

MANRESA MATTERS

Fall/Winter 2026



The Grace of the Second Look



Our Mission is to help men and women grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, guidance and teaching according to the Ignatian tradition.

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From the Editor



Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.

— Ian MacLaren

THIS WAS THE POSTSCRIPT TO MY FORMER SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S EMAILS. A REMINDER THAT EVERYONE HAS A story, and we never know what the people around us are going through.

In a 1903 book published under MacLaren's real name, the Rev. John Watson elaborated on the aphorism saying, "This man beside us also has a hard fight with an unfavouring world, with strong temptations, with doubts and fears, with wounds of the past which have skinned over, but which smart when they are touched. It is a fact, however surprising. And when this occurs to us, we are moved to deal kindly with him, to bid him be of good cheer, to let him understand that we are also fighting a battle ..."

Surely kindness is at the heart of the Grace of the Second Look. So is a measure of humility that reminds us to look at the log in our own eye before pointing out the spec in the eye of that obnoxious coworker, annoying neighbor or strange-looking person in line at the grocery store.

Everyone has a story.

This has been made especially real to me through my Internship in Spiritual Companionship and in serving as a spiritual companion at retreats. I am continually reminded that beneath the veneers that present as confidence or bitterness or anxiety are often the battle scars of life's challenges.

Slowing down to take a second look is a way of living Jesus' command to love others as we love ourselves. It's applying the Golden Rule to treat others as we want to be treated – with the same grace that saved our souls. It's a call to get beyond the first impressions about people that may trigger a critical response within us or about those difficult moments in life that derail our plans and leave us feeling unsettled and scared.

The stories in this issue are invitations to take a second look. From Rembrandt to the homeless, from prisoners to school children, they encourage us to examine ourselves first and always look for the good in others. From the best of times to the most challenging moments, each story calls us to find the silver lining in today's disappointments and praise God anyway. May they encourage us all to be kind and give all those we meet the benefit of the doubt.

On the journey with you,

JoAnn Amicangelo
Communications Director



About Our Cover

Rembrandt took many more looks at himself than just a second one. This Self Portrait at the Easel (1660), now in the Louvre, was one of his more than 40 self-portraits. They represent an introspective journey allowing over the years an ever-deeper insight into his truest self.

Retreatant Feedback

“**THE CONTENT OF THE MARRIED COUPLES’ RETREAT WAS VERY TIMELY FOR MY HUSBAND AND ME.** The retreat was an opportunity for a reprieve from my constantly ‘on’ life, giving God the space to speak and for me to hear. Thank you for maintaining this place of refuge in this crazy world!”

“**THIS EXPERIENCE BROUGHT ME CLOSER TO THE LORD** because I was able to listen to God’s voice and let it lead me. It also allowed me to be healed spiritually and physically with the priests’ open door for Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick at the Healing service.”

“**MANRESA NOW FEELS LIKE A FAMILY WELCOMING ME HOME.** ... I automatically feel more calm. It offers a release from the chaos and stress of everyday life.”

“**I CAME TO THIS RETREAT AS A LAST RESORT.** I tried to fix me by myself but realized I need the Body of Christ to help me. I came feeling sad, abandoned and found such love that I’d never felt before. ... I know I have to leave this blessed place and return to my difficult life, but I have a new strength to help me now. I no longer feel alone. I will push away all negative thoughts with the name of Jesus. ‘Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.’ ... I thank each of you for your work of faith and labor of love. You have given me hope.”

From the Executive Director

The second look that shaped my ministry

Dear Friends,



AS I THOUGHT ABOUT THE THEME OF THIS ISSUE, “THE GRACE OF THE SECOND LOOK,” I CONFESS THAT IT TOOK SOME TIME TO GRASP WHAT IT REALLY MEANS to offer such grace to others and the importance of practicing this habit in our lives.

My thoughts took me back to my hometown of Wheeling, WV, where from 2008-10 I served as Director of the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center. This is a daytime drop-in center for the

homeless and poor of the area.

One of our Marist Sisters had served there as director for 12 years and wanted to retire just as I realized my mother was coming close to her death. I was able to take this position and be near my mother in her last year of life.

