



Manresa

"Good News" Letter

Mr. Timothy Murphy, Director
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Associate Directors:
Rev. William Blazek, S.J.
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Staff:
Shellie Hayes, Office Manager; Jeff Bourgeois, House Manager;
Adrien Delbasty, Maintenance Manager; and Tina Jones, Secretary

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President's Remarks



Ron Martinez, President

This is the time of year that we all look forward to. We enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We get overloaded with football and New Year's activities.

We're enjoying great weather and great fun. Mardi Gras is just around the corner. For me, autumn also signals anticipation of my annual retreat in January. I'll soon receive "the letter" from Jeff Meyers inviting me to reserve my room, and at the many family gatherings throughout the holidays we'll make plans for spending a silent weekend together. Manresa and the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola continue to be great blessings in my life. This year was a special blessing because I had the chance to work for Manresa in a way that is meaningful to me, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity.

I'm happy to report that this was a very active year for capital improvements at Manresa. The most visible improvement is the new waterproofing and paint job on St. Mary's Hall. Every exterior surface on the building, including the porches, handrails, soffits, and windows was

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Article on GC36

We Jesuits at Manresa have the privilege of serving so many of you—and experiencing your holiness and devotion, month after month! I would like to tell you about an event that took place in the past two months that will have an impact on all Jesuits throughout the world.

On October 3, 2016 Jesuits from around the world (more than two hundred delegates chosen by their Provinces) met in Rome for our thirty-sixth General Congregation. General Congregations are the ultimate governing body in the Society of Jesus. (The first General Congregation took place in 1558, two years after St. Ignatius' death—delayed by a war between King Philip II of Spain and Pope Paul IV!) **A general congregation is always summoned on the death or resignation of the head of the Society — the Superior General — to choose his successor.**

(Among those attending the congregation there were more than fifty languages spoken by the delegates. The majority speak English, Spanish or French. Apart from those other main languages of Europe (Italian, German, Portuguese, etc.) those fifty include languages spoken in Africa, Asia and South America. They also include Indigenous languages spoken in India, Timor and Mexico.)

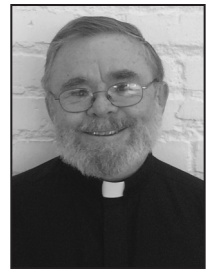
On October 14th Fr. Arturo Sosa, a Venezuelan Jesuit, was chosen—after

days of prayerful discernment by the delegates—to be the General Superior. While the main task of the congregation was to choose a new General Superior, the task of a General Congregation also includes preparing for the direction the Society of Jesus will take in the coming years. There are many challenges ahead. We Jesuits will continue to focus on the needs of the Church throughout the world, and certainly one of our priorities will continue to be the sharing of the spirituality given to us by St. Ignatius.

Toward the end of the congregation Pope Francis spoke to the members of the congregation. He spoke of the many challenges facing all of us: to enter into the reality of our world, stay at the crossroads of history—at the social front lines—where there is the "confrontation between the deepest desires of the human person and the perennial message of the Gospel."

I believe that *all* of us who are part of the Manresa "family" can take from this message of Pope Francis the reminder—and the consolation—that we are a group of friends who are on the way, in journey with Jesus, a step at a time.

- Fr. Len Kraus, S.J.



Fr. Len Kraus, S.J.

Director's Comments



Timothy Murphy,
Director

The fact that our American celebration of the Feast of Thanksgiving falls this year between the Feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the Church's liturgical year, and the first Sunday of Advent which marks the beginning of the Church's new year has given me cause for much reflection. It is to Jesus Christ the King of the Universe that I seek to focus my attention and to give thanks for His coming into our human existence in the manner in which He chose to do so some two thousand years ago. Christ our King who came into human existence as a newborn babe demonstrated in a most dramatic way how much our Lord and God truly does love and value each of us. Jesus the Son of Mary demonstrated in a most dramatic fashion through his simple, humble, and caring human existence how much He truly loves us all. He showed us how we in turn can live lives where we strive to love our brothers and sisters in imitation of Him. He truly has shown us the way to the Father. For this I am most thankful.

The idea that a believer should seek to want to identify the many blessings our Lord has given to each of us as St. Ignatius in his *Spiritual Exercises* directs us to do seems a bit more easily accomplished during this holiday time of thanksgiving. Spending time with family and friends helps me be able to focus my attention on what truly does matter in both my temporal and

spiritual life. There is so very much for which I am truly grateful.

Here at Manresa there have been and continue to be a myriad of blessings our loving Lord has chosen to bestow upon me, and for all of these blessings I am most grateful. Every time I play the organ at Mass here at Manresa and the men sing the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" I am reminded of the multitude of blessings my being here as Director of this institution affords me. I sincerely hope that I come to identify these blessings Our Lord has bestowed upon me and that as the lyrics of this venerable song tell us I give thanks to God with heart, and hands, and voice. Surely God continues to bless me and all those who come to Manresa on our way with His countless gifts of love.

