



For the Greater Glory of God

Summer time and the living is easy

God created persons to be loved and things to be used. Chaos happens when the order is reversed.

The month of August tends to have the appearance of “long lazy days of summer” however here at Manresa it was a hive of activity. In the first place the floor of the dining room was meticulously cleaned and waxed by professional cleaners. In the kitchen, our cooks rolled up their sleeves, pulled the appliances away from the wall, and scrubbed and removed all the possible dirt that so insidiously gathers unnoticed.

In the chapel, more professionals came to vacuum and steam clean the grime that gathers with continuous use. The conference room (Brebeuf Hall) was stripped of its baseboards, and given a thorough coat of gleaming white. The emergency door required major repairs to the tune of a couple thousand dollars.

Meanwhile, Br. Bob kept the lawns neatly trimmed. The grass retained an “Irish” green from May until now, much to the surprise of all. As a result, the 21-odd lush acres had to be mowed each week.

Manresa, like any 70-year-old, groans and creaks in the odd places. Pipes were fixed, toilets and taps tightened, and one room was gutted down and given a new floor, new shower, new coat of paint and a new look that makes it the envy of all the other rooms.



Other Projects Accomplished

- It was noticed that the shingles on top of Fleming Hall were curling. They were replaced with a warrantee of 25 years.
- The paving of the parking lot and driveways will be a major repair. The parking lot and directions were clearly painted with a guarantee of five years.

How to reach God in the modern world....

Wi-Fi at the Retreat House.

People come to Manresa Spirituality Centre for peace and quiet and to get in contact with God. It is a place where you come to withdraw from the hustle and bustle of business life. You come here to un-plug, not to plug in. It is a place to be cut off from newspapers, TV, emails, telephones and other potential sources of noise pollution. Putting in a high-speed internet connection would defeat the prime purpose of peace and meditation.

Nonetheless, there has been the odd conference that requests a Wi-Fi connection. Wi-Fi is presently available in our Lobby lounge and Manor House. To expand the configuration of the present routers is problematic, and would cost thousands of dollars.

However, efforts are being made to improve the service provided in the existing areas, by eliminating "dead zones" as well faster speed. As a result, we now have 3 one-gigabyte AC/N 2.4/5ghz wireless routers. These will be set up for conferences and dismantled for retreats.



**No Wi-Fi, but
great connection**



*"I believe that each of us comes from the creator trailing wisps of glory."
Interview with the Academy of Achievement (1990)*

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
Interview for Beautifully Said Magazine (2012)*

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

Maya Angelou



Some ideas to beautify the chapel....

Suggested Changes

- ✓ Two pianos/organs. If not used, it should be relocated.
- ✓ The altar is too small to celebrate Mass properly. It looks like a credence table
- ✓ The credence table is mismatched.
- ✓ The presider's chair is mismatched.
- ✓ There is a flowerpot, which does not say a thing. It is distracting.
- ✓ The lamp near the organ is for a family room, not a chapel.
- ✓ Finally: there are things which makes the place look heavy and it does not give room for any artistic development.
- ✓ The two statues of Mary and Jesus are lost. They can be given more prominence.
- ✓ The beautiful Cross in the side alcove would have a greater effect if suspended above the sanctuary.
- ✓ The side alcove could be dedicated to St. Ignatius, thus focusing on the purpose of the chapel.
- ✓ The Tabernacle looks like an Ambry, the box for the Holy Oils rather than a tabernacle.

Obviously this is one opinion, others are most welcome.

A visitor, who was both a liturgist and an interior decorator, came to Fleming Hall and the Chapel. He was asked to give a candid review of the chapel. He did and it was amazing. This is what he said:

The chapel is not focused either as a chapel or the saint to which it is dedicated. It is cluttered, utilitarian and a mishmash of different styles. There is nothing to say it is a chapel. It could easily be taken for a conference hall. It could be a room in a botanical house with the vines hanging for beauty. There are six things wrong as you face the altar. When pointed out, they were so obvious.

The lighting was very good. The windows were well apportioned. The ceiling and skylight were unique and gave a sense of the vastness of the heaven. Unfortunately the wall took away a large benefit of the windows.





September Retreats

Finally we come to the “meat and potatoes” of the work here at Manresa, Pickering.

Traditionally the first retreat of the Season is the Retreat of the Prayer Group that meet each Monday at Manresa for Praise and Worship. The meeting is from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. The general format is a period of sacred songs, followed by reflection on Scripture and finally a teaching given by one of the Prayer Leaders. They begin the year with a retreat given by a priest who has worked with the prayer group in the past.

This year the group was smaller, because the usual Retreat Givers for the charismatic retreat were already booked. Deacon Rudy Ovcjak from Isaac Jogues Parish filled in ably at the last moment.

The first Ignatian Retreat was given by the Director of Manresa, Fr. Michael Coutts S.J. The theme of the retreat was *“Life just ain’t fair.”* The key protagonist of the retreat was “the patient Job, who cursed the day he was born.” There were 59 men and women who attended the retreat.

The final retreat of September was a 12 Step Men’s retreat with Ignatian background. This was given by veteran Basilian Fr. Bill Riegel. He is full of humour, but hard-hitting nevertheless. The men loved his talks. Fr. Bill is now stationed in Detroit, MI, which is just across the border from his former parish in Windsor.

The retreats take place on the weekend. During the week, we had two groups of Grade 12 student leaders who came to be trained in giving retreats to their fellow students in grade 9. The students came from Durham Catholic Schools: All Saints, Leo Austin and others.