



Manresa Matters

Manresa Jesuit Retreat House

1390 Quarton Road • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-3554

Fall / Winter
2020

248.644.4933

www.manresa-sj.org

To help men and women grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, guidance and teaching according to the Ignatian tradition



So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)



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Comments, suggestions, story ideas, photos of Manresa? Please write to us via email at asmith@manresa-sj.org or use Manresa's postal address.

From the Editor

Have you ever looked back at the events in your life and noticed when you felt closest to God? Often it is in the most difficult circumstances when our faith grows stronger, when we appreciate what before we took for granted, when our eyes are opened to blessings we may otherwise not have noticed.

Within these pages you will hear from a variety of new contributors who lend focus to this issue's theme: "Virtues in Uncertain Times." Whether these times involve a pandemic; health or financial concerns; loss of a home, job or loved one; or any similar situation, we can still experience God's intimate Presence.

Discover the hidden blessings in the articles that follow. There is more than one virtue within each story, but here are some examples:

- A homeless person becoming a friend through a shared affinity for poetry (see "Virtue Amid the Storm" by former Manresa staffer John Daniels, pp. 4-5)
- Technology opening another way to connect with family members (see "Consolation in Trying Times" by current Board member John Bernia, pp. 4-5)
- Books leading to a pathway of peace and fulfillment (see "Finding My Way to Wholesome Peace" by former Manresa retreat director Fr. Norm Dickson, SJ, p. 6)

- A workshop teaching lessons to serve a lifetime (see "Transition During Turmoil" by long-time retreatant Mike Martin, p. 8)
- Shared prayer strengthening a marriage (see "Praying Through Uncertainty" by former retreat directors Ken and Signe Castell, p. 9)
- Poor patients in another country motivating vocations within a family (see "Las Gafas / The Eyeglasses" by long-time retreatant Dr. Donald Condit, p. 15)
- A realtor helping a discernment process that resulted in unforeseen blessings (see "Waiting for the Promise" by Women to Women member Nancy O'Connor, p. 17)

After you've read this issue, take time to review the past few months of your life. When, where and how did you experience God? Look for the virtues and write your impressions in a journal. And the next time you're facing uncertainty, read back through those pages to remind yourself that God is always with you, holding you closer than ever.

... behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. ~Mt. 28:20

With prayers for the health and safety of you and your loved ones,

Anne Smith

The cover image is The Road to Bethlehem (1890) by Fritz van Uhde, courtesy of the Neue Pinakothek, Munich. See page 7 for a reflection about this painting.



Publications Team members pictured from left to right are Hugh Buchanan, Paul Seibold, George Seroka, Anne Smith, Grace Seroka, Steve Raymond and Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ.

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Find Manresa's Annual Report on pages 10 and 11 for an overview of our most recent fiscal year.

From the Director

This issue of *Manresa Matters* considers “Virtues in Uncertain Times.” I think our authors help us reflect on our own life experiences over the last six months. I have had more quiet time to reflect and appreciate the way God has led me through the varied ministries and friendships of my life. Over my 61 years as a Jesuit, I have taught high school in Chicago and Cincinnati, served as a Novice Director, Director of Formation of young Jesuits, served as an assistant to our provincial, and the last six years served as Director of Manresa. In all these ministries, I have been blessed to meet and work with many good and talented men and women.

During this time of quarantine, I am very grateful for our Jesuit community. However, I do miss visiting with friends and getting out. Virtual meetings with Zoom have become a “new normal” in my life. For the most part, the planning meetings for the retreat house have not lessened.

As Director of Manresa, I am very concerned about the future of our retreat ministry. Finances are a major concern. Observing self-distancing in our chapel allows only 22 persons to attend our morning liturgy. The same is

true for the number of persons who wish to make a conference retreat. I do not know how many persons will want to return to Manresa during this on-going pandemic. These anxieties rise up from time to time. I realize not much good comes from worrying, but that is easier said than done. I try to place these feelings in the hands of the Lord and recall how He has accompanied me through my life struggles.

This prayer of St. Teresa of Avila has always helped me to trust in God’s care in these anxious times:

Let nothing disturb you;
Let nothing frighten you,
All things pass away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
The one who has God
Lacks for nothing.
God alone suffices.

~St. Teresa of Avila



Francis J. Daly, SJ



Sharon Tomkowiak

Wishing the very best to Sharon & Tom!

Sharon Tomkowiak’s retirement date was effective June 30, 2020. She worked in a variety of positions at Manresa for 33 years, most recently as secretary and receptionist in the front office.



Tom Hurley

Tom Hurley’s retirement was effective August 31, 2020. He served as Manresa’s controller for the past 15 years.

Both Sharon and Tom have been a tremendous blessing and they will be greatly missed by their Manresa family!

With a warm welcome to our new Controller!



Tim Neis

Tim Neis (pronounced “Nice”) joined Manresa’s staff on August 24, 2020. Tim has substantial accounting and financial experience in both the profit and non-profit arenas. He graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Notre Dame

in South Bend, IN. Among other positions during his career, Tim was the Chief Financial Officer for the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills for over six years. Welcome aboard, Tim!

RETREATANT AWARDS (January – June 2020)

Manresa Pin (completed 15 retreats)

Elizabeth Anderson
Gregory Lester
Thomas Sennett
Ann Small

BORN INTO THE RESURRECTION (January – June 2020)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>#</u>
Richard McKnight	Various	3
Walter Niemann	Men’s Midweek	51
John Stampor	Various	17

Manresa depends upon conference retreat leaders and families of retreatants to notify us in the event of death. We remember all deceased retreatants on the last Friday of each month at the 8:00 AM Mass.

Virtue Amid the Storm

We all live a story God recognizes as we navigate the seas of our lives, making choices to seek him out . . . or not. Crisis tests our conceived notions of what our story is, and the one we went through this year aboard the SS COVID is still not over. Uncertain times make finding virtue difficult. My story portrays how some inner virtue surfaced on that Corona sea.

Two Scripture passages loomed large for me in the beginning. Jesus feeds the multitude (Mk 6:30-44) by challenging the apostles to be faithful and resourceful: "Feed them yourselves." Great! Faith! Fortitude! Feed! This is good stuff. People are fed, apostles are feeling accomplished. Maybe this disciple thing will work out! But then come the storms (Mt. 8:23-27). The boys are in the boat feeling fairly good about themselves when a huge storm starts hurling the boat around.

I was helping in a homeless shelter. Steve, a guest, was washing dishes while I served dinner. In a cross-kitchen

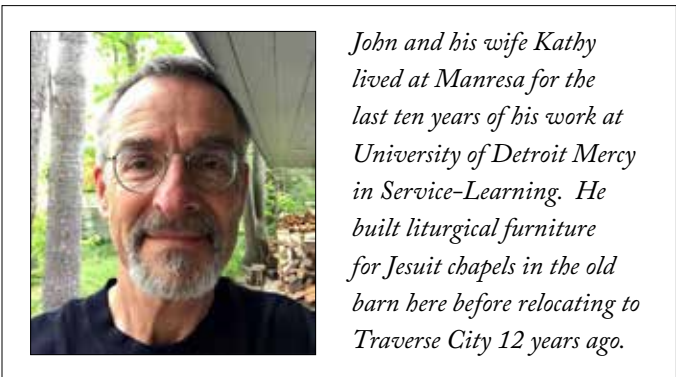
conversation he had tossed out a line* that lives so deeply in me that it brought tears to my eyes. Surprised, I said to him, "From 'Burnt Norton!'" Astonished, he replied, "You know!" But I was looking at a "homeless guy," I crassly thought, and responded, "YOU know?" Dishwashing stopped, serving dinner stopped, and in that moment of stillness, a kinship eroded all barriers, and we became the closest of friends.