One morning I arrived at the center even before our receptionist did, and a man came into the office as soon as we opened. He asked for some Tylenol, and I got it out to give to him. I asked if he was feeling ill, and he responded that he was.

“I had to pull my tooth this morning,” he said.

I looked at him, noticing he had, in fact, very few teeth.

“How did you pull the tooth,” I asked, at the same time not sure I wanted to know.



“I tied string around it and tied the other end to a doorknob and threw the door open. That’s how I’ve pulled them all over the years!”

I looked at him again, really looked at him, and as I did, I was struck by how totally different our lives had been. In that moment, I saw my own life of privilege in contrast with his. I noticed his lack of self-pity and his cheerful, friendly spirit. I felt so humbled by his witness and grasped how much I could learn from those I was supposedly serving.

By this second look, I found a deeper respect and admiration for those we served at the center, and that revelation has shaped my ministry ever since.

Let us ask God to help us see one another – and ourselves – with humble hearts and the grace of a second look.

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM
Executive Director

Habits of the Heart: The Grace of the Second Look



By Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A SECOND LOOK?

Consider a work of art such as a painting. A quick glance at it will seldom provide us with much of the meaning that the artist put into it. We need to look more closely at it, and more importantly, we need to go back to it several times to really grasp some of what the artist is saying. Those of you who have attended Fr. Fennessy's retreats and classes have seen how our appreciation for a work of art can grow when we take second and third looks at great art.

It is also true that we can get something different from art or literature when we look at them many times over a number of years. This is because we change over the years. The art says something different to us. I recently re-read *The Lord of the Rings* after many years. I saw more clearly the relationships of the characters to each other and the importance of each person's qualities to the central quest of the story. My life experiences of working with others have shown me in a newer way how the characters had to work together to achieve their goals.

Why is the second look a grace?

Have you ever formed a judgement about someone based on your first meeting and later found out that your first impression was wrong? Have you ever had to admit to yourself that an unpleasant experience provided you with some important insight? Experiences such as these should tell us that it is not just works of art that need a second look. People and experiences do, too.

The pervasiveness of social media and the internet has encouraged instant judgments of people and situations. People will express opinions without any pause for reflection. Too often, people lash out at others in anger. Too often, people share private information that they later regret. The second look is a grace because it forces us to pause for reflection before we react.

The second look is a grace because it leads us to see people

and experiences the way Christ sees them. So many of the Gospel accounts show us the compassion of Christ. He is moved to cure the sick and to forgive sinners because He can see the inner goodness of the people He encounters. Viewing others with compassion is at the heart of the parable of the unforgiving servant. "Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?", says the king. (Mt 18:33)

The second look is a grace because it teaches us humility. Humility allows us to recognize our own limitations. We recognize that we do not have all the answers. The pause for the second look helps us to see the wisdom that others can teach us. We also recognize that Christ can speak to us through people that we may be tempted to dismiss.

The Second Look as a Deeper Look

We have all heard the phrase: "a blessing in disguise." We would not recognize blessings in disguise without the grace of the second look. If we really believe that God is present in all things, then the second look helps us to see God in the midst of great difficulty or painful situations.

The model of St. Ignatius can serve as an example. When his leg was struck by a cannonball at Pamplona, his future military career had to be placed on hold. Perhaps he feared that he could never resume it. He faced many months of painful confinement in bed as his injury healed. But the simple request for something to read led to his taking a second look at his life and what he really wanted to accomplish. This second look led to his experiences at Montserrat and Manresa and the redirection of his life toward the service of God.

Let me offer an experience in my life that can serve as another example. Back in 1980, before I entered the Jesuits, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. The anxiety about whether I would survive and the experience of chemotherapy were not pleasant. My mother gave me a book about how to deal with cancer that suggested that the cancer sufferer visualize cancer cells being destroyed by knights on horseback. The insight that came to me was that I was engaged in a type of prayer totally different from what I had been taught. I was actually using Ignatian contemplation before I even knew what it was!

These examples show how the second look leads to a deeper experience of God's love and a deeper knowledge of what God wants from us.

The Daily Examen as a Second Look

The Ignatian practice of the Examen is a daily process of taking a second look. A prayerful review of the events and activities of the day helps to discern the nature of the spirits that lead us to make judgments or form responses. We can learn whether first impressions of others are coming from the good or bad spirit. We can learn whether we are

Examen Prayer

Presence

Your desire to pray indicates God's presence. Notice God gazing upon you, feel God's love.

