

MANRESA MATTERS

Spring/Summer 2026

100th
Anniversary
Edition

Pages 13-20

Sacred Encounters





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



How do you capture the soul of an organization as it celebrates 100 years of ministry? What kind of theme would convey the heart of Manresa's Mission for a century?

These were some of the questions before the 100th Anniversary Committee as it began planning a year-long celebration of Manresa's milestone anniversary that began last September.

The answer was both obvious and profound: sacred encounters are the fruit of our Mission to help people deepen their relationship with God through Ignatian spirituality. People "come and see," and they find God in the silence, in quiet moments of prayer and meditation.

And so it was that **Sacred Encounters: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow** was chosen as a most fitting theme to mark this momentous time in Manresa's history.

I want to take this time to applaud the volunteers and staff who serve with me on the 100th Anniversary Planning Committee for their energy and enthusiasm in making our celebration one not soon forgotten. They include Diane Neville and Lori Kneisler, who co-chaired the Committee until December, Madeline Bialecki, current Committee Chair, and Dave Nona, Carmen Soto, James McNulty, Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM, Steve Raymond, Jenny Chapman, Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ, Ann Dillon, and Mike Rhadigan.

As we celebrate our centennial, I hope and pray that you will find your own sacred encounters here — moments of grace, stillness and renewal that will stay with you long after you leave. Manresa has been a place of transformation for countless souls over the past century, and we trust that its next chapter will be written, in part, through your story.

On the journey with you,

JoAnn Amicangelo
Communications Director



Publications Team Update

Every issue of *Manresa Matters* comes to life with the help of our Publications Team, which develops themes and article ideas. Last year, we were sorry to learn Fr. Bob



Ytsen, SJ would have to step away from the team due to his work at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. In equal measure, we are delighted to have Fr. Robert Flack, SJ step into his spot. We are grateful for his willingness to serve in this way. Pictured (l to r) Fr. Robert Flack, SJ, Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM, Lori Kneisler, JoAnn Amicangelo, Steve Raymond and Paul Seibold.

Maintaining the beauty and comfort of Manresa

By Mike Rhadigan, Operations Director

If it's not one thing, it's another. There is always something to be tended to in an aging facility like Manresa.

This past fall, we replaced an old, struggling boiler that heats the oldest section of the house. The transition to the new one was challenging, but it is now working well. The cost to replace the boiler was \$91,000.

We also replaced outdoor pipes running from the front entrance to an old cistern near the kitchen entrance, as rainwater from the cistern was backing up into the basement. It was an arduous task that cost \$35,000, but we are happy the backup problems are gone.

In the fall, we prepped the garden beds around the statuary for early spring planting. And, when the weather is warmer, we'll be replacing the walkways between the Stations of the Cross and creating a new walkway to St. Ignatius Chapel.

Tell Your Story

We are so grateful to those who responded to our **Tell Your Story** campaign inviting retreatants to share their experiences of meeting God at Manresa. We have been so blessed to read about your sacred encounters, many of which are shared in this special 100th Anniversary issue. Thank you for taking the time to tell your story. It's encouraging to hear how these divine encounters have had a profound and lasting impact on your lives. We hope that more of you will share your experiences by emailing editor@manresa-sj.org.



From the Executive Director

Retreatant's gift a blessing for Manresa's future

Dear Friends,



RECENTLY, WE WERE NOTIFIED MANRESA WILL RECEIVE A LARGE GIFT FROM the estate of a man who died last

year and who is unknown to the present staff members.

We were curious to find out who this person was, so Jenny Chapman, our front office manager, searched through our old registration cards in the archives.

Jenny learned that this gentleman made 17 retreats at Manresa; his last one was in 2003.

I was deeply touched by this story and intrigued by the questions it raises in light of our 100th anniversary theme: **Sacred Encounters: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.**

Here, represented by this bequest, is someone from the past who apparently treasured his sacred encounters at Manresa — so much so that he left a generous gift that will help others to have the opportunity for such encounters in the future. It makes me wonder how he experienced God at Manresa.

We may never know, at least on earth, what the man's transforming encounters with God were. We can only opine that they impressed him profoundly and changed his life. And we see that, these many years later, he hoped others would experience similar transformations.

In many ways, our current retreatants, staff or other participants in Manresa's ministry stand on the shoulders of such people of faith of the past 100 years, and this recent gift is a tangible reminder of that. It also beckons us to be aware of the kind of legacy we hope to leave to those who follow us.

Please remember this gentleman in your prayers, and thank God for him and for the myriad of others who have made Manresa what it is over the past century, as well as those who continue to do so. †

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM
Executive Director

“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was unaware of it... What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God.”

Genesis 28:16-17

Sacred Encounters at Manresa

By Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ with JoAnn Amicangelo



SACRED ENCOUNTERS: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW IS THE UNIFYING THEME CHOSEN FOR

Manresa's year-long celebration of its 100th

Anniversary. It points to the reason thousands of people have come to Manresa since our first retreat in 1926. They come to experience God, to be refreshed in spirit and renewed in faith, and they often leave with a profound spiritual experience rooted in Ignatian spirituality. That's what I call

a sacred encounter: a deep, personal connection with the divine.

These unforgettable experiences of consolation reflect the divine in the moment. They can involve healing, a shift in spiritual direction, personal transformation, or a heightened awareness of God's presence in our everyday lives. They may be about coming face-to-face with someone or some truth that changes our perspective and leads to a deeper sense of purpose in our lives. A sacred encounter may come to light as a profound moment during prayer or meditation where we experience a sense of unity with the divine and deep inner peace.