A year later, Steve moved back in with his estranged, troubled wife. My weekly volunteer gigs had grown into exchanging poetry. Steve wrote one that returned to me during our time of "social distancing." It was about awakening in the still-dark morning, slipping out of bed.

He listened to her breathing as he tiptoed around the bed, synchronizing his breathing with hers, feeling his oneness with her. Then, silently pulling the bedroom door shut, he softly pressed the palm of his hand on his side of the door and wept for their physical separation. Their relationship was not easy, but he ached for her.

I dwelled on Steve's poem when I was abruptly separated from the people whose lives enrich mine at the shelter. I could recognize how their night had been by the subtle nuances of their faces and shoulders. It gave my life virtuous meaning for most of my 12 years since moving from Manresa to Traverse City. Then suddenly, I could not even place my hand on the walls that separated us, or hear their nighttime snores. I have wept for our separation. It was not the picnic on the plain, and I was not feeding them.

(continued on page 5)



John and his wife Kathy lived at Manresa for the last ten years of his work at University of Detroit Mercy in Service-Learning. He built liturgical furniture for Jesuit chapels in the old barn here before relocating to Traverse City 12 years ago.

Consolation in Trying Times

*"When one is in desolation, one should strive to persevere in patience."
~ The Spiritual Exercises, #321*

On the shelf near the desk where I'm typing this message is a well-worn copy of *The Spiritual Exercises*, presented to me by the uncle who would be my Confirmation sponsor. Neatly folded on the inside cover is a note he wrote to me many years ago, saying the volume was "more than a book, it's a guide I hope you will find valuable throughout your life." He was right. When facing major decisions or when needing some guidance or reflection, I grabbed my copy, read a few pages and did some thinking. The gift is not the book but the support, comfort and direction it provides. During the trying events of this year, with a deadly virus, destructive flood waters and racial unrest around our country, the counsel of St. Ignatius has been incredibly valuable to me.

One can make a strong argument that we find ourselves in a time of desolation. We're isolated by the separation from our families, our workplaces and our parishes in this pandemic. We're fearful due to the constant stream of bad news and the new requirements to wear a mask and "socially distance" lest we spread an incurable virus.

We grieve the loss of loved ones, in some cases so suddenly. Yet during this time, at home, at work and in my limited excursions, I've heard more than once that "God is testing us."

My copy of *The Spiritual Exercises* tells me consolation is the opposite of desolation. This trying time, filled with sad moments, has also given us countless examples of faith, hope and love. I see them in the smiles of my parents as

*... especially at times of desolation,
God pulls us close to Him to remind
us of the consolation we can find if
we stay patient.*

Virtue Amid the Storm (continued from page 4)

It was the chaos of the storm, and I would, those first weeks, shout silently in my dreams for help, and fear drowning in the chaos of COVID. My friends from the shelter were expelled to the woods and it was 25 degrees outside. Sometimes, perhaps, tears are the lubricant that allows prayer to finally escape our reluctant lips. The words were born, just a few, but that was enough; “Take, Lord . . . ALL . . .”

So there in bed that troubled night I admitted that it was all out of futility. *I invited God to take it all.* I did not feel relief, just a flaccid grief. Then I realized that my fear came from the prospect of losing all that stuff I just let God take: the shelter that was no longer mine, the breakfast in the church now closed. I realized I had nothing to fear because I had nothing of that any longer. Kathy stirred in her sleep. I had Kathy. We had love and grace. I fell asleep.

As I looked for words to describe the restful emptiness I felt in the morning, John of the Cross sounded in my memory: “My house being now at rest.” I sat in the dark and listened to “Pray as You Go,” pausing it repeatedly to, in Rahner’s words, “let the IT in me pray.” Those next weeks, deep in Holy Week and the Easter Season, were like an Ignatian retreat. Discernment came to mind . . . and heart. In the stillness of my forced incapacity, I found God, “looking at me lovingly, delighting in me just as I am.” Virtue in uncertain times is to abandon active habit based on old certainties to rest in God’s love



Eugène Delacroix, Christ on the Sea of Galilee (1841), oil on canvas, 18 × 21.5 inches, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri.

habitually and intentionally (what we call “prayer”). The depth of that holy silence inhabits our day, enabling us to hear the gentlest invitation to good things that we can do, with God’s grace. In this graceful discernment there is no possessive momentum, no sense of success or failure, just the joy of serving at God’s pleasure. All is gift.

~ by John Daniels

** “Except for the point, the still point, there would be no dance, and there is only the dance.” (from TS Eliot’s Four Quartets)*

Consolation in Trying Times (continued from page 4)

they connect via Zoom with their grandchildren, and I hear the same excitement in the voices of my daughters. I note these virtues also in the willingness of educator colleagues as they check in on students, volunteer for food distributions and ensure learning continues, even if remotely. And I discern them in the inclusive messages of togetherness and encouragement and in the many expressions that “we will get through this.” These are all examples that, in the words of one of my parish priests, Fr. Grayson Heenan, “at this time, God is infinitely close.”

In our reflections, especially at times of desolation, God pulls us close to Him to remind us of the consolation we can find if we stay patient. Consolation does not ignore challenging circumstances; rather, it allows us to see trying times as opportunities to learn more about ourselves and what we are capable of. Persevering and patiently maintaining our daily practices of faith are essential.

People are counting on me as a husband, father of two young girls, son, brother, friend and school administrator, especially in trying times. I have to make a choice, to be a source of consolation for myself and others.

~ by John Bernia



In addition to serving on Manresa’s Board of Directors, John Bernia is the Chief Academic Officer of Warren Consolidated Schools, a 13,500 student public school district serving parts of Warren, Sterling Heights and Troy. He is the proud husband of Jennifer, and proud father of Averie (8) and Miciab (4). He is also a member of St. Damien of Molokai Parish in Pontiac, where he serves as the President of the Parish Council.

Finding My Way to Wholesome Peace

As it has for everyone, the coronavirus pandemic has challenged me physically and spiritually. Early on as a Jesuit I was taught to find God in all things. So, how successful have I been in finding God in *this thing* named COVID-19?

There have been good days and not so good days. Encouraged by one of my parishioners, I have been earnestly practicing Centering Prayer for the past seven years. One day, after about six months of praying this way, something happened that was a pure, unforgettable blessing that has changed my life. About five minutes into my prayer that morning it felt as if my body was moving somewhere on its own ever so slightly. For about a minute I thought I was slowly dying, and I found great delight in it. It was absolute pleasure, a feeling that I was going home to God, the One I have been looking for.

In the past six years this brief experience has not been duplicated, but I do remember it vividly, especially when life becomes unbearable.

In addition to COVID-19 I am dealing for the fourth time with life-threatening cancer. I don't find God *in the virus or the cancer*, but many days, when I remember that special Centering Prayer experience of six years ago, I do find God *in me!*

In 1999, when I was the pastor of Gesu Church in Detroit, someone gave me a gift, the book *The Holy Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser. Reading this book prompted me to look for other books that would help me deal with my unfulfilled longing for wholeness.

I developed a habit of spending two hours each morning reading the secrets of others who have found ways to satisfy their longing for wholesome peace.

Many of these books brought back memories of things I was taught years ago, especially when I was studying Theology in Frankfurt, Germany. I recall reading an article written in 1965 by Karl Rahner, SJ shortly after the conclusion of Vatican Council II. He startled us when he wrote that "future Christians will be mystics, or will not exist at all." For years this puzzled me. What did he mean by that? What does being a mystic mean?



