gratitude: Finding God in All Things | **Retreat Format:** Silence | **Retreat Directors:** Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ, Mary Gresens and DiAnne Patterson Schultz | **Note:** No dinner on Friday; ends after lunch on Sunday

Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 10-12

Patron: Blessed Francisco Gárate, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** A Silent Ignatian Retreat | **Retreat Format:** Silence | **Director:** Fr. Steven Hurd, SJ | **Note:** Ends after lunch on Thursday

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

Patron: St. John Berchmans, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** Ignatian Spirituality | **Retreat Format:** Silence and Sharing | **Directors:** Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ, Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and Fr. Trevor Rainwater, SJ

Retreats for Women

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 10-13

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

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 8-10

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

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

Patron: Fr. Edward Dowling, SJ | **Retreat Theme:** 12-Step Spirituality | **Retreat Format:** Silence and Sharing | **Director:** Sr. LuAnn Brown, BVM

Retreats for Religious Sisters

Sunday-Friday, Sept. 22-27

Patron: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, VHM | **Retreat Theme:** Cherish the Hope God Gives | **Retreat Format:** Silence and Optional Sharing | **Directors:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ and Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM | **Note:** Ends after lunch on Friday

*\$50 deposit due at registration for all retreats.
Click on the retreat date to register or call
248.644.4933 Ext. 0.*

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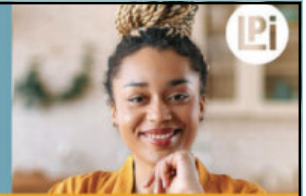
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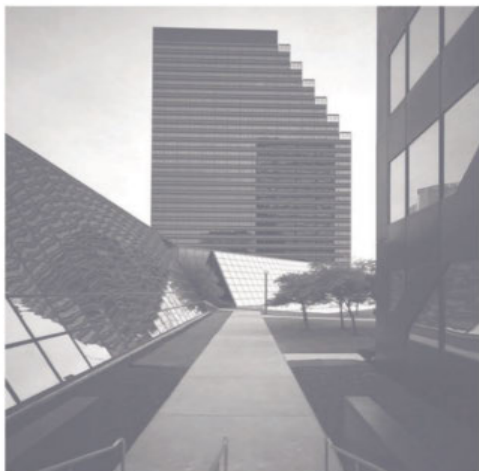


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Sunday Afternoon Reflection: For Engaged and Newlywed Couples



A three-ply cord is not easily broken.
These words of the ancient poet in the Book of Ecclesiastes 4:12 speak volumes to those who are called to share life with another in marriage. So where does Christian marriage fit into a modern culture that views the life-long commitment of two people as restrictive and limiting freedom?

We'll consider that question and more during this simple afternoon of prayer, reflection and sharing designed for engaged or newly married couples who desire to center their marriage in a shared life of faith. We will reflect on the riches of a marriage grounded in a mutual love of God and in a shared faith that sees our marriages as life-giving and nurturing.

Facilitators: Mike and Karin Stewart have been married and best friends for nearly 44 years. God is very much woven into the fabric of their marriage and who they are as individuals. They have three daughters and six grandchildren. An ordained Catholic permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Detroit, Mike serves five parishes in Monroe.

**Sunday, November 3
2:00-7:00 PM**

Fee: \$100 per couple due at registration. Fee is non-refundable, non-transferable.

Register at manresa-sj.org/110324-SAR-couples
or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.