Sacred encounters are not conjured up. We can't make them happen. They are always a gift, a grace that fills us with a sense of awe, reverence and gratitude. But we can put ourselves in a position to be open to them.

Encountering God, encountering others

In his article on Pope Francis' use of the term "Culture of Encounter," a signature theme of his papacy, Thomas J. Eggleston says, "An encounter between God and one's self begins first and foremost by acknowledging that we are being encountered by our Creator who

loves us infinitely—an encounter requires a dynamic back and forth between two entities."

He goes on to say that Francis' pastoral exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* urged the faithful to "a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter them."

"Christ is constantly reaching out to all persons, but the event of an encounter happens when that invitation is acknowledged and responded to by a human being," says Eggleston. "There is a divine vulnerability to reaching out, an eager waiting in hope of a response."

At the 30th World Youth Day in 2015, Pope Francis urged his young audience to seek encounters with God by reading sacred Scripture: "If you are not already in the habit of doing so, begin with the Gospels. Read a line or two each day. Let God's word speak to your heart and enlighten your path," he said. "You will discover that God can be 'seen' also in the face of your brothers and sisters, especially those who are most forgotten: the poor, the hungry, those who thirst, strangers, the sick, those imprisoned."

Sacred encounters in Scripture

We see these sacred encounters throughout Scripture. I think of God's appearance and call to Abraham (Gen. 12), Jacob's wrestling with God (Gen. 32:22-32) and Moses' encounter with God's divine presence as a burning bush (Ex. 3:1-15). These encounters with the divine continue with the stories of the Old Testament prophets.

And, of course, there is the quintessential sacred encounter: God coming to Earth in the person of Jesus. Every interaction with His disciples and the people He preached to was a divine encounter that turned their world upside down. In particular, His radical encounters with outcasts—the blind and lame, the lepers and tax collectors, the woman at the well and the one who suffered from bleeding—set a precedent for an inclusive faith and personal experience with our Lord and Savior.

Sharing our sacred encounters

Sacred encounters are meant to be shared. Consider the disciples, whose lives were so transformed by their encounters with Jesus that they were compelled to tell others the Good News. In the same way, our experiences with Jesus are meant to be passed on to others. We never know how our telling others about our encounters with God might inspire, comfort and reassure them.

One such encounter for me happened at Manresa. I was taking a break and sat down in a chair facing the wetlands just off the path that leads through the Stations of the Cross. I closed my eyes, allowing the setting sun to warm my face. I stayed that way for some time. And then, sensing that I was being watched, I opened my eyes to behold a young stag benevolently looking at me. Extraordinary! No words were spoken, the silence growing louder the longer we gazed at one another. In the silence and stillness of that moment, I sensed that the deer and I weren't the only beings present. I remembered that in the East, the sudden presence of a deer is a sign of the divine.



In another instance, I was approaching Saint Ignatius Chapel one afternoon. This was once the original water wheelhouse, situated on the shore of the stream that snakes along Manresa's boundaries before dropping down beneath Quarton Road, eventually becoming the main branch of the Rouge River.

I stopped to sit down on the stone bench there and was elated to watch the stream playfully splashing over the dam before it broadens out and enters the tunnel

beneath Quarton Road. Suddenly my eyes focused on the shore, and I became aware of a great blue heron. I froze, silent and still, and watched this beautiful bird turning its curved neck to look around and then bobbing its head up and down into the water, presumably looking for food. And then, as suddenly as I'd discovered it, the blue heron noticed this stranger and slowly decided to move on.

My eyes followed its flight, skimming the water, clearing branches of trees above it and beyond it and slowly flapping its long wings in a ballet that took it away from me. I watched this magnificent creature until it disappeared.

I am sure it was the same blue heron I'd seen many times before either in the same spot by the bridge or on the other side of Manresa under the trees by the Sixth Station. Over the years it had become my "prayer partner." I sat in silence for a long time listening to what this encounter meant, knowing it was quite special.

Sacred encounters like this leave us with an appreciation of nature's beauty, a sense of wonder and interconnectedness with the natural world.

Manresa sets the stage for these encounters with the quiet, reflective atmosphere of the retreat house and its natural surroundings outdoors. You probably have your own stories of encountering the sacred at Manresa. I encourage you to share them with others, passing on the gift that they are and inspiring others to be open to their transforming power. †

Fr. Leo Cachat, SJ was a beloved member of Manresa's ministerial team from 2007-2025, leading retreats and offering spiritual direction. He was missioned to Colombiere Retreat Center in June 2025 where he continues to meet with directees.

The day I encountered God in a new way

A personal journey of healing and spiritual discovery

By Cynthia Carter



DURING MY ONGOING JOURNEY TOWARD HEALING FROM DIVORCE AND LINGERING CHILDHOOD WOUNDS, I

encountered a remarkable young woman who introduced me to the practice of walking a labyrinth. I had no idea that my understanding of God would be transformed so deeply. I didn't realize that stepping onto the grounds at Manresa would profoundly change my understanding of God and bring me a fresh sense of release from the emotional pain I'd held onto for years.

Growing up, the churches I attended rarely spoke of cultivating a close, personal relationship with God. He was often portrayed as a distant and powerful force controlling the universe, not someone intimately involved in my everyday struggles. It wasn't until I began turning my journal entries about my divorce into a book that I started encountering God in a much more personal way, discovering

the depth of His love and care for each of us.