Ernst Barlach, *Das Wiedersehen*, 1926. Cropped from original photo by Rufus46, licensed by creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en.

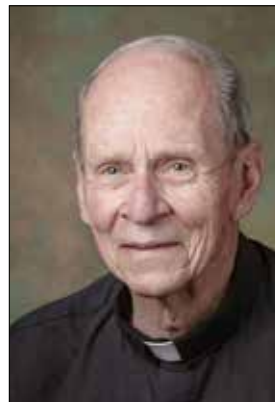
For me the answer came last year on Good Friday. For years I was terribly bothered by Jesus, hanging on the cross, saying "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." I thought, how could His executioners not know what they are doing? How can they not see they are brutally killing Him?

I think that Jesus was telling His Father that the executioners do not know their own goodness; they are ignorant of it. That's the problem. That's why they are killing Him—He Who knows His own goodness and sees the fundamental goodness of all of God's children.

That, I think, is what mystics do; they *see* that whatever is created by God is sacred. Because mystics see this they are at peace with themselves, and they have the capacity to be peacemakers with all people, including their enemies. In fact, they have no enemies. They are not afraid of others. They see them, all of them, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am so grateful for the way my life has been changed through good books and good people who have loved me. I still have days when I am not so sure of all that I've written above. I still have some fears of what lies ahead for me. But they don't last long. Twenty minutes of Centering Prayer often brings me back to my core belief that God loves me and that I need not fear, the virus and cancer he damned!

~ by Norm Dickson, SJ



Fr. Norman J. Dickson, SJ was born in Detroit. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1954 and was ordained on July 29, 1967 in Frankfurt, Germany, where he studied Theology. His ministry has included teaching, mission work in Africa, service as vocation director, pastor, sacramental minister, treasurer of the Detroit Province and retreat director at venues including Manresa. At present he serves as pastoral administrator of two parishes in northern Michigan.

The Difficult Journey

Fritz von Uhde's *The Road to Bethlehem* presents a realistic portrayal of Mary and Joseph and the difficulties they had to endure to bring Christ into the world. It touches our hearts more deeply than more traditional and often sentimental renditions of the Christmas story.

We see here a desolate scene: cold, bare, dank, misty. Joseph with his carpenter's saw on his back and Mary hauling a cooking vessel trudge along a rough muddy road through a wintry landscape to Bethlehem. It is a scene of poverty: there is no donkey, no inn, their clothing is poor, their possessions are few. This is the humble situation into which God chose that the Savior of the world would be born.

They were on that road because of forces beyond their control. Their homeland had been conquered and occupied by the Romans, and Caesar wanted to know how many people he had subjugated—for purposes, no doubt, of conscription and taxation. So they were forced to travel nearly 100 miles to Bethlehem while Mary was nine months pregnant. Paintings almost never show her walking, but the Gospel stories don't mention a donkey, and walking was preferable to a week-long jolting ride that could have induced her contractions. For all the joy of knowing she was to give birth to a son, to the Messiah, it was not an easy road, and at the end of it they would find no room in the inn. The desolate landscape reflects and intensifies for us the emotional situation of the holy couple.

Mary's exhaustion is evident in the way she leans against Joseph. His care and concern and love are obvious in the way his head bends to her and his arm tries to support her. He is taller and larger than she, stronger and protective; she is smaller, frailer and yet still strong and enduring enough to have made the journey. We sense Joseph's feeling of powerlessness as well as his solicitude. How he must have longed to carry her or in some way or another provide a more comfortable trip for her, but all he could do was to help to hold her up.

Still, there is a dignity about them as they return to their ancestral home, for they are of the royal house of David, and Bethlehem is the foretold and fitting place for the birth of the Messiah, the Son of David.

We see some houses ahead, perhaps a place of welcome and rest. Joseph may be asking if Mary wants to stop or to continue on, and she perhaps replies that she's alright and that they need to keep going.



Fritz von Uhde, The Road to Bethlehem or The Difficult Journey (1890), oil on canvas, 46 × 50 inches, Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Germany [detail]. See front cover for the full painting.

The converging lines of perspective draw our eyes down the road to a distant, dim and unknown future. There's no telling how much farther or longer the journey may be.

Since von Uhde portrays his Biblical characters in contemporary dress and since the painting has the alternate title of *The Difficult Journey*, the travelers might be a contemporary couple and the painting a social commentary on the times.

They might even be taken as people of our own day, people who are now on difficult journeys, people we know or know about, our friends perhaps or even ourselves. For these are difficult times we live in and we are being tried by both a pandemic and the resulting economic and political chaos. And for us too the end of this road is not yet clearly in sight.

Christianity itself was once called simply "The Way." It may be a difficult path to follow at times, but it is always the way we should

walk no matter what the conditions of the world are around us.

We need to act today as Mary and Joseph would have in their time: with trust in God and God's plans, with fidelity to His will and reliance on His help, with patience and perseverance amid difficulties, with courage and hope amid dangers, with love and concern for one another, with gratitude for what we have received and generosity in what we can give, with the willingness to share our strength and support with others, with the humility and grace to accept the help that they offer.

~ by Peter Fennessy, SJ

Transition During Turmoil

Several years ago, I participated in a men's workshop at Manresa called Transformational Transitions. We focused on the major transitions in life from a man's point of view. They are called "transformational" because they can fundamentally change us—our beliefs, assumptions and values.

That study and the group's continuing conversations have helped me reflect on and better understand some of the psychological, social and spiritual aspects of our major transitions. This included some simple concepts such as the stages of a transition: "ending—transition—beginning."

The first stage recognizes that quite often during a transition we need to accept what is ending or changing that may require us to let go of or disengage from plans or dreams as well as to mourn their passing. The second stage is the transition period and may take a significant amount of time. This "between" time can be challenging as we look back on something that we know but cannot yet see what lies before us.

Some of those conversations came back to me as our entire society was going through major transitions this year and we watched the "ending" of some of our plans and assumptions. I was prompted to think about the virtues that seemed most important. The ones that came to mind immediately were hope and patience.

Hope has always been recognized as one of the theological virtues (faith, hope, love) but has often been confused with being optimistic. It is more than just having a positive attitude or even a belief that everything will turn out as we wish.

Christian hope . . . is very important, because hope never disappoints. Optimism disappoints, but hope does not. We have such need in these times that can appear dark, in which we sometimes feel disoriented by the evil and violence that surround us, by the distress of so many of our brothers and sisters. We need hope.

~ from On Hope by Pope Francis



Mike Martin is a long-time attendee of Manresa retreats and seminars and participated in the Ignatian Internship. He is a member of St. Hugo of the Hills parish.



*Two roads
diverged in a
wood, and I—
I took the one
less traveled by,
And that has
made all the
difference.*

*~ from "The
Road Not Taken"
by Robert Frost*

As a theological virtue, hope is based on our trust in the benevolence of God and becomes a positive leaning or attraction toward the future without knowing what it will look like. As Ronald Rolheiser said, we have "sufficient reason to live in trust that eventually all will be well, namely, God's inexhaustibility. Underneath and beneath, beneath us and beneath our universe, there is a well that nothing exhausts." ("God's Inexhaustibility," from www.ronrolheiser.com, 2/15/16)

Patience supports hope. This is a virtue I often struggle with because the timing of a transition can't be controlled. I want to move forward and do something. I chafe at the "not knowing" aspect. But that's not a helpful attitude. I can't simply end a transition or rush to a conclusion. I need to have patience with the process, with others and with myself.

