



Manresa was closed in August. During this period, the floors were waxed, the carpets were shampooed, some of taps repaired, and the beds in Fleming Hall were aired. However, we still kept the chapel open for funerals. We had a small gathering for the Funeral Mass for Fr. Paul Granville. But apart from that, the Manresa Spirituality Centre was even more quiet.

Most of the staff took the opportunity of a closed Manresa in August to go with their families for a holiday. However, one of the housekeepers decided to stay. Eva Boessler and her son, Chris painted the dining room with a peaceful and attractive ecru colour. You have to come and see to appreciate. We have managed to be fiscally responsible by doing such chores in house.

Br. Bob Finlay, took the opportunity of going to visit his brother, Bill out in B.C. Bob has kept the lawns looking neat and tidy. Many a visitor has praised the tidy and peaceful look of the Manresa greens. Fr. Chris Rupert and his assistant have been able to keep the flowers around Fleming Hall and the Manor looking beautiful. He has been

having a running battle with rabbits. Some of the Manresa staff said the flowers have been the best looking in years.

There were two other additions during the month of August. We replaced all the vertical louveres with new blinds. There were 28 custom-made louveres. These matched the ones in the

Chapel. Those were generally appreciated by all and sundry. They also have a guaranty to last. People commonly refer to them as Tim Horton Louvres, so you can get some idea of what they look like.



The second arrival was the long awaited Presider's Chair for the St. Ignatius Chapel. It was the last of the four custom-made pieces of altar furniture for the chapel. There

were a lot of hitches in both the estimated time of arrival and the fashioning of the pieces. The arrival of the Chair meant that we finally could have the Altar blessed. This blessing took place at the start of the first retreat of the Season. The Charismatic group was in seventh heaven to participate in the blessing. Some were so excited, they even said the priest's part.



new beginnings...



Jesuit Missions- Paraguay

We begin the new Retreat Year in Manresa with a sense of wonder and optimism. Like the child watching the Barracuda behind the glass, we have no idea what God has ahead of us. We are out on a ledge it may seem. It may be dangerous, but we are always safe – because God walks with us in our journey. With the good Shepherd, we are led to green pastures, where we are nourished with the Word and the Eucharist. It is time to take off, and soar like an eagle – or are they ducks?



When Ignatius informed Portuguese Jesuits that “no commonplace achievement will satisfy the great obligations you have of excelling, he created heroic expectations that could be met only through change and innovation on a dramatic scale.

The Heroism that gripped Jesuits led to radical thought patterns. So it wasn't enough for Jesuit teams in Paraguay to advocate marginally better treatment of indigenous people within the encomienda system; they rejected the whole system to establish a radically new reduction model. The tradition of thinking outside the box began when Loyola himself jettisoned the centuries-old model of religious life to invent a complete new kind of religious company. -Chris Lowney, Heroic Leadership



The Bell Tower

During the month of August, the Bell Company installed a Bell Relay tower behind the first cottage. This is located close to the boundary of our property near the Hydro Lines. This contract had been in the making for about a couple of years and the contract was signed during the last director's tenure.

Apparently a couple of neighbours had complained about the tower with the usual "it will cause cancer" excuse. Ironically, they were using their cellphones to complain about the relay station! They were also complaining to Bell that they were not getting a proper signal for their cellphones. Hopefully that will be remedied. The tower will also produce some income for badly needed repairs to Fleming Hall.



Characteristics of Jesuit Spirituality

1. Finding God in all things.
2. Personal relationship with Christ and love for the Church (broken and bruised as it is often)
3. Reflection (Discernment/Self reflection) which leads to Gratitude. This leads to service. This is seen in becoming a “man or woman for others.”
4. Contemplation in action – not a monastic existence but an active one that is, at the same time, infused with prayer.
5. Inner freedom, which comes from self-awareness and discernment.
6. Faith that does justice – a realization that there can be no true expression of faith, where concerns for justice and human dignity are missing.
7. “The World is charged with the grandeur of God” – the positive, energetic and engaged vision of God’s constant interaction with creation.
8. “Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam” – (for God’s greater glory) – praising God and dedicating oneself to participate in God’s healing work in the world.
9. Flexibility and adaptability – (e.g. Jesuits in the 16th Century used Chinese Robes in China)
10. Union of minds and hearts – as brothers and sisters, we listen for the God who is present among us, admitting no division based on ethnicity, nationality, background, age or gender.





One of the visitors to Manresa noticed the number of people with walkers or wheelchairs having difficulty entering the chapel. So she donated a tidy sum towards having an automated door opener. Inquiries are being made with companies who have already installed such devices at the two other Jesuit houses - LaStorta and Rene Goupil (our infirmary).

A donation has been made by Manresa towards the training of mature lay Spiritual Directors. They will be studying at Regis College at a course directed by one of our own Jesuit retreat masters, Fr. Phil Shano. Lay Spiritual directors are vital for the one to one conversations on the Saturdays of our weekend retreats. The twelve step retreats have had no difficulty with this arrangement, since it is in keeping with the fifth step. It will take a little more education with our Ignatian retreat faithful. Nevertheless, we will still need priests for the Sacrament of reconciliation.

Heavenly Father,
It's time for me to forget the past, forget the mistakes, and focus on what you are doing in my life today. I know you are doing a new thing. You are placing the right people in my life and removing the wrong ones. You are closing old doors and preparing me for new opportunities. The pruning process can be uncomfortable and painful, but I know it's for my good. I trust you.



The St. John frontispieces donated by Board member Ms. Vicky Chen, have been relocated in the passage to the chapel so that they are at eye-level. The wall on which they formally hung is now bare. It has been suggested that a mural depicting the cave at Manresa and the River Cardoner should be commissioned.

One of the Board of Directors, Mr. Mario Cinelli has agreed to set up a team for a monthly "walk and see" through Fleming Hall and the Manor for repairs. However, we will have to set up a list of local handy persons for emergencies on any given weekend.