

THE PURPOSE OF THE INTERNSHIP

All Christians are called in virtue of their baptism to contribute to the building up of the Kingdom or Reign of God. This call extends not only to each Christian's personal striving for holiness and active participation in formal Church activities, but also to the discovery of God's presence in every aspect of modern life.

This internship is offered to adult Christians who desire to develop further this apostolic orientation in themselves through formation in Ignatian spirituality as this spirituality is applied to our time and culture.

The Manresa program, which is both informative and formational, will seek to give the participants a deeper grounding in the Ignatian prayer tradition, teach Ignatian methods for discerning the will of God in one's life, and provide a personal framework for apostolic action.

A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM - YEAR I

First-year classes begin in early September and end in late May. The time commitment required of the interns includes four weekends during the course of the year and two Wednesday evening (7-10 PM) classes each month. In addition, interns will be expected to give sufficient time each day to prayer and study.

The specific content to be addressed in the first-year classes and workshops will be:

- A study of the major themes of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola with their special emphasis on the person and mission of Jesus;
- Basics in skilled listening and communications, forms of prayer, and patterns of psychological maturation and faith development;
- A weekend retreat in October to introduce interns and the internship team to one another;

- Three weekend workshops: one on the discernment of spirits, another on the discernment of God's will; and the last one on the practice of listening skills and a preparation for supervision in the second year of the program.

YEAR II

Classes begin in early September and end in May. They will be monthly, either a Saturday class (9:30 AM - 4:00 PM) or a weekend workshop (Friday eve till Sunday, 12:30 PM). This second year will focus on each intern's engaging in some kind of ministry or apostolic work that is supervised.

Interns can choose from one of two tracks for their ministry. One is the track of spiritual direction and/or retreat guidance. This prepares one for the ministry of regular ongoing spiritual direction, small group retreat guidance, or spiritual conversation in caregiving situations: e.g, Hospice, jail ministry, Stephen's ministry, nursing homes, hospitals, etc.

The other is the track for ministry in the home and/or workplace. With this option interns can reflect in light of the Gospels and social analysis methods on their experience in the family, in the work environment or, if they wish, in some arena of concern for social justice.

The integrating theme of the Internship is the Kingdom or Reign of God. The meaning of any apostolic option an intern may choose will be presented in this context.

Each person in the program is expected to receive ongoing spiritual direction while he or she is in the Internship program.

The year ends with a personally directed retreat sometime during the summer. The retreat is a minimum of 5 full days in length, a maximum of 8 days.

PARTICIPANTS

This internship is oriented to a specific group of Christians. It is meant for those who have already made basic vocational choices and who have already worked through many of the personal difficulties to which all human beings are subject. It is open to both married and single individuals.

It includes both those involved in ministries such as spiritual direction and retreat giving, as well as those involved in apostolic work in the social area such as those who are seeking to bring Gospel values to social structures, to the workplace, and to the family.

The program is not dependent on any specific educational accomplishment. Some example of apt participants would include:

- Business men and women who wish to integrate their work life with their apostolic call;
- Doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, teachers and other professionals who wish to influence their profession apostolically;
- Mothers or fathers who seek the spiritual development of their families;
- Individuals holding public office or who work for the government;
- Clergy, religious and lay ministers who wish to further develop their apostolic orientation along Ignatian lines.

COST

Tuition is \$1800 per year (personal spiritual direction and a year-end retreat are extra). Payments are quarterly, unless different arrangements are made with Internship director.

COMPLETION

Those who complete the two-year program will be given a certificate stating that the Manresa program has been successfully completed.

ADMISSION

A maximum of 30 individuals will be accepted each year into the two-year program that begins in September.

Acceptance will be based on the following:

- Formal application no later than May 15; application after May 15, if there is still room at that time.
- Two or more letters of recommendation from persons who are familiar with the applicant's spiritual history.
- A minimum of 6 months of receiving spiritual direction, or its equivalent (i.e., other experiences of the interior spiritual search). Call the director of the Internship at Manresa for names of trained directors and to discuss the possibility of your background and experience qualifying you.
- An interview with a member of the Manresa Internship team.

ENDORSEMENTS

BY PREVIOUS INTERNS

A rich and rewarding opportunity to deepen my spiritual life and to develop skills to help others become aware of God's action in their lives. The internship is an experience of community, of a special bonding with women and men who are on a common search for a deeper relationship with the God who calls us all to do the mission of Jesus.

Sr. Diane McCormack, IHM
Eastpointe, MI

Through the internship my repertoire of prayer has expanded enormously. I've experienced a much deeper sense of God's unconditional love and acceptance. As a Protestant evangelical, my theology, understanding and spirit have been stretched... and profoundly blessed.

Rev. Thomas Ball
Free Methodist Church, Concord, MI

The internship program at Manresa has been a journey of both mind and heart ... a transforming process that I would recommend to anyone who wants to walk more closely with God and see God's call in their life more clearly.

Rose Maisonneuve, Parish Assistant
Essex, Ontario

The internship has been a growth experience of coming to know, at least in part, the tremendous love God has for me. The experience has instilled in me a desire to include others in an overflow of His love.

Lucia Dubois
High School Counselor
Dearborn, MI

After longing for so long, I have finally found a solid direction in my spiritual life. I recommend this internship to anyone interested in finding "the way."

Alvaro Giraldo, MD
St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI

A focused and no-nonsense approach to understanding the essence of Christian spirituality, which is developing a relationship with God through attempting to live the Beatitudes and values of Jesus. Highly recommended for any seeker.

Dave Nona, Engineering Consultant
West Bloomfield, MI

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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The Internship in
Ignatian Spirituality at
MANRESA
Jesuit Retreat House