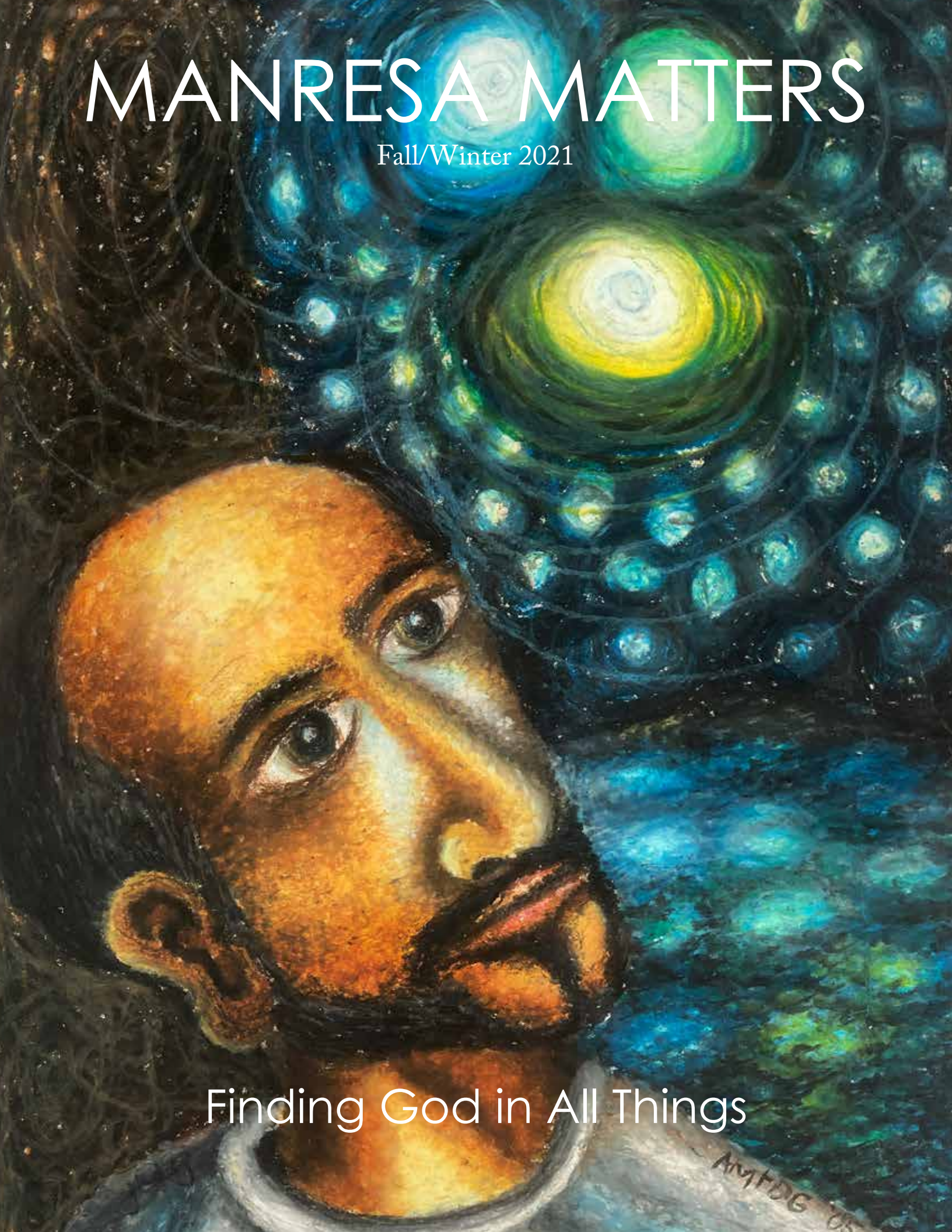


MANRESA MATTERS

Fall/Winter 2021

Finding God in All Things

AMTDG '05





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Manresa Matters is published semiannually by Manresa Jesuit Retreat House
1390 Quarton Road
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FROM THE

Editor



JOANN AMICANGELO
Publications
Coordinator

LAST CHRISTMAS EVE, AS THE GIFTS WERE BEING BROUGHT TO THE ALTAR FOR THE MASS, I DID WHAT AUTHOR MATTHEW

Kelly suggested in one of his books. I offered the gifts God has given to me back to Him. My prayer expressed my desire to lean further into my relationship with God, to go deeper in my faith and to follow Him wherever He leads.

After grieving the devastating loss of my husband in 2016 and my father in 2019, I finally felt ready for something new. I was open to whatever God had in mind.

About two months later, I saw the ad for a Publications Coordinator in *Manresa Memos* and wondered if this was an answer to my prayers. The work was familiar – I'd been director of communications for several large churches during my career. The workplace was familiar – my former spiritual director and my husband had both graduated from Manresa's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality, and I'd made a couple of weekend retreats here myself. And when I met with Sr. Linda, Steve Raymond and Anne Smith, I felt an unmistakable peace and enthusiasm about the possibility of working with them.

And so, I said yes—to their offer and to God's invitation to follow His lead to Manresa. I am grateful for the opportunity to be in this position using my skills and experience as a writer and publication designer to promote God's work at Manresa.

The theme for this issue, "Finding God in All Things," couldn't be more fitting for this time in our lives when it can be a struggle to be hopeful about the future. Each article and reflection is a testament to God's active presence in our lives and in the world. They remind us that when we seek God, He reveals Himself to us. Indeed, we can find God in all things.

As you read the stories here, I hope you will be encouraged and inspired to bring your gifts before the Father and look with expectation for God's response. I trust that as you look for God in the everyday moments of your life, God will make Himself known to you.

On the journey with you,

P. S. Thoughts about the new look for *Manresa Matters*? Suggestions, story ideas, photos of Manresa? I'd love to hear from you. Please write to me at editor@manresa-sj.org or use Manresa's postal address.

Team Effort



Manresa Matters is developed with the help of our Publications Team. Pictured from left to right: Grace Seroka, Steve Raymond, Hugh Buchanan, Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM, Paul Seibold & JoAnn Amicangelo. Not pictured: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

FROM THE

Executive Director

Autumn Sources of Spirituality



SR. LINDA SEVCIK, SM
Executive Director

SOURCES OF SPIRITUALITY

and insight enfold us during the season of autumn, making it quite simple to find God in all things,

particularly out-of-doors.

In order to find God in all things, we need to accept and embrace the deep vulnerability of our humanness. A sense of vulnerability opens our hearts to be deeply moved by beauty, which in turn can open us to God. Autumn can teach us much about vulnerability.

In fact, I consider autumn the season of vulnerability. In the first place, we often marvel over scenes of breath-taking beauty in autumn panoramas and sense our smallness in the face of them. Looking more closely at the individual trees, we realize they allow the frost to touch them and they surrender their greenness, even to losing their beautiful leaves. They seem to accept instinctively that loss can bring new growth to them.

This annual autumnal reminder always speaks deeply to me and reminds me also that vulnerability is not necessarily weakness, but requires great inner strength especially when it comes from loving as Jesus loved, allowing

Himself to be wounded. For us humans, I trust that our places of vulnerability can be the portals through which God is able to reach us.