Some of the greatest of God's blessings to me serving as Manresa's Director and to all the people who come here to make retreat have been the staff of men and women with whom I work. Four individuals here on staff are truly essential in making so very much of

what happens here behind the scenes do so as successfully as it routinely does. They are Miss Shellie Hayes, our office manager and bookkeeper; Mrs. Tina Jones, the receptionist and secretary with whom retreat group captains work; Mr. Jeff Bourgeois, our house and kitchen manager, and Mr. Adrien "Cowboy" Delbasto, the maintenance manager. These four individuals with whom I have worked these past sixteen years truly are blessings given by our loving Lord to me personally and to all the Men of Manresa. For the blessings of Shellie, Tina, Jeff, and Cowboy we all should sing of our gratitude with heart and hands and voices, for these dedicated folks truly are wondrous gifts our Lord has given to us. For these four dedicated souls and all the other loyal individuals who serve here, both lay persons and our good Jesuit Fathers alike, please join with me in giving thanks for them all. Best wishes to all the Men of Manresa and to their families for a truly happy, healthy, and holy Christmas.



Shellie Hayes, Tina Jones, Jeffrey Bourgeois, Adrien Delbasto

President's Remarks *Continued from page 1*

repainted, and all the window screens were replaced. In the coming months, the Gate Houses, walkways, and the President's House will also be repainted.

Less visible but equally important projects have also been in the works. The roof and water-damaged decking on the walkway between St. Mary's and Loyola Hall was replaced, and the roof on the

President's House will soon be replaced.

Another project that has been in the planning stages for a long time is the installation of a new chiller and new boilers. A new chiller will be added to augment the two existing chillers and to provide sufficient cooling capacity if one of the existing chillers fails. This third chiller was anticipated when the chiller

plant was last updated, but was never installed in favor of more pressing capital needs. Now that the existing chillers are over twenty years old and a breakdown is increasingly more likely, we want to avoid the worst-case-scenario of cancelling a retreat due to a shutdown of the air-conditioning system. The two boilers

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And the beat goes on...

Surely, anyone who is a homeowner or proprietor of a business operation can readily relate to the reality that the need to keep your home and or business facility in good working order is a never ending endeavor. Here at Manresa with both the size of the campus along with the age and number of buildings located on it, one can readily see the magnitude of this effort. It is a never ending endeavor to maintain the serene setting that helps afford individuals a venue to enter into deep silent personal prayer. For the past number of years, Manresa has been engaged in major projects such as the renovation of our older buildings, namely: the renovation of St. Mary's Hall, Sacred Heart Chapel, and Xavier Hall to name but a few. In addition to renovation projects in recent times, new facilities have been added to the campus such as Loyola Hall and Our

Lady of Good Counsel Hall.

This current year of 2016 has seen no major construction effort undertaken. This does not mean, however, that there has not been ongoing work to continue maintaining the beauty and tranquility of our historic campus. Some of the projects undertaken so far this year have been: the installation of a new roof for the covered walkway that connects Loyola Hall, St. Mary's Hall and St. Peter Canicius Hall; the painting and repair of woodwork on the exterior of St. Mary's Hall; the replacement of the 40+ year old fire alarm system in St. Ignatius Hall (aka the President's House); and the updating and replacement of exterior signage on campus.

Projects still awaiting and soon to be undertaken are: the replacement of the asbestos roof on St Ignatius Hall and the smoke house located

behind it; the painting and repair of the exterior of St. Ignatius Hall; and the updating and expansion of the campus's water HVAC system.

These are but a few of the ongoing projects that are to be undertaken in the near future in order for Manresa to maintain the standard of beauty and quality that so many have come to expect.

All of these past endeavors have been accomplished through the generosity given to Manresa from our friends and benefactors, you the Men of Manresa and your families. For all your past and please God, continued support both the Jesuit Fathers and their lay associates sincerely thank you and pray for your continued support of this most vital ministry of the Society of Jesus and of the Church.

Potpourri

Suggested Donation for 2017 Retreats

Beginning with the first retreat after the 2017 Captains Convention which is to be held on the last Sunday of January, the requested Suggested Donation for a retreat will be \$330.00. This ten-dollar increase is due to the never-ending cost increases associated with providing food, lodging, and services.

Group 21 The group's leaders used emails for notification and to share information with the members of their group. Everyone concerned was pleased with this newer means of communication. There was a full complement of 111 men in attendance at this year's retreat.

Group 24 Once again this year, both the Honore and Messenger families were well represented with family members from multiple generations

in attendance. This group had many young men in their 20s and 30s in attendance. The group average is positively impacted due to the large number of younger men in attendance.

Group 28 This is a group that has focused on getting new co captains to help see to it that the group continues to bring large numbers of men on retreat each year. To this end 2 men were added to the group's corps of co-captains. They also had 5 deacons in attendance, a father with is 2 sons with him, and a good number of men from Texas were in attendance.

