



JESUIT SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTRE IN PICKERING

Summer 2022

News Letter No. 36

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MANRESA



Dear friends,

Blessings on you and your families as we enjoy our summer activities. I hope that we all stay healthy and safe in this season.

It has been a good season for Manresa. The spring saw a return to full programming. This has been a great relief to the many women and men and groups who take advantage of the quiet and peace of the property. As we wind up the year, we have plenty to be grateful for: a diverse variety of programs, an excellent and hardworking staff, a creative board, and generous volunteers. We have been putting together next season's list of programs. A few of the fall offerings are listed below. Don't forget to register early.

A milestone in Manresa's history occurred this month. Brother Bob Finlay, S.J. now lives at the Jesuit infirmary and sometimes uses a motorized scooter to travel between buildings. He continues to help Manresa with various tasks, such as the bookstore, collecting the offerings for retreats and showing the Saturday night retreat movie. Directors came and went over the years, but Brother Bob offered stability and consistency. We are grateful that he can still help with the ministry. Regular visitors are always grateful to see him and have a chat.

We had the usual assortment of Ignatian and 12-Step weekend retreats. Groups gradually increased in number and were able to feel safe at Manresa. In May, Fr. Philip Shano, S.J. offered the thirty-day Spiritual Exercises to seminarians from St. Augustine's. He has been helping by offering the Exercises and shorter retreats to seminarians for five years. He enjoys being engaged with the ministry of spiritual formation.

Fr. John O'Brien recently facilitated a weekend retreat for over fifty young professionals. There were two other programs taking place here at the same time. It was so refreshing to see the place so busy.



Photo by Brother Bob

Manresa is blessed with a dynamic and creative board of men and women. They have been helping with a series of monthly days of reflection that open-up Manresa to individuals who are looking for a shorter experience than a weekend. These new ventures are helping to increase a younger clientele. They have included a series of days of reflection, listening to indigenous voices, a day of reflection for people in grief, a day for parents of LGBTQ adult children, and so on. The board is also assisting me to look at the long-range future of Manresa. I am grateful!

Our buildings are always in need of maintenance. Later this summer, we'll close for several weeks, to allow the building to get some downtime. Cees and Kyle, our landscaping team, are continuing to care for the property. They are assisted by Brother Paul Baker, S.J., in his gentle care of new flower beds and plants.

We are always grateful for your donations. You will notice that our donation page lists three categories for you to help Manresa: General, Building Renewal Project, and the Stations of the Cross renewal project. We are grateful for every donation we receive, regardless of the size.

I offer my prayers for you and your family. Manresa is honoured to be connected with your life. I remember you daily at the celebration of the Eucharist. Please remember Manresa and our retreatants in your prayer.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Henk

UPCOMING IGNATIAN RETREATS AT MANRESA

Online at: www.manresa-canada.ca
Email to: registration@manresa.ca
Phone: 905-839-2864

As we will be closed for the month of August, please be mindful that we will respond to all registration requests within 5 - 10 business days, likely, closer to 5 business days! We appreciate your patience and look forward to welcoming you back to our retreats starting in September.

September 30 at 7:00 p.m. – October 2 at 1:00 p.m. MEN/WOMEN -- IGNATIAN

Faith, Science and Beauty in the Stars. From the opening of Genesis to the encyclical Laudatory Si', our belief in a Creator has meant that we believe God "reveals Himself in the things He has made" (to quote St. Paul). By looking at beauty in both nature and in the science that lets us understand nature, what is God revealing to us?

Facilitated by Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.

October 14 at 7:00 p.m. – October 16 at 1:00 p.m. MEN -- IGNATIAN

“The Infancy Narrative of Matthew’s Gospel.” This coming Advent, the Church asks us to lift up our eyes toward the ends of the earth and to embrace the universalism that Matthew’s Gospel subtly introduces in his genealogy. Matthew's story of Jesus’ origins is told from Joseph’s point of view, while the more familiar infancy account from Luke is told from the perspective of Mary. Do we trust that a loving, personal God guides each of us as well as the tragic events of contemporary history? Are we so caught up in our own families or our own work that we rarely raise our eyes to the larger world of the poor on other continents? Matthew’s Infancy story of Jesus reminds us to make Advent a time of peaceful trust in God's providence and to make Christmas a celebration in which we open our eyes, minds and hearts to the universal call of the newborn Lord.

Facilitated by Fr. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B .

October 28 at 7:00 p.m. – October 30 at 1:00 p.m. WOMEN -- IGNATIAN

The Exodus and I. Purification. Illumination. Union.