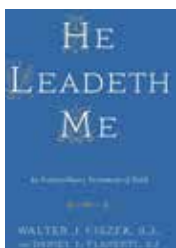
Let me close with a small prayer excerpt by Sr. Joyce Rupp in *Fresh Bread*:

"Jesus, . . . help me to know that every season has its own reason to exist and that each season brings its own set of blessings. Grant me the grace of vulnerability so that I can surrender my heart to you and love as you loved."

God's Blessings,

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

RECOMMENDED READING



He Leadeth Me

by Fr. Walter J. Cizek, SJ

CISZEK'S BOOK DESCRIBES HIS YEARS AS A PRISONER-PRIEST IN THE SOVIET UNION.

From his birth in Shenandoah, PA in 1904, Fr. Cizek's route to the Soviet Union passed through his novitiate entry in 1928, his training at the Vatican's Russian College as a volunteer for ministry in

Russia, his ordination into the Russian Rite in 1937 and his 1938 posting to eastern Poland, which was overrun by the Soviets in 1939.

In 1940 Fr. Cizek traveled with two friends under false papers to work at a lumber combine in the Urals, and in 1941 he was arrested as a "Vatican spy" by the NKVD and sent to Lubianka Prison in Moscow. There he spent five years, mostly in solitary confinement, and signed a confession under torture leading to his 15-year sentence to hard labor in Norilsk in arctic Siberia. He was released in 1955 but ordered to remain in the town.

Throughout his sentence and after his release, and notwithstanding severe physical hardship, camp informants, NKVD surveillance and incessant atheistic propaganda, Fr. Cizek managed to minister to prisoners in the faith and to say clandestine Mass, culminating in a sleepless 48 hours celebrating one Easter at many sites around Norilsk. This

caused the KGB to order him to Krasnoyarsk, then further south to Abakan, where he worked as an auto mechanic to support his ministry, though with a lower profile.

In 1963 Fr. Cizek was returned to the United States in a prisoner exchange. He lectured at Fordham University, offering counseling and spiritual direction. He died in 1984 and is buried in the Jesuit cemetery in Wernersville, PA.

One day at Lubianka, despairing over signing his confession, Fr. Cizek recalled Christ's prayer to the Father in the Garden of Olives: "Not as I will, but as thou wilt." This insight resolved his anguish:

"[T]here was but one will that directed all things, God's will. I had only to see it, to discern it in every circumstance in which I found myself, and let myself be ruled by it. God is in all things, sustains all things, directs all things. . . I was freed thereby from anxiety and worry, from every tension, and could float serenely upon the tide of God's sustaining providence in perfect peace of soul."

Information on the cause for Fr. Cizek's canonization is set forth at <http://www.cizek.org/index.html>.†

— By Paul Seibold



FR. WALTER CISZEK

What did St. Ignatius mean by “Finding God in All Things”?



The Life of St. Ignatius Loyola. Plate 2. St. Ignatius writes the Spiritual Exercises in the cave at Manresa.

By Fr. Steven Hurd, SJ



FR. STEVEN HURD, SJ

ANYONE WHO SPENDS TIME with Ignatian spirituality will know that there are a number of words and phrases that tend to recur. Consolation. Desolation.

Discernment. Contemplatives in Action. And, of course, the subject of this issue of *Manresa Matters*: Finding God in All Things.

Before I finish this article, I hope to explain what St. Ignatius meant by that expression in a way that will be accessible to men and women

today. First, let me tell you a vignette to which I will return at the end of the article. (It's like a puzzle: see if you can guess why I tell it.)

Knocking on doors

Some years ago, while in the Jesuit novitiate in Berkley, I did a building occupancy survey for the Concerned Citizens of Cass Corridor. I knocked on door after door and, if there was an answer, I asked whether the unit was occupied. At that time (1987), much of the housing was occupied by poor Appalachian whites, though the neighborhood was changing.

Being an Appalachian myself, I became interested in the people who lived there. I did a demographic study that documented that most

of the neighborhood's residents had moved to Detroit after World War II. Unfortunately for them, the Big Three were regionalizing production at that time. As a result, they arrived poor and remained poor because they couldn't find jobs.

When I gave my observations to the Concerned Citizens of Cass Corridor, they wanted to take the story to the City Council. I thought that was a great idea, but a study told in numbers was likely to put anyone to sleep. So I suggested that I'd do a slide show that would illustrate the story.

While shooting the photographs, I saw a couple of young African-Americans coming toward me. They

were coming from the direction of a crack house, and I was frightened. I felt I was about to be mugged, and I suspected that running would only worsen the situation. As they approached me, they asked what I was doing, and I told them much the same story that I've told you. They looked puzzled for a moment and asked if I was really trying to help the neighborhood, and I said that I was. They exclaimed that it was about time someone did something. They also told me that the neighborhood could be dangerous, and they volunteered to keep watch so that nothing would happen to me.