Review

Go through the events of your day so far. Let them come to mind without effort. What did you do? Whom did you meet? What happened to you?

Feelings

Notice the feelings that have arisen within you. Express them to God.

One Feature

Take a moment to pray with one feeling or feature of your day that stands out. What might God have been showing you through that?

Magis

Consider today what you have done for God. How have you lived the Gospel message of peace, charity and bold love? What more can you do and be for God?



responding with compassion and humility, or with prejudice and anger.

We take a second look at the previous day with the daily Examen to find meaning that we did not see in the midst of situations or events. A difficult situation may have helped us to grow more caring. A difficult person may have helped us to learn about forgiveness. We cannot really be grateful to God for God's goodness to us unless we reflect on events and see them as grace-filled moments.

The second look is important to Ignatian spirituality. It is the self-reflection that underlies Ignatian prayer and discernment. In this reflection, we yield to the Holy Spirit, Who draws us to look more deeply at others and how we experience them. We can see more clearly how our lives are filled with sacred encounters.†



Fr. Robert Flack, SJ gives individually directed and conference retreats and offers spiritual direction at Manresa. A native of Chicago, he has served as a parish priest, a college professor and as a staff member at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, IL. He also served as a spiritual director at St. Joseph College Seminary in Chicago.

Second Looks from the Oakland County Jail

By Hugh Buchanan

MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, I FOUND MYSELF WALKING WITHIN THE INTIMIDATING CORRIDORS OF THE Oakland County Jail wondering, "How did I get myself here?"

The practical reason was easy to remember. While my wife and I enjoyed the celebratory ambience of a wedding reception for the daughter of a friend of ours, I overheard my friend Joan telling the guests at our table about her experience bringing the Word of God to inmates at the Oakland County Jail! As I listened, Joan looked at me and said, "Hugh, do you think you could join my team? I think you might be a big help with the men."

Little did I know what that really meant nor did I understand what God had in store for me. Jail is all one can imagine it might be, our vision shaped by movies, magazines and news stories. It is starkly intimidating, magnified by the institutional pale-painted brick, gray-tiled floors and a certain sense of finality as the doors clang loudly behind you as they close, echoing throughout the corridors.

The first few weeks I just listened. Joan and the others used the Sunday readings to structure the sessions with the inmates. They prayed with them as they prepared to receive the Eucharist and sang songs. The desperation, anxiety and worry I saw in their eyes were matched with empathy, an assurance of God's love and the promise of hope by Joan's team. Still, I wondered if the message could be received in an environment

packed with the constant tension imposed by confinement every day, every hour. Could they hear what God was offering them over their concern for their loved ones, the impact of their plight on their children and others, and their fear about their own future, which they had little control over?

There were a few who seemed to see this point in their lives as a chance to change things, a point of transition that could govern the rest of their lives.

"I'm writing a book about this, so I never forget what I'm promising myself," said Amanda.

Another inmate said she started reading the Bible, the first one she ever owned, because she "guessed the answers were there."

They saw their lives differently now, not particularly because we came, but because the service gave them a safe space to talk this way, with hope. Their reflection on the Word and prayer and song revealed something they already knew, remembered from some lost time, and they realized where they found themselves was not where God wanted them to be.

I could see why Joan would return each week to this place where, despite the gloom and despair inside its walls, it was easy to see God at work in the inmates – and also in ourselves. For I found the Lord brought me to the jail, not only to be with the inmates, but to change me, too.

Within the crucible of the little room where we sit with the inmates, I can see more clearly my own brokenness, my own helplessness and loneliness. God's grace is sometimes palpable, moving ministers and prisoners to tears. While those I meet there would rather be anywhere else, I know it is one of the places God wants me to be. And though it is a long way from the road I would have chosen for myself, I sense I deeply needed this detour in my life. Through the grace of a second look, I see the Lord interrupting my comfort to find His grace, forgiveness and hope through those I meet. While I could have remained comfortable in my own little world, Jesus offered something better through the sweet invitation from someone I trusted.