Patience with the process means allowing it to play itself out. We cannot possibly know all the connections between changes that are going on inside of us or in society. That is why these connections are sometimes referred to as a "dark night," not because they are bad but because they are hidden from us.

Being patient with ourselves and others recognizes that we will struggle during a major transition. We will occasionally lose hope or become impatient. This requires us to be kind and accepting of the struggles, apparent inefficiencies, delays and setbacks. Our weaknesses are tested and we will fail. Patience is that trustful waiting on God's timing while being sensitive to those actions that God leads us to during the transition.

I find it helpful to hear from others who have faithfully gone through long struggles such as Teilhard de Chardin, SJ:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay . . . And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.

~ Prayer of Teilhard de Chardin

~ by Mike Martin

Praying Through Uncertainty

We all face times of uncertainty, as with the pandemic this past year. Many face times of regional uncertainty due to forces of nature.

At a more personal level others, individuals, couples and families, battle uncertainty brought about by concerns with ill health, finances or social pressures. As Christians, we regularly turn to God for help and support during these times. But those of us in the vocation of marriage have the added blessing of being able to unite our prayers through the virtuous habit of couple prayer.

We began praying together over 12 years ago at a time when Signe felt a “disconnect” in our relationship. We had been married over 30 years, and while things were “OK” they certainly weren’t at the level that God intended. Through the Couple Prayer Series, we learned to get comfortable praying from our heart with each other. That changed everything! Little did we know how important that would be as years went on.

As we come together in our shared prayer time each day, we are able to get a glimpse of the fears and joys in each other’s heart. How amazing it is to hear your spouse’s personal conversations with God thanking Him for His blessings and asking Him for His help and guidance. Imagine the feeling of hearing your spouse thank God for something that you did when you may have thought that it went unnoticed. Experiencing that on a regular basis leads you to the heartwarming realization that your spouse delights in you—much more so than even the best message Hallmark can put in a card!

This blessing is never more evident than during those times of uncertainty. Before praying together, we dealt with numerous life challenges that included losing parents, unemployment, raising teenagers, loss of a grandchild and

9/11 without deeply understanding what each other feared. We simply didn’t talk about those types of feelings. In the past year alone, we dealt with the uncertainty not only of the pandemic but also of Signe’s battle with breast cancer. United in couple prayer, we faced those uncertainties with a stronger and deeper love for each other and for God as well as a deepened faith that the “Three Ply Cord” of our marriage (Husband, Spouse & God) would not be easily broken (Eccl 4:12). Not only is the divorce rate for couples that regularly pray together less than one in 1,100, but

according to research done on the subject, marital satisfaction is greater by every single measure. Praying together is one of the most surefire ways to place God at the center of a marriage.

So, in preparation for that next period of uncertainty, we encourage you to begin to explore the blessings and strength that come from being a praying couple. Maybe you can start by blessing each other every night before bed. Tracing the sign of the cross on your spouse’s forehead while offering a prayer of protection

through the night and a joyful waking to the next day is a simple and powerful way to begin. Then perhaps you can find some time each morning to take turns offering a brief prayer of thanksgiving for a recent blessing and also a prayer of petition for an impending challenge. You may also want to include a brief intercessory prayer for someone who is in need. Close that morning prayer session with a blessing of protection before heading out into your day. Not only will these regular times of couple prayer put you in a better place to deal with life’s challenges, but they will fill those times between adversities with the abundant life that Jesus came to give.

~ by Ken and Signe Castel



Jean-François Millet, L'Angeus [The Angelus] (1857-1859), oil on canvas, 21.9 × 26 inches, Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

Ken and Signe Castel, the directors of the “Couple Prayer – Together With Jesus Ministry,” have been active in the ministry for over ten years under the mentorship of its creators, Deacon Bob and Kathy Ovies. Ken and Signe have shared this ministry through a variety of programs including weekend retreats at Manresa. In addition to the Couple Prayer ministry, they are active volunteers for Ave Maria Catholic Radio, the Archdiocese of Detroit, Alpha for Catholics and Living in Love, where they are certified mentors for marriage preparation. They reside in Canton, Michigan and have three grown daughters and seven living grandchildren. Ken and Signe can be reached at coupleprayer@gmail.com or through the website at www.coupleprayer.com.





Manresa Jesuit Retreat House

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2019-2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings and God's peace to you,

St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, always reminded and encouraged us to live in gratitude for all the blessings bestowed upon us each day. We're thankful for all of these gifts, including the very significant challenges Manresa experienced during Fiscal Year 2019-2020, which ended June 30, 2020. In these challenges we continue to learn to grow in patience, fortitude and understanding of others in carrying out our Ignatian Mission.

Despite the COVID-19 shutdown of the House in mid-March, we stayed in touch with our community through new and old technology. Now that we've reopened with a limited capacity, we're protecting one another through social distancing, use of masks and frequent hand washing. The second floor north wing expansion, adding a new assembly space known as the "Upper Room" and break rooms for youth and adult retreats, is virtually complete. A building permit for the new storage barn has been issued, and completion of the barn is expected before the year's end.

As we continue to grapple with the pandemic and learn new ways to stay safe while getting on with our lives, we hope that we'll be able to increase the capacity of the House to serve more women, men and youth to grow in their relationship with God and one another. To assist us in these efforts, Tim Neis has joined Manresa as our new Controller, replacing Tom Hurley after Tom's 15 years of dedicated service. As we heartily welcome Tim, we bid Tom farewell as a staff member, hoping, though, that he'll stop by and keep us company when he is able.

Finally, I wish to thank the Manresa community for its support and dedication to Manresa during my six-and-a-half-year tenure as Executive Director. A search committee is in place to select my successor, who is anticipated to take the reins early next year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as Executive Director and hope to remain on the staff when my tenure ends. God bless each of you. May the Lord keep you in the palm of His hand.

Francis J. Daly, M

McGrail Fund Performance*

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Opening Balance	\$ 6,229,761	\$ 6,412,076	\$ 6,952,086
Contributions/ Other Income	\$ 181,433	\$ 392,798	\$ 26,339
Transfers/Expenses	\$ (343,896)	\$ (298,420)	\$ (373,454)
Interest/Dividends	\$ 173,683	\$ 180,860	\$ 191,496
Appreciation/ (Depreciation)	\$ 171,095	\$ 264,772	\$ (331,317)
Closing Balance	\$ 6,412,076	\$ 6,952,086	\$ 6,465,150

* The McGrail Fund serves as Manresa's endowment.

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.

Major Grants

Manresa received a very generous \$15,000 grant from the **Koch Foundation** in support of our Ignatian formation program during this fiscal year.

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 for conference retreats, a tradition that dates back to Manresa's founding in 1926.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2019-2020 Financial Summary

(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

OPERATING REVENUE

Adult Conference Retreats	\$ 261,285	41%
Ignatian Formation, Youth Retreats, IDRs	\$ 138,590	21.5%
Use of Building	\$ 83,439	13%
Other Revenue from Operations	\$ 86,959	13.5%
Cell Tower	\$ 75,517	11%

Total Operating Revenue \$ **645,790**

DONATION REVENUE

Annual Fund	\$ 284,105	45%
Capital Fund	\$ 205,737	33%
Grant for Ignatian Formation	\$ 15,000	2%
Special Events	\$ 96,197	15.5%
McGrail Fund	\$ 26,339	4.5%

Total Donation Revenue \$ **627,378**

TOTAL REVENUE \$ **1,273,168**

EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 978,673	64%
Building and Administrative	\$ 246,923	16.5%
Food Service	\$ 248,494	16.5%
Special Event Expenses	\$ 7,338	0.5%
Other	\$ 38,720	2.5%

Total Expenses \$ **1,520,148**

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 Mass and Appreciation Dinner and to society-specific events.