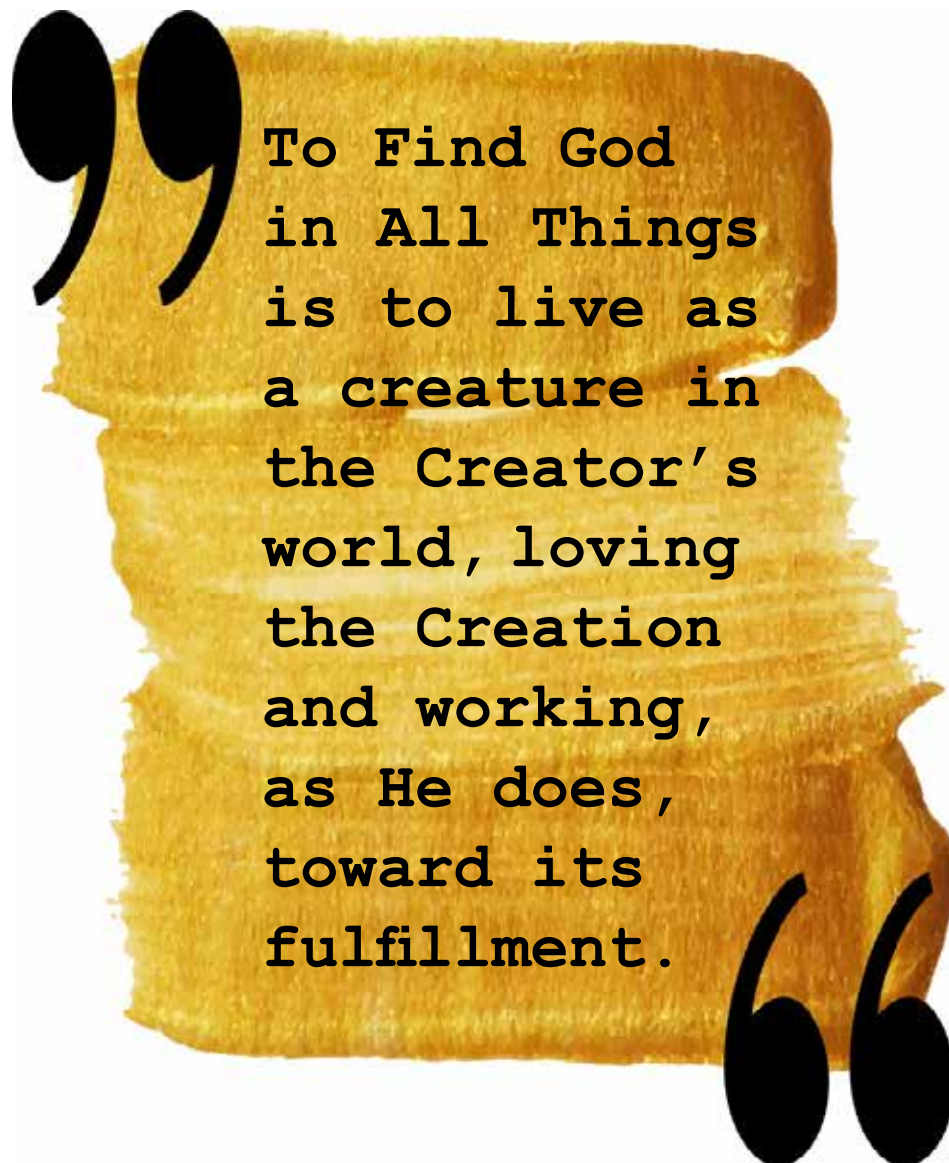
Exploring the Spiritual Exercises

While you're wondering what this anecdote has to do with "Finding God in All Things," let me begin exploring what St. Ignatius meant by that phrase by reviewing several elements of *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*. First, in the Principle and Foundation, St. Ignatius identifies God as the Creator. In his day, as in ours, there was a popular alternative. He could have spoken of God as the Supreme Being. Instead, he chose to speak of the Creator, of a God Who works, labors and rests—of a God Who got His hands dirty when He formed the dirt of the earth into the shape of a person into whom He breathed life.

This theme of God's working runs throughout the Exercises. Between the first and second weeks, St. Ignatius proposes a meditation on The Call of the King. It frames the meditations of the second week. The grace of the second week is to know Jesus, to love Jesus and to follow Jesus. Notice the climax: it is to follow Jesus. Ultimately, in the meditation on The Two Standards, the retreatant is asked to choose to follow Christ under the banner of the Cross, to work with Christ, to labor with Christ.

In the third week of the Exercises, one making the retreat is asked to place him or herself before the Cross and ask three questions: What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? And, what will I do for Christ?

Near or at the end of the Exercises, St. Ignatius proposes the Contemplation to Obtain Divine Love. Before explaining it, he makes several notes. The most memorable of these is that love expresses itself more in



deeds than in words and that love consists of a mutual sharing.

Mystical insight

Where did St. Ignatius get this idea that God labors, we labor, and that we are woven together in a mutual sharing? To be honest, this does not sound like the theology of his day, and I, like many students of St. Ignatius, believe that it was a mystical insight. In his autobiography, St. Ignatius relates that, near the end of his time at Manresa, he had a vision. While it's not completely clear what he saw, it seems as if he saw the Creator creating, the Son redeeming and the Spirit rising, and that he was invited into this motion.

Today, we would probably say that we are invited to look at the world in which we're living, to allow ourselves to fall in love with what we see and to take our place in the movement of that love.

Well, I hope you've begun to understand my opening story. Sometimes we need to look at the world around us—even when that world is the "inner city." We need to allow ourselves to fall in love with people whose hopes are crushed. And, finally, we need to labor on their behalf. Strangely, in that cycle of activity, we come to discover God in the presence of two young people standing guard.

To Find God in All Things is to live as a creature in the Creator's world, loving the Creation and working, as He does, toward its fulfillment. †

Fr. Steven Hurd, SJ has been on the Manresa staff for the last nine years. He is Co-director of the Internship in Spiritual Companionship and a popular retreat director.

Begging for the grace to find God in all things

By Tom Cliff



TOM CLIFF

"FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND move and have our being. . ." (Acts 17:28)

God is present and is making possible our

very existence every moment. St. Paul's few, simple words in Acts 17:28 bring calm and joy, particularly welcome in this time of pandemic. My spiritual director uses the passage as we take time together to be aware of God's presence with us in that moment and always.

The grace to find God

What I have discovered in our conversations is that finding God in all things is a grace from God, one for which we beg. The late writer and spiritual director William A. Barry, SJ often repeated the injunction to beg God for this grace. It is a free gift, not a reward to be earned. Father Barry offered awareness of God's presence and actions in the world as a hallmark of Jesuit spirituality:

"What was the original insight of Ignatius of Loyola? I would say it was the idea that God can be found in all things, that every human experience has a religious dimension or meaning." (*Finding God in All Things*, Ave Maria Press, 1991, p. 77).

St. Ignatius was proclaiming what he had learned in his own life. Five hundred years ago a French cannonball spared his physical life but not the privileged life of an aristocrat and soldier into which he had been born. Ignatius dreamed of returning to that life. But he also found himself dreaming of a new and vastly different life as a doer of

What was the original insight of Ignatius of Loyola? I would say it was the idea that God can be found in all things, that every human experience has a religious dimension or meaning.

great things for God and feeling joy at this dream. He identified the source of the latter dream as God's message to him.

Alert to God's presence

Hardly anyone is spontaneously aware in the moment, all the time, of God at work in the happenings of a task-filled day. Maybe this realization led Ignatius to his enduring prescription, the Spiritual Exercises. Father Barry makes the connection:

"The Spiritual Exercises are various methods to help us become more and more aware of this ever-present God. If we want to, we can become contemplatives in action, people who are alert to God's presence in all our daily activities." (*Finding*, p. 20)

Tailoring the Exercises

The way of presenting the Spiritual Exercises changed radically in the final third of the last century. Until then retreatants made the Spiritual Exercises in

lockstep, meditating on the same scriptural scenes, taking the same time to complete the Exercises, moving toward the same experience of God working in their lives. Many learned how they should respond. Left unexplored were retreatants' deeper individual emotional responses and the light they shed on God's loving action in their souls.

Spiritual growth does not come in predictable steps. The rediscovery of St. Ignatius' guidance to tailor the Spiritual Exercises to each person meant that individually directed retreats with a spiritual director became a more and more typical way to experience them.

Contemplatives in action

Why beg for the grace to find God in all things? Father Barry explains:

"We are asking to experience how holy the universe is, how sacred. We want to experience this, not just conclude to it from theological premises . . . What we want is such a deep experience that it will affect how we act in this world. To be a contemplative in action is to contemplate (or find) God in our daily lives, in our activity. If we were contemplatives in action, we would approach everyone and everything with reverence." (*Finding*, p.138)

That is, finding God in all things changes how one sees the world and everyone in it, all to the greater glory of God. Finding God in all things has brought me reverence for everything. We can all beg for this grace. †

Tom Cliff has been attending retreats at Manresa since high school. He is a retired clinical social worker. He and his wife, Joan, are members of St. Ambrose parish in Grosse Pointe Park.

REFLECTION



God's voice from the mouth of babes

By Lubna Seba



LUBNA SEBA

EVERYONE COMES TO THE FAITH IN A UNIQUE WAY; THIS IS MY STORY. WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY FAMILY MIGRATED to America from Iraq for better opportunities. My father worked hard to support his wife and seven children. My parents instilled in us our Catholic values, and we practiced our faith simply. Although I came from a very faith-filled family, we did not grow up going to church; instead, our home became our church, and there we practiced our faith.

Fast forward 20 years: I was now married with three children, and the church continued in our home. When my daughter was preparing for her first Holy Communion, she came home one day to share with me that her catechism teacher had asked the class, "Who here went to Mass yesterday?"

She said sadly, "Mom, I was the only one who didn't raise my hand. Why don't we go to church?"

