



## An Occasional News Letter from Manresa Spirituality Centre

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### Wintry Weather

There has been a lull since the last occasional newsletter mainly because the traditional weekend retreats were sailing along smoothly and no news was good news. But it is time for another letter to keep you up to date on things that have been happening.

At Christmas, the young Jesuit scholastics came over to enliven our Christmas Mass with the traditional and some not so traditional Christmas carols. Our Manresa staff with their families joined the retreatants at the Christmas Mass. The new PA system is working well, much to the delight of the hard of hearing. The much anticipated Altar furniture did not turn up. The carpenter recommended by one of the Jesuits, is good. He promised to have the four pieces by Christmas. However, he did not specify whether it would be Christmas 2014 or 2015. At the time of this newscast, we have the Altar and Credence table. Everyone is impressed at the design and the workmanship. However like Raphael's painting: the Madonna is there, but the Bambino has still to come.



## Taking care of a 70+ old ( the building )

### Sprucing up in Springtime

**Bob Finlay**, Eva-Maria and Christopher have been working non-stop to keep Fleming Hall and the Manor looking fresh and clean. Some Carpets have been replaced by wooden floors, bathroom floors have a new laminate, rooms have new blinds and a fresh coat of paint.

Our "financier" Louise Dragozet held fort, while Fiona Bertok joined her family for a week in warmer climes. Fiona is currently contacting Jesuits to get them to direct retreats here for the 2015-2016 season.

### Winter Preparations

The winter of 2014 was severe. We tried a new system for snow clearing and salting. It proved to be a disaster. To Br. Bob's great relief and at his advice, we went back to the company we had used in the past. January was mild as far as snow removal, but with February's snowfall, the decision to go with Jermaine proved to be a wise move.

Snow made it difficult for Fr. **Mike Hawkins** to wheel his "walker" but like a trooper he was faithfully at Room 113, for counselling and the sacrament of Reconciliation each weekend.



## Sprucing up



One only understands the things that one tames.  
Men have no more time to understanding anything.  
They buy things all ready made at the shops.  
But there is no shop anywhere where you can buy friendship

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900–1944). "the little prince"*



## January Ministries

*Fr. Michael went down to Guyana for his annual break to top up his tan. It was down by a quart.*

*During that time, the January retreats carried on at their usual pace. The first was given by Fr. Bert Foliot. There were two twelve step retreats presented by the erstwhile and cheerful Kathy Dempsey and Fr. Joe Redican CSB. Two retreats, one for men and the second for women were given by Fr. Philip Chircop. The Board of Governors of Manresa members like John McGrath, Mario Cinelli, Mario Biscardi and John Gennaro were attendant at the men's retreat.*

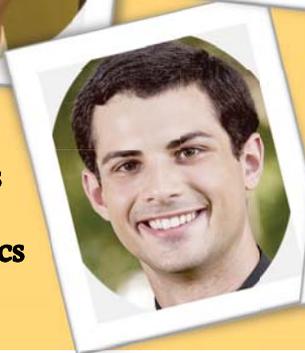


Fr. Michael Coutts gave a four day retreat to the Jesuit priests and brothers at Rene Goupil Residence. This is our infirmary on the same property as Manresa, Pickering. These Jesuits keep the retreatants in prayer each weekend. Fr. Jack Doyle is one of our regular counsellors and confessors on the weekend.

Fr. Michael will be heading to Ireland at the beginning of March to preach the Novena of Grace. It is a very popular nine day devotion. Over 1500 persons attend one of the four Masses each day. It is a wondrous thing to behold. When he comes back on the 13th March, he will hit the road running with two back to back Parish Missions in Toronto and Oshawa.



## New Scholastics On The Block



And they are...

**Eric Sorensen, Peter O'Sullivan, Chris Farrell, Carlos Chuquihuara, Kevin Kelly, + James Page, Jon Polce, (no pics)**

### Holy Week Services 2-5<sup>th</sup> April 2015

We end our Lenten Season with a men-women retreat on the Palm Sunday weekend. Our Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil preparations are complete. (A flyer with details, is on our webpage)

Retreatants are signing up, priests have been lined up for the three Sacred Days and a surprise and competent musician who will help us with the singing on the three days. Last year was a good learning experience. There will still be a few hiccups, but we are human.

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### Fr. Joseph McArdle S.J (R.I.P) 11-11-2014

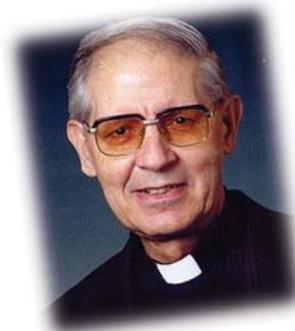
As a member of the retreat team, Fr. Joe directed weekend retreats where his sense of humour made his presentations topical and enjoyable. He also directed eight-day retreats and received a number of women and men for ongoing spiritual direction."

He will be missed by retreatants and Manresa Staff alike.

A new feature this year is a retreat presented by our Jesuits in training. They are a team of young men, currently doing their first studies on the road to the priesthood. They will be guided by their Jesuit Superior, Fr. Giles Mongeau. The topic of the weekend is "Being Holy or Faking it".

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Rev. Fr. Adolfo Nicolás



Rev. Fr. Adolfo Nicolás the Superior of the Jesuits across the world, has recommended that since giving the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius is one of our chief Charisms, it is never too early to start giving them.