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.

With Sincere Gratitude

IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF THESE FUNDS CLICK HERE: www.manresa-sj.org/donate-now/.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR DONORS

Manresa is most grateful for all who support our Mission and honor or remember a loved one with a gift to us. Contributions were received from the following donors between January 1 and June 30, 2020.

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HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Honor of Amazing Office Employees Ruth Ann Stevens	In Memory of Mary Louise Casey Jeanne Manos	In Honor of James Hassett Victor & Diane Cerabone	In Memory of Leonard P Matusko Alan & Karen Grojean Ruth Ellen Mayhall
In Memory of Beverly Bailey Lance Oberg	In Memory of AB Chettle Gregory Denlea	In Honor of Fr Steve Hurd Margaret Dasovic	In Memory of Richard C McKnight John & Kathy Daniels
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In Memory of Sally Barnds John & Sally Barnds	In Memory of Jerry & Sue DiMambro Lou DiMambro	In Honor of Jesuit Priests & Staff at Manresa Leona M Sullivan	In Memory of Joseph Schodowski Peter & Laura Burkhardt Donald & Claudia Griffin Dominic & Virginia LaRosa Yaker Family
In Memory of Gordon Booth Colleen Booth	In Memory of Thomas J Downey Thomas M Downey	In Memory of Robert Kleinstiver Connie Kleinstiver	In Memory of Ralph White Joseph & Marilyn Pavlov
In Honor of Jacqueline Carroll Dcn Brian Carroll	In Memory of Don Finney Barbara Finney	In Memory of Stanley Kramer, Jr Thomas & Sandy Youngblood	
	In Memory of John & Russell Gnaul Julie Pulte		

Gratitude Even in 2020?

St. Ignatius of Loyola believed that gratitude is the most appropriate response to God's abounding love. He once wrote that a lack of gratefulness "is the most abominable of all sins . . . for it is the forgetting of the graces, benefits, and blessings received." His viewpoint reflected the Judeo-Christian roots of his faith tradition.

According to the Jewish theology, all things come from God and are a loving gift of God. Thus, an attitude of gratitude is proper for a faithful Jew. The ancient prayers found in the Book of Psalms include many songs of thanksgiving and praise celebrating God's generous goodness to individuals and to the entire community.

Christianity, too, emphasizes the importance of gratitude. For Jesus' disciples, gratitude is more than a sentimental feeling; it is a virtue and it "shapes not only emotions and thoughts but also actions and deeds." The magnanimous heart is naturally drawn to respond to the Great Giver of Gifts by becoming a person of praise, devotion *and* service.

It has been said that "gratitude is the central motif of the Spiritual Exercises." In many ways, the invitation to gratefulness reaches its highpoint in the final exercise, "The Contemplation to Attain Love." Ignatius advises the one making this exercise to ask for "an interior knowledge of the great gifts I received, that filled with gratitude I may in all things love and serve the Lord."

In the "Contemplation," Ignatius would have us consider four points:

- **Everything is gift.** We are blessed by the gifts of creation and redemption as well as special blessings and favors.
- **God dwells in the gifts.** God is not only the creator of life and the giver of gifts, but also dwells in all created things, especially the human person who is made to the image and likeness of God.
- **God labors in the gifts.** God's presence in the world is not inert, but dynamic: God is at work in the gifts on our behalf.
- **God is the loving source, from whom all blessings flow.** All of God's blessings "descend from above—like water from a fountain or rays from the sun."



William Brassey Hole, Jesus with the One Leper Who Returned to Give Thanks from The Life of Jesus of Nazareth (Eyre and Spottiswoode c 1905), 10.1 × 7.7 inches, location of original painting unknown.

What is the proper response to God's generosity? A life of love and service lived in union with our loving and generous God!

But we are not living in ordinary times. We are living in the year 2020, and we have faced so many difficulties and hardships this year: pandemic and death, quarantine and isolation, unemployment and economic turmoil, racial strife and discrimination, protest, violence and vandalism, as well as political and social division. Is it possible for one to be a person of gratitude in the face of so much confusion and conflict? How can one be thankful when there seems to be extraordinarily little to be thankful for?

I would suggest that now is the perfect time to focus on the third point of the Contemplation: God labors in the gifts. Recall God's

greatest gift to humanity: The Son, incarnate and living with us, entering fully into the human experience, including death on a cross. While God did not will the passion and death of Jesus, God did labor in that event, bringing about our salvation and redemption.

We need to look deeply into our trying times to see the ways God is laboring, often through the kind-heartedness of another person. Consider the medical personnel who cared for the sick and dying, the person who offered food or drink to a stranger, or the friend who sent a card or a text to one who was lonely. Consider, too, and rejoice in the times that God labored through us to bring a little bit of goodness and kindness into our hurting world.

Yes, we can be grateful, even in 2020!

~ by Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM



One of Manresa's regular conference retreat directors, Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM graduated from Mundelein College with a Master's Degree in Religious Studies and Spirituality. Sr. Kathie has served in secondary schools both in religious studies departments and administration, most recently at Marian High School. She is currently a presenter and facilitator at Visitation North Spirituality Center in Bloomfield Hills, of which she is also the director.

Adapting to Change

The Hispanic teams were busily preparing for upcoming Manresa events. When we received the news about COVID-19, each team decided to continue meeting (virtually) each week and adapt its plans in accordance with the new situation. We saw this not only as an opportunity to continue the core activities within our teams, but also as a time to share our struggles and hopes as a community.

After the June youth retreat was officially canceled, the team led by Bernardo and Cecilia Pacheco chose to read and discuss Richard J. Hauser's book *Finding God in Troubled Times*. As a result, all were greatly blessed with the presence of God's Spirit by being able to reflect deeply about God and suffering, about Jesus and suffering, and about our own sufferings.

In addition, the youth group continued preparations for the "What Next?" (Charis) retreat. This retreat provides young adults the opportunity to incorporate the Paschal Mystery into their life experience and brings new meaning to the Gospels. Retreatants gain successful coping skills while deepening their appreciation for their Christian faith. Thanks to the creativity and the technical and computer skills of these young adults, all of the presentations went smoothly as team leaders shared their assigned retreat talks, prayers and community celebrations.

Another team decided to offer the previously scheduled discernment workshop as an online seven-week course to a small group of 12 people from Detroit and New Jersey. Based on 14 YouTube videos produced by the Jesuits of Peru, each weekly session began with a short summary presentation; then the participants shared their experiences with the video topics. Participants expressed how learning the discernment rules will help them make better future decisions that are aligned with God's will. Upon completing the program, several decided to begin preparations for the Spiritual Exercises with two Manresa-trained spiritual directors.

By adapting rather than abandoning our original plans in the face of the COVID-19 challenge, our teams chose to collaborate with the Holy Spirit, and God blessed each of our activities in ways we never expected.

~ by Sergio Pagés

Sergio Pagés graduated from Manresa's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality in 2011 and serves on Manresa's Board of Directors. He works with the Hispanic community through Manresa and has led several workshops in both Spanish and English.



Adaptarse al Cambio

Los equipos hispanos estuvieron ocupados preparándose para los próximos eventos de Manresa. Cuando recibimos las noticias sobre COVID-19, cada equipo decidió continuar reuniéndose virtualmente semanalmente y adaptar sus planes conforme a la nueva situación. Como compañeros de equipos vimos la situación como una oportunidad de continuar nuestras actividades esenciales y también como un momento para compartir en nuestras luchas y esperanzas como comunidad.

