



Manresa

“Good News” Letter

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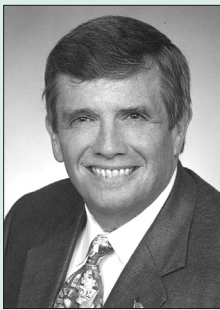
Mr. Timothy Murphy, Director
 Superior & Associate Director: Rev. Anthony Rauschuber, S.J.

Associate Directors:
 Rev. Clyde H. LeBlanc, S.J.
 Rev. Peter J. Callery, S.J.
 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



*Sid Bowden,
 President*

Manresa on the Mississippi is indeed a blessed place. There is a spiritual mission here that has caused us to be graced with an unending and dedicated staff of Jesuit

Priests. These are Men of God who serve as our Retreat Masters and serve as our confessors and counselors. The past and present Manresa Directors and the lay members of the board have always worked to maintain the spiritual, physical and financial health of the place that we so love.

Many decades have marched on with the same tempo of our mighty river that flows past our front door. Over that time, there has been one constant at Manresa on the Mississippi. That constant is you and the generations who have preceded you and those yet to follow in your footsteps. Gentlemen, you are the blood that sustains Manresa.

One might ask, “If we are the blood then who is the heart?”----- Your group Captains are the heart of Manresa. These are the men who push and coddle you, write, email and call you. They are always looking to recruit new men to their

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Xavier Hall



The Board of Directors, through the efforts of the Building Committee, is evaluating the current needs and scope of renovations to Xavier Hall. Holly & Smith Architects, of Hammond, Louisiana, led by Kevin Morris, AIA (Group # 22), have been hired to direct this effort. Xavier Hall was last renovated in 1972.

Currently, aged kitchen equipment, minimal cold and dry storage and its' inefficient layout dictate that a retrofit of the kitchen be considered. Over the last few years, Manresa has experienced substantial elevated operational cost due to increased product cost, as a result of vendor fuel surcharges. By increasing the size of the storage facilities delivery trips can be minimized, cutting food cost. The exterior receiving areas and entrances will be reconfigured.

For the Jesuit Community, privacy has never been an option! Their residence and offices coexist and are

completely accessible to all visitors to Xavier Hall. Although Manresa has never experienced a complaint of impropriety, separating the priest's bedrooms from their offices provides them privacy and separates their offices. This reconfiguration will allow for the priest dining room and chapel to be moved to the second floor, providing for a complete private environment for the priests.

Since its creation, the coffee room has provided great selection and 24 hour service to the retreatants. However, it has created a traffic jam. The newly configured coffee room will provide for the same great service, while providing improved flow from the hallway to the dining room.

For years, in the dining room, you could diagnose the efficiency of the air conditioning system by using (or not using) the salt shakers in the dining room. Unchecked, the lack of humid-

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Director's Remarks



These past few months and weeks have presented the world community with a host of climatic occurrences that have brought about much pain and suffering to so very many people. From the devastating earthquake damage in Japan, to the snow and water damage throughout this country brought on by this past winter's storm season, to the wild fire damage in Texas, to the tornado destruction throughout so much of the Midwest and Southern states, and now to the flooding and threat of water damage for the people along the Mississippi River; these truly are times to try the soul of us all. Under such stressful times and conditions, it would be easy for anyone to feel alone and deserted. Any reasonable individual could and very often does ask such questions as "Where is God in all this?" "How could a loving God let such catastrophic damage happen?"

Yet despite all the havoc we are experiencing in our lives, along with all the ensuing fear mongering that is so often found in a wide variety of public forums, people of faith need to remember that our loving God is with us and continues to love us always. Abba, our loving Father, continues to be faithful to the promise He made to His people as articulated in the Old Testament when He told them "I will not leave you orphaned."

Our loving God is with us always. We need to remember this reality most especially in these times of trial and torment. We each need to see with the eyes of faith that our God is at work in our lives. We need to open our hearts and allow God into our lives so that we may seek to console and assist others and by doing so we will find ourselves consoled. Each of us needs to open our mind and heart to allow ourselves to see God's providential care for us at work through the efforts of our fellow human beings loving and serving humanity in such times of trial. We each need to become instruments of God's love and service as we, too, seek to respond to

God's call.

A theme that I share with the men who attend the retreats that I preach here at Manresa comes from the spiritual insight of the patron saint of schoolteachers, St. John Baptist De La Salle. This man was the founder of the Brothers of the Christian School, more commonly known as the Christian Brothers. For well over 350 years since the founding of this religious order of teachers, the Christian Brothers have shared with their students De La Salle's spiritual insight that is conveyed through the words of his prayers "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God" and "Live Jesus in my heart forever."

It is my sincerest wish and prayer that each person who reads this article will come to truly believe these beautiful, spiritual insights, and come to live in such a manner so as to reflect these convictions as evidenced by the daily routine of his or her life. If and when we accomplish this goal, we will come to know that there is no trial inflicted upon us by happenstance that will have us turn away from our loving Father.

