



JESUIT SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTRE IN PICKERING

Fall 2022

News Letter No. 37

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MANRESA



Dear Friends,

Blessings on you and your families as we move into this new program season and the beautiful time of autumn. I hope that your summer was rejuvenating and safe. As you know, Manresa's grounds are beautiful and peaceful in every season, including this one. The photos included here from Brother Paul Baker, S.J. provide a taste of that beauty. He offers a few words to help your enjoyment of the beauty. Why not come enjoy the property in person.

The start of autumn is an excellent time to enjoy a day or weekend of prayer at Manresa. This edition of the newsletter tells you about upcoming weekend programs and the increasingly popular monthly days of reflection. They are perfect for someone who wants a time of renewal, but doesn't have a free weekend.

As I keep reminding visitors, our buildings and grounds are always in need of maintenance and beautifying. We shut down for several weeks at the end of the season and had some work completed. Some projects are evident. For instance, Cees (with some help from Kyle) installed new steps at the Manor. The interlocking steps have been completed. They will outlive most of us. The railing still needs to be installed. Less obvious projects are just as important for the health of the buildings and the comfort and safety of our visitors. A major project was installing new eaves troughs around Fleming Hall. Look up and you will see the excellent work.

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 grateful 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.

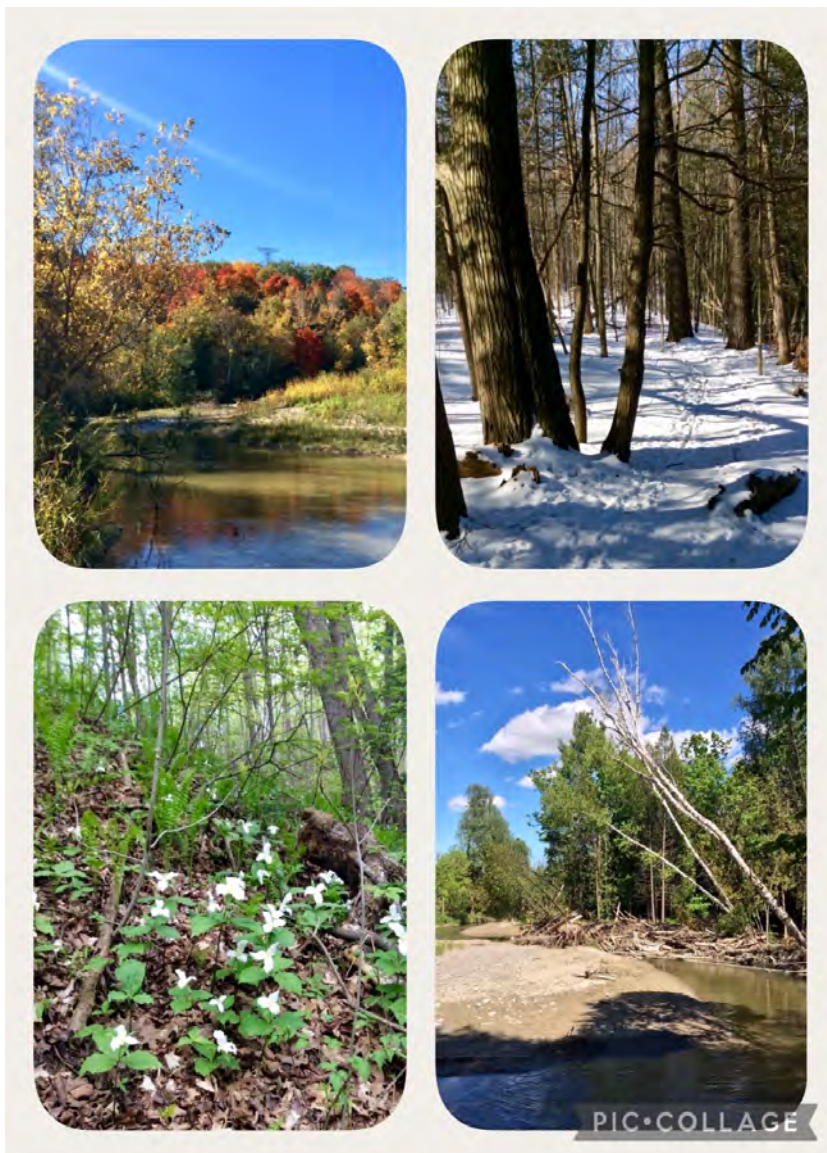
In Christ Jesus,

Fr. Henk

BROTHER PAUL BAKER, S.J. AND HIKING AT MANRESA

Brother Paul is a good example of the people who appreciate the grounds of Manresa. In addition to helping care for the grounds, he is an avid hiker. You'll find in these pages his collage of the Hiking Trails. He offers these words.

Manresa is blessed by the nearness of several hiking trails in Valley Farm Ravine and to our west we have Grand Valley Park. The West Duffins Creek meanders through the ravine. Over the years our neighbours have created ungroomed/natural trails through the ravine and park. An advantage of these trails is that they are not well known to others outside the neighbourhood. The trails are an invitation to walk and pray with nature. The next time you are at Manresa be sure to check out the hiking trails. Let yourself be surprised by what you see. Enjoy!



UPCOMING IGNATIAN RETREATS AT MANRESA

October 14 – 16

MEN--IGNATIAN

FR. THOMAS ROSICA, CSB

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.

October 28 – 30

WOMEN--IGNATIAN

FR. MICHAEL COUTTS, S.J.

The Exodus and I. Purification. Illumination. Union.

The Exodus Experience formed the Israelites into what 1. Peter 2: calls "A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart." God did that over a period of 40 years. It seems that God has done the same for us during the short Covid span. God did this through a process of purification, illumination and union.

November 4 - 6

MEN--IGNATIAN

FR. WINSTON RYE, S.J.

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.

November 11 - 13

WOMEN--IGNATIAN

FR. KEVIN KELLY, S.J.

"I hate waiting.": Embracing vulnerability, humility, and patience this Advent.

November 25 – 27

MEN/WOMEN--IGNATIAN

LES MILLER & OUR RETREAT TEAM

The Art of Advent: Preparing our Hearts through 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.

UPCOMING DAYS OF REFLECTION

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

October 31 Transforming Spirit: A Day of Reflection for the Season of Fall.

Sr. Mary Rowell, csj

As we once again enter the fall we return to our familiar patterns in life. It is sometimes easy for us to become trapped in our daily rhythms and yet the season of Fall is an invitation to each of us to reflect on a call to transformation in our lives. Fall reminds us of the beautiful colours of life even in our ordinary moments; the places where God is active in us in the here and now. As we watch the leaves fall from the trees, we are invited to examine our lives; of what am I called to let go for deeper freedom of spirit and joy? Gift yourself with a day of quietness, peaceful reflection, personal and communal prayer and, if desired, an opportunity for reconciliation. Come away and be still with God!

November 21 They Hummed of Mystery: A Contemplative Ecology

Fr. John McCarthy, S.J.

Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015), uses the wisdom language of the Christian Trinity to attempt a "re-enchantment" of the natural world. The doctrine of the Trinity suggests a provocative language that invites one to engage the profound mystery and depth of creation. The Trinitarian mystery can instill a spirit of awe, wonder, contemplation, reverence and praise before the word and the beauty of God in all creation. We will explore this deep well of meaning and mystery that we call creation or nature. From this well may flow a contemplative ecology that grounds a deep-rooted care for our common home and a call to rebuild, restore, and renew together so that all things may be made new.

Please register online at: <https://manresa-canada.ca/events/>

or

Phone: 905-839-2864

FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL: BEHOLDING THIS SEASON OF BEAUTY

Beholding is an important spiritual gift. One writer speaks of Ignatian contemplation involving *a long, loving look at the real*. A time of retreat allows for that gift ... slowly walking and admiring the colours and sounds ... beholding the beauty all around us.



I spend a lot of my time offering spiritual direction and retreats to people. I felt privileged on our Jesuit grounds in Pickering this summer. It was usually possible to sit in the shade of a tree, a safe physical distance from someone. Fall means that it won't usually be possible to do that outside, unless we surround ourselves with a tent and wear Canada Goose parkas. I enjoyed sitting in the shade of a tree and having a spiritual conversation. I was able to behold the person's words, while hearing them in the context of the background beauty.

(Manresa flowers 2022)

Fall has a beauty and melancholy. It's likely the favourite season for most of us. I absolutely loved fall when I worked at our Jesuit place in Guelph, Ontario. I was so happy to be back, directing an eight-day retreat a couple of years ago. God seemed to arrange for me to have eight perfect fall days. I visited some of my favourite spots on our land and reminded myself of what makes it so sacred. Many Manresa retreatants have a favourite spot or tree.



Catalpa tree and St. Ignatius Chapel - July 1, 2022

What do we behold? 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. I love the first half of fall – flowers such as asters, crunchy trees displaying the breadth of their colours. By the second half of the season, I'm starting to realize what is around the corner. The bare trees and the occasional snow flurry make it impossible to ignore the imminence of winter.

Fall includes the possibility of new beginnings, the chance to start over. But this 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, music and beautiful paintings.

May we be granted that grace of beholding!

Compiled by Fr. Philip Shano, S.J.