Facilitated by Fr. Michael Coutts, S.J.

November 4 at 7:00 p.m. – November 6 at 1:00 p.m. MEN -- IGNATIAN

“Walking with Jesus.” As the apostles and disciples walked with Jesus, heard him preach, saw what he did in helping people, and what He was willing to do for humanity - for you and me, this retreat will be looking at and walking with Jesus in prayer. For it is in prayerful silence, that we can be quiet enough to hear what is being spoken to us in the scriptures. This would be an opportunity to deepen a relationship with Jesus.

Facilitated by Fr. Winston Rye, S.J.

November 11 at 7: p.m. – November 13 at 1:00 p.m. WOMEN -- IGNATIAN

Facilitated by Fr. Kevin Kelly, S.J.

November 25 at 7:00 p.m. – November 27 at 1:00 p.m. MEN/WOMEN -- IGNATIAN

The Art of Advent: Preparing our Hearts using Visio Divina. Visio Divina or "divine seeing" offers a way of entering into the beauty and peace of Advent using visual art. We explore the spiritual geography of Advent guided by the question, "Where is Advent?" Participants ponder Advent art featuring Mary and Joseph. We'll weave art, music, ritual, the beautiful Manresa grounds, and silence into a prayer to begin our Advent journey.

Facilitated by Les Miller and our Retreat Team.

For a full list of all our Fall Retreats including our 12 Step weekend retreats, please check out our website at: www.manresa-canada.ca

FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL: A FEW SAINTS OF SUMMER

The Roman Catholic Church is blessed with an amazing cloud of witnesses, saints who strengthen us in many ways. Let's look at just several of the women and men who are celebrated in the summer months.

Summer starts with **St. Aloysius Gonzaga**, on June 21. Aloysius Gonzaga was a Jesuit who entered the Society of Jesus despite the protests of his powerful and wealthy family. He persisted and entered in 1587. He is a helpful saint for a COVID world. He died in Rome in 1591, while nursing people who has been stricken with a plague in that city. He was just 23 years old. He is the patron of young people, especially students. He has been recognized as the unofficial patron of people with AIDS, and their caregivers.

July 29 is given over to **St. Martha**. Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus, all of them friends of Jesus. Their home was in Bethany. Many of us spend time praying with the reality of Martha's hospitable service and the example of her sister Mary who seemed content to sit at the feet of Jesus. Most of us recognize that we are called to live out the qualities of both women, finding a healthy balance between contemplation and action. Martha is a patron of domestic workers and cooks.

St. John Vianney is remembered on August 4. Most of us know him by his title: the Curé of Ars. He was the parish priest of a small village in France. He spent from 1818 to his death in 1859 as the pastor in the village. He is most known for the long hours he spent in the confessional, some days for as long as 16 hours. Many people journeyed as pilgrims to benefit from his listening heart and wise words. He was already acknowledged as a saint long before he died. He is the patron of parish priests.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross is acknowledged a few days later, on August 9. She was born Edith Stein, in Breslau, Germany (today it is in Poland), in 1891. She was the youngest child in a large Jewish family. Her studies in philosophy involved working with the famous scholar Edmund Husserl. Edith Stein received her doctorate in her mid-twenties. She was drawn to Catholicism and moved towards baptism. She taught at Catholic schools before joining the Carmelites. The rise of anti-Semitism caused her to flee to the Netherlands. She continued her scholarly work; but was eventually arrested and deported to Auschwitz. It was there that she and many others died in the gas chambers. She is a co-patron of Europe.

St. Alberto Hurtado Cruchaga, a Jesuit, is commemorated on August 18. He was born in Chile in 1901. Ordained a priest in 1933, his life's work was mostly teaching, assisting the poor, and caring for the sick. He began a retreat house and founded a trade union movement in Chile. He is remembered for his constant activity in spreading the Gospel through his priestly ministry, apostolic work, education, and charitable and social works. He acknowledged being swallowed up by requests, but said, "I could not say no ... I did not want to miss an opportunity to do good ..." He is remembered for his work with the poor.

St. Monica is remembered on August 27 (and, her son **St. Augustine**, the next day). Monica and her son were born in North Africa. She was born to Christian parents and eventually influenced her husband and his mother to convert. Once that was accomplished, Monica started to work on her son, who had abandoned his Christian faith. Her persistence eventually paid off. We hear about Monica from St. Augustine's Confessions. Monica and her son enjoyed a close spiritual relationship. She died, knowing that all she had wished for been fulfilled. She is the patron of mothers.

Compiled by Fr. Philip Shano, S.J.