



An Occasional News Letter from Manresa Spirituality Centre

For the Greater Glory of God

Spring-Summer 2014

August Chores

The Month of August is usually a month spent in getting the Old Fleming Hall into a workable shape for the upcoming year of Weekend Retreats. The Office Staff of Fiona and Louise try to get some time off.

The Kitchen Staff, Kim, Doris, Olive and Mary-Rose together with ancillary staff and House Keeping, Eva Marie and Marion also try and get some cottage country breaks.

Meanwhile Br. Bob and his team work on fixing taps, painting rooms, repair roofs, cleaning eaves troughs and even try to cut down trees that may be dangerous to people who love to sit and pray under them. Chris Boessler did a wonderful job of painting all the Stations of Cross. Eva Marie and team have been fixing the various rooms in the Manor House. We have created an additional meeting room to Chabanel Room on the second floor of the Manor. The new room is name after our newest Jesuit saint: St. Pierre Favre. He was canonized "motu proprio" by Pope Francis.

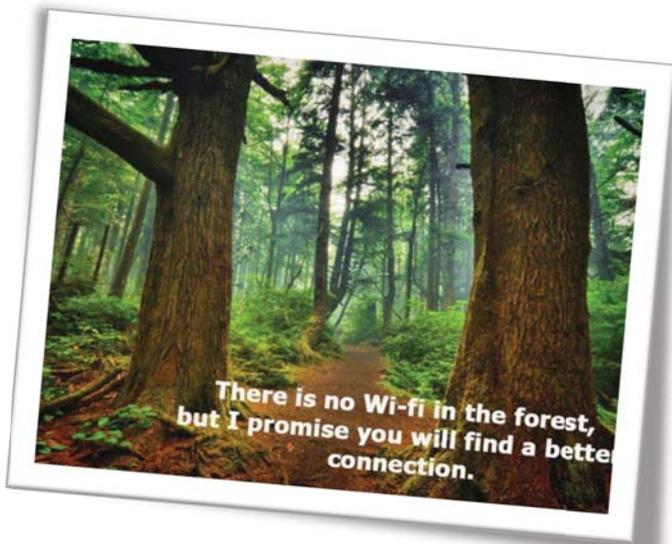


Retreats for those who continue their day job!

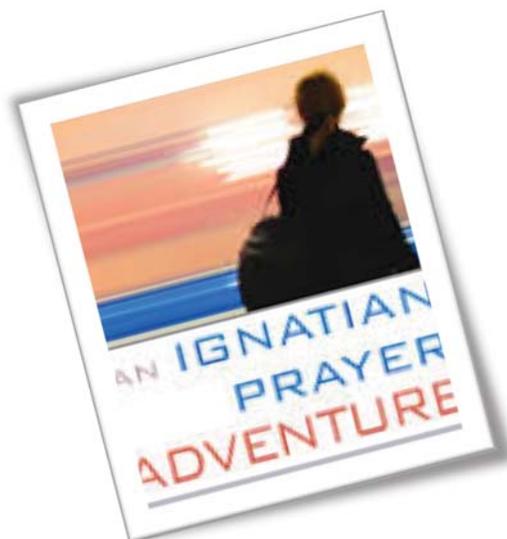
When St. Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, he did not have priests and religious primarily in mind. It was written for anyone seeking to live according to God's plan. This meant for the most part, people engaged in normal everyday working for a living. They did not have the luxury of taking 30 days off and spending it in prayer.

When these wanted to make the Spiritual Exercises they were asked to commit them to perhaps 90 minutes of prayer each day. They would meet their director once a week and discuss their prayer pattern and prayer life. The director would then proceed to give them material for another week's prayer. This retreat would run the course of about seven months. Nowadays it is recommended to start in September and the prayer patterns would coincide with the Church's liturgical readings of the seasons.

Fr. Jim Sheppard of the Manresa Retreat Team is keen on fostering this style of Retreat, commonly called the 19th Annotation. He would like to offer it for parents, teachers and principals of the students who come for a Day of prayer at Manresa.



19 annotation



'Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.'

