

MANRESA FALL 2019

NEWS LETTER NO. 24

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MANRESA



The Jesuits in Pickering had a community meeting several weeks ago where we shared what is central to our ministry here. The most common element that was mentioned was the

gift of peace that visitors to Manresa experience in their visits here. That comes as no surprise. Individuals who visit for spiritual direction throughout the week and those on every retreat weekend mention that gift of peace. I am grateful to God that so many of our visitors and staff appreciate that gift. It is because of that peace that we try our best to make sure that ongoing maintenance and special projects happen at times when retreats are not scheduled. I find that our staff is very supportive of that peaceful environment.

Our Board of Directors is very active in their involvement in Manresa. One idea, which surfaced at a board meeting, was the desire for a promotional video about Manresa and our ministry of offering retreats and a peace-filled setting. On September 6 and 7, Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann and his team from Salt & Light TV, along with some members of our board and friends of Manresa, prepared a 3-minute video. It is professionally produced and shows the beauty and power of Manresa ministry and our grounds. Some of the most spectacular views of Manresa were produced with the use of a drone flying over the property. The video will be added to our website and used by Manresa for promotion of the centre.

You have probably seen our program brochure for 2019-2020. We think that this year will be very good. We are pleased with our offerings and know that they will be attractive to those looking to deepen their spiritual life. We'll tell you later in this newsletter about weekend retreats that still have spaces available.

Manresa is aiming to be even better than we are at ecological responsibility. This challenge comes from Pope Francis, the universal Society of Jesus, the young people of our planet, and many other leaders. One small effort that we recently decided to implement is reducing our use of bottled water. Watch for other efforts in the future.

I am grateful for our Board, our staff and each of you. We are working together to strengthen the ministry of Manresa. Be assured of my personal prayer for you and your families.

God bless!
Fr. Henk

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIFE OF FR. DOUG MCCARTHY, S.J.



As you may already know, Fr. Douglas McCarthy, S.J. died on August 24, 2019. He was just 74. He died quite

suddenly, but he had dealt for some time with various health issues. Fr. Doug worked at Manresa for many years and was a popular retreat presenter and spiritual director. His life experiences gave him considerable wisdom, so often expressed in short, well-crafted and stirring homilies. Many people sought his spiritual direction and wisdom.

At the time of his death, he was involved in pastoral ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in downtown Toronto. Even with that responsibility, he made time to offer weekend retreats at Manresa. Manresa mourns his loss.

Fr. Doug was scheduled to offer a Manresa retreat November 1-3. Fr. Michael Coutts will replace him on that weekend. Plans for Fr. Doug's weekend in March will be posted on our website.

Contributed by Philip Shano, S.J.

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY AT MANRESA

It's becoming an annual tradition for the seminarians in the Spiritual formation year at St. Augustine's Seminary to come to Manresa in September, for the first few weeks of their year. They came last year because there were renovations happening at the seminary in Scarborough. They came this year because the experience last year was so good.



Our setting is very conducive to the first steps in the spiritual year. They loved the peace and beauty. The ample and tasty food was an important part of their experience. There were a few periods where they helped with the physical care of our buildings and grounds. The young men will be back to Manresa in October, for a 5-day silent retreat. We are grateful that we can play a small role in the formation of future priests and we are grateful for their time among us.

Contributed by Philip Shano, S.J.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT MANRESA

“Our St. Isaac Jogues Knights of Columbus Council recently held a Faith in Action workshop at Manresa. The Faith in Action model seeks to balance the four key Priorities of The Knights of Columbus - Faith, Family, Community, and Life with the changing needs of Catholic men in the twenty-first century.



The objective of our workshop was to discuss how the local activities of our upcoming fraternal year could be integrated into this framework. Our focus as Knights is to serve our parish and our community and to strengthen Catholic men and their families. The workshop provided an excellent vehicle to discuss how we as Knights can deliver on our promise to Serve our Families, parishes and communities.”

Contributed by Mr. Claude Rochefort

DIRECTED RETREATS AND OTHER WAYS TO BENEFIT FROM THIS SACRED AND PEACEFUL SETTING

The Manresa program brochure for 2019 – 2020 includes three short paragraphs that are easily missed. They deal with the availability of (a) individual directed or undirected retreats, (b) ongoing spiritual direction and (c) special programs that can be booked by your group. The Manresa team has been strengthened and we have the staff to help with your spiritual needs. Let us know what we can help you with.

What is a directed retreat? A directed retreat provides you with individual spiritual direction. These retreats can be arranged during the week, when Manresa is quieter and less crowded than

weekends. A spiritual director meets with you at least once a day, to guide you through a retreat experience tailored to your needs. There are regular meals and the opportunity for the Eucharist each day. This option has come to be appreciated by many regulars at Manresa.

What is ongoing spiritual direction? Most people who choose regular spiritual direction meet personally with their spiritual director on a monthly basis. It is one more element for a balanced approach to life.

19th Annotation Retreats (the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life): Contact us if you have an interest in this experience of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. We may be able to connect you with a qualified spiritual director.

Contributed by Philip Shano, S.J.

COMING UP – SPACES STILL AVAILABLE FOR A FEW PROGRAMS

Let us know if you are interested in one of the upcoming weekends that still have available spaces.

October 18 – 20 – Men’s Ignatian Retreat
“A Vision for Life, Work and Love through the Eyes of St. Ignatius of Loyola.”

Facilitator: Dr. Meg Lavin with our Jesuit Retreat Team

November 1 – 3 – Men’s Ignatian Retreat
“Contemplation: Finding God in All Things.”

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Coutts, SJ

November 22 – 24 – Men and Women’s Ignatian
“On the Road to Union with God.”

Facilitator: Fr. Henk van Meijel, SJ

AUTUMN AND OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE A SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Chestnuts dropping from their trees. Crisp leaves swirling around. A panoramic scene of colourful leaves, especially in a rural setting. The Vee formation and honking sounds of migrating geese. Farmers and gardeners bringing in the final fruits of their efforts. Farmers’ markets. Autumn began on September 23.

The season includes the possibility of new beginnings, the chance to start over. The season has often been associated with melancholia. The endless opportunities of summer are gone and winter is on the horizon. Many people turn inward and become more reflective. That melancholic nature is evident in much poetry. *Autumn*, by Rainer Maria Rilke, speaks of the *Someone* who holds up all of the falling, whether it’s leaves or each of us.



*The leaves are falling, falling as if from far up,
as if orchards were dying high in space.
Each leaf falls as if it were motioning "no."*

*And tonight the heavy earth is falling
away from all other stars in the loneliness.*

*We're all falling. This hand here is falling.
And look at the other one. It's in them all.*

*And yet there is Someone, whose hands
infinitely calm, holding up all this falling.*

For reflection: What needs to **fall** in your life?
How can you prepare for winter?

Contributed by Philip Shano, S.J.