Después de que el retiro juvenil de junio fue cancelado oficialmente, el equipo dirigido por Bernardo y Cecilia Pacheco eligió leer y discutir el libro de Richard J. Hauser *Finding God in Troubled Times*. El libro ayudó a todos los que participaron ya que fueron muy bendecidos con la presencia del Espíritu de Dios al ser capaces de reflexionar profundamente sobre Dios y el sufrimiento, Jesús y el sufrimiento, y sobre nuestros propios sufrimientos.

Además de la lectura de este libro, el grupo de jóvenes continuó los preparativos para el retiro de Charris llamado "¿Qué sigue?" Este retiro le ofrece a los jóvenes adultos la oportunidad de incorporar el Misterio Pascual en su experiencia de vida y aporta un nuevo significado a los Evangelios. Los que participan en este retiro adquieren habilidades de afrontamiento exitosas mientras profundizan su aprecio por su fe cristiana. Gracias a la creatividad y las habilidades técnicas e informáticas de estos jóvenes adultos, todas las presentaciones fueron fluidas mientras los líderes del equipo compartían sus charlas de retiro asignadas, oraciones y celebraciones comunitarias.

Otro equipo decidió ofrecer el taller de discernimiento previamente programado como un curso en línea de siete semanas a un pequeño grupo de 12 personas de Detroit y Nueva Jersey. Basado en 14 videos de YouTube producidos por los jesuitas del Perú, cada sesión semanal consistía de un breve resumen de los temas de los videos asignados semanalmente, luego cada participante compartía sus experiencias y reflexiones personales sobre los temas. Varios de los participantes expresaron cómo al aprender las reglas de discernimiento les ayudarán a tomar mejores decisiones en el futuro que estén en línea con la voluntad de Dios. Al completar el programa, varios decidieron comenzar los preparativos para los Ejercicios Espirituales con dos directores espirituales entrenados en Manresa.

Al adaptarnos en lugar de abandonar nuestros planes originales frente al desafío COVID-19, nuestros equipos eligieron colaborar con el Espíritu Santo, y Dios bendijo cada una de nuestras actividades de maneras que nunca esperábamos.

~ por Sergio Pagés

Sergio Pagés se graduó del Programa de Espiritualidad Ignaciana de Manresa en 2011 y es miembro del Board of Directors de Manresa. Sergio colabora con la comunidad hispana a través de Manresa y ha dirigido varios talleres tanto en español como en inglés.

Las Gafas / The Eyeglasses

Our daughter Maggie's Notre Dame application essay beautifully described how fitting glasses for sun-damaged eyes of Salvadoran *campesino* workers on a family medical mission helped her see others more clearly.

Her grandfather and 44-year Manresa retreatant, Richard P. Condit, would have loved this story, but I suspect he saw it coming before he passed away in 2003. There is no question that Dad was a man for others. The Jesuit influence was inescapable. Dad went to U of D High, and his brother-in-law, Edward Pat Echlin, became a Jesuit priest. Dad never missed Manresa retreats, and he would like the plaques dedicated to him next to Manresa's grotto and on the fourth station of the cross. Undoubtedly, the Detroit Jesuits have some responsibility for me taking my family on annual medical missions to El Salvador for the last 20 years.

I first learned about Helping Hands Medical

Missions when my mom mentioned this Legion of Christ apostolate. As an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand surgery, I was drawn to the name *Manos Amigas* (Helping Hands)—pure coincidence. They organize a dozen or so missions a year, around the world, with 20-40 volunteers from all walks of life. Our El Salvador team usually has 6-10 primary care doctors and nurses and 3-5 surgeons. Over a week's time we'll see 2000+ patients and perform 50 surgeries. We are usually blessed with a priest who will minister as much to our team as to the Salvadorans. Our day starts with prayer and Mass and finishes with prayer and fellowship. Local *Regnum Christi* families serve us fantastic food. The days are long and hot, but many of the same volunteers return every year, often as families. My wife, Sue, is an RN who helps me in surgery and organizes donations. Our garage usually fills up with boxes of supplies by mid-summer, and she ships them to Central America in early fall.

Our team often includes a few general surgeons who are very busy with hernias, gallbladders and other vital procedures. Usually there is a gynecologist helping many women. My week is filled taking care of patients with hand birth defects, all kinds of injuries or more common orthopedic concerns. The surgeons are supported by a fantastic team of anesthesiologists, nurses and surgery

technicians. Our patients are well cared for after surgery by critical care nurses and volunteers. Salvadoran doctors and students work alongside us and care for our patients when we leave. Email and Facetime allow us to stay connected and maintain the friendships that emerge from our time together.

Our son, Patrick, and I attended the mission for the first time in 1999. El Salvador was a country still recovering from a civil war, with painful memory of the 1980 assassination of then Archbishop, now Saint, Oscar Romero and of the 1989 killing of the Jesuit priests at the University of Central America. The Salvadoran people were in poverty like we had never seen. We would hear firecrackers and

wonder if they were gunshots as we tried to sleep on concrete under bug screens and shake our shoes in the morning in case scorpions were napping in them. On that first



Donald P. Condit, MD (center) and his surgical team, including wife Sue Condit, RN (next left) and daughter Anne Marie (Condit) Talbot, CRNA (far right). His family has been blessed with four generations attending Manresa retreats. Even with 25+ retreats made, Don lags behind two of his four brothers. Don attended Holy Name, Brother Rice ('76), Notre Dame and University of Michigan Medical School. Don and Sue live in Grand Rapids, MI.

mission, as a high school junior, Patrick volunteered in a makeshift pharmacy. In subsequent years working with mission team dentists motivated him to obtain a DDS degree, and he now practices general dentistry in Grand Rapids. Our mission team has been fortunate to have him and his wife, Meghan, also a DDS, return to serve alongside us as dentists.

The opportunity to share this experience with our children, when teenagers, was very rewarding. Our daughter Anne Marie developed an interest in anesthesia when assisting in surgery on missions and obtained her Master's in Nurse Anesthesia at MSU. She has also returned to El Salvador to provide anesthesia care to the patients I've operated on. An amazing experience for a father!

One of our Helping Hands Medical Missions shirts carries the slogan *Recibe Más*. We "receive more" than we give. The Salvadoran patients and our host families are wonderfully appreciative, loving and generous people. Our family has learned to see part of the world through different *gafas* and appreciate what we have. These mission trips have sparked a passion in our family to strive to be men and women for others, and we have been blessed immeasurably in return.

~ by Donald P. Condit, MD

A Peace the World Cannot Give

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love . . .
2 Timothy 1:7*

During a retreat for juniors at Manresa last spring, I had the privilege of interviewing three students from U of Detroit Jesuit High School, Braden Quinn, Declan Nemeth and Devan Dhruna, along with their Director of Campus Ministry, Joe Gall. I was impressed in many ways by the responses from these teenagers—in their maturity, in their humility, in their wisdom and in the depth of their faith.



*Devan Dhruna
proudly wearing a t-shirt
honoring his late uncle,
Roy Arredondo.*

feel better about yourself. It helps you to take the time to pause and realize that tough times are a part of everyone's life, but you need to have them at times to make the good ones even better."

My discussion with Joe Gall, their spiritual mentor, gave an insight into how these students have grown:



*Braden Quinn
enjoys taking a leadership
role in various retreats
to share his positive
experiences with others.*

The retreat helped Braden to enhance his prayer time:

"We do an Examen every day at school and I often just go through the motions, but since going on this retreat I'm actually pausing and kind of going through my day being able to see where I either got a blessing that I didn't notice before . . . or seeing where I could have gone wrong and done something better."