On a warm autumn afternoon, I found myself standing at the entrance of Manresa's labyrinth. Tentatively, I raised my hands in praise, unsure of what to expect. As I walked slowly along the winding path, I breathed in the crisp air, soaking up the beauty of the trees and the cheerful song of birds. Before long, I became immersed in the moment, and in that quiet space, I sensed a gentle invitation: "Tell me what's on your heart."

Without realizing it, I began to speak openly to God, sharing with Him all the thoughts and burdens I had been carrying. On that path, I spoke to God as I would to a close friend, revealing my deepest struggles and hopes. By the time I reached the center, I found a deep sense of peace settling over me. I sat in the center for a few moments taking in the atmosphere and the beauty around me.

When I felt a release to leave the special moment in the center, I was prompted to walk backwards out of the labyrinth — a request from God that left me uncertain but willing to trust. It was in this act of faith that I

experienced God's incredible healing power. As I walked backward, I sensed Him erasing the pain and emotional burdens I had carried into the labyrinth. It was as though those scars had vanished, replaced by a profound sense of freedom and the beauty of His restorative power. The emotional chains I had released along the path no longer held me captive.

To this day, the pain I surrendered on that labyrinth path no longer binds me. Manresa not only became the place where I encountered God in a new way, but also where I learned a unique way of praying and connecting with Him — through nature, along the labyrinth, while exploring the tranquil grounds.

I have returned to the labyrinth many times since, often bringing others with me, hopeful that they too might encounter the same connection and joy I found on that life-changing day. †

Cynthia Carter is a single mother and former K-8 teacher who brought compassion and encouragement to her students for more than 15 years. She leads Bible study groups, and her unwavering commitment to education and spiritual growth continues to enrich her family and community.

Saying *Yes* to God made all the difference

By Keller McGaffey



IN 2006 I DID THE 19TH ANNOTATION
SPIRITUAL EXERCISES UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF FR. BERNIE OWENS, SJ.

It was a transformative experience. In the Living Word I discovered the love of God through the friendship of Jesus.

Upon completing the Exercises, I experienced a profound dryness in prayer. I could no longer engage my imagination in Scripture. It was as if God

had disappeared. I continued praying while being met with silence and solitude. I felt the need to do something.

I considered a calling to the Deaconate and met with representatives of the Deaconate program at the Archdiocese of Detroit, but it didn't resonate. I inquired about becoming a spiritual director through Manresa's internship but was told it was too involved for a business owner and family man. This discernment and agitation went on for months.

Finally one day I came to Manresa and walked the trail into the woods. I prayed out loud, "God, I don't know where you want me. I don't know how or where you want me to serve. Here's what I offer you: whenever and whatever you ask me to do, my answer is YES." At that moment a profound peace washed over me, and I felt all my anxieties melt away. It was if God was saying, "That's all I wanted to hear. Now wait on Me."

At times I felt abandoned and lost as I waited for further direction from God. My spiritual director was helpful in listening to my struggles. I continued to show up in daily prayer in the Manresa chapel even when nothing seemed to be happening.

Fast forward to 2014. I was approached by Manresa's Ann Dillon who encouraged me to apply for the Internship in Spiritual Companionship, which had been redesigned in smaller segments to accommodate busy people. The timing was right. I was looking ahead to the next chapter in life. I saw the internship program as God's invitation, and I said "Yes." I graduated in 2016 and began to offer my time to others as a spiritual companion. I also completed the practicum to guide others in the Spiritual Exercises.

About this time, I began succession planning for my business. I discovered a Ted Talk, where the presenter observed four stages of retirement. The first is Vacation, a



period of one year during which the retiree travels, plays golf and accomplishes bucket list items. In the second stage, Loss, they experience feelings of loss and lostness as they discover no one is interested in their career, co-workers don't return calls and their career identity is gone. Some people stay there, while others move to the Trial and Error stage, experimenting with different activities and lifestyles to find new purpose and meaning. In the final Rewire and Reinvent stage, the presenter explained that those retirees who served others found purpose and went on to have a fulfilling fourth quarter of life.

I now knew where my "YES" was leading me in my fourth quarter. I would serve others as a spiritual companion and in the Exercises. I turned over the reins of my business to two key employees and sold the business to them in 2024.

Along with the joy that goes with the blessing of six grandchildren and having all our grown-up kids nearby, I have found what gives me purpose at this stage of my life. I witness God at work in others and help them see the love of God for each one of them. It is privileged and humbling work. I'm glad I said YES. †

Keller McGaffey has led workshops at Manresa on prayer and Ignatian spirituality in the workplace and serves as a supervisor in the internship program. He was a member of Manresa's Board of Directors for five years.



Icon of Moses and the Burning Bush (early 13th century), tempera and metal leaf over textile on panel, 36.2 × 25.2 inches, The Holy Monastery of Saint Catherine, Sinai, Egypt.

Encountering God in the Burning Bush

By Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ



AFTER 400 YEARS OF SILENCE, GOD SPOKE TO MOSES FROM A BURNING BUSH ON MOUNT SINAI.

Built on the site, St. Catherine's monastery houses an icon of this encounter. In the theology of the East, icons are windows into heaven making the eternal heavenly reality of some person or event present

to us, which may explain why the 80-year-old Moses appears so eternally young.

Encounters with God are initiated by God. In the case of Moses the invitation came as a bush that burned without being consumed. It called to him like an angel with a message from God (Ex 3:2). Moses turned aside from his shepherding to see this sight. He could have gone on his way and forgotten it, as R. S. Thomas did with a similar incident in his poem, *The Bright Field*. But Thomas confessed "that was ... the one field that had treasure in it ... that I must give all that I have to possess." We may be invited to encounter God by a sight or word or feeling that grabs us, that seems to promise some revelation if we only turn aside and listen.

