



VOL. 36, NO. 2

FALL 2009

Manresa

“Good News” Letter

Mr. Timothy Murphy, Director

Superior & Associate Director: Rev. Anthony Rauschuber, S.J.

Associate Directors:

Rev. Clyde H. LeBlanc, S.J.

Rev. Peter J. Callery, S.J.

Staff

Shellie Hayes, Office Manager; Jeff Bourgeois, House Manager;
Adrien Delbasty, Maintenance Manager; and Tina Jones, Secretary

President's Remarks



Joseph Mengis,
President

Over the last year, Tim Murphy and the Board of Directors have overseen a number of renovation and maintenance projects at Manresa. On behalf of Tim and the Board, I am pleased to offer a report regarding these projects.

As most of you know, the renovation of the Sacred Heart Chapel is complete. As a Board, we are pleased with the renovation and we hope you are as well. The approximate cost of the renovation work was \$715,000, with approximately \$544,000 of this amount being spent in 2009.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we hope to be finished with the replacement of the roof of the library. The prior roof, which was beginning to leak, dated back to the construction of the building in approximately 1953. We expect the approximate cost of the replacement roof to be \$340,000.

We have replaced our electronic bell (chimes) system at a cost of approximately \$11,000. The system was down for several retreats. On behalf of Manresa, I would like to thank the men who served as bell ringer during that period. Historically, the duties of the bell ringer were rivaled only by the duties of the scribe. For a number of weeks there, we truly brought back the old days.

As some of you know, we were

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St. Joseph Is Back

The historic statue depicting St. Joseph holding the Christ Child was severely damaged last year as a consequence of Hurricane Gustav. It stood for many years on the levee side of River Road, at the end of the majestic row of live oaks that bear the saint's name. The statue, which was originally acquired back in the early days of St. Mary's Jefferson College, was knocked off its base by the storm's winds. The venerable statue was shattered into several dozen pieces. It was thought that the statue was damaged beyond repair. Finding an individual who was willing and capable of attempting to reconstruct the statue was a daunting task in and of itself. For several months after the storm, no one was found who was interested in taking on the task. That is, until one of our own, Mr. Bill Winterfeld, proprietor of Security Iron Co., Inc. of New Orleans came forward and offered to assist.

Bill took possession of the pieces of the statue that were retrieved after the storm, and began trying to reassemble them. The process was not unlike assembling a very complicated jigsaw puzzle. Not all the pieces were found. Several other serious obstacles presented themselves as Bill and his co-workers labored to repair St. Joseph. The statue originally was constructed of a metal



alloy that is not used in statuary manufacturing today. Age and oxidation issues had weakened key areas of the statue, and were in need of repair and strengthening. The list of problems went on and on. Finding metal alloys compatible with that of the statue was a major challenge in itself. Bill, a believer in the old adage that necessity is the mother of invention, solved the issue by obtaining metal antique pieces such as ashtrays, plates, and the like to melt down and use to repair the statue and to fabricate the missing pieces.

After almost an entire year out of commission, our St. Joseph holding the Christ Child statue has once again been mounted on its pedestal at the end of the oaks. The beautiful statue has been restored to its place of honor, and serves as an inspiration to the thousands of men who visit it each year as a part of their retreat. Thank you Bill, and all those who made the restoration of our much-cherished statue become a reality. All the Men of Manresa appreciate your wonderful efforts. You all will be remembered in our prayers of gratitude. Thank you.



Director's Remarks



As I stroll the grounds of Manresa, nature provides me with signs that indicate a time of transition. The shortened length of daylight, the cooler drier temperatures, and the brilliant autumnal colors all indicate a time of change. November and December offer us an opportunity to look back and reflect, as well as a time to look forward and plan. The month of November begins with the celebration of the great Feast of All Saints. This celebration affords us the opportunity to look back with gratitude upon the heroic lives of our ancestors, the saints. We reflect upon their lives of heroic virtue and devotion to our Lord. We are inspired by our reflection on the life stories of the saints. In response to this inspiration, we seek to imitate the ways the saints lived out the

gospel message. The dynamic at work here is not new. St. Ignatius read the life stories of the saints, and was motivated to imitate them. In response to his reflection upon the life stories of the saints, Ignatius opted to change his own life. He sought to imitate the saints as he committed himself to a life of service of the Divine Majesty.