I have a little note in my Bible that reminds me how I really found myself walking the corridors of the Oakland County Jail. It's from Jeremiah 20:7-9 which says, "You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed." May it always be.†



Hugh Buchanan and his wife Mary Ellen have brought services to the Oakland County Jail for 15 years. After serving for several years on Manresa's Board of Directors, he

became Manresa's first full time associate director. The Buchanans have been married for 55 years and have five children, 11 grandchildren and four greatgrands.

Lessons of the Heart: What I Learned in School



By Kim Redigan

I HAVE BEEN A TEACHER AND CAMPUS MINISTER IN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS FOR OVER 30 YEARS.

Increasingly, I have come to understand that the grace of the second look is at the heart of this work.

Although I have made progress, there are still times when I allow the incessant demands of the school day to cloud my vision, obscuring the beauty and brokenness of those I have been called to serve and diminishing my capacity to show up as an educator who reflects the love of Christ.

Learning to lean into the second look has been a humbling, tedious process that has involved letting go of fear-driven perfectionism and surrendering to the work at hand from a place of contemplation or deep looking. In my early days as a teacher, my prayer was that I would make it through the day with a modicum of competency and compassion; today, I pray for the grace to see those around me through the eyes of Jesus and to act from that deeper gaze, a gaze that often pierces the heart.

In practice, this is not easy. I have always had a soft spot for students who struggle, for the marginalized ones who are bullied and insecure, for the painfully shy ones who sit alone in the cafeteria and cower when they are called on in class. It is easy to meet Jesus in places where the hurt is so real.

I recall a freshman in one of my theology classes who cried when I asked students to reflect on their passions. He blurted out that his greatest dream in life was to become a math teacher, but that his father said the student was “his investment” and warned that if he were to become a teacher, his dad would disown him. There was no need for a second look to see the wounded Christ in this student. Later, I reflected on the hurt not only of the student, but also the hurt that his father must be carrying to have made

I pray for the grace to see those around me through the eyes of Jesus and to act from that deeper gaze, a gaze that often pierces the heart.

such a calloused statement. That is when the grace of the second look—the deeper look—becomes difficult.

Most teachers know that beneath bullying behavior is something begging to be healed. While the priority is always to bind the wounds of the one who has been injured, Jesus challenges us to also touch the wounds and see the goodness in those causing the harm.

And that challenge extends to ourselves.

There is a hard grace in looking deeply at ourselves and acknowledging the harm caused by our own presumptions and prejudices. I have had to take an honest look at my tendency to react defensively to student behavior that I perceive as cold, cynical or cruel. This is an ongoing area of struggle for me. The lesson I have learned from Jesus is to offer a gaze so grounded in Him that it can soften the hardest of hearts, including my own. †



Kim Redigan is the Director of Campus Ministry at Detroit Cristo Rey High School, a parishioner at Gesu Detroit and an intern in Manresa's Internship in Spiritual Companionship. She is married, a mother of four, a nonviolence trainer and human rights advocate.

Lord, I want to see.

By Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT TAKING A SECOND AND BETTER LOOK AT SOME OF OUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS, THE story of Jesus healing the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26) might well come to mind.

This blind man was brought to Jesus, Who took him aside and tried to heal him by putting spittle in his eyes. Jesus then asked the man if he could see, and he replied, "I can see people; they look like trees to me, but they are walking about." So, Jesus tried again to heal him and this time succeeded. Mark reported three times that the man could see, each time using a different word that indicated seeing with increasing clarity.

Matthew and Luke knew the story but didn't include it in their own gospels probably because the healing didn't succeed at first. A closer, second look might have revealed that the double healing taught an important lesson about growing in faith.

The painting's dark background forces our attention on the relationship between the two men. The blind man's face is illuminated with light coming from Jesus. Mironov's use of this chiaroscuro is not just for dramatic purposes but to symbolize the darkness of lost sight and the light of restored vision.

Jesus anoints the man's eyes in a compassionate and tender way that characterizes His relationship with those He heals. The man's face betrays his helplessness, his dependence on others, his hope for a cure but with a touch of wistful

wonder if that is even possible. He could be any one of us who in our poverty of spirit recognize that we are utterly dependent upon the mercy and grace of God for our salvation.

