

November 2016

A 2016-17 Retreat Season begins

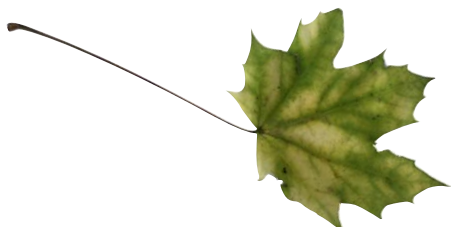


The autumn leaves drift by my window
The autumn leaves of red and gold.
These beautiful words of 1945 sung by
Nat King Cole, describe the beauty I see
from my vantage point at the Manor house.



It reminds one of the words of Elizabeth Barrett Browning
"Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

Fr. Joseph Schner S.J. has just finished a women's Ignatian retreat among these colourful leaves. Although the numbers were down for this retreat, there were 11 first timers judging by the show of hands. Fr. Joe presented reflections based on the stories from the Book of Daniel. In his unique manner and soft spoken voice, he unfolded the stories from the Interpretation of dreams to the Lion's Den saga. The women listened in awe. Apart from the meditations, the highlight of the weekend was the silence and balmy weekend (15°C!).



With the close of this weekend, we have had an equal amount of Ignatian retreats and the 12 Step Weekends with Ignatian Spirituality. The 12 Step retreats are always fully booked. They prove to be robust and intensive weekends under Fr. Joe Redican, Kathy Dempsey and Nada Conic.

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Munchies at Manresa Manor.

Oliver Twist would sing

Food, glorious food, Hot sausage and mustard!
While we're in the mood - Cold jelly and custard!

Although we serve Oliver's dream mainly to the delight of the High school students on their day trips, our weekend retreatants are full of praise of the food. The salads gain the most praise : Caesar, Garden, Waldorf - these trays are quickly emptied. Chef Kim States tells me that the Health Inspectors turned up suddenly and gave the kitchen a clean bill -100%. Usually with their "white gloved" inspection, there is a minor recommendation or two. But this time the Kitchen came out with flying colours. Kudos to Doris, Olive, Mary Rose and the ancillary workers: Rozelle and Allanah.



“One Ringy Dingy” Meanwhile in the front office, Fiona and Louise manage to make the Director look good by running things in a shipshape condition. Besides making last minute additions to weekends and deleting cancellations, they deal with a 100 & 1 questions. There is an increasing number of private retreatants who want to make a day retreat and stay overnight.

Every now and then a person will misunderstand the nature of Manresa Retreat Centre. They will come for psychiatric or psychological therapy. Some times after a day, we have to organize a ride home for them. The front office does it with compassion and tact. It goes to show how many people are hungry for spiritual growth and psychological healing.



“Check in time.....”"Mens Sana in corpore sano" - loosely and very broadly translated - cleanliness is next to Godliness. Eva-Maria and Marion make sure that sheets and towels are promptly laundered and rooms cleanly swept. Better than any hotel!

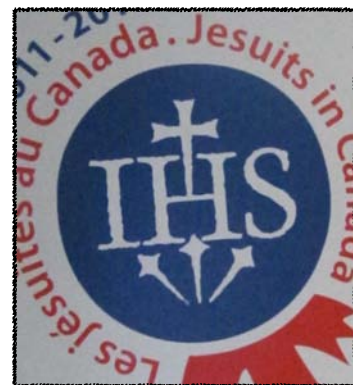
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The Oblates. 12-16 September. We were blessed with the retreat for the Oblates and Associates. For a moment some thought that the Congregation of the Scarborough Fathers and their associates had turned up earlier than usual: the Irish names, the shapes, sizes, and chronological signs (white hair) were amazingly similar. The Oblates were equally humorous, totally undemanding, and edifyingly grateful for anything we could provide them. Marjorie Galbreath did a remarkable job of keeping "pusillus grex" - the small flock together for sessions and prayer. The talks were given by the well-known Canadian based in Texas, Ron Rolheiser OMI. Fr. Normand Bonneau is the current Superior in charge of the group.



C.A.S.C. 19-23 October. Manresa hosted the multi-denominational group called the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care. It is a group committed to the professional education, certification and support of people involved in spiritual care, pastoral counselling, education and research. They were here from Wednesday and through the weekend. It was a group of about 40. They were seen around Fleming Hall and the Manor House Dining room, always involved in some deep and intensive discussion. Apart from that they were a peaceful bunch.