Group 29 This year marked the 24th time the group's choir sang at all liturgies. They sang the hymn "Holy Ground" again this year and dedicated it to a young man in attendance at the retreat who is seeking approval to enter the seminary and study to become an ordained priest.

Group 41 The Esnard family had 4 members in attendance and the Collins, Delaney, and Quebedeaux families each brought 3 members. There were six octogenarians and 25 men who are non-Catholics were in attendance.

Group 45 Mr. Donald J. Jouandot, Captain Emeritus, made his 60th retreat this year. He was accompanied by 5 family members, Charles G., David, David II, Ronald, and Charles M. Mr. Charles T. Doyle made his 40th retreat in the company of his 4 sons, Christopher, David, Matthew, and Patrick. There were also 5 deacons present as well as 10 first time attendees.

Group 46 Mr. Mark Truxillo, the group's lead captain, saw to it that there was a full house of 111 men in attendance for this year's retreat.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

RETREATANTS	RETREATS
Peter F. Bahlinger, Sr.	24
Brad Bergeron	1
Seldon C. Boudreaux	40
Joe G. Caire	46
Richard Campbell, Jr.	18
Louis D. Curet	41
Curtis Dupuy	3
William A. Efferson, Sr.	20
Henry J. Fuxan	24
Louis Gaudin	22
Dr. Albert Johnson	11
Raymond A. Kleinpeter	38
Dr. Wojciech A. Krotoski	30
Joseph C. Larose	11
Earl R. LeCorgne, Jr.	26
Clarence J. Leonard	20
Richard Mangen	9
Sam J. McGrew	3
Col. Thomas I. McKinsty	24
Richard A. Noel	16
Philip Parenti, Sr.	47
Don F. Rettberg	2
Angelas Robin	27
Arthur Rumney	3
Leon J. Run	28
Roy A. Schnebelen	27
Harold Shea	1
Elmo Spellman	23
Ronald N. St. Pierre	33
Clarence J. Steeg	31
Richard D. Villarrubia	36
Jerome Warren	19
Joseph B. White	23
Leon M. Wickenhiser	25

SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS

			2016	2015
15	Apr 7	Steve Treuting	111	111
16	14	John McCrossen	111	111
17	21	Joe Preskitt	111	108
18	28	Frank Stewart, Jr.	111	108
19	May 5	Norman Gremillion	106	105
20	12	Michael St. Martin	111	108
21	19	James Laurent, Jr.	111	108
22	26	Stephen Villavaso	104	108
23	June 2	Dr. Craig Parker	108	110
22A	5	Leonard Bankston, Jr.	109	110
24	9	Jonny Bordelon	109	111
25	16	Michel Champagne	111	111
26	23	Earl Thibodaux	109	109
27	30	Tobie McKown	110	110
TOTAL SECOND QUARTER			1532	1528

SUMMARY

14	RETREATS	1532	RETREATANTS
109	PER RETREAT	4	MORE THAN LAST YEAR
110	FIRST TIMERS	184	OTHER FAITHS

THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS

			2016	2015
28	July 7	Mike Abbate, Sr.	108	111
29	14	Curtis Theriot	108	110
30	21	Gary Matherne	111	110
31	28	Anatole Tastet	109	110
32	Aug 4	Thomas Moore, Jr.	107	110
33	11	Glenn Bodin	106	106
34*	18	E. Anthony Thomas	63	111
35*	25	Judge Patrick Schott	97	111
36	Sept 1	Deacon Jeff Tully	103	109
37	8	Alexander Koonoy	101	104
38	15	Charles Miller, Jr.	110	107
39	22	John Dardis	110	111
40	29	Firmin Simms	109	110
TOTAL THIRD QUARTER			1342	1420

*August Flooding

SUMMARY

13	RETREATS	1342	RETREATANTS
103	PER RETREAT	78	LESS THAN LAST YEAR
158	FIRST TIMERS	148	OTHER FAITHS

President's Message

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that provide hot water for the heating system are also nearing the end of their useful life and will be replaced before a failure becomes a major issue.

New construction and major renovations are the projects that get a lot of attention, but the projects that are behind the scenes are important to keep Manresa in excellent operating condition. I often say that there are many capital improvements that are invisible to retreatants, and that is by design. Hopefully, the typical retreatant will never have to think about the electrical and air-conditioning systems, and roofing and waterproofing issues never take the place of spiritual considerations.

Every Man of Manresa can take pride in the excellent condition of Manresa because every Man of Manresa plays a very real part in her upkeep. The continuous necessary maintenance and improvements are only possible because of the generosity of the many men who year after year offer a small amount to the Building and Maintenance Fund. Please continue to be generous, and continue to ensure that Manresa will be properly maintained.

Finally, I ask you to pray for the Jesuit priests who are in residence at Manresa, the Director and staff of Manresa, and for all of your fellow Men of Manresa.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Manresa "GOOD NEWS" LETTER



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