This question hit me like a ton of bricks. I would wake up and go to sleep, repeatedly hearing the words my daughter spoke to me. What would I say to the Lord when I faced Him? What was my excuse going to be? I decided I needed to find a church that had a weekday Mass that we could attend because the weekend was still reserved for our "family time." I was able to find a Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish near my home. My children and I began attending the evening Mass every Tuesday. We enjoyed the Mass so much that we even started to go in earlier to participate in the rosary. The Lord was now working in my heart and through my children. The next step in our journey was to attend Sunday Mass every week. The rest, as they say, is history.

That catechism teacher will never know the impact she had on my family asking that simple question. It was easy to go through life with the church in my home and spend the weekends doing whatever we wanted, putting our leisure first and convincing myself of suitable excuses for why we didn't need to attend Mass.

Throughout Scripture we are reminded to be childlike. At times, that might mean to be inspired by our children. It was as simple as my daughter wondering why she was the only one not raising her hand in the class, but it turned into something much greater than that. Today she doesn't even remember that conversation with me.

The Lord uses different instruments to communicate to us. That day He chose my daughter. I could have brushed her comment aside, but it was through grace that I listened to her words and knew they were not her own. How often do we realize that we are called to be an inspiration to others, even through the simplest acts? We never know whose lives we may touch by simply sharing the Lord with others through our words and actions. We can evangelize by merely telling our own story and listening and learning from others' encounters with the Lord.

My story is an example of how the most significant moments in our lives can come from even the littlest ones at the most unexpected times. Be courageous and be an example of God's love beginning in your own home, for we do not know the positive impact we can have on others by simply listening. †

Lubna Seba has been married to Art Seba for 35 years. She has three children and three grandchildren, and she belongs to the Chaldean Diocese of St. Thomas the Apostle. Lubna works at the diocesan office as a tribunal director processing marriage annulments.

The road that led me to a closer walk with God

By Peter Valente

as told to JoAnn Amicangelo



PETER VALENTE

JESUS CAME TO ME AT A

time when I was in a bad place. It was 1983. I'd lost my business, and my marriage of 20 years had fallen apart.

One day while taking a drive, I felt compelled to turn onto a winding path near 9 Mile and Evergreen Roads in Southfield. It led me through a forest of trees to a statue of St. Anthony and then a church. Turns out I had found my way to Duns Scotus College friary.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon. I walked into the empty church and felt panicked about all that was happening in my life. But as I sat there, tears streaming down my cheeks, I began to feel more at ease. That's when the prior, Brother Mike Sabachi, approached me and asked how he could help. His concern for me that day ignited a friendship that lasted more than 30 years. We met regularly for coffee and he eventually encouraged me to become a Franciscan secular, which I did.

First retreat

Three years later, a friend who knew I was going through a hard time encouraged me to make a retreat at Manresa. Fr. Eugene Simon was the director of that first retreat, and from what I could see of his relationship with God, I was really inspired to develop my own connection with Jesus. He was a guy I could relate to—he was so real. He laughed and knew how to have a good time.

On that first retreat, I saw God's presence in Fr. Eugene, and I felt God's presence near me while sitting in the chapel at three in the morning when I couldn't sleep. It was a very mystical experience. God was there. And then while alone in my room,



I heard God say, "Don't be afraid, Pete. Don't give up on your faith in me."

Faith formation

My faith in God was nurtured from a young age. I grew up at St. Francis Home for Boys in Detroit. We went to Mass every morning at 6:30. I was an altar boy. One year they picked me to crown the Blessed Mother, and I thought that was a big deal. I lived there until I was 14. After graduating from St. Salesian Catholic High School, I went into the Marine Corps for three years. The Lord brought me through all of that.

Milestone

I've attended retreats every year since my first retreat, sometimes attending more than one. In September I will make my 50th retreat and get my blue blazer.

These retreats are like food for my soul. I look forward to them. The silence is golden. It eliminates all the distractions. When I'm on retreat, I don't care to see anyone. I am with "The Man."

A lot of people make retreats but can't wait to get out of here on Sunday. For me it goes too fast. I enjoy my visit with Jesus.

I tell people who are considering a retreat at Manresa, just do it. Simple as that. †

Peter Valente is a retired real estate appraiser, father of two daughters and proud grandpa of five. A Korean War veteran, he lives in Farmington Hills and works out regularly at the YMCA. He enjoys golfing and his ministry as a Eucharistic Minister at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

Through the painter's brush



Wenzel Peter, detail of *Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden* (c. 1800-1829)
Pinacoteca Vaticana, Vatican City.

By Fr. Peter Fennesy, SJ



FR. PETER FENNESSY, SJ

WENZEL PETER'S TEN-FOOT-wide Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden illustrates with precision more than 200 different animal species. Our selected detail

shows our first parents amid a few domesticated animals.

God greatly gifted them in this peaceable kingdom. Lion and lamb live in harmony. Adam and Eve enjoy an ideal relationship with God, each other, the animals and the earth. It is a world where God might easily be found in all things, although the apple in Eve's hand suggests the situation will not last long.

Genesis says that God rested on the seventh day, and Peter's painting also appears to say that God's work is finished. In fact, even unseen it was and is still going on. As Jesus said, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working." (John

5:17) Were God to stop working, stop creating, the universe would cease to exist, and we with it. God is at every moment creating all things and loving us into being.

The painting reminds me how at the beginning of his *Spiritual Exercises* St. Ignatius says that men and women are created to praise, reverence and serve God, and that all other things—the animals and everything else, even the apple—are created to help us fulfill our purpose in life, and so we should use them insofar as they help us, and avoid them insofar as they hinder us. At the end of the *Exercises* in his "Contemplation to Attain Love," Ignatius adds that these other things also reveal God's love for us. That contemplation isn't meant as the last prayer of the retreat, but as a contemplative attitude for the rest of our lives.

Animals, plants, minerals and even human artifacts are all God's gifts to us, not to mention everything Christ has done for our salvation following Adam's fall. All gifts symbolize the givers' love and

desire to give themselves to the other. Ignatius writes, "Love consists in a mutual sharing of goods, for example, the lover gives and shares with the beloved what he possesses, or something of that which he has or is able to give." As we become aware of the blessings we have each personally received from God, we ought to grow in gratitude, in love and in giving of ourselves to God in return.

God is still creating these gifts and so must be present in them, as their creator and our lover. Since Ignatius says love is shown more by deeds than words, he doesn't imagine God as being merely present, but as working in all creation and every creature—each element, plant, animal and faculty of our being—making them to be and to be what they are for our sake. "The Father is always at His work to this very day."

God creates by sharing something of God's own Self, so that as art somehow reveals the artist, creation

continued on page 17

FROM THE

Finance Director



TIM NEIS
Finance Director

GREETINGS AND GOD'S PEACE to you.

Thank you to all who supported Manresa through this difficult and challenging Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Though COVID-19 restrictions have been a challenge for all of us, we were pleased that many retreatants still chose to participate in our limited-capacity retreats this past year. Many of you recognized our financial needs resulting from reduced capacity and increased your support to our Annual Fund/Adopt-A-Retreatant Program, delivering more than \$450,000.

Your generosity was augmented by two Payroll Protection Program Loans, one of which was forgiven in the fiscal year for \$135,155.