Physical blindness is a conventional symbol for spiritual blindness. And the way Mark sandwiches this episode between those immediately before and after it clearly indicates that he intends this deeper meaning.

In the previous story of the leaven of the Pharisees (Mk 8:14-21), Jesus rebuked his disciples, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not yet see, and having ears do you not yet hear?"

And in the subsequent story of Peter's confession (Mk 8:27-33), Peter could see Jesus as the Messiah but not as someone destined to suffer and die. Jesus' healing of the blind man is the only one that took place gradually, in two stages. It suggests that though the disciples and Peter do not see the true nature of Jesus' mission, they may yet.

Later in Mark, Jesus healed another blind man, Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46-52). Between these two healings Jesus predicted his Passion three times (Mk 8:31, Mk 9:31, Mk 10:32-34), but the disciples never understood. And after the gruesome details of His third prediction, James and John outrageously ask Him for something they want—power and glory.

When the blind Bartimaeus is asked what he wants, he says, "I want to see." This is what the disciples should

There are so many things in our lives that we might come to see more clearly if we only took the time to look and look again.

want as well as Mark's community and we ourselves—true spiritual vision. We need to see who Jesus is and what it means to be His disciple and to ask Him to heal us from any earlier mistaken vision or understanding.

Saint Bede the Venerable said, "By this miracle, Christ teaches us how great is the spiritual blindness of man, which only by degrees, and by successive stages, can come to the light of divine knowledge."

There are so many things in our lives that we might come to see more clearly if we only took the time to look and look again.†



Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ is superior of the Jesuit Community at Manresa. Since studying Theology and Art and Buddhist Aesthetics during a sabbatical year at the

Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, he uses fine art to illustrate his preached retreats and teaches Manresa's "Praying with Art."



Andrei Nikolayevich Mironov, (detail of) Jesus Healing of the Blind Man (2009), oil on canvas, original size 39.37 × 21.65 inches, (CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons).

When life takes an unexpected turn, look to Jesus



In the Hands of God

More than ever I find myself in the hands of God.

This is what I have wanted all my life from my youth.

But now there is a difference; the initiative is entirely with God.

It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to

know and feel myself so totally in the hands of God.

By Fr. Fran Daly, SJ

Our whole life, is in fact, a series of new beginnings.

— Fr. de Jaer, SJ

ON LAST DECEMBER 23, I HAD PLANS TO RELAX AND BE WITH GOOD FRIENDS DURING THE CHRISTMAS holidays, but the Lord had different plans for me.

I was walking from St. Joseph's House to the main house for breakfast when I fell on black ice that I hadn't noticed.

I knew my right leg was seriously injured because I could not get up. With no phone on me, I felt alone and realized no one would see me lying on the snowy ground.

My prayer was simple; "Jesus help me, please help me know what to do."

So, with more simple requests to God, I slowly crawled back to my room, which took me about an hour and a half. I located my phone and called Pat, our Province nurse, who called 911. At St. Joe's Hospital in Pontiac, I learned I'd broken my hip in four places. It was the beginning of a new journey in my life.

On Christmas Eve, I had surgery to repair my fractured hip. Once again, I felt alone on Christmas morning, thinking about my uncertain future. When Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ and Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM came to visit me,

I sensed Jesus would accompany me and help me with whatever happened on this journey.

I was transferred the next day to Colombiere Center, our Jesuit retirement residence, where I recuperated for five and a half months. The kindness and care I received from the nurses, nurse assistants and my brother Jesuits helped me to adjust to my new beginning. I was blessed to receive physical therapy five days a week for an hour from a very skillful and encouraging therapist who was patient and understanding with this 84-year-old. I learned that healing would be painful, especially doing exercises to strengthen my leg muscles, and take time.

At the front of the Colombiere chapel there is a life size statue of Jesus on the cross. There I prayed to Christ, my companion, the Anima Christe: "Soul of Christ sanctify me, Soul of Christ save me." Each day I experienced Christ giving me the strength and patience to accept whatever I had to do or be to return to my ministry as a Jesuit priest. There were moments remembering the life of St. Ignatius, who experienced a near-death wound at the battle of Pamplona that left him with a limp for the rest of his life.