President's Remarks *Continued from page 1*

group. Your Captain despises having a bed go empty on their watch. As the retreat approaches, they lay awake in the night fretting over the multitude of details that must come together to have a full house of 111 men walk into the library.

In January, Captains of every group came to Manresa to attend the Captain's Convention. Fellow board members, Dominick Sciortino and Tony Buckley were the chairmen of the convention. Some of what took place at the 2011 convention:

There was a presentation on the outstanding new website www.manresala.org. Board member Mark Varisco has brought this asset to life for you. Please go there and see all that is available for you. When you have someone asking about

Manresa, this is where all of their questions will be answered. And they can contact any Lead Captain to see about making a retreat.

All of the Captains were eager to see and hear about the many changes that will occur in the remodeling of Xavier Hall. Michael St. Martin made a fine presentation. On the website you will be able to follow the progress of the new upstairs quarters and the downstairs offices of our Priests. Finally, there will be a new kitchen worthy of the wonderful ladies who prepare and serve those famous Manresa meals.

Several of our board members have been working on an aid for our Captains. Ron Drez gave an overview presentation on the newly published Manresa Captains' Handbook. Every Captain has received a copy of this

important book.

The highlight of the convention was the breakout sessions. Here the captains met in small groups to exchange ideas and ways they can keep your groups strong and vibrant. The sessions were a huge plus everyone.

Every member of the Manresa Board of Directors must serve as a Group Captain. They know what pumps the blood of Manresa. The board is sure that you are always looking to help your captains fill their retreat, grow your group and assist them in making your retreat. Should they ask you to join them as a Captain, roll up your sleeves, step forward and say, "What can I do?"

Sid Bowden

Potpourri

Group 41: Mr. Paul J. Dowsey, a long time member of this group, lost both his sons, Mr. Wayne Dowsey (age 61) and Mr. Randy Dowsey (age 58) as a result of a boating mishap off the coast of Venice, Louisiana this past February. Please keep the entire Dowsey family in your prayers.

Group 5: There were 13 families in attendance for this retreat that had 2 or more members in attendance this year. These family members represented 34 of the men attending. Due to the low number of cancellations the group had four first time retreats.

Group 9: In attendance this year were: 5 pairs of brother as well as 6 father and son combinations. The men's ages ranged from 18 to 89 years of age. One of the captains described this year's retreat as being "awesome."

Group 10: This year Group 10 celebrated its 49th year of existence with 7 deacons, 8 medical doctors, 13 father and son combinations, and 20 first time retreatants in attendance. Three of the deacons attending were celebrating their 30th anniversary to the deaconate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The good men are Deacons:

Gil Schmidt, Ron Rosato, and Wil Toups.

Group 11: This was the 60th year since the group's original founding by Mr. Charles J. Derbes, Jr., Mr. Louis Busenlener, Dr. Walter P. Diaz and Mr. Joseph A. Childress. A number of other groups have spun off from this founding organization over the years. This past August 2, 2010 the last living founder of Group 11, Mr. Charles J. Derbes, Jr. passed away.

Group 14: The LeCorgne Family was well represented with 8 members attending. Charlie LeCorgne, the family's patriarch made his 65th Manresa retreat in the company of one of his brothers, 3 sons, 3 grandsons, and 1 son-in-law.

There were 16 father and son pairs in attendance and men came from 8 various states. The farthest away being Michigan. Also in attendance was Mr. Bobby McIntyre who holds the distinction of being the last original founding member of Group 14 to still be making retreats.

Group 16: There were 9 father and son (s) combinations and 7 sets of brothers in attendance at this year's

retreat led Group Captain John T. McCrossen.

Group 17: Twenty seven out of state men from Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas attended this year's retreat along with many men from Louisiana. Mr. Clifford O. White, Sr. attended his 60th consecutive retreat. This group also had 8 men from other faiths attend with the 100 catholic men in attendance.

Group 18: There were 9 father and son pairs and 6 first timer men in attendance. Men from 7 states other than Louisiana attended. Men came from Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, and Texas.

Coming Soon: Manresa Retreat Management System

In the previous newsletter we introduced several new features on Manresa's website, <http://www.manresala.org>. Plans are under way to provide another new web tool for group captains, the Manresa Retreat Management System. Currently all group captains use their own databases and methods of assigning retreatants and rooms. The website currently provides a means for men interested in attending a retreat by notifying captains via email. However, there is no method to share these applicants with other group captains who may need additional retreatants.

Enter the Manresa Retreat Management System. When completed, captains will use Manresa's website to log in to a central web portal connected to a SQL Server database. Captains will view and maintain their group's retreatant rosters, including those on their waiting lists. The lists will be updated by the Manresa staff for changes in addresses, phone numbers, etc. Captains will also be able to view the list of potential applicants from the website, and will see if an applicant has been contacted and approved/rejected by another captain.