Staff took difficult, but necessary,

payroll reductions of up to 50% which reduced pre-pandemic Salaries, Wages & Benefits substantially. Further, we completed our new Upper Room gathering space and largely completed our new barn and maintenance facility with a generous donation from a long-time benefactor and proceeds from insurance.

Finally, we are thankful for the dedication of our Investment Committee and investment advisors who oversaw a net increase in the value of our McGrail Endowment Fund of nearly \$2,000,000. This endowment continues to provide for Manresa's future.

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

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

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 \$25,000 grant from the **Robert E. Burke Memorial Trust Fund** 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.

If you wish to contribute to one of these funds, please use the enclosed envelope.

McGrail Fund Performance*

Fiscal Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Opening Balance	6,463,231	6,952,086	6,271,766
Contributions/Other Income	392,798	26,339	44,205
Transfers/Expenses	-349,575	-375,342	-389,454
Interest/Dividends	180,860	191,496	175,065
Appreciation/(Depreciation)	264,772	-522,813	2,147,277
Closing Balance	6,952,086	6,271,766	8,248,859

* The McGrail Fund serves as Manresa's endowment.

Financial Highlights

2020-2021 Financial Summary
(July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)

OPERATING REVENUE

Adult Conference Retreats	\$186,921
Ignatian Formation, Youth Retreats, IDRs	137,623
Use of Building	35,111
Other Revenue from Operations	71,801
Cell Tower	75,690
Total Operating Revenue	\$507,146

DONATIONS & OTHER REVENUE

Annual Fund/Adopt-A-Retreatant	\$458,576
Capital and Other Restricted Funds	63,494
Grants	25,000
Special Events	13,561
McGrail Fund	44,205
Insurance Proceeds	41,084
Paycheck Protection Program Contributions	135,155
Jesuit Community Gift	22,710
Total Donations & Other Revenue	\$803,785

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,310,931

EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	791,956
Building and Administrative	227,795
Food Service	207,295
Special Events	2,850
Other, including McGrail Investment	94,451

TOTAL EXPENSES

1,324,347

Thank you for your generous support.

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.

Encountering God through movies

By Sergio Pagés and Carmen Soto

IN 2016 A MOVIE CALLED SILENCE by director Martin Scorsese and with actor Andrew Garfield touched a nerve with Carmen Soto and me. We had talked before about the possibility of creating a group that would discuss movies as a spiritual experience with these self-reflecting questions:

- Can movies help us grow in our relationship with God?
- Can movies help us understand ourselves, our humanity?
- Can movies help us better relate with each other?
- Can movies help shape our way of understanding and discern the complexity of past and current issues in our world?

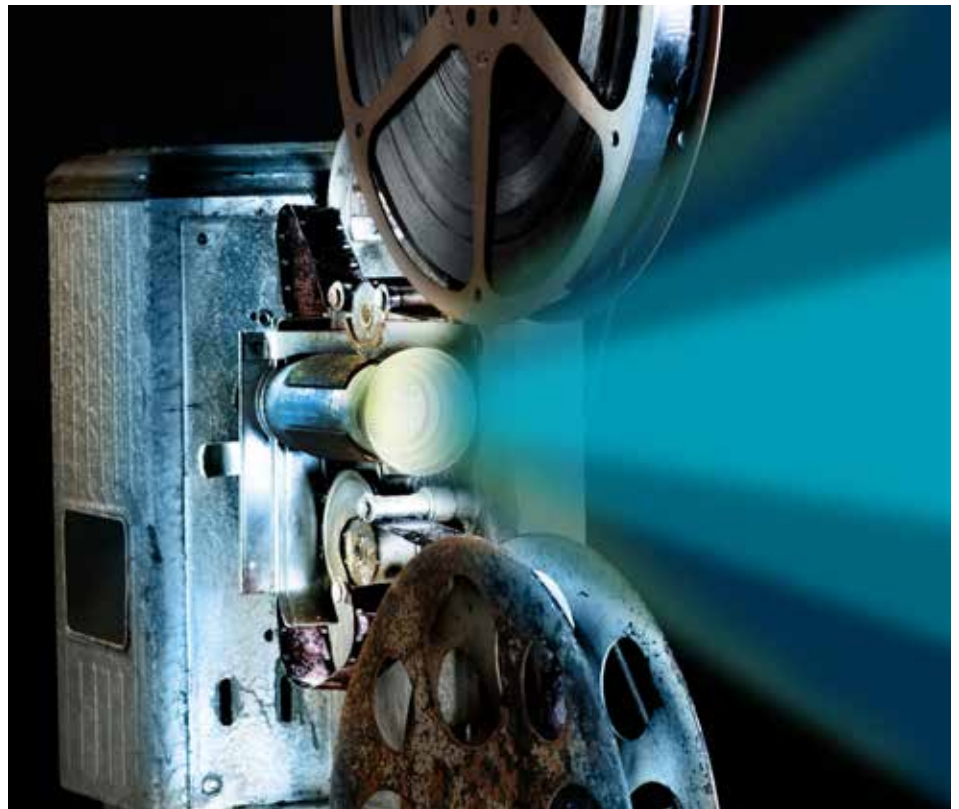
So we invited a small group of people to Carmen's home where we enjoyed a lively discussion about the movie *Silence* along with a traditional Mexican meal. In this first meeting we had Father Gilbert Sunghera from University of Detroit Mercy who had lent us a book called *Finding God in the Dark*, by John J. Pungente and Monty Williams, which gave us an Ignatian framework for our discussions. It taught us how to watch and experience movies and discuss them through the lens of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises.

Virtual discussions

Since then, we have continued group discussions about many movies and television productions. In 2020, because of COVID, we decided to go virtual via ZOOM and invited others to join across the Metro Detroit area as well as in other cities around the US and Mexico.

These meetings helped us adapt to the pandemic conditions, giving us a new platform to grow spiritually as a community by reflecting on our faith through this contemporary form of art.

Alejandro, one of the members of our group, shared that "watching movies has helped us deepen and



CARMEN SOTO



SERGIO PAGÉS

affirm our personal values as we relate our life experiences with the stories that are portrayed on the screen. Having group discussions where we share our impressions and reactions to the stories helps to build our community through both our agreements and disagreements with the themes and messages of each movie."

Watching a movie can also help with discernment as did the movie *Of Gods and Men* for Father Bernie Owens as he made the decision to go to East Africa a few years back. He said, "After watching this movie, it evoked the greatest desires of my heart, leading me to make one of the

most daring and surprising decisions of my life. It was a moment when, yes, I found the treasure, the great pearl, and was freed to give myself like the widow did.

Fall Film Series

This past spring several members of the group attended a virtual film series based on the Pungente and Williams book through the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Los Angeles. That prompted us to pitch the idea of a fall film series to the ministry team at Manresa, and they approved it. Drawing from our experience we have developed a format with the hope that others can have a similar encounter with our Lord through the medium of film.

To register for the Fall Film Series, visit manresa-sj.org/091521-film or call 248.644.4933 Ext 0. †

Sergio Pagés and Carmen Soto graduated from Manresa's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality in 2011. Both work with the Hispanic community through workshops and retreats.