Jesuits Superiors meet. Jesuit Superiors 25-28 October. Finally we had the Jesuit Superiors from all across Canada, "sans" the two chief honchos: the Provincial and Socius who are at the General Congregation in Rome. As soon as Fr. Arturo Sosa was announced as the New Superior General, the efficient Louise posted his picture near the dining room near the Pope and the Cardinal. The retired Fr. Adolfo Nicolás was down, and the new Fr. Arturo Sosa was up!



FR. MICHAEL ROSINSKI is a native of the Niagara peninsula, Michael entered the Society of Jesus in 1994 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2006. He has served as a teacher and chaplain at both of the Canadian Jesuits' high schools in Winnipeg and Montreal. He has also had shorter pastoral assignments in Jamaica, South Sudan and at Loyola Retreat House in Guelph. He just finished a PhD in canon law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. He is now posted at the city of Vancouver in British Columbia and oversees the young Jesuits in training.



We like to welcome **FR. ALEX KIRSTEN** who has been assigned to Manresa. Fr. Alex just finished as the Director of Rene Goupil, our Jesuit Infirmary. Prior to that he was in charge of : the Jesuit National Development Office, Director of The Martyrs' Shrine, -Treasurer for the Jesuits of English Canada, Teacher, President & Superior of Jesuits at Winnipeg for almost 20 years. Fr. Alex



Kirsten brings a vast array of experience to his work in Development & Management. His talents are encompassed by his deep faith as a Jesuit,. We thank him for his skill in dealing with our Manresa Budget.

FR. MICHAEL KNOX, joined the Jesuits in 1997. After the usual Jesuit training and completing his Philosophy and Theology, he was ordained in 2011. He then went on to do his doctoral studies in the UK. On his return he was appointed Director of Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, Ontario. We are happy to have him as one of the Weekend Retreat Masters. He brings the expertise of studying our Jesuit martyrs' whose lives were inspired by the Exercises.

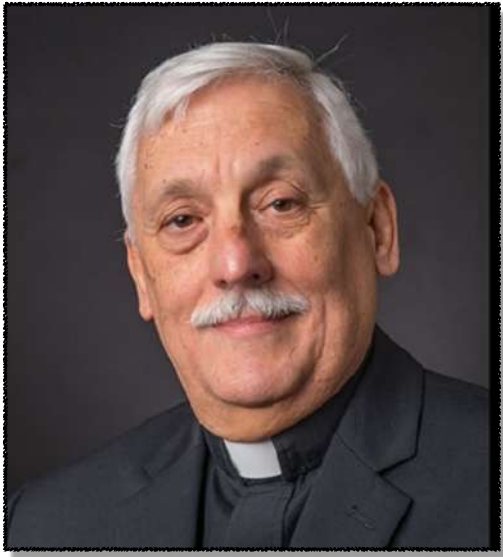


FR. PAUL ROBSON was born and raised in Winnipeg. He was baptised and confirmed in 2003, entered the Society of Jesus in 2006. He was ordained a priest in May of 2016. He is currently

studying at St. Paul University in Ottawa, working on a master's in theology. He is preparing for ministry with the First Nations of Canada. Paul enjoys outdoor activities, and is a fan of the Winnipeg Jets. He delighted retreatants on the 14-16th October weekend.

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After several weeks of discussion and discernment, the Jesuit order has elected Fr. Arturo Sosa as their new Superior General, who took over after the resignation of the former leader, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás.



taught me to look into the history of our country as a way of understanding our present and the ways forward.” In previous conversations he defined Fr. Sosa as “a Jesuit with a large capacity to listen and to take decision. He is a man used to work in complex situations, knowing how to handle them with peace.

The work at the Colombo-Venezuelan border is indeed very complex because of the diversity of the tasks (social, academic, pastoral, etc.); in all these areas he knew how to develop it very well. He can have a large vision, aware of the social and intellectual changes that are occurring in today’s world.”

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Fr. Sosa entered the Society of Jesus in 1966 and was ordained a priest in 1977. He has obtained degrees in philosophy, theology and political science. He was a member of the Social Centre of the Venezuelan province from 1977-1996, when he was appointed as Superior of the Jesuits in Venezuela, guiding through the stormy waters of Hugo Chavez’s dictatorship.

Fr. Arturo Peraza the current Provincial of Venezuela writes the following about the New Jesuit Superior General, “He taught me how to find God in the eyes of the most vulnerable, on the seriousness of the analysis to understand the reality around us. He