During this new beginning, I became very grateful for the many

ways friends and strangers were willing to help me as I learned to get around with a walker and a cane. At first, some experiences were humbling, having to ask for assistance and receive so much care. Gradually I became more independent in ordinary situations, and I continue to be thankful for this new beginning in my life.

I returned home to Manresa on June 6, 2026, and thank Christ for all the ways He has blessed me during these past six months.

I want to share a prayer of Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ (above) after he suffered a debilitating stroke, the effects of which he suffered for the final ten years of his life. †



Fr. Fran Daly, SJ was missioned to Manresa in 2014 to serve as executive director. Since 2020, he leads conference and individually directed retreats and offers spiritual direction.



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025-26



From the Finance Director



AS FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026 DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO EVERYONE WHO WALKED ALONGSIDE MANRESA this year, helping us guide youth and adults alike toward deeper spiritual connection with God and one another.

This year's retreat season was a vibrant one, with strong participation across both our Conference retreats and Individually Directed Retreats. Your generosity toward our Annual Fund and Adopt-A-Retreatant Program brought in \$462,000, directly sustaining our mission.

The 100th Anniversary Celebration Banquet was a highlight of the year, generating more than \$412,000 in support, thanks to our generous sponsors and guests.

Meanwhile, our restricted fundraising efforts contributed \$154,000, much of it earmarked for subsidies that open our doors to more youth and adults from other Jesuit missions.

On the capital side, \$79,000 was raised to further our beautification work across our 39-acre grounds and to fund several smaller improvement projects.

We're also grateful for the steady guidance of our Investment Committee and advisors, whose careful stewardship grew our McGrail Fund by more than \$2.2 million this year—a testament to the endowment's ongoing role in securing Manresa's future.

Thanks to your continued generosity, we remain in strong financial standing and firmly committed to responsible stewardship. Together, we look forward to a future as bright as our past, honoring the past, present and future Sacred Encounters that define Manresa Jesuit Retreat House.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Tim Neis
Finance Director

Financial Summary

July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026

OPERATING REVENUE

Adult Conference Retreats	\$432,483
Ignatian Formation, Youth Retreats, IDRs	\$162,500
Use of Building	\$77,453
Other Revenue from Operations	\$147,124
Cell Tower Revenue	\$138,961

Total Operating Revenue \$958,521

DONATIONS & OTHER REVENUE

Annual Fund/ Adopt-A-Retreatant	\$462,311
Capital and Other Restricted Funds	\$233,359
Special Events	\$412,125
McGrail Fund	\$138,796
Jesuit Community Gifts	37,453

Total Donations & Other Revenue \$1,284,044

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,242,565

EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$1,117,497
Building and Administrative	\$352,697
Food Service	\$425,957
Special Events	\$206,965
Other Capital Expenses	\$138,629
McGrail Fund Expense	\$73,357

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,315,102

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to make a donation today.



\$125,000

Major Grants Received

Antakli/Kratage Family Foundation
Baiardi Family Foundation
Robert E. Burke Memorial Trust Fund
Chaldean Community Foundation
The Peter Connick Charitable Foundation
Raymond & Jane Cracchiolo Foundation
Gino and Luciana DiClemente Foundation
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\$325,000

100th Anniversary Banquet Sponsors

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The Mike Koza Family
Holy Name Catholic Church
MG & Associates-Merrill
Private Wealth Management
The Nona Family
Steve & Susan Raymond
Signal Restoration Services

188

Number of
retreatants
helped by
Manresa's Adopt-
A-Retreatant
program

Adopt-A-Retreatant

The **Adopt-A-Retreatant** program allows Manresa to continue its policy of relying on voluntary donations (beyond a \$50 deposit) for group retreats, a tradition that dates back to Manresa's founding in 1926.

McGrail Fund Performance

FISCAL YEAR	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Opening Balance	\$8,239,546	\$8,984,424	\$9,542,491
Contributions/Other Income	\$40,320	\$133,817	\$138,796
Transfers/Expenses	(\$389,845)	(\$517,975)	(\$417,414)
Interest/Dividends	\$233,611	\$243,208	\$259,116
Receivables	—	\$17,979	—
Appreciation/(Depreciation)	\$860,792	\$681,038	\$2,254,885
Closing Balance	\$8,984,424	\$9,542,491	\$11,777,873

\$446,000

Paid out from the McGrail Fund (5% of principal)

The McGrail Fund is generally used as an endowment to maintain the financial stability of Manresa. With explicit Board approval, the funds can also be used for capital improvements and operational support.

Thank you for your generous support

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January 1-June 30, 2026

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January 1–June 30, 2026

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Awards

January 1–June 30, 2026

Manresa Pin

15 Retreats

Lorelei G. King

Michael D. Kirt

Carol Magill

Dawn McCaw

Margaret O'Brien

Bonnie Schulz

Aurelia Smith

James Vander Schaaf

Manresa Crest

25 Retreats

Don Badamo

John M. Greaves

Faiz Mansour

Bradley R. Susick

Born into Resurrection

January 1–June 30, 2026

George Arsenault

4 retreats

John Bradley

23 retreats

Gail McKnight

16 retreats

Gabriel N. Nagy

14 retreats

Br. Mark Orcutt

6 retreats

Dolores (Dee) Parsons

2 retreats

Ronald Seguin

39 retreats

Carole Sugrue

6 retreats

Earl Vogel

2 retreats

Non-fat mocha with whip, please

By Lori Kneisler

“GOOD MORNING, MAY I HAVE A LARGE NON-FAT MOCHA WITH WHIP, PLEASE?” THIS WAS MY REFRAIN EACH MORNING WHEN I STOPPED AT MY LOCAL COFFEE HOUSE enroute to the office. Mr. Barista gladly complied, handing me my drink with a smile. I paid my bill, including a generous tip. Next morning: same routine.

Soon, Mr. Barista noticed when I walked in the door, starting my beverage order as soon as I arrived so that by the time I got to the counter, my steaming hot mocha was ready, and I was on my way. On less busy days, he would even notice my car when I pulled in, cutting my wait time by a couple of minutes.

Eventually, my routine changed, and I no longer made daily stops at my favorite coffee house.

Later that year, our church was recruiting leaders for an in-home small group curriculum for new people. My husband and I signed up to be a lead home and began to pray for the four couples who would be joining us.

Our guests arrived and filtered through the kitchen, introducing themselves and enjoying the hors d'oeuvres and desserts we'd set out. Mark mentioned that he and his wife were expecting their first child.

Just before our transition to the family room, Mark quietly asked me, “Are you still ordering your non-fat mochas with whip?”

I was stunned. Mr. Barista was here in my kitchen—one of my guests. I had accepted coffee from him for months, but when he arrived at my front door, I did not recognize him. I stammered out an apology, which Mark matched with equal measures of graciousness.

All those months I had looked at him without really seeing him. Certainly, I had been polite, perhaps even jovial, but I had never really seen him. I could chalk this up as a minor social faux pas or attribute my faulty memory to the fact that we were not in the usual place. But the fact remains that Mark blended into the background of my life – he was a means to an end.

I felt disappointment with myself. I was embarrassed and a bit ashamed. This wasn't how I wanted to show up in the world. I truly believe each person has intrinsic value and is a child of God, yet my behavior did not match my belief. Even now, many years later, I remember my dismay from that evening.



Since then, I've worked to moderate my behavior, learning names of servers, bank tellers, my letter carrier. I'd like to say I have mastered it, but honestly, it remains a challenge. There are many people in the background of life—serving, cleaning, stocking shelves, cooking.

One of the deepest human wounds is feeling unseen, overlooked, disregarded. In a recent *God In All Things* podcast about The Benevolent Glance, Andy Otto suggested slowing down and really looking at someone we might normally pass by without a second glance, maybe even extend a silent blessing, “You are a beloved child of God.” When we do this, we make God's loving gaze tangible in the world. †



Lori Kneisler serves on Manresa's Board of Directors. She has more than 20 years of experience leading Bible studies and spiritual formation groups. A graduate of Manresa's Internship in Spiritual Companionship, she serves as spiritual director in a variety of capacities including guiding people through the Spiritual Exercises.

Seen Before I Saw Myself: A Journey Toward Chaplaincy

By Susan A. Hoprick

IN 2020, I WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER LONG-HAUL COVID.