ENCONTRAR A DIOS EN TODAS LAS COSAS

Encontrar a Dios a través del cine

Por Sergio Pagés y Carmen Soto

EN 2016 UNA PELÍCULA LLAMADA SILENCIO DEL DIRECTOR MARTIN SCORSESE Y CON EL ACTOR ANDREW GARFIELD NOS TOCÓ UN NERVIOS A CARMEN Soto y a mí. Ya habíamos hablado antes de la posibilidad de crear un grupo para discutir las películas como una experiencia espiritual con estas preguntas de reflexión:

- ¿Pueden las películas ayudarnos a crecer en nuestra relación con Dios?
- ¿Pueden las películas ayudarnos a entendernos a nosotros mismos, a nuestra humanidad?
- ¿Pueden las películas ayudarnos a relacionarnos mejor entre nosotros?
- ¿Pueden las películas ayudarnos a entender y discernir la complejidad de situaciones pasadas y actuales en nuestro mundo?

Por lo que decidimos invitar a un pequeño grupo de personas a la casa de Carmen, donde disfrutamos de una animada discusión sobre la película *Silencio* junto con una comida tradicional mexicana. En esta primera reunión tuvimos al Sacerdote jesuita Gilbert Sunghera de la Universidad de Detroit Mercy que nos había dado un libro llamado *Encontrando a Dios en la Oscuridad*, de John J. Pungente y Monty Williams, el cual nos dio un marco ignaciano para nuestras discusiones. Nos enseñó a ver y experimentar películas y discutir las a través del lente de los Ejercicios Espirituales de Ignacio.

Discusiones virtuales

Desde entonces, hemos continuado estas discusiones grupales con varias producciones de cine y televisión. En 2020, debido al COVID, decidimos reunirnos virtualmente por medio de ZOOM e invitamos a otros a unirse en el área metropolitana de Detroit, así como en otras ciudades de los EE. UU. y México.

Estos encuentros nos ayudaron a adaptarnos a las condiciones de la pandemia al darnos una nueva plataforma para crecer espiritualmente como comunidad y reflexionar sobre nuestra fe a través de esta forma contemporánea de arte.

Alejandro, uno de los miembros del grupo, compartió que "ver películas nos ha ayudado a profundizar y afirmar nuestros valores personales a medida que relacionamos nuestras experiencias de vida con las historias que se plasman en la pantalla. Tener discusiones grupales donde compartimos nuestras impresiones y reacciones a las historias ayuda a construir nuestra comunidad a través de nuestros acuerdos y desacuerdos con los temas y mensajes de cada película".

Ver una película también puede ayudar con el discernimiento como lo hizo la película *De dioses y hombres* para el sacerdote Bernie Owens SJ, ya que tomó la decisión de ir a África oriental hace unos años. Él dijo, "después de ver esta película, evocó en mí los deseos más grandes de mi corazón, lo que me llevó a tomar una de las



decisiones más atrevidas y sorprendentes de mi vida. Fue un momento en el que, sí, encontré el tesoro, la gran perla, y fui liberado para yo entregarme como lo hizo la viuda."

Serie de películas en otoño

La primavera pasada, varios miembros del grupo asistieron a una serie de películas virtuales basado en el libro de Pungente y Williams a través del Instituto Loyola para la Espiritualidad en Los Ángeles, CA. Esta experiencia nos motivó a presentar la idea de una serie de películas para el otoño al equipo del ministerio en Manresa, y ellos lo aprobaron. A partir de nuestra experiencia, hemos desarrollado un formato con la esperanza de que otros puedan tener un encuentro similar con nuestro Señor a través del medio del cine.

Para registrarse en la serie de películas de otoño, visite manresa-sj.org/091521-film o llame 248.644.4933 Ext 0. †

Sergio Pagés y Carmen Soto se graduaron en el programa de Espiritualidad Ignaciana de Manresa en 2011. Ambos trabajan con la comunidad hispana a través de talleres y retiros.

God always makes the first move

By Fr. Ted Munz, SJ



FR. TED MUNZ, SJ

AN OBSCURE ADDITIONAL direction in the First Week of the Spiritual Exercises asks the retreatant to stand for the space of an Our Father a step or two

from the place of contemplation and ask, "How is God, my Lord, looking at me?"

This simple direction is profound. It suggests that the Lord always makes the first move. The Lord is always looking for and finding us. The Lord is ever gazing upon us with love and mercy. "How is God, my Lord, looking at me?" also suggests that we do not come to prayer and put ourselves in the presence of God. Rather, we discover, when we come to prayer, that the Lord is already abundantly present to us.

I have done a fair amount of bicycle riding over the years, including multi-day charity rides. I used to reflect that I found God on the bike. My reflection now is that God finds me on the bike. And, in my years as a Jesuit, I have also discovered that God finds me in the people with whom I work and serve. The tender power of God's love for me is both humbling and exhilarating, whether it be on a backroad on the bike, in the

confessional, at Mass, or working with a team of dedicated educators.

Below is a favorite poem of mine. It has no attribution. Please note the phrase, "there it is revealed." God finds me first in all things.

Found Out by the Winds of Grace
After Romans 1:20

Light bicycle
on the road home now
in April sunglow,
late afternoon in kairos time.
Colors like vitamins pour into my eyes
the wind is full at my back
and the bicycle flies like a dream.

How long, O Lord
in bondage to possessions
simple seeing goes awry—
I've come down to breathing only
taking water on the fly
starting kundalini dragon fire
filling up with spirit
and there it is revealed.

Just there,
in curl of wave and note of bird
roadbend hillcrest wide horizon
the vales and downs of earth the
naked form
of field tree stone and riverbed—
The invisible word
from the beginning
written in the things that are made.†

Fr. Ted Munz, SJ is president of U of D Jesuit High School and Academy and a current board member of Manresa.

REFLECTION

Finding God in the daily Mass

By Todd Warner



TODD WARNER

I GREW UP GOING TO Catholic schools, attended Brother Rice High School and graduated from Marquette

University in Wisconsin. Faith has had a place in my life for more than 25 years. And yet, I only attended Mass on the big holidays. I'd say, "I don't have enough time," as if an hour were too much.

I would take my grandma, Mary Jo Henry, to Ash Wednesday Mass every year, an awesome tradition that I cherished. She is the most holy person I know. She raised ten kids and worked at Manresa for more than 40 years in the front office. She instilled in our family the importance of faith and having a relationship with God. She prayed so deeply for all of her grandchildren that I often thought we didn't have to attend Mass because she had us all covered.

It was at one of those Ash Wednesday Masses that I wondered, "How can I ask God to be there for me when I'm only there with Him a few days out of the year?" So I started going to Mass at St. Mary's in Royal Oak every Thursday before work, but stopped when the coronavirus hit.

Role models

My mom was a single parent, raising my brother and sister and me, as my dad was pretty much out of the picture from the time I was in middle school. She's the rock of "Team Warner" and the

continued on page 19



How suffering brought me closer to God

By Martin Trombley



MARTIN TROMBLEY

THE SEARCH FOR GOD IN OUR LIVES CAN BE HINDERED BY THE MANY demands of life. It's easy to allow other priorities to distract us from developing our relationship with God.

I've suffered a variety of medical and personal challenges over the years, but through them, I've come to realize that God has a specific plan and purpose for each of us. In retrospect, I'm reminded that we

tend to call on God only when facing crisis. This is done usually as a last resort after we have sought all other human means to solve the issue.

So what happens when the crisis is over? Do we return to rely on human intervention or do we take this opportunity to enter into a closer relationship with God?

