

MANRESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE  
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## Walking Dead to the Young and Restless

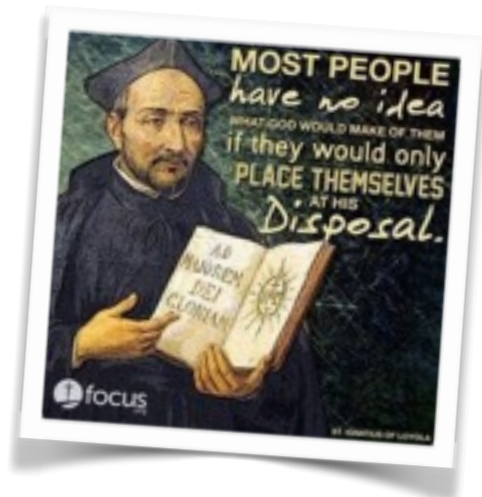
Our 6th-8th May retreat was an excellent group. The erstwhile captains were Mr. Al Bodogh and Mr. Terry Mahoney. Between the two of them they have attended 100+ retreats. They both looked a bit sceptical at the sight of the Jesuit seminarians who presented the retreat. Mr. Al reminded me he had made twice as many retreats as one of them spent in his life on this earth.

I assured the retreatants that Retreat Directors were getting older. It was time for the "Walking Dead" to hand over the reins to the "Young and the Restless."

Erik Sorensen SJ, Raj Vijaykumar SJ, Daniel Kraemer SJ, Matthew Hendzel SJ, Steven Edmunds SJ were the main presenters, while their companions had spiritual

conversations with the retreatants, who chose to speak with them.

These young Jesuits delivered the goods. They were solid, well prepared, articulate and had depth to their talks. The handouts, which they gave, were very helpful for further prayer and reflection. The request of more than one grizzled retreatant was "Please bring them back"



### St. Ignatius says

Experience proves that in this life peace and satisfaction are had, not by the listless but by those who are fervent in God's service. And rightly so. For in their effort to overcome themselves and to rid themselves of self-love, they rid themselves of the roots of all passion and unrest.

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### **As a deer longs for running streams”**



Former Director, Fr. Scott Lewis SJ, finished the Ignatian retreat on Divine Mercy Sunday. (1-3 April) It was a sunny but cool weekend from the weather viewpoint. At three pm, we had a private Mass for the first communion of young Rhys, who with his family provided the music for our Christmas Mass at Manresa. He played the small drums beautifully. "Father could I make my First Communion in this beautiful chapel?" difficult to say no, isn't it? Especially since they are going to continue to minister to us at Christmas for the near future.



About two hours later, Manresa grounds were covered with a blanket of Snow. It was a day late for an April fool's joke! But with the snow came a blessing. Two young fawns came up from Duffin's creek. They frolicked and gambolled on the lawns as the snow continued to fall. After a dazzling display of leaps and bounds, they disappeared as suddenly as they appeared. As a deer longs for running streams, so my soul longs for you my God. (Psalm 42)



### **Quote from St. Ignatius**

Be slow to speak, and only after having first listened quietly, so that you may understand the meaning, leanings, and wishes of those who do speak. Thus you will better know when to speak and when to be silent.

## Odds and Ends - Bits and Pieces

We have had three interesting groups using Manresa Facilities

### L'Arche Community.

In the first place, there was a group from the L'Arche Ministry. This young group of fifteen were from various nationalities from as far as Russia. It was not a silent five days. It was filled with sharing and discussion. However, the penultimate day was spent in silence to evaluate their personal experience.



### Contemplative Fire

At present we have a group of Anglicans, calling themselves, "Contemplative Fire". They are under the direction of Rev. Anne Crosthwait. They have come for spiritual renewal and sharing of experiences. They seek to both create and acknowledge sacred spaces all around.

### Durham Social Services

Finally the Durham Social Service group made use of the Chabanel Room for reflection and a "look to the future". It seemed like a better business meeting. But putting the human person at the centre of their meetings and deliberations is precisely what Jesus Christ did 2000 years ago and what Pope Francis tirelessly advocates today. We do need rules and regulations and traditions for a harmonious life. The litmus test of how we love and serve is when we put the person at the centre of vision in serving God.





## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Although we have only one Jesuit Brother in maintenance and one Jesuit priest on staff, there has been an almost weekly request for Spiritual direction. This is a one-to-one conversation about spiritual matters as we journey into a great intimacy with God. It is not so much an exercise in discernment e.g. Do I have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, to married life? Should I change my whole lifestyle? Should I leave all and go and help in a third world country? Rather like the young man in the Gospel, the quest is what should I do to deepen my intimacy with the Lord?

It is sad to say "No" to such requests, but as they say in Latin, "Nemo dat quod non habet" - you cannot share something you do not possess. We just do not have the human resources to meet these needs. However on the bright side, we have Loretto Sister Jeanine Glute who has stepped in to fill the breach. She comes now regularly to Manresa for these one-



to-one conversations with persons seeking spiritual direction. Both men and women find her presence wise and consoling. Other spiritual seekers who are comfortable with well-trained lay directors have been making similar requests. Mike Hyland, one of our retreat captains who has had a four-year spirituality course at Regis, (Jesuit College) is coordinating these requests.



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## JESUIT VOLUNTEERS CANADA

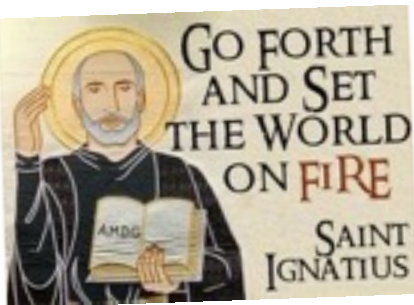


At the last weekend in April, the Jesuit Volunteers Canada (JVC) Board came to Manresa. They spent this time to pray, reflect on, and share JVC experiences from the past year. They discerned actions and strategies to move forward. It was a time of deep thought, a lot of laughter and a bonding of men and women in the service of Christ as seen in people and places around us.

JVC is a formation program rooted in Ignatian spirituality that seeks to develop young men and women to be life-long builders of the Kingdom of God. It is a one to two year immersion service experience where volunteers work full-time in serving and learning from those living on the margins. The broader experience of Jesuit Volunteers is living in community. Here they are engaged in growing spiritually. They participate in ongoing social and eco justice educational events.

This year, JVC has had 3 volunteers working

- with *Canadian Jesuits International* which is a Jesuit apostolate
- *Becoming Neighbours*, a program that matches immigrants and refugees with Christians communities that help them
- *Seeds of Hope*, an organization that creates transitional homes, safe places, and creative spaces for homeless individuals in Toronto.



### Quote from St. Ignatius

Be generous to the poor orphans and those in need. The man to whom our Lord has been liberal ought not to be stingy. We shall one day find in Heaven as much rest and joy as we ourselves have dispensed in this life.