The value of fellowship became increasingly evident to Declan:

"Going on this retreat specifically has taught me a lot about my brothers—I do call them 'brothers' now; I used to just call them 'classmates.' I've gotten to learn that we share a lot of struggles together and a lot of pain and suffering from our common experiences together."

Significant life experiences helped Devan to appreciate how community can lift and support people through difficult periods:

"Before this retreat I struggled with the loss of my Uncle Roy and I'm losing my grandmother to cancer right now, so I felt pretty rough. But this retreat helped me to see that there's so many people that go through tough times and they really are there for you, so it really helps you to



*Declan Nemeth
sees God a lot in nature
and its beauty and
believes that can be
very faith-driven.*

"I have the real honor and pleasure and feel really called by the Lord to this work of bringing retreat ministry to our students. I think retreats are so absolutely needed in our time because we have so much in our lives that distract us and we are so busy. Taking just that moment to pause to remember that we're loved by God and that we're called to be the best that we can be, we're called to live out what it means to be in God's image and we're called to that relationship with our Lord Who is somebody that just inspires us. It's easy to forget all those things, and we need to take a moment to come onto these beautiful grounds here at Manresa and to just breathe and know that Presence and feel it and experience it."



*Joe Gall, DMin,
is living out his call to
build the Kingdom by
bringing retreat ministry
to the students at UDJHS.*

Having taught catechism and worked with students in Catholic grade schools and high schools for many years, I've learned that the depth of the students' faith and maturity is a direct reflection of that of their parents. After talking with the fathers of each of the students, I am more convinced than ever that the most important thing we can do as parents is to share our faith in the Lord with our children.

It was refreshing and reassuring to see these students emerging as our current and future leaders. They will be making some of the biggest decisions of their lives over the next few years: what they will be studying, where they will live, what their occupation will be, and whether they will marry and to whom. But I believe their most important decision will be to follow Christ and make Him the focus of their lives, and their retreat experiences will help them along that path toward a peace the world cannot give.

~ by George Seroka

Waiting for the Promise

While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 1:4)

Hearing and reflecting on this Scripture verse using the prayer method of *lectio divina*, I was reminded of a time when waiting turned into a bigger blessing than I could ever have imagined. As a new widow in the winter of 2017, I was fearful of living alone in my home of 38 years, where I had raised my children and lived most of my adult life. Within a month of my husband's death, I met with a realtor whom my husband had known well and said he would use if we ever decided to move. I told her I wanted to sell the house *immediately* because it was too large, I was scared living alone with my dog, Bravo (an aging companion who never had the soul of a watchdog), and I didn't feel capable of the maintenance, all of which my husband had handled. I believed the solution was to move to an apartment where there would be others living nearby, no maintenance worries, no lawn to mow, etc.

My realtor was silent for a few minutes and looked around my home before saying, "I don't recommend it. It is too soon after your husband's death. Waiting at least a year to make a major decision like selling your home gives you a chance to be sure that is what you want." I was amazed at the caring she brought to the real estate encounter and I respected her experience. God's hand was in this situation beginning with my husband's thoughtful selection of the realtor and then during the meeting with her when she suggested a waiting and discernment process prior to proceeding.

I ended up staying in my home for two more years, where I mourned the loss of my husband and my daughter who had died there in 2011. During those two years I overcame my maintenance fears, thanks to the loving help of my son and the people my caring realtor had recommended. Just as Jesus enjoined his disciples not



Nancy O'Connor is a regular participant in Manresa's Women to Women, a faith sharing group facilitated by Lori Kneisler and Anne Smith. The women employ the method of lectio divina: reading, reflecting, responding and resting with a passage of Scripture. Nancy has also recently completed the Spiritual Exercises of St.

Ignatius at Manresa, companioned by Carol Hill. She retired in June 2018 as professor of nursing from Madonna University where she directed the graduate nursing program and taught for 18 years. She received her PhD from Wayne State University.



Ambrosius Benson, The Pentecost (detail) (16th century), oil on panel, 36-1/8 x 31-5/16 inches, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC

to leave Jerusalem before they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, I saw that He had given me the same message—to wait for the fullness of the Spirit's gifts before moving on in my life's journey. By living in His Spirit and by waiting, I was granted gifts of fortitude and knowledge to discern the appropriate time to move.

In the fall of that second year, my companion dog, Bravo, became ill and died at home. The house seemed even bigger then, and I felt the time was approaching for me to downsize. Also, right before Christmas, I learned that my son would be starting his medical residency at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak—just a stone's throw from my home. He and his family lived in a smaller house, much farther from the hospital. When I asked if they would be interested in buying my place, they immediately said yes! I was filled with a sense of peace and purpose as I set about the process of moving, knowing that my patient discernment of the appropriate time for this move had been God's way of showing me enough light to fearlessly and joyfully take the next step in my life.

I purchased a smaller home two-and-a-half miles away, where I can remain the very involved "local grandma" for my one-year-old granddaughter. Six months after I moved and before my son's residency began, they had sold their small home and moved into mine. The increased space and proximity to the hospital have been a godsend for them during this past year. Who (but God!) knew that my son would be on the front lines fighting the coronavirus as a first-year medical resident? He can now be home in minutes to spend more time with his family after working long hours, and the spacious floor plan protects his wife and child from potential exposure.

By patiently waiting and listening to the whispered words of the Spirit—"move out of love and hope, not to escape your fears"—my family and I were all immensely blessed, just as our Father promised!

~ by Nancy O'Connor

2021 CONFERENCE RETREAT SCHEDULE

To register call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0 or visit www.manresa-sj.org/upcomingretreats/

Special Notice: Due to the limited number of participants as a result of COVID-19 distancing restrictions, please do not sign up for more than one retreat between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Thank you for your consideration.