Recovery was a slow process that took nearly two years. In God's timing, that humbling experience changed my life, leading me to trust more deeply in God's presence and intervention and to serve God more intentionally.

Once my health improved, I returned to volunteering with a hospice organization. There I heard about the No One Dies Alone (NODA) program at Corewell Health in Royal Oak.

As a NODA volunteer, I learned the sacredness of simply being present with another person at the end of life. My experience there eventually led me to chaplaincy.

It was at NODA that I met Maria, a chaplain resident. She saw something in me that I had not yet fully recognized in myself and encouraged me to consider Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and chaplaincy. She encouraged me to apply to Corewell's Chaplain Residency Program. She was persistent. I was hesitant.

For me, the grace of the second look is recognizing that sometimes

another person sees something within us before we are ready to see it ourselves. Maria's encouragement, together with the quiet leading of the Holy Spirit, helped me discern a new calling with clarity.

Maria offered me the grace of being seen differently than I saw myself. Her encouragement continued throughout my residency, and she became a mentor.

Looking back, what I thought was simply another way of serving others became part of my own vocational journey. CPE helped me deepen my understanding of presence, self-awareness, spiritual care, and the use of self. It also helped me recognize that my years as a clinical social worker were not separate from chaplaincy, but part of the path that prepared me for it.

For many years, Manresa has been a sacred place for me—a place where I can step away, reflect, pray and attend to my spiritual needs. The labyrinth has become part of that reflection. Walking its winding path reminds me that discernment is rarely a straight journey. There are turns that seem to lead away from the center,

yet the path continues to guide me forward.

In the quiet, I am invited to slow down, listen and trust where God may be leading. The labyrinth has helped me see my own journey differently: social work, volunteering, NODA and chaplaincy were not separate experiences but parts of one unfolding path. At Manresa, "Be still and know that I am God" becomes something I not only read but experience.

In taking this second look, I recognize that God was present along the way, often before I understood where the path was leading. †



Susan A. Hoprick is a chaplain resident at Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. A licensed social worker, Susan has spent much of her professional and volunteer life accompanying people through illness, loss and life transitions. She finds spiritual renewal through prayer, Scripture, nature, creative expression and reflective time at Manresa.

100 Years of Sacred Encounters:

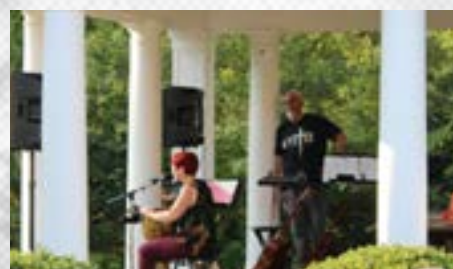
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Our year-long celebration of Manresa's 100th Anniversary included many special opportunities to gather together to reflect on the impact Manresa has in the lives of our retreatants. Here are some of the moments captured by staff, volunteers and guests.

Outdoor Mass



Music on the Rouge



100th Anniversary Celebration Banquet



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On seeing with eyes of the heart _____



I THINK THAT WHAT THE LORD SAYS, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, IS CLEAR TO THOSE THAT HAVE EYES, by which they are made partakers of this light: but they who have not eyes except in the flesh alone, wonder at what is said by the Lord Jesus Christ, I am the light of the world. ... That unfailing Light, the Light of wisdom, speaking through the cloud of the flesh, says to us, I am the light of the world; he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. How He has withdrawn you from the eyes of the flesh and recalled you to the eyes of the heart!

— Saint Augustine

SEEING. ONE COULD SAY THAT THE WHOLE OF LIFE LIES IN SEEING ... That is probably why the history of the living world can be reduced to the elaboration of ever more perfect eyes at the heart of a cosmos where it is always possible to discern more. ... To try to see more and to see better is not, therefore, just a fantasy, curiosity, or a luxury. See or perish. This is the situation imposed on every element of the universe by the mysterious gift of existence. And thus, to a higher degree, this is the human condition.

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

The only true voyage of discovery, the only fountain of Eternal Youth, would be not to visit strange lands but to possess other eyes, to behold the universe through the eyes of another, of a hundred others, to behold the hundred universes that each of them beholds, that each of them is.

— Marcel Proust