



Manresa

“Good News” Letter

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FALL 2010

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Associate Directors:
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Rev. Peter J. Callery, S.J.
Rev. John J. Callahan, S.J.

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

President's Remarks



Greg Abry,
President

It is hard to believe that this year is almost complete. During this past year good things have continued to happen at Manresa.

As you may recall from the Spring newsletter, the Board has decided to move forward with the renovation project of Xavier Hall. Over the past months the architectural firm of Holly & Smith has been selected to design and oversee the renovation project. Our director, Tim Murphy, the architect, Kevin Morris, members of the Building Committee and the members of our Jesuit staff have met to provide input into the design process. Details of the project such as a time line for obtaining the completed drawings, estimated dates for starting and completing construction, and cost estimates are all expected to be provided early next year.

Our maintenance staff has completed the waterproofing of the masonry walls in the “smoke house”. This is the last 19th century building on campus that suffered from the wicking effect of ground water.

Thanks to Fr. Callery and to board member Sid Bowden our library has continued to improve

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Manresa Goes Social

MANRESA HOUSE OF RETREATS
Convent, Louisiana
SOCIETY OF JESUS USA

Home About Us Retreats Facilities News Prayers Contact Us Donations Links

Welcome to Manresa House of Retreats in Convent, Louisiana!

Why do I need to make my retreat at Manresa? The 6,200 men who make their annual retreat at Manresa on the Mississippi could answer your question in a heartbeat. These men have come to understand and experience the value of removing themselves from the clamor and clutter of their daily life. It is these distractions that hinder each one of us from hearing God's individual message directed to us.

Your Retreat Master will guide you through a series of eleven 30 minute presentations that mirror the spiritual exercises and directions of Saint Ignatius. These presentations are vital to truly experiencing the retreat process. When coupled with the absolute adherence to an air of silence these events allow one to come into contact with their inner spirit and to hear the inspirations from the Lord.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

CURRENT NEWS
New slideshows, videos and images on website
Connect with Manresa through social media!
More News

Manresa House of Retreats launched its new website, www.Manresala.org, in July 2009. Wayne Losavio of Webtopia Data Systems, LLC of Baton Rouge designed and published the site which has been accessed by many retreatants and other men interested in making retreats at Manresa. The site includes a feature allowing men to select retreat dates that they are interested in, and the site automatically sends an email to the captains of those retreats. There is also a Captain's login feature where captains can correspond with each other and view material assisting them with their retreats. These features have helped captains fill vacancies as well as introduce new men to the

Manresa experience.

As of October 2010, the web site has gone social...social networking that is. There are now links to several social media sites including Facebook and YouTube. These features have been added to reach younger men who may be searching for a retreat experience. Many retreatants have also used the Facebook link to let others know about their retreat experiences. Manresa's YouTube link features a beautiful video of Manresa.

There is something for everyone on the website. You can see current news, retreat schedules, prayers, and much more. You can even view the site in Spanish. So give the website a try and visit it often.

Director's Remarks



“Arise; shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”

Many of us are most familiar with this line from the Book of Isaiah (60: 1) as used by the famous German composer George Friederich Handel in his oratorio, *Messiah*. One may make a strong argument that Handel's majestic work reflects the presence of the Lord in Handel's life. We can all agree that Handel exercised his God given musical talents to their fullest in order to compose this timeless masterpiece. One may also purport that Handel accepted God's invitation to rise and to shine for his masterpiece proclaims the glory of the Lord in a most fantastic manner. In like turn each one of us is called to use our God given talents to reflect the glory of God to

others with whom we come into contact.

As we enter into the Advent and Christmas seasons we need to focus our attention upon the reality that the risen Lord truly is all around us. The challenge for us all is to learn to recognize and to appreciate His presence in our daily lives. Each of us, by using our God given talents, can reflect the presence and the glory of our Lord to all those with whom we come into contact. In fact, many of you live this way already.