Then, like Moses, we become aware that we are in God's presence, standing on "holy ground." The tiny flowers strewn across the ground in this icon reveal its beauty, life and power. We draw near then with reverence, like Moses who removes his shoes, or like the donor of this icon, the tiny turbaned Melchite Arab in the lower left corner of the frame, who prostrates himself before the image.

Let us put aside our shoes, too—whatever is unworthy of being in God's presence or whatever might insulate us from receiving the power and grace in this holy ground. Maximus the Confessor wrote that Moses approached with even his mind stripped bare, freed from all distracting thoughts.

Moses unties his shoes without looking at them but at the One who called him. His eyes and attention are focused above the bush where once were inscribed the now faded, barely legible words of God calling him by name (Ex 3:4-5).

In sacred encounters, God speaks to individuals, calling each of us by name, though often in a barely



The tiny turbaned Melchite Arab, the icon's donor, barely visible in the lower left corner of the frame, who prostrates himself before the image.

audible voice (1 Kings 19:12) that requires our full attention to hear.

And if we listen, we may, like Moses, be better able to answer the two essential questions of our lives: "Who are You, Lord?" and "Who am I?" Moses learned God's ineffable name, YHWH (יהוה) "I Am Who I Am," and he heard that this was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who knew the affliction of His people in Egypt and was resolved to free them and bring them to a new land.

God's self-revelation may tell us something about ourselves, our truest selves, which lie not in earthly accomplishments or reputation, but in who we are in God's sight and in our relationship with God. Moses found he was God's agent to rescue the Israelites, a calling that became the meaning of his life.

When we encounter the God revealed in Christ, we should realize more deeply that we are children of God who are loved, forgiven and destined for eternal life. And whatever we learn of God's will for us in these meetings will be compatible with — and so reveal to some extent our nature — our abilities and our truest selves toward which God's will is moving us, although our calling will never be as historic as the calling of Moses in this icon. †

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.

My Journey from Immigrant to Pilgrim

By Sergio Pagés



ON OCTOBER 19, 1979, I ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES AS A 17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FROM VENEZUELA,

intending solely to pursue a university degree. However, as is often the case, unforeseen life events altered my plans significantly.

My assimilation into American culture was both joyful and challenging. My friend and author, Lermít Díaz, who wrote a book entitled *Inmigrantes*, expresses this experience eloquently:

“Being an immigrant means living with one foot in memory and the other on the horizon; it involves learning that one’s homeland may not always be a physical place, but rather the culmination of voices, aromas, and gestures preserved within the heart.”

Living within this paradox is often difficult for others to comprehend, particularly those who have not experienced it firsthand. It can feel akin to existing in limbo, caught between the present and a past that persistently calls you back. This tension

can give rise to confusion, often manifested as feelings of anger and sadness due to difficulty in reconciling the two. Furthermore, it can impact one’s sense of dignity and belonging, resulting in ambiguity regarding identity and the notion of home.

In my 40s, the assimilation process converged with a mid-life crisis that affected my roles as a husband and father as well as my career.

At this pivotal stage, my first retreat at Manresa led to a profound personal transformation, providing renewed perspective and meaning to my journey as an immigrant. I was grappling with trauma and anxiety related to my self-worth in connection to work, family and finances. I struggled with “monkey-brain,” not being able to quiet the noise in my head and heart. The silence of the retreat led me to a profound state of inner peace and a resolve to sustain it moving forward.

Subsequently, I engaged in the Spiritual Exercises under the direction of Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ and Diane Neville. Upon completion, I was greatly encouraged to share these insights with others, and so I enrolled in the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality with other Spanish-speaking immigrants who had also been transformed by similar experiences at Manresa.

My formation in Ignatian spirituality at Manresa, particularly the methodology of the Spiritual Exercises, has provided valuable tools for processing and finding meaning in the immigrant experience. It offers clarity on personal identity and purpose (“principle and foundation”) and reinforces the concept of the immigrant journey as an ongoing pilgrimage in collaboration with God, who actively participates in every facet of our lives (“contemplation to attain love”).

Today, I remain an active member of a thriving Spanish-speaking community dedicated to sharing our collective experiences with countless other immigrants who come to Manresa seeking purpose in their own spiritual journeys. We provide the same Ignatian methods, adapted to address the specific challenges and perspectives of the immigrant journey, following the example of the “pilgrim” Ignatius of Loyola and his enduring teachings through the adaptation of the Spiritual Exercises to each person’s pilgrimage. †

Sergio Pagés graduated from Manresa’s Internship in Ignatian Spirituality in 2011 and served on Manresa’s Board of Directors. He guides others in the Spiritual Exercises and has led several workshops on Ignatian spirituality in both Spanish and English.

Alone with Jesus in the silence of the chapel

By Madeline Bialecki



LAST YEAR, I CO-FACILITATED A WEEKEND RETREAT AT MANRESA. THERE WERE ENOUGH WOMEN IN THE group to offer overnight Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday night, and by the end of our last session on Saturday, retreatants had signed up for all but three of the 30-minute time slots.

I decided to sign up and spend time during the middle of the night in the silence of the chapel. As I approached the table with the sign-up sheet, another woman said she signed up for two slots, 4:00-5:00 AM. That left one blank line—3:30-4:00 AM.

As I settled myself in front of the altar, I remembered someone telling me that in Eucharistic Adoration, I look at Jesus and Jesus looks at me. I wondered what Jesus sees when He looks at me. Am I living my life in a way He would?