Being honest

Perhaps now is the time to ask ourselves straightforward questions to determine if we have a relationship with Jesus. If we are serious about finding God in everything we do then, somehow, He must be the center of our very existence. If He is not, we would be hard pressed to claim a meaningful relationship with God. What, then, are we doing daily to foster that relationship? St. Theresa of Calcutta had a great answer to that question when she said, "When I meet anyone to whom I minister, I see the face of Jesus."

Most of us are not a "St. Theresa," but she and saints like St. John Paul II, who forgave the very person who tried to kill him, are modern-day saints to emulate. The saints of the past also provide us with examples of how the love of God impacts our daily lives. Trying our best to be more like Christ entails seeking God.

It's all about relationship

So what is the bottom line? How do I find God in everything I do?

For me it is a matter of a relationship. I played that "once-in-a-while game" for a number of years. I attended weekly Mass and went to confession when I thought it necessary. My personal prayer life was weak at best. Then my first real crisis hit: a potential divorce and a battle with alcohol. I started to rely more on prayer but still was not quite committed to finding God in everything that I did. As things got better, I found myself wanting to be around others who shared the same values and beliefs as mine. I found God among those relationships. God spoke to me through them, and I realized that that support enriched my desire to see God in everything I do.

Faith strengthened

The second crisis was when I was diagnosed with esophageal and prostate cancer and years later underwent open heart surgery. These events did not discourage me, but strengthened my relationship with God. For me, suffering is a critical element because it brought me closer in that relationship.

Seeing God in everything we do requires us to be humble in strengthening our connection with God. We find Him in everything we do when we want Him there. It's very simple to acknowledge His presence: it only requires our desire for that to be an essential part of our daily lives. †

Marty has been attending Manresa retreats for 34 years. He has been married to Sandra for 62 years. They have four children, 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He is retired after 38 years in law enforcement, a lay minister and captain of the Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Parish group.

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Manresa is most grateful for all who support our Mission with your donations and gifts in honor or memory of loved ones.
(January 1 — June 30, 2021)

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MILESTONES

Retreatant Awards

January — June 2021

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Cherie Hartsig
Edward Marchek
Keller McGaffey
Salim Metti
Larry Saville



Born into Resurrection

January — June 2021

NAME	GROUP	RETREATS
Joseph Bialowicz	St. Mary Magdalen	47
Joseph Bileti		33
Thomas P Donoughe	St. Irenaeus	3
John Dueweke	Holy Week	14
James Hicks	Former Board Member	
David Lengyel		42
Norman J. LeVasseur	Catholic Lawyers Group	47
Virginia Katafiasz		40
Roy S. Martel-Bowen	St. Vincent DePaul	17

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of AB Chettle

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In honor of Albert & Liz King's 61st wedding anniversary

Paul and Cecilia Yee
Theresa Shen

In honor of Anne Smith

Nancy O'Connor

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In memory of Ed & Anna and My Siblings

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In memory of Tom Weisenburger

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Through the painter's brush

continued from page 9



reveals the Creator. We not only find God in all things, we find God revealed in them. The rose hints at God's beauty, the stars at God's majesty, the lives of loving, compassionate people at God's love and mercy. Finite beauty reveals to us its source in infinite beauty, so that we come to love God not just for God's gifts and labor, but for God's own Self.

And because after His ascension the life of the risen Christ has merged into the eternal life of the Trinity, we may also expect to find and encounter the risen Christ in all things as well. As Jesus said, "I too am working." †

Fr. Peter Fennesy is serving his second term as superior of the Jesuit Community at Manresa. He gives individually directed and preached retreats at Manresa and elsewhere, is Coordinator of Individually Directed Retreats, and among other duties manages our book store. Since studying Theology and Art and Buddhist Aesthetics during a sabbatical year at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, he uses fine arts to illustrate his preached retreats.

2022 CONFERENCE RETREAT SCHEDULE

Retreats for Men



Jan. 7-9

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: John Courtney Murray] Bishop Gallagher; Fatima/St. James; Our Lady of Refuge, Orchard Lake; Prince of Peace, W. Bloomfield; St. Perpetua, Waterford; St. Thomas (Chaldean)
DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Jan. 14-16

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: Fr. Jacques Marquette, SJ] Alhambra; Grosse Pointe Vicariate; Hengstebeck; Mother of Divine Mercy, Detroit; Charles L. Palms Jr; St. Joan of Arc
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Jan. 21-23

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Isaac Jogues, SJ] Budd Company; Divine Child, Dearborn; Irmen Group; Kassab; Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Beverly Hills; St. Thomas More, Troy
DIRECTOR: Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ

Feb. 4-6

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR MEN IN RECOVERY

[PATRON: Fr. John C. Ford, SJ]
DIRECTOR: Mr. Jeff Henrich **NOTE:** \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Mar. 4-6

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Robert Southwell, SJ] Notre Dame, Ypsilanti Men, Fr. Bernard J. Wernert Group
DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Mar. 11-13

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Nicholas Owen, SJ] Christ Our Light; Reuter; St. Alan; St. Anastasia
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Scullin, SJ

Mar. 25-27

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Andrew Bobola, SJ] Mother of God; Sacred Heart; St. Irenaeus, Rochester; U of D High Alumni
DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Apr. 1-3

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: Blessed Francis Page, SJ] Grand Rapids/Metamora; St. Ignatius of Loyola; Wyandotte/Downriver
DIRECTOR: Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Apr. 8-10

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Gabriel Lalemant, SJ] Traverse City
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Apr. 22-24

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Peter Canisius, SJ] John Lau; St. Frances Cabrini K of C; St. Hugo;
DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Apr. 29-May 1

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: Our Lady of the Way] Brother Rice Alumni; Detroit Police & Fire Fighters; Gaylord; Gesu, Detroit; Men of Manresa; Mt. Pleasant; St. Mary Magdalen/St. Conrad
DIRECTORS: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Aug. 5-7

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN in RECOVERY

[PATRON: Fr. Jack Schuett, SJ] DIRECTOR: Mr. Terry Sullivan **NOTE:** \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Aug. 26-28

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Stephen Pongr acz, SJ] St. Bede; Leonard Stumm; The 12 Steppers
DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Sept. 9-11

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: Blessed Sebastian Kimura, SJ] McDonald/McHardy; St. Mary of the Hills; Serra of Oakland County; Shrine-Reichenbach
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Sept. 30-Oct 2

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
DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Oct. 6-9 (Th-Su)

4-DAY RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. John Ogilvie, SJ] Weisenburger/Serra
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Scullin, SJ

Oct. 21-23

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, SJ] Catholic Lawyers & Physicians; Ford Tractor; Oakland St. Vincent de Paul; St. Robert/Ada/Grand Rapids
DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ

Oct. 28-30

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Stanislaus Kostka, SJ] Bodde-Schweihof; Our Lady Star of the Sea; St. Clare of Montefalco; St. Francis of Assisi; St. Hubert, Mt. Clemens; St. Joseph, Lake Orion; St. Valerie
DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Nov. 4-6

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Rupert Mayer, SJ] Ascension; Holy Name, Birmingham; Immaculate Conception, Ira Township; St. Boniface, Oak Harbor, OH; St. Clement, Centerline; SS. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church
DIRECTOR: Fr. Joe Wagner, SJ

Dec. 2-4

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN

[PATRON: St. Francis Xavier, SJ] Bayer, Toledo/Defiance
DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Retreats for Women

Jan. 11-13 (T-Th)