Fr Pedro Arrupe, SJ

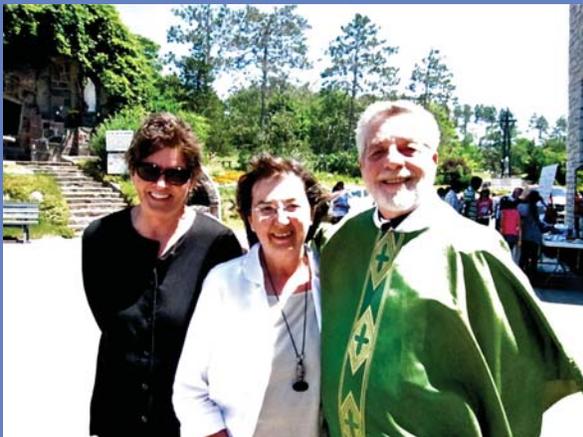


Fr. Mike O'Donnell S.J. We bid you farewell

Father Michael O'Donnell died on August 5, 2014 in the 77th year of his life and 56th year of religious life. Michael entered the Society in March 1959. In 1970 Michael went to Corpus Christi College in London, England to study Catechetics and a year later to Zambia to teach children. His pastoral fire was enkindled now. Pastoral work in parishes was to be his passion. He served in parishes in Thunder Bay, Halifax, Toronto, Newfoundland.

Michael was a charming Irishman, well loved by Jesuits, family and parishioners alike. He had a terrific sense of humor. We appreciated his fine baritone voice and his musical gifts. Michael spent the summers of his final few years at Martyrs Shrine, Midland.

He left us very quickly and many are still in shock.



The first week in August found Manresa in an aura of peace and quiet after the hectic five days of deliberation. There were 40 plus Jesuits and friends making a directed eight day retreat under a crew of directors. We had seven Jesuit priests, two Loretto Sisters, one CLC veteran. The retreat was coordinated by Fr. Phil Shano.

In the parking lot, it was interesting to see car licence plates from Quebec and Nova Scotia, Illinois and Manitoba among the usual Ontario plates. There was a whole spectrum of Jesuits from the Novices to those who had celebrated 60 years of priestly ministry. God's space and God's time is almost tangible.





Deacon Tim Dunlop

The silent retreat was the most profound spiritual experience. The graces I received: Strengthening my relationship with Jesus, Hearing God's call to become His servant, and Falling completely in love with Jesus Christ.

Deacon Patrick Crowley

A wonderful experience with comprised of prayerful guidance of my Spiritual Advisor, reading, reflecting, silent prayer, the Sacrament of Penance and Mass. We fill our body and soul up with the Holy Spirit as we proceed on the next leg of the Journey of Life in serving God.

Deacon Peter Takaoka

The quiet and peace, the simplicity, the abundance of food lovingly prepared, the kindness and patience of my Spiritual Director all contributed to an unforgettable experience. The tranquility from listening to God in silence will remain with me forever

Deacon Paul Ma.

My experience was too short but really fruitful. The two important elements of retreat are time and space. The first was to free myself from time by losing the sense of it .I had the No-Time time. The 2nd element is space. I prayed in the chapel: in front of the Eucharist, then in front of the Cross. I suddenly got it! Between these two places is the Garden, where Jesus gathered his disciples. I saw the wall behind the Altar; there were some green plants, to remind me "this is the Garden to meet the Lord!"



Our Retreat Team hosted the Redemptorist Novices from the States. Eight Novices were directed by Fr. Jack Doyle, Fr. Jim Sheppard, Fr. Mike Hawkins and Fr. Mike O'Donnell (who passed away suddenly on the 5th August)

The taking of vows will be in different parts of the world. **Sydney Beckers** will be taking vows in Paris at a Mass on Aug. 1st. **Huy Vu, Chung Tran and Alfredo Rodriguez Lopez** will take vows on Aug 2nd at Holy Ghost Parish in Houston, TX. **Garvey Blanc and Ako Walker** will take vows in Dominica (West Indies) on Aug 6th. Calvin Auguste, who also made his novitiate in Toronto in 2010, will be taking final vows at the same time. **Alfredo Medina** will take vows in his home parish, the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, in Malpaso, Zacatecas, Mexico, on Aug 9th. **Michael Cunningham** is taking vows in his home parish, the Redemptorist parish of St. Martin of Tours, in Bethpage, NY, on Aug 23rd.