Back in September while preaching a retreat at the Jesuit retreat house in Lake Dallas, Texas, I suffered a near fatal heart attack. In the hospital I interacted with so many people whose daily routines reflect the glory of our Lord. Doctors, nurses, technicians, and staff members all reached out to me and through their attentive care, they reflected God's love. Each of the people who cared for me used their God given talents in such a way as to radiate God's love. An even greater number of

my brother Men of Manresa, my co-workers, the Jesuit fathers, and my family have all reflected God's love and care of me through their prayer, and their actions. The love and care performed by my family, friends, and associates have been as splendid as any composition G. F. Handel ever composed.

This Christmas season will be a most special one for me. I have been so blessed these past few months. The radiance of God's light has been easily made manifest to me through the actions of so many people. It is so wonderfully edifying to have experienced the reality that so many individuals not only believe, but also live in ways that reflect the glory of the Lord to sinners like me. For all those who have prayed for me, or have in some way performed a kindness for me, please know that you are in my prayers during this holy time of year. Thank you one and all. Best wishes to you all for a truly happy and holy Christmas.

Who says high school boys are not ready to make a silent retreat here at Manresa?

When we were considering reinstating silent retreats for boys of the catholic high schools of southern Louisiana there were some individuals who challenged that idea. Questions were raised as to the boys' ability to both maintain silence as well as get anything of value from their time here at Manresa.

Below are listed a few examples of the comments provided by boys from St. Paul's High School in Covington when asked to reflect upon their recent experience of a silent retreat at Manresa. The comments these young men have provided appear to justify our decision to host silent retreats for high school boys.

- I received peace from this experience – peace for a complicated relationship within my family.
- Before coming to Manresa, I had some doubt if there even was a God. But after spending a mere 24 hours

there, I know there is something much bigger than me.

- I got a lot out of my trip. My Manresa experience was definitely a major influence on my spiritual life. I like the food and the property is beautiful, but I think what really made me focus was the silence. The reason I like silence is the fact that there aren't any distractions.

- I realized that sometimes we must

sit back, forget about technology, and be quiet for us to hear what God is telling us. So many of us always are taking, yet we never listen. I can say that I heard everything God was telling me in the silence.

- The beautiful views had a huge impact on my attitude when I was by myself thinking about things. The silence put the retreat over the top

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President's Remarks *Continued from page 1*

with their efforts. I hope you all have noticed the remarkable improvements.

Additionally, our Manresa website (manresala.org) continues to evolve. It includes information about making a retreat, schedules, pictures, and prayers, plus links to current news and a place to sign up for a retreat.

The website is a great means for folks to stay in touch with Manresa on a daily basis as well as a means to help us all develop our Ignatian spirituality.

It truly has been my pleasure to serve Manresa this year.

Greg Abry

High School Boys *Continued from page 3*

because by not talking, I learned so much about myself.

- I feel like I've gotten a lot from this experience. The silence, along with the beauty, really touched me. It actually made me seriously consider my vocation.

- I learned that God loves us all and takes an active part in our life. Also that he may come to us in the weirdest ways like a gust of wind, and sometimes just in the total silence, I also have come to have a great respect for God's creation.

- In this experience I learned what my job is at this stage in my life. I learned that I am a big brother to my younger brother and sisters. They look at every action in my life. Every time I

speak, they pay attention. I have a huge influence on them, and it is my job to be a good influence.

- I was able to relax and escape from all the pressures and expectations I'm always battling with at home. I reflect-

ed upon my past mistakes and how not to repeat them.

- I know what I have to do now. I have to put my faith into action. I am blessed to have a profound knowledge of faith, but now I must act upon it.



Potpourri

Group 24: This group is keeping its eye on the future in that there were 22 attendees under the age of 30 with 12 of them being first timers present. Once again the Messenger family led this group's effort to maintain an "All in the Family" focus by having 16 family members present. In total there were some 60 men representing 19 family combinations on retreat.

Group 25: Rather than allowing the BP oil spill to negatively affect attendance, this group uses that regrettable circumstance to its advantage. There were 17 new men brought to Manresa this year. Most of this number was comprised of first timers but one individual was here for a second time. His first retreat had been in 1960 as a senior at Catholic High.

Group 27: Had a full house with 111 men in attendance. The group was comprised of 10 father-son pairs; one family was represented by 3 generations of its men. Men from 9 different states of the Union were represented. One man hailed from Guadalajara, Mexico.

Group 28: Men from 6 different states attended this year with the largest contingent of 42 men coming from Texas. Captains Ron Legnion and Joe Tortorice, Jr. led the Texans. There were also 11 first timers and 7 father-son pairs.

Group 30: Historically the men

who comprised this group came from Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Donaldsonville, and White Castle. This year men came from Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, and of course Louisiana. Despite the greater distances traveled by the retreatants, there were 11 sets of family members in attendance. They surely reflected the old adage "the family that prays together stays together."

Group 31: Five men in attendance have made more than 40 retreats with this group. There were 9 father-sons. Mr. Joe Centanni attended with both of his sons, Vincent and Bruce, as well as his brother, Anthony. Giovanni and Stephano Cafiso traveled the farthest to attend. The pair of brothers hails from New York.

Group 36: "Labor Day Retreat" experienced an influx of 22 first time retreatants, the most first timers in 23 years. The Thompson clan traveled from Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Dan Thompson, Sr. was blessed to have his four sons, Dan, Jr., Jerome, Robert, and Samuel, accompany him. Captain Emeritus George Emrick has attended every Labor Day Retreat since the group's founding back in 1975.

Group 41: Sidney Arbour who is 96 years young attended once again. He continues to request a room on the third floor of St. Mary's Hall as he is as

apt to use the stairs as he is to use the elevator. Sidney plans to attend again next year and has put in his request for that third floor room.

Group 43: Twenty-two members of Group 43's full house (111) were attending the retreat with either their father or son. In one case three generations were present. His dad, Captain Emeritus Al Sr., as well as his brother, Adrian, accompanied Captain Al Pappalardo, Jr. Assistant Captain Jeff Fields was accompanied by his three sons, David, Daniel and Douglas, as well as by his grandson, 19 year old Stuart. Assistant Captains Bob and Bubby Burns, along with six other father-son pairs, rounded out this familial contingent.

Group 44: G. Harrison Scott and Warren Deckert both made their 50th retreat at Manresa. Long time Group 44 retreatant Joseph Deckert, brother of Warren Deckert, passed away recently. Joe had made 50 retreats with Group 44 by the time of his death.

Group 47: Captain Ron Drez led the pre-Thanksgiving retreat. This year 18 medical doctors from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota attended. The doctors have jokingly taken to calling this retreat "Mayo-Manresa." There were 9 father-son pairs and seven sets of brothers in attendance.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

RETREATANTS RETREATS

Dcn Oscar J. Bergeron, Jr.	33
Albert G. Bourgeois	37
Steve Bubrig, Jr.	7
Joseph C. Deckert	50
Charles J. Derbes, Jr.	64
Harris Dufrene	14
Robert F. Favret	32
Harold J. Flanagan, Sr.	15
Clem J. Gendron	30
Charles A. Gogreve, Jr.	30
Glyn D. Harding	18
George S. Hoffman	18
Leo Labourdette, MD	2
Robert Lacoste	2
Wilmer LaPointe	8
Rosario B. Maranto	36
Ray Martinez	2
Thomas L. McGuire, Jr.	30
John G. Miller Jr.	19
Dr. James W. O'Neal	20
Curtis D. Phillipy	24
Peter Rappold	2
Richard D. Reitz	29
Edward Risher, Jr.	13
Herman Rivere	12
Dr. Jack Ruli	2
Peter Russo	10
Raymond B. Saucier	25
Edmund J. Schmidt	16
James Stuart	5
Anthony Terrell	8
Cliff Tonguis, Jr.	6
Emile J. Troxclair, Jr.	43
Salvador J. Trupiano	20
Frank T. Tusa	2
Matthew Wemple	1

SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS

			2010	2009
15	Apr 8	Steve Treuting	108	111
16	15	John McCrossen	110	105
17	22	Jimmie Gaubert	111	111
18	29	Frank Stewart, Jr.	111	109
19	May 6	Norman Gremillion	109	106
20	5	Michael St. Martin	108	105
21	20	Raymond Theriot	108	111
22	27	Stephen Villavaso	108	108
23	June 3	Joseph Scaffidi	102	99
22A	6	Thomas Neyhart	94	107
24	10	Jonny Bordelon	106	103
25	17	Michael Champagne	107	109
26	24	Earl Thibodaux	111	111
TOTAL SECOND QUARTER			1393	1395

SUMMARY

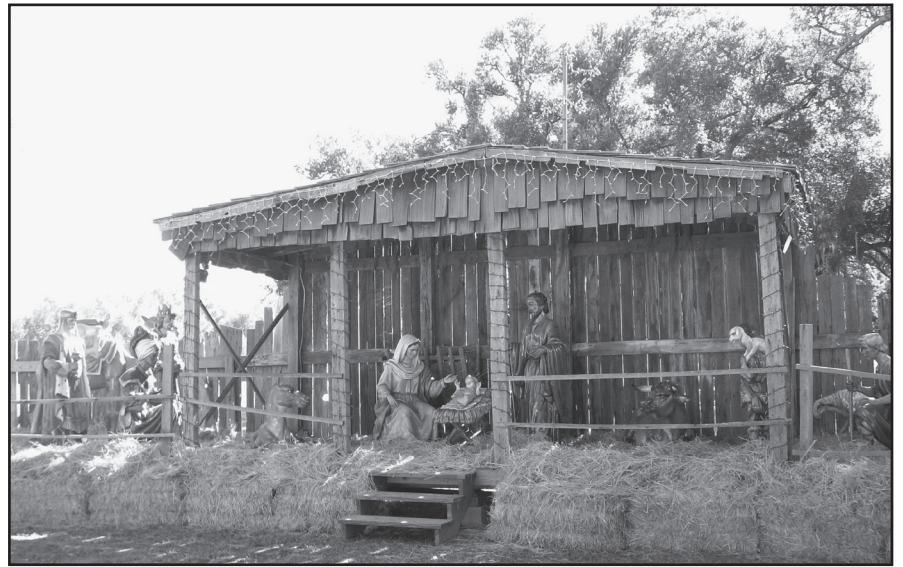
13 RETREATS	1393	RETREATANTS
107 PER RETREAT	2	LESS THAN LAST YEAR
99 FIRST TIMERS	103	OTHER FAITHS

THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS

			2010	2009
27	July 1	Lance Giambelluca	111	111
28	8	Russell Templet	110	111
29	15	Anthony Ferrara	111	109
30	22	Gary Matherne	99	107
31	29	Anatole Tastet	108	108
32	Aug 5	Floyd Gegenheimer	101	108
33	12	Glenn Bodin	103	109
34	19	Bob Breaux	111	110
35	26	Patrick Schott	109	102
36	Sept 2	Eugene Collins	101	92
37	9	Larry Tusa	96	100
38	16	Greg Abry	103	107
39	23	John Dardis	111	111
40	30	Firmin Simms	107	111
TOTAL THIRD QUARTER			1481	1496

SUMMARY

14 RETREATS	1481	RETREATANTS
106 PER RETREAT	15	LESS THAN LAST YEAR
82 FIRST TIMERS	89	OTHER FAITHS



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Manresa "GOOD NEWS" LETTER

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