MIDWEEK RETREAT for WOMEN I

[PATRON: The Archduchess Joan of Austria] DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Jan. 28-30

WEEKEND RETREAT for AL-ANON WOMEN

[PATRON: Fr. James Cullen, SJ] DIRECTOR: Ms. Avis Clendenen **NOTE:** \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Feb. 25-27

WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN II

[PATRON: St. John de Brito, SJ] DIRECTOR: Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

May 6-8

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN IV

[PATRON: Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus] DIRECTOR: Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

May 27-29

WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN in RECOVERY

[PATRON: Fr. Fred, SJ] Women in Recovery DIRECTOR: Ms. Avis Clendenen **NOTE:** \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

June 24-26

WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN VI

[PATRON: Sr. Mary Ward, IBVM] DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

Sept. 13-15 (Tu-Th)

MIDWEEK RETREAT for WOMEN VII

[PATRON: Blessed Francisco Garate, SJ] DIRECTORS: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Oct. 13-16 (Th-Sun)

4-DAY RETREAT for WOMEN VIII

[PATRON: St. Dominic Collins, SJ] DIRECTOR: Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Nov. 11-13

WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN IX

[PATRON: Blessed Miguel Pro] DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

2022 CONFERENCE RETREAT SCHEDULE

Nov. 25-27

WEEKEND RETREAT for WOMEN in RECOVERY [PATRON: Edward Dowling] DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ NOTE: \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Retreats for Men & Women



Jan. 28-30

WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN and WOMEN Leaning into Life DIRECTOR: Ms. Rosemary Insley & Ms. Paula Dow

Feb. 11-13

WEEKEND HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN and WOMEN

[PATRON: St. John de Brebeuf, SJ] DIRECTOR: Fr. John Esper & Ms. Debbie Tourville NOTE: \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Apr. 14-16 (Th-Sa)

HOLY WEEK RETREAT FOR MEN and WOMEN [PATRON: Fr. Pierre Teilard de Chardin, SJ] DIRECTORS: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

May 20-22

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION WEEKEND RETREAT for MEN and WOMEN

[PATRON: Fr. Robert de Nobili] DIRECTORS: Fr. Leo Cachet, SJ & Ms. DiAnne Schultz NOTE: \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

June 3-5

CHARIS WEEKEND RETREAT for HISPANIC & YOUNG ADULTS Presented in Spanish DIRECTORS: M/M Bernardo & Ceci Pacheco NOTE: \$100 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

July 1-3

WEEKEND RETREAT for HISPANIC MEN and WOMEN Presented in Spanish

DIRECTORS: Team NOTE: \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

July 29-31

WEEKEND RETREAT for MARRIED COUPLES

[PATRON: St. Ignatius of Loyola] DIRECTOR: Fr. Bob Ytsen, SJ NOTE: \$100 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Sept. 23-25

WEEKEND HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN and WOMEN

[PATRON: St. John de Brebeuf, SJ] DIRECTOR: Fr. John Esper & Ms. Debbie Tourville NOTE: \$50 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit required.

Retreats for Religious Sisters

Sept. 25-30 (Su-F)

PREACHED RETREAT FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS

[PATRON: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque] DIRECTOR: Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ & Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Individually Directed Retreats for Men & Women

May 10-19 — IDR Session I

June 13-22 — IDR Session II

July 18-27 — IDR Session III

Aug 10-19 — IDR Session IV

"In-session" dates allow for eight-day retreats as well as retreats of shorter duration (four-day minimum). Arrival time begins at 5:00 PM on the opening date of the retreat session, dinner is at 6:00 PM and the retreat itself begins at 7:30 PM. The retreat ends at 10:00 AM on the closing date of the retreat session. 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. For summer session retreats of four to eight days you may register online (click on "Individually Directed Retreats") or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0 for an application.

To register for any of the retreats listed here, click on the retreat name or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

Finding God in the daily Mass

continued from page 14

strongest person I know—a true role model for those who put their family first and make personal sacrifices to ensure their family has everything they need. She had a lot of help from family members, especially my dad's sister, Joan, who was basically a second mom to us. It was Aunt Joan who told me with tears in her eyes that my dad had passed away from a heart attack when I was 31. My dad and I hadn't spoken or seen each other for 15 years. I always figured I wouldn't care about his death since he was absent for so long. Frankly, I was angry at him. What was wrong with us kids that he wanted no part of our lives?

Happy ending

The good news is that my dad's death led me to Manresa. I'd heard about early morning weekday Mass and figured it would give me the opportunity to let out my emotions. It is the best thing that happened to me; it calms me down and puts my life into perspective. I can literally feel God's presence near to me, and I see the faces of others there that also reflect the presence of God in their lives. It's the best half hour of my day without my phone by my side.

I've now become a lector at Mass and love it when I see my mom and Aunt Joan in attendance. I also feel the presence of my grandma there. I know she's looking down from heaven saying, "Glory be to God!" I take extreme pride in carrying on the Henry tradition at Manresa and appreciate what the daily Mass has done for me and the positive impact it will continue to make in my life. †

Todd Warner has been attending daily Mass at Manresa for the past year. He's a graduate of Brother Rice High School and Marquette University in Wisconsin. He coaches grade school basketball at St. Hugo of the Hills.

MANRESA

JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE

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On the cover

**IÑIGO: NAKATINGALA SA MGA TALA
(IGNATIUS: LOOKING AT THE STARS)
PASTEL ON WATERCOLOR PAPER, 2005**



Jesuit priest and Filipino contemporary artist, Jason Dy, SJ is currently lecturing at the Fine Arts Department of the Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City, Philippines.

He is a self-taught artist who developed his artistic interests by attending art workshops, classes, conferences and exhibitions as well as integrating art into his studies in theology and his pastoral ministry.

In 2013, after being a parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish, Cebu City, and holding his solo exhibition, *Testimo-*

ny of What Remains, at the Fernando Amorsolo Gallery, Cultural Center of the Philippines, he pursued his graduate studies in the arts. He earned an MA in Creative Practice and an MA in Art History and Curating at Liverpool Hope University, UK. Through his graduate studies, he is able to articulate his current creative practice that investigates "the community and studio-based responses to changing religious and cultural circumstances, locations and events."

Of this painting, Fr. Jason says, "This pastel drawing was done when I was a young Jesuit seminarian studying philosophy. Perhaps, at that time, I was inspired by the image of St. Ignatius looking at the stars as a representation of a personal search of my place in the universe, of seeking divine wisdom, and of being startled by the mysterious beauty of the Triune God. Looking at it now during this pandemic as an ordained priest, the icon of Ignatius with two bright eyes looking at the three bright stars is an invitation to fix my gaze on God, as GC 34* puts it, "to

look to God for the definition of my life" (1995, no. 243)

In his homily preached during the 2005 St. Ignatius Feast Day of Xavier University, Cagayan



Jason Dy, SJ

de Oro, Fr. Jett Villarin said, "The eyes are arresting and they tell of the one gift, among many gifts, that Ignatius bequeaths to us. The gift of sight, or more properly, the gift of discernment, the grace of beholding God's action in our world and in our lives. Discernment is the one grace that confronts the confusion and uncertainties, entails so much weighing and wrestling, so much sifting and turning of the human soul as it begins to be touched by the very presence of God. When Ignatius would glance at the stars, he would be moved interiorly, and he would invariably fall to tears."†

*34th General Congregation, Society of Jesus