I got lost in the contemplative silence and felt a sense of peace in the quiet.

At some point, though, I checked the clock and realized the woman who was supposed to come at four o'clock hadn't arrived. I knew I could go to her room and wake her, but I thought she probably needed to sleep. So, I stayed and continued my conversation with Jesus.

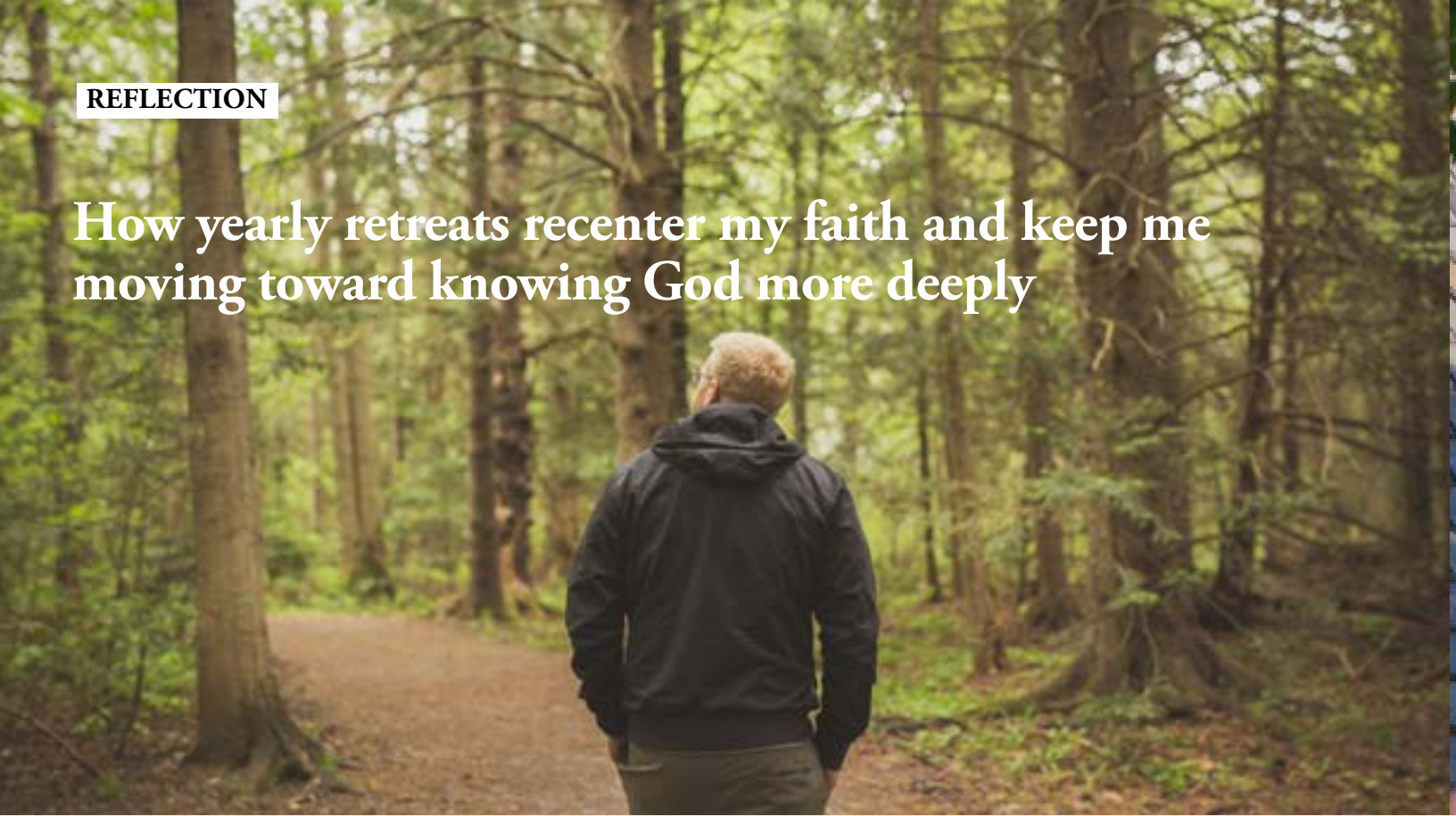
I asked Jesus who might need to be lifted in prayer.

For the next hour, I recalled the people in my life, those living and dead. As each person came to mind, I grew in gratitude for how blessed I am, how loved I am. Memories of wonderful experiences flooded me, and my heart grew with each memory.

In what felt like no time at all, the five o'clock person arrived. The hour and a half I had spent in silence filled me up. I felt energized and grateful. As much as the woman who did not show up probably needed to sleep, I needed to spend the additional time in prayer. †

Madeline Bialecki lived most of her adult life in southeast Pennsylvania. She attended Villanova University and worked in nonprofit management for 35 years. She moved to Michigan ten years ago and completed the Internship in Spiritual Companionship at Manresa. She now serves as Manresa's Development Assistant and chairperson of the 100th Anniversary Celebration Committee.

How yearly retreats recenter my faith and keep me moving toward knowing God more deeply



By James Fritsch



THE MOST FASCINATING AND SURELY THE MOST WONDERFUL ELEMENT OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS THAT it's on a trajectory as unique as

our own DNA. Each path toward union with our Creator bears all the individual details of revelation, heartbreak, despair and redemption. God knows our journey intimately, and if allowed, will graciously nurture us along this path toward the ultimate purpose of our existence.