Conference Retreats for Men ~ NOT RESTRICTED TO GROUPS NAMED

DATE	RETREAT NAME	DIRECTORS	FOR
Jan 8-10 <i>(At capacity: call to be waitlisted.)</i>	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: FR. JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, SJ]: BISHOP GALLAGHER K of C; FATIMA – ST. JAMES; OUR LADY OF REFUGE, Orchard Lake; PRINCE OF PEACE, West Bloomfield; ST. PERPETUA, Waterford; ST. THOMAS (Chaldean)	Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ	Men
Jan 15-17 <i>(At capacity: call to be waitlisted.)</i>	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: FR. JACQUES MARQUETTE, SJ]: ALHAMBRA; CHARLES L. PALMS, JR.; GROSSE POINTE VICARIATE; HENGSTEBECK GROUP; ST. JOAN OF ARC	Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ	Men
Jan 22-24 <i>(At capacity: call to be waitlisted.)</i>	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN (PATRON: ST. ISAAC JOGUES, SJ): THE BUDD COMPANY; DIVINE CHILD, Dearborn; IRMEN GROUP; KASSAB; OUR LADY QUEEN of MARTYRS, Beverly Hills; ST. THOMAS MORE, Troy	Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ	Men
Feb 5-7	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN IN RECOVERY ONLY [PATRON: FR. JOHN C. FORD, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Fr. Tom Weston	Men in Recovery
Feb 19-21	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. ROBERT SOUTHWELL, SJ]: FR. WERNERT GROUP; NOTRE DAME; YPSILANTI GROUP	Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ	Men
Mar 5-7	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. NICHOLAS OWEN, SJ]: JOHN A. REUTER – ST. ANASTASIA – CHRIST OUR LIGHT / ST. ALAN	Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ	Men
Mar 19-21	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. ANDREW BOBOLA, SJ]: MOTHER OF GOD; ST. ANDREW BOBOLA MEN; ST. IRENAEUS, Rochester; U of D HIGH ALUMNI	Fr. Richard Baumann, SJ	Men
Mar 26-28	PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND for MEN [PATRON: ST. GABRIEL LALLEMANT, SJ]: PALM SUNDAY; TRAVERSE CITY [Theme: Famous Last Words: Praying with Jesus in His Final Hours]	Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM	Men
Apr 16-18	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: BLESSED FRANCIS PAGE, SJ]: GRAND RAPIDS – METAMORA; ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA; WYANDOTTE – DOWNRIVER	Fr. Si Hendry, SJ	Men
Apr 23-25	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. PETER CANISIUS, SJ]: FRANCES CABRINI K of C; ST. HUGO; JOHN LAU; ST. PETER CANISIUS MEN	Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ	Men
Apr 30-May 2	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: OUR LADY OF THE WAY]: BROTHER RICE ALUMNI; DETROIT POLICE & FIRE FIGHTERS; GAYLORD; MEN OF MANRESA; MT. PLEASANT; ST. MARY MAGDALEN – ST. CONRAD; GESU, Detroit	Fr. Pat Fairbanks, SJ	Men
Aug 6-8	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN IN RECOVERY ONLY [PATRON: FR. JACK SCHUETT, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Mr. Jeff Henrich	Men in Recovery
Aug 27-29	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. STEPHEN PONGRÁCZ, SJ]: LEONARD STUMM; ST. BEDE; THE TWELVE STEPPERS	Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM	Men
Sep 10-12	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: BLESSED SEBASTIAN KIMURA, SJ]: McDONALD – McHARDY; ST. MARY OF THE HILLS; SERRA OF OAKLAND COUNTY; SHRINE – REICHENBACH	Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ	Men
Oct 1-3	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. FRANCIS BORGIA, SJ]: BERRY GROUP; FEUERSTEIN; K of C DETROIT ARCHDIOCESE; MAHER; ST. ANTHONY, Temperance; ST. ELIZABETH, Tecumseh; ST. LOUISE	Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM	Men
Oct 7-10	4-DAY WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. JOHN OGILVIE, SJ]: R. WEISENBURGER – SERRA	Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ	Men
Oct 22-24	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. ALPHONSUS RODRIGUEZ, SJ]: CATHOLIC LAWYERS & PHYSICIANS; FORD TRACTOR; OAKLAND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL; ST. ROBERT, Ada/Grand Rapids	Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ	Men
Oct 29-31	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA, SJ]: BODDE – SCHWEIHOFFER – ST. CLARE OF MONTEFALCO; OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA; ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI; ST. HUBERT, Mount Clemens; ST. JOSEPH, Lake Orion; ST. VALERIE	Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ	Men
Nov 5-7	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. RUPERT MAYER, SJ]: ASCENSION; HOLY NAME, Birmingham; IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Ira Township; ST. BONIFACE, Oak Harbor, OH (Toledo Diocese); ST. CLEMENT, Center Line; SS. PETER AND PAUL JESUIT CHURCH	Fr. Robert Flack, SJ	Men
Dec 3-5	WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN [PATRON: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, SJ]: BAYER, Toledo – Defiance	Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ	Men

Conference Retreat for Women Religious

DATE	RETREAT NAME	DIRECTORS	
Jun 13–19	SUMMER CONFERENCE RETREAT FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS [PATRON: ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE] Theme: “A Call to Prayer–An Invitation to Love.” Total cost is \$300.	Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM	Religious Sisters

2021 CONFERENCE RETREAT SCHEDULE (cont'd)

To register call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0 or visit www.manresa-sj.org/upcomingretreats/

Conference Retreats for Women ~ NOT RESTRICTED TO GROUPS NAMED

DATE	RETREAT NAME	DIRECTORS	FOR
Jan 12-14	MIDWEEK RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: ARCHDUCHESS JOAN OF AUSTRIA]	Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Patterson Schultz	Women
Jan 29-31	WEEKEND RETREAT for AL-ANON WOMEN ONLY [PATRON: FR. JAMES CULLEN, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Sr. Karen Jackson, CSC	Al-Anon Women
Feb 26-28	WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: ST. JOHN DE BRITO, SJ]	Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ	Women
Mar 28-29	PALM SUNDAY OVERNIGHT for WOMEN [Theme: Famous Last Words: Praying with Jesus in His Final Hours]; \$85 non-refundable, non-transferable fee due at registration.	Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Patterson Schultz	Women
May 7-9	MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: MARY, MOTHER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS] Theme: "Mary as the First Disciple"	Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM	Women
May 28-30	WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN IN RECOVERY ONLY [PATRON: FATHER FRED, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Dcn. Brian Carroll	Women in Recovery
Jun 10-13	4-DAY WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: SISTER MARY WARD, IBVM]	Fr. David Meconi, SJ	Women
Sept 14-16	MIDWEEK RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: BLESSED FRANCISCO GARATE, SJ]	Fr. Robert Flack, SJ	Women
Oct 14-17	4-DAY WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: ST. DOMINIC COLLINS, SJ]	Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ	Women
Nov 12-14	WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN [PATRON: BLESSED MIGUEL PRO, SJ]	Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Patterson Schultz	Women
Nov 26-28	WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN IN RECOVERY ONLY [PATRON: FR. EDWARD DOWLING, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Sr. Diane McCormick, IHM	Women in Recovery

Please see special notice on page 18 regarding limited participants.

Conference Retreats for Both Men and Women

DATE	RETREAT NAME	DIRECTORS	FOR
Jan 29-31	CAREGIVERS RETREAT for MEN & WOMEN [PATRON: ST. JOHN BERCHMANS, SJ] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Ms. Rosemary Insley	Men & Women
Feb 12-14	INNER HEALING RETREAT [PATRON: ST. JOHN DE BREBEUF, SJ] Theme: An Encounter with the Healing Christ; \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Fr. John Esper & Ms. Debbie Tourville	Men & Women
Apr 1-3	HOLY WEEK RETREAT for MEN & WOMEN [PATRON: FR. PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, SJ]; HOLY WEEK - ST. REGIS - ST. OWEN	Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Patterson Schultz	Men & Women
May 21-23	CHRISTIAN MEDITATION RETREAT for MEN & WOMEN [PATRON: FR. ROBERT DE NOBILI] \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required; total cost is \$225.	Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Patterson Schultz	Men & Women
Jun 4-6	CHARIS RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (PRESENTED IN SPANISH) \$100 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Charis Team	Men & Women
Jun 25-27	HISPANIC WEEKEND for MEN & WOMEN (PRESENTED IN SPANISH) \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Hispanic Team	Men & Women
Jul 30-Aug 1	WEEKEND RETREAT for TRADITIONALLY MARRIED COUPLES [PATRON: ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, SJ]	Mr. Jay Landry	Married Couples
Sep 24-26	INNER HEALING RETREAT [PATRON: ST. JOHN DE BREBEUF, SJ] Theme: An Encounter with the Healing Christ; \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.	Fr. John Esper & Ms. Debbie Tourville	Men & Women

Individually Directed Retreats for Men & Women

Session I: May 11 – 20, 2021

Session II: June 14 – 23, 2021

Session III: July 19 – 28, 2021

Session IV: August 10 – 19, 2021

These "in-session" dates allow for eight-day retreats as well as retreats of shorter duration. Arrival time begins 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. Alternately, individuals may choose "out-of-session" dates for individually directed retreats between September and April each year.

The "in-session" cost is \$80 per day with an \$80 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit. "Out-of-session" costs are \$85 per day with an \$85 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit. You may register online ([click on "Individually Directed Retreats"](#)) or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0 for an application.



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