March 2016 ALWAYS FREE



## Manresa Spirituality Centre 2325 Liverpool Rd. Pickering.Ont. 905-839-2864



"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad." Happy Easter.

### **Parish Mission**

As director of Manresa Retreat Centre, with no assistant priest I have been unable to give Parish Missions in different parts of the country. However, I had to fulfil a promise to go up to Tuktayuktuk, in the North West Territories.

It was not much of a chore the talks first in the day of recollection for the priests in the Durham Zone and again with the Charismatic Prayer group, that meets every Monday in Fleming Hall.

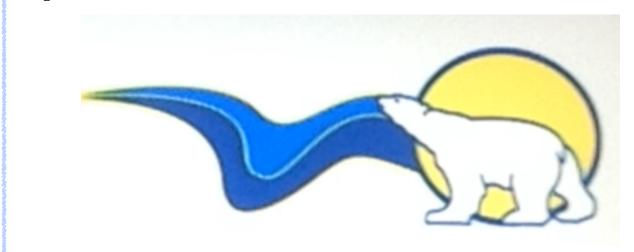
Evangelist in Edmonton was This entailed a 5 hour three



giving the two Lenten well attended. On the first day, Missions, since I had tested thanks to an unexpected but had a small community of 14 typical snowstorm, there was a sparse crowd of 150 people. The next day, with the balmy weather and the sun created, - (the children I shining, the number doubled. On Wednesday, 9th March, I received both in Edmonton The Mission at St. John the headed off to Tuktayuktuk. and in "Tuk".

stop flight from Edmonton to Inuvik. Then there was a 2 hour drive on the frozen MacKenzie river and another hour on the frozen ocean, which is a part of the widest river delta in Canada, and the second widest in North America after the Mississippi.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish adults and it seemed 5000 children - judging from their activity and commotion they mean.) The mission was well



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#### **Automatic Door Openers.**

You will be pleased to know that we have two sets of electronic door openers at the entrance of Fleming Hall. This will be helpful for retreatants with mobility devices, and for the Jesuits from Rene Goupil Infirmary who attend the funeral of one of their fellow Jesuits who have preceded them into eternal. Fr. Mike Hawkins will be delighted at this new installation. He has been a faithful counsellor to the retreatants at all our 33 weekend retreats.

Manresa Grounds have been blessed with the sight of a red fox. This renard has been "sunbathing" on the lawn between Manresa



Manor House and the LaStorta Residence. This has been a mild winter, and he/she? has sprawled on the grass, paying no attention to the passers-by. Unfortunately the fox was not in a healthy condition. Animal

control came and picked it up. We were assured that the fox could be salvaged. After treating it for mange and malnutrition, it would be

released back in the Duffin Creek moraine. The rabbits and squirrels which cause considerable havoc to the flower beds have diminished in numbers since the arrival of "Brer Fox."





The Red Fox



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**Trusting God** 

# Back home at Pickering, we had two Twelve Step retreats given by Kathy Dempsey and Aysun Kuck.

There were two Ignatian Retreats given by Fr. Joe Schner S.J. and Trevor Scott S.J (from the Maritimes.). We had many first timers over these four retreats. They were impressed by the professionalism and the high quality of the presenters of the retreat. As usual they said the thing they valued most was the silence on the retreats. They have promised to come back.

tidbits from manresa



Journeying together



"In need of a helping hand"



Our financial portfolio.

The loonie has dropped. This is no new information, but as a result the contribution on the weekends, has also taken a dip. We have completed two thirds of the weekends for the year 2015-2016. Although we are keeping our heads above water and managing to pay our bills, the average of every weekend except one, has been lower than it was on the corresponding weekend last year.

We will be asking for a voluntary donation of \$185.00 instead of the present \$175 per weekend. This is the first increase in eight years. Trusting in the Lord has been a way of continuing this Retreat Ministry. Every now and then a sizeable and unexpected donation has validated this trust. It sometimes makes up for the shortfall from any given retreat.

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#### A Sad Note. 陳小明

Siuming (Vicky) Chen, one of the board of directors, has tended her resignation. She has received the news of an illness which would make her partially immobile. We pray this illness will not cripple her and that she can still come and visit us all the way from Burlington. Please keep her in your prayers. She is responsible for the four beautiful, large frames depicting the Gospels. These can been seen just outside the lobby of the Retreat Chapel.

Thank you, Siuming (Vicky) Chen for your generous service to the Retreat Apostolate at Manresa

謝謝

A note from: 陳小明

..."You can also say that for about nine months I have been suffering from a degenerative nerve disease which impairs my mobility. Recently this has been found to be an unusual manifestation of a blood cell malignancy for which I will be receiving chemotherapy and subsequently autologous stem cell transplant. Ongoing prayer support will be much appreciated.

And yes, I am hopeful to eventually recover enough to return for the occasional retreat in Manresa again.

Blessings for this Holy Week!"

Vicky