For me, the journey started in my early 20s, and Manresa was the gateway to the path. Like many, I sensed there was more to a relationship with Christ than following the prescribed instructions or reciting the same formulas. It was a smoldering hunger, a yearning for something I couldn't quite understand or describe. But that was OK! How I felt after spending time in the presence of our Lord told me that I was on the right track.

Many weekends at Manresa followed year after year. The one constant, unassailable truth of these short retreats was the knowledge that my wobbly faith-life would be recentered on its elusive axis. And in some way, in God's way, it always was. But because of pride, willfulness, recklessness or general lack of attention, I always found the return to Manresa to be a mixture of apprehension and exhilaration. I knew God was waiting for me. The natural beauty and stillness of the grounds helped dissolve the distractions of the world just outside my reach. I felt I was where I belonged. Jesus and I were finally having some quality "we" time.

Life happened. Celebrations, regrets, blessings and defeats were a regular part of my journey. And yet, I endured, the evolution continued and the journey progresses. Through it all, I never felt alone.

My thirst intensified. I realized that if I didn't hear the voice of God, it wasn't because He wasn't talking; it was because I wasn't listening.

I noticed a change in myself. It is said that "silence is the first language of God." I found myself looking for

quiet, introspective periods during the day while detached from noise, distractions, consumption, competition and achievement. I filled these with daily times of prayer, being present, appreciating the evidence of our Creator. I gathered insights from Richard Rohr and Thomas Merton. I explored the mystical qualities of the great teachers of the Church.

I was led to the path that I am on now: striving to live in the contemplative presence of God.

The point of my retreat, your retreat, any retreat, is to stop requiring God to compete for our attention. Instead, silence the "noise" both good and bad and offer Him your presence. He will respond with grace-filled, sacred encounters, mystifying ways you'll find deeply personal and eternally satisfying. †

Jim Fritsch is a semi-retired lifelong resident of Berkley living with his wife Debbie. His career path has included the building industry and restaurant management. His current activities include the Knights of Columbus, a custom design/build stained glass business and his favorite hobby, reading.

On the weekend of September 23–26, 1926, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House opened its doors to its first retreatants — and a century of sacred encounters began.

Since then, what started as a retreat center for men has grown into a vibrant spirituality center for men, women and youth. Each year we welcome thousands of individuals who come with questions, burdens and a quiet longing for God, for peace, for meaning. And in this place, they find it. Through our retreats, programs, internship and other opportunities, people come away with a profound sense of having encountered the Sacred in one way or another. What an extraordinary gift Manresa has been to the Metro Detroit area and beyond!

To mark this special milestone, we launched a year-long 100th Anniversary Celebration last September. Our theme, Sacred Encounters: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, invites us to look back with gratitude on 100 years of living out our Mission — to help men and women grow spiritually through prayer, reflection, guidance and teaching according to the Ignatian tradition — and to look forward with hope toward all that is still to come.

In this special section of Manresa Matters, we trace Manresa's 100-year journey walked by countless men and women devoted to experiencing the wisdom and beauty of Ignatian spirituality. The road was not without its challenges, but one on which God's faithfulness never wavered. Through every decade and through every quiet moment of grace, Manresa has stood as a sign of God's enduring presence — a legacy not behind us, but beneath our feet, the very foundation upon which we step into the next hundred years.

Manresa endures — a beacon of faith, hope and love in Metro Detroit and far beyond.

100th Anniversary

CELEBRATION ISSUE

1926-2026



100 Years of Sacred Encounters:

The journey begins



1921

In September, the Provincial of the Jesuit Missouri province, recognizing the commitment of a group of Detroit laymen to Ignatian spirituality, conceives the idea of building a Jesuit retreat house in Detroit and commissions Fr. John J. Donaher, SJ to make the dream a reality.

TELL YOUR STORY

God had more in mind

When my sister was facing difficulties in her life, I began searching for a place where she might find some silence and encouragement from her faith. I thought of Manresa and called to inquire about a silent retreat. I decided to join my sister on retreat to support her in her time of need.

But God had more in mind for me.

As the retreat unfolded, I realized the true story was about my own pain — how depleted, overwhelmed and spiritually disconnected I had become. I was running away from myself, from God and from the Church. I still remember the moment I felt my heart soften and my soul reawaken ... The sacred silence created room for God to reach me again.

I left the retreat charged and inspired to share the beauty of St. Ignatius' practice of gratitude, awareness and intention with my husband Jesús and our sons Santiago and Rodrigo. My renewed faith brought us all back to the Church. Ignatian spirituality is now a compass for our family.

—Gema Hernandez



1923

On August 1, 1923, the interested laymen adopt Articles of Association and By-Laws for the Laymen's Retreat League, which are officially filed on August 23.

1935-36

With financial help from Anthony Bodde, construction of a new building in the Cotswold Revival or Detroit Cotswold architectural style begins in 1935 and is completed in 1936.



1924-26

Friends of Manresa gather to celebrate a field Mass on the 44-acre plot in Grosse Pointe Shores that had been purchased as the site of the new retreat house. The site is sold in 1926 to purchase the "Deepdale" estate of Mr. William Murphy, whose manor house would house retreats until 1934.



1934

On March 25, 1934, at about 4:00 PM, a fire ignited by a spark from the chimney completely destroys the roof and the second story of the main building.

1926

On the weekend of September 23-26, 1926, Fr. William Cogley, SJ leads the first retreat at Manresa. Sixteen men attend, ten from Detroit, six from Battle Creek.