The many wonderful Jesuit Fathers who have served us here at Manresa over the years and now enjoy their eternal reward serve as examples as to how we should seek to live. The life stories of these men of heroic virtue and tireless devotion to our Lord serve as great examples for us all. Although these men may not yet be canonized saints of the church, their lives of dedication and service of our Lord are something that we all need to be grateful for, and we should strive to imitate these good men.

As November gives way to December, our focus turns from its reflection upon those inspirational saints who have gone before us to an emphasis on Him who is

to come. A line from an old advent hymn clearly tells us what our focus needs to be, "Angels announce with shouts of mirth, Him who brings new life to earth...Love the Lord is on the way." Our spiritual task this time of year is to make ready a fitting place to welcome our Lord into our lives, and that place is into our heart. Make this advent season a joyous time of anticipation and preparation for you and all those you love. Take time to pray and reflect upon the greatest of all the guests you seek to entertain this holiday season. Include in your daily routine time to pray, plan, and prepare for the greatest guest of all, our Lord, Jesus. Invite him into your heart this Christmas season and every day thereafter.

Please know that you and all your loved ones are in my thoughts and prayers in a very special way this time of year. Best and warmest wishes for a truly blessed Christmas and joyous New Year to all the Men of Manresa and your families.

The 2009 Homines Pro Aliis Award Recipient



Gerald "Chip" Songy

Each year the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus recognizes the efforts of individual laymen and laywomen who do volunteer work for the various ministries of the Jesuits throughout the province. These individuals, as evidenced by their dedication and service to the various ministries, typify the Jesuit ideal of being a "Person for Others." The award ceremony for the ministries of the greater New Orleans area was held in New Orleans on Sunday, November 15. This year's recipient of the Homines Pro Aliis Award for Manresa House of Retreats was Mr. Gerald "Chip" Songy.

Chip has made more than 30 retreats here at Manresa. For years he has served as a co-captain for Group 14. Fr. Pat Phillips, S.J. invited Chip to serve on the Manresa Board of Directors, and while

on the board, Chip served as chair of the building committee as well as serving a term as president. It was during his tenure on the board that Manresa built Loyola Hall and renovated St. Mary's Hall. Chip was a key figure in the leadership team for both of these vital projects.

Chip no longer serves on the Manresa Board, but he continues to render service to Manresa and to the Jesuit Fathers. Fr. Tony Ostini, S.J., the superior of the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, has asked Chip to serve as an advisor for the renovation for the 100-year-

old main building on the St. Charles College campus. This building is larger than Manresa's St. Mary's Hall. In addition to the St. Charles College building housing the Jesuit Spirituality Center, it also serves as the residence of the novices for both the New Orleans and Missouri Provinces of the Jesuits. We are sure Chip will give sage advice to the leadership of this worthy project. Manresa and the Jesuits of the Southern Province are truly grateful for the service rendered to us by this wonderful Homines Pro Aliis.

President's Remarks *Continued from page 1*

experiencing trouble with the audio system in the presentation hall. (Being able to *hear* the speaker is a fairly significant part of the retreat experience.) The system has now been replaced at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

Finally, we are in the process of replacing the carpet in the rooms and hallways of Loyola Hall with ceramic

tile. The carpet has become stained and unsightly in some areas. The tile, on the other hand, is much easier for our staff to clean and maintain. The work is similar to the work done in the library a few years ago, and is being performed by our staff at Manresa. We expect the cost of the work to be approximately \$12,000.

Anthony Rauschuber, S.J. New Superior of Jesuit Community



I grew up in a small city in central Texas. Most of my friends were from farming families. My parents were devout Catholics and attended Mass daily. I am the oldest of seven. We prayed together as a family every evening, at least until we got to be teenagers.

I went to college at Texas A & M and completed degrees in Electrical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration. I worked 11 years in sales and marketing positions in Dallas and Houston.

I was introduced to the Jesuit order after completing college and moving to Dallas for my first job. I did not meet

a Jesuit until age 28. The Jesuits at St. Rita's Church in Dallas impressed me; their preaching reawakened my faith. I was a late vocation to the Jesuits, entering the novitiate at the age of 36. The Jesuits require extensive training and formation for all their men. So in addition to six years of college before entering novitiate, the Jesuits sent me through six more years of philosophy and theology study. I taught algebra and moral theology at Jesuit Tampa high school as part of my Jesuit formation. I was ordained in 2005 at the age of 46. My first assignment after ordination was to a Jesuit sponsored elementary and middle-school, The Good Shepherd School in New Orleans. There I taught religion and was assistant principal. I moved to Manresa in June this year.

St. Peter Canisius Library Gets New Roof

The original asbestos roof of the St. Peter Canisius Library Building currently is in the process of being replaced. The roof dates back to the early 1950s when the building was originally constructed, and in recent years had begun to leak. The new roofing material will be Vermont gray slate, and all flashing materials will be copper. The decision to install the rather costly slate and copper materials was made in light of the history of other slate and copper roofing systems here at Manresa. For example, the original roofing materials used on St. Mary's Hall were slate and copper and had been in service since the building was constructed in the 1830s. When that roof was redone as part of the 2005 renovation, more than 90% of the original slate was reused. It is expected that the new library roof will have a similar

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Potpourri

The Men of Manresa-Northshore celebrated their ten-year anniversary of the group's founding this past summer at St. Anselm Church in Madisonville. There were in excess of 300 people in attendance at the First Friday Mass and reception commemorating the group's founding. On the First Friday of each month, the Men of Manresa-Northshore gather to celebrate the Eucharist together as part of their committed effort to keep the spirit of their annual Manresa retreat alive as well as to seek to grow in their love and service of the Divine Majesty.

The Men of Manresa-Northshore meet each First Friday at 6:40 a.m. at St. Anselm Church, Madisonville for communal Manresa style prayer followed by participation in the celebration of Eucharist. After Mass all are invited to share refreshments and fellowship with other Men of Manresa. All Men of Manresa and their families are welcome to attend these monthly gatherings. If you are interested in assisting the leaders of these good men recruit and organize themselves as they seek to keep the spirit of their retreat experiences alive throughout the year, please contact Mr. Bob Daigle via e-mail at RobertJDaigle@aol.com or via phone at 1-(985)-966-2330.

Group 21: Captain Tom Nenos informs us that Mr. Francis Celino, a long time member of Group 21, recently was appointed to

serve as the Grand Knight of the Marquette Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Group 20: The long-time co-captain from Shreveport, LA., Mr. Sam Trombetta, passed away earlier this year after a valiant battle with cancer. May Sam rest in peace..

Group 22A: Over the last five years this group, led by Captain Edgar Landry, has added 92 new men to their list of attendees. For this year's retreat 15 first-timers attended the retreat.

Group 28: This year Captain Russ Templet brought 111 men, ranging in age from 18 to 90, to Manresa. There were 11 first-timers and 8 father-son pairs present along with one grandfather-father-son mix in attendance.

Group 31: Captain Butch Tastet keeps attracting new members to his group. This year 17 first-timers attended.

Group 32: There were 13 father-son pairs in attendance, 2 of whom were first-timers, along with 5 men who have each made more than 40 retreats here at Manresa over the years. The longtime members of the group are: Robert Becnel, John Flatley, Group Captain Floyd Gegenheimer, Tom Nielsen, and Donald Villarrubia, Sr.

Group 34: Fifteen father-son combinations totaling 32 men attended this, the 79th consecutive retreat for the group, led this year by Captain Gene Ponti. Mr. Sandy Lemoine, who had served as leader of the

group prior to 1988, attended this, his 50th retreat.

Group 37: Captain Larry Tusa reported that this year's retreat was truly a family affair for his group. Three generations of the Braniff family attended. The brothers Barecca, Highstreet, Nuss, and Papania were in attendance. Additionally, there were 9 father-son pairs, namely: The Antoine, Carroll, Francis, Gagliano, Nicolich, Polito, Razza, and Stall men were here for the retreat.

Group 39: Captain Jack Dardis brought 111 men to this year's retreat, which was held in late September. This marks the first time since Hurricane Katrina that the group had a completely full house. Co-captain and current board member Dominic Sciortino recruited five fellow pharmacists to come to Manresa; talk about good medicine for the soul. It was pointed out that Co-captains Jack Uhle and Dimitry Morvant are both sons of former captains for this group and they continue to serve as co-captains as did their fathers.

Group 41: Four members of the Esnard family attended retreat together: they were Brec, Fredrick, J.B., and Rene. Mr. Charlie Garvey, a captain emeritus, at 93 years of age attended this his 58th retreat and Mr. Sidney Arbour, 95 years young, also joined the group.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

RETREATANTS	RETREATS
Raymond G. Abide, Sr.	38
Arthur Babin	2
J. Burgin Barousse	15
Patrick Bell, Jr.	3
George A. Bishop	17
Lloyd G. Bouchereau, Sr.	39
Harold L. Bruce	24
Henry J. Bryer, Jr.	48
John M. Callia	19
Lionel L. Cazenavette	40
Salvador Divincenti	17
Albert J. Frey	30
Harry V. Geauthreaux	26
William F. Gensler	7
Vincent Greco	42
Ben Hamel	17
Dennis Haydel	1
Fred C. Hebert	13
R. K. Hollister	11
Tom Johnson	3
Carroll L. Ketteringham	28
Bernard L. Knobloch	51
Ricky Landry	6
Edward C. LeBlanc	14
Bob LeBlanc	15
Ted Madere	2
A. Keith Marchand	17
Hirsch C. Meyer, Jr.	41
Ted J. Millette	13
Thomas O. Mistretta	14
Jack Montagino, Jr.	5
Edward J. Mulhearn, Jr.	9
Basil J. Nola	16
Brendan F. O'Connor	4
Louis W. Ricaud	30
Kevin Roach	1
John V. Santopadre	13
Joseph A. Spedale	20
Louis H. Springmann	19
Donald L. Teijelo	20
Sam M. Trombetta	28
Joseph P. Vicari	3
Eric Wilmore	5
Allen F. Zeringue	26

SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS

			2009	2008
14	Apr 2	Patrick Tobler	109	111
13	8	James Hailey, III	106	108
16	16	John McCrossen	105	111
17	23	Jimmie Gaubert	111	108
18	30	Frank Stewart, Jr.	109	104
19	May 7	Norman Gremillion	106	99
20	14	Michael St. Martin	105	108
21	21	Raymond Theriot	111	111
22	28	Stephen Villavaso	108	102
23	June 24	Joseph Scaffidi	99	102
22A	7	Edgar Landry	107	99
24	11	Jonny Bordelon	103	100
25	18	Michel Champagne	109	111
26	25	Earl Thibodaux	111	108

TOTAL SECOND QUARTER 1499 1482

SUMMARY

14 RETREATS	1499 RETREATANTS
107 PER RETREAT	17 MORE THAN LAST YEAR
130 FIRST TIMERS	111 OTHER FAITHS

THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS

			2009	2008
27	July 2	Kevin Durbin	111	110
28	9	Russell Templet	111	102
29	16	Anthony Ferrara	109	111
30	23	Gary Matherne	107	107
31	30	Anatole Tastet	108	99
32	Aug 6	Floyd Gegenheimer	108	106
33	13	Glenn Bodin	109	106
34	20	Bob Breaux	110	109
35	27	Patrick Schott	102	*
36	Sept 3	Eugene Collins	92	63
37	10	Larry Tusa	100	*
38	17	Greg Abry	107	92
39	24	John Dardis	111	105

TOTAL THIRD QUARTER 1385 1110

*No retreats due to Hurricane Gustav

SUMMARY

13 RETREATS	1385 RETREATANTS
106 PER RETREAT	275 MORE THAN LAST YEAR
109 FIRST TIMERS	71 OTHER FAITHS

New Roof *Continued from page 3*

history. Vaughn Roofing Company of Baton Rouge is doing the work. The new roof will be in place in early December.

The new slate roof for the library completes the roofing repair and replacement projects for all the buildings. These roofs are expected to be in service for many years to come. Thanks to all who have contributed to this project, and continue to assist Manresa



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Manresa "GOOD NEWS" LETTER

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