Attendance records and other Manresa report data can be extracted from the database directly by the staff,

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Xavier Hall *Continued from page 1*

ity control, could lead to further complications. The plan is to tie Xavier Hall into the chilled water central plant, providing a much greater level of temperature and humidity control.

Additional work to be accomplished during these renovations will be the repair and waterproofing of the exterior stucco, window retrofitting and the

replacement of the covered canopy, which connects Xavier Hall, St. Mary's Hall and Sacred Heart Chapel.

Below are the First and Second Floor Plans of Xavier Hall, which incorporates the improvements, described above. These plans, in a larger format, will be on display in the Library and on the website.



REQUIESCANT IN PACE

RETREATANTS	RETREATS
Jesse Acree	16
Jerome Alciatore	11
Sidney Arbour, Jr	3
Jack O Benitez	21
Gene Bennett	17
Charles J Bourgeois, Sr	15
Cecil Breaux	2
Larry Brock	18
George Bull, III	5
Frederick Burkart	31
Peter W Cancienne	11
Luke J Caruso	19
Joseph M Crowley, Jr	24
John Dane, Jr	18
Arthur J Dewhirst	24
Raymond J Dies	5
Judge Adrian Duplantier	30
Joseph M Elliot Jr	39
Jake Fruchtnicht	1
Carl Giffin	15
Lee C Grevembert	41
John M Grower	28
Roy F Guste	50
William D Hanes	24
William H Harrison, Jr	50
Stanley L Heine, Jr	35
Thomas J Ingrassia	33
Harold Johnson	4
Joseph J Jones	36
Judge Thomas H. Kingsmill, Jr	52
Leonard J Maillho	23
Andrew McCollam, Jr	37
Ernest A Merklein Jr	12
John W Miller	49
Jason Mogabgab	1
James J O'Connor	17
William D Raines, Jr	29
Henry J Rodrigue	13
Noble J Rogers, Jr	26
Carl M Rupe, Sr	19
Gerald L Seiler	55
William G Tabb, III	16
Melvin L Triay, Jr	17
Lynn F Waguespack, Sr	11
Frank Walk, Sr	41

FOURTH QUARTER STATISTICS

		2010	2009
41	Oct 7	Deacon Bob Furlow	111 111
42	14	Curry Holifield	111 111
43	21	Albert Pappalardo, Jr	111 110
43A	24	Wayne Thomas	111 109
44	28	Joseph Exnicios	111 103
45	Nov 4	Dr. Edward Levy, III	100 110
46	11	Henry Mestayer	105 109
47	18	Ron Drez, Jr	107 110
48	25	Mike Nola	98 98
49	Dec 2	Paul Richard	111 109
49A	5	Anthony Buckley, III	100 108
50	9	Don Hidalgo	111 104
51	16	David Gaines	101 88
TOTAL FOURTH QUARTER		1388	1380

SUMMARY

13 RETREATS	1388 RETREATANTS
107 PER RETREAT	8 LESS THAN 2009
95 FIRST TIMERS	86 OTHER FAITHS

FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS

		2011	2010
1	Jan 1	B. A. Adams, Sr	108 107
2	6	Matthew Bailey	111 107
3	13	Jimmy Lafont	111 98
4	20	Ron Martinez	111 109
5	27	Dr. Williams Wall, IV	111 111
6	Feb 3	Dr. Bruce LeBlanc	105 104
7	10	James Rome	108 100
8	17	David LoBue	106 111
9	24	Dr. Larry Braud	107 110
10	Mar 3	Deacon Ron Rosato	105 110
11	10	Charles Derbes, III	105 107
10A	13	Deacon Gerald Martinez	111 108
12	17	Arthur Dupre	111 111
15	24	Steve Treuting	111 108
12A	27	John Houshey, Jr	106 109
16	31	John McCrossen	104 110
TOTAL FIRST QUARTER		1731	1720

SUMMARY

16 RETREATS	1731 RETREATANTS
108 PER RETREAT	11 MORE THAN LAST YEAR
124 FIRST TIMERS	144 OTHER FAITHS

Manresa Retreat Management System *Continued from page 3*

and there will be no need for captains to make their retreat summary statistical reports.

All retreat groups would be able to use the same format and database structure, and lists can be printed and/or exported to Excel or other formats.

Wayne Losavio of Webtopia Data Systems LLC will develop the system and integrate it into Manresa's website in three phases. Phase 1 entails the development of the database structure, converting selected groups' data into the SQL format, developing and conducting training, and conducting a test run with those groups. The system will

then be offered to other group captains. We hope to have the system available for all groups early in 2012.

Phase 2 will involve converting Manresa's current database into the SQL format and integrating it into the web-based application. This will also include developing the many reports used by the staff. Phase 3 will integrate the financials and donation/pledge card processes into the system. The completed Manresa Retreat Management System will provide a means for more consistency across retreat groups, and reduce duplication of effort for the staff and captains.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Manresa "GOOD NEWS" LETTER

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