TELL YOUR STORY

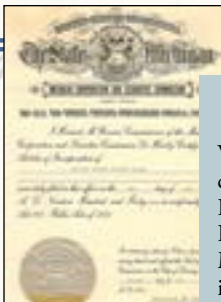
Life-changing retreat

In 2010, at a Manresa retreat, I first learned about the Ignatian practice of Examen. It impacted me, and I have been using it as part of my Evening Prayer ever since. It's a great daily reflection and it makes a great fit with the Liturgy of the Hours.

—Paul Muelle

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Growth and expansion RESIDENCE

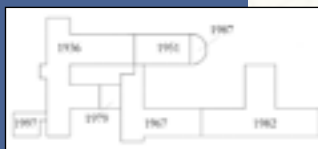


1945

With the property debt paid, the time has come to transfer title to the Jesuits. The Provincial prefers it not be given to the Jesuit Province as such, and so on May 4, 1945, Manresa Jesuit Retreat House is separately incorporated to receive the property.

1951

A series of expansions that begin in 1951 increases Manresa's ability to offer retreats to greater numbers of men and eventually women and youth. In 1951 the chapel wing is added, in 1967 the L-shaped wing that includes the downstairs assembly room, in 1979 the dining room's extension to the L-shaped wing, in 1982 the T-shaped wing with offices and new front entry, in 1987 the expansion of the sanctuary and in 1997 the added kitchen storage and office.



1964

The 1977 annual report to the Board observes, "until 1964 Manresa conducted only men's retreats." That suggests women's retreats were conducted in 1964 and later, but they were officially scheduled only after 1972.



1975

Fr. Robert Rosenfelder, SJ makes progress on developing a path that retreatants could follow through the woods on the property north of the buildings. The maintenance crew completes it in 1976.



1978-81

A statue of Our Lady of Manresa is installed in 1978. Manresa offers Art Shows beginning in 1979, and in 1981, while remodeling the dining room, a redwood plank deck, bronze crucifix and landscaping are installed in the patio outside of the dining room. Known as Sacred Heart Court, one of the walls bears the inscription, "Come to Me all you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you."



1985

The annual Thanksgiving Mass and picnic commemorates 50 years since the fire destroyed the original building, and Bishop Dale Melczek blesses the newly installed bronze head of Saint Ignatius donated by Peter Grande and created by Corinne Ragheb.



1982

Project Manresa is launched in 1980 to build a new wing for offices and a new front entrance, making room for 72 retreatants. Ground is broken for the new addition on October 17, 1982.



TELL YOUR STORY

God healed me

My first retreat at Manresa 47 years ago was not a profound decision. Initially, it was simply a weekend away. I was impressed by the facility and by Ignatian spirituality, but one thing happened that I have rarely shared. At the time I was suffering from an incurable rash on my feet. Doctors told me its severity would come and go, but I would always have it. At the healing service that Saturday, God cured me.

—Dan Gonos

TELL YOUR STORY

Moments of God's glory

- The kindness in everyone's eyes
- Being served with love
- Peace in quiet
- Beauty in art, music, readings
- God's handiwork in Stations of the Cross and the beautiful grounds
- Seeing a group of prancing deer in the woods
- The grace of knowing that my Lord wants me to be among kindred spirits
- Healing – wholeness work
- Talking with a spiritual companion who has the gift of really hearing

—Melissa Patterson, first-time retreatant

100 Years of Sacred Encounters:

Retreat house to spirituality center

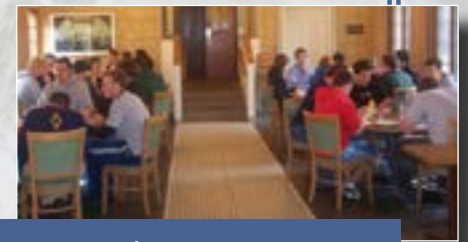
1988

The chapel built in 1951 accommodated 42 retreatants. Since adapting the chapel to seat 70 retreatants left little room for the liturgical recommendations of Vatican II, a 12-foot semi-circular sanctuary is added and dedicated on December 7, 1988, by Bishop Dale Melczek.



1993

The spirituality program at Colombiere Center in Clarkston, MI, transitions to Manresa, their second-year students finishing their training at Manresa in 1995. As director of the new two-year Internship in Ignatian Spirituality, Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ, leads its introductory class in September.



1994

Fr. James Serrick, SJ becomes director of Manresa and with his development of many programs, by the time of his departure in



2007, Manresa has made a transition from being a retreat house to being a spirituality center.

1993-94

Two groups of seniors from St. John's High School in Toledo make overnight retreats at Manresa for the first time and three more are scheduled in 1994.

TELL YOUR STORY

A robin leads

I have been to only one retreat at Manresa. (This is something I am looking to change soon!) I came during a time in my life when I felt drained, stressed and out of touch with my faith. I happened to follow a robin on one of my morning walks which led me right into a mud puddle. I heard God's message loud and clear: "Stop overthinking, and don't be afraid to start living!" It's a message that sticks with me over a year after the retreat.

—Maggie Brennan

TELL YOUR STORY

Drive-by sanctuary

Manresa has been a sanctuary of peace and holy ground for meditation. When my life has been too full to enter the gates, simply driving by has given me a sense of hope and wellbeing. So very grateful for the entire Manresa family!

—Lisa Marie Blanck



1997

The summer programs of 1997 are replaced with repairs to the house: corroded plumbing is replaced, the heating system rebuilt and regulated, the dining room and kitchen modernized, storage and an office added to the kitchen, new lighting installed in the hallways and two new lifts are added for handicapped retreatants.

1998



Margaret Wheeler joins the Manresa staff as the first non-Jesuit staff member. She serves as a co-director of the internship program, supervising directed retreats and offering spiritual direction.



1999

The small shed and attached water wheel that had powered an underground sprinkling system for Mr. Murphy's gardens becomes an outdoor place of prayer, dedicated to Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

A new millennium dawns



2000-02

A chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Montserrat is created, and the Cave Chapel, created in 1979, finds a new location on the second floor of the building to make room for an elevator shaft.

TELL YOUR STORY

Finding God in the quiet

I don't know a time when God wasn't in my life. I had great parents and grandparents, but sometimes it was difficult to find an extended period for God and me to communicate. I longed to have that time for conversation, listening and just being still. I found what I needed at Manresa AND what God has been calling me to do with Him — the studies, the quiet walks, the whole of Manresa. It is my place for peace and reflection which strengthens my inner being, always knowing that God is holding my hand as we walk life's path together.

—Patsy Tilley

2003

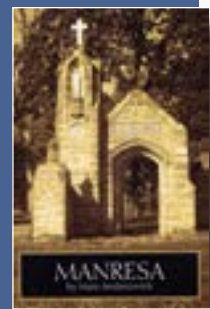
A fountain is built in honor of Bob Tuomey, a regular retreatant for 57 years.

Located just south of the Wernert Lounge, it is dedicated in a formal ceremony on October 5.



2014

After years of volunteering at Manresa, Mary Andrecovich undertakes the labor of researching and writing a history of Manresa, spending countless hours amid the dusty files and piles that constituted our “archives,” to bring our story and its myriad details into print—a labor of love, for which we are deeply grateful.



2004

The first Spirit of Manresa Auction and Dinner Gala, a black-tie affair fundraiser, is held at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham on September 25. Among the Honorary Co-Chairs are the president of General Motors Richard Wagoner and his wife Kathy, who live across the street from Manresa.



2012

Shortly after he was ordained bishop, Bishop Donald Hanchon joins us for Manresa's 2012 Thanksgiving Mass; he celebrates the Mass and scoops ice cream for the guests.



2012

The original Stations of the Cross, erected in 1926 and made of tufa stone supported by metal pipes, are replaced using granite around the original bronze plaques and limestone borders. They are blessed and rededicated on October 21 by Fr. Greg Hyde, SJ, who serves as executive director 2008-2014.

100 Years and Counting ...

The dream evolves and continues



2015

Fr. Henry Chamberlain, SJ walks the new labyrinth that is blessed after the morning Mass by Fr. Fran Daly, SJ who serves as executive director from 2014-21.

TELL YOUR STORY

Blessings found on retreats

My first retreat was during the year my husband passed away. I was in deep grief and seeking comfort, which I found that weekend. I learned about Lectio Divina, a method of prayer that I use often, and met a woman who would become my best friend.

At a more recent retreat, I found my spiritual director with whom I continue to meet. ... By attending retreats and spending time at Manresa, I have learned how to lead a more spiritual life and have been inspired to serve God in bolder ways. ... I am forever grateful to the founders and current staff for enriching my life in so many ways.

—Gina Jacobi

2016

On June 3, the Empty Tomb is blessed, a reminder of Jesus' resurrection. It is dedicated in honor of Jack and Marilyn Berry.



2021

Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM is installed as the first executive director of Manresa who is not a Jesuit.



2024-25

The Province's Mission Examen is completed and work to develop an apostolic plan for Manresa's future begins.

2017

In September, Fr. Fran Daly, SJ blesses the 15th Station, three life-sized statues of Jesus and the couple on the road to Emmaus, a gift of Isaac Hanna in memory of his father, Wadi Hanna. In October, the Jesuit Garden is blessed, honoring both the Jesuits who have worked at Manresa and those whose names are on the memorial bricks and plaques around the Tuomey Fountain.



2020

After the original barns either burned or were razed, Amish builders erect a new barn and maintenance facility, a gift of Marie and Bill Molnar.

2019

On April 10, a fire destroys a century-old barn at Manresa. Later the two adjacent barns are taken down because their foundations had crumbled and their collapse was inevitable.



Celebrating the Spirit of Manresa

Sponsorships

We are so grateful for the individuals and organizations who have shown their support of our 100th Anniversary Celebration through generous sponsorships. As of March 1, \$285,000 has been raised toward our \$400,000 goal. Our sponsor list includes:

DIAMOND (PRESENTING) – \$100,000

E. William & France Kenyon Foundation

SAPPHIRE – \$25,000

Fr. Robert E. Burke
Memorial Trust Fund

Generous Donor*

Mike Koza Family

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RUBY – \$10,000

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PEARL – \$5,000

Arrow Strategies

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Each donor demonstrates an understanding of the importance of Manresa's Mission to help people grow spiritually according to the Ignatian tradition. Their support is an investment in the ongoing work and maintenance of our historic facilities, the spiritual well-being of thousands of individuals and the health of our Catholic community.

Our sponsors receive complimentary tickets to the 100th Anniversary Banquet on May 7, recognition at 100th Anniversary events and in print and online publications throughout the year, mention in press releases and ad space in our banquet program. Learn more at manresa-sj.org/100Years or phone Steve Raymond at 248.644.4933 Ext. 111.

**Donor wishes to remain anonymous.*

Celebration Banquet

Thursday, May 7, 5:00-9:00 PM

Manresa's 100th Anniversary Celebration Banquet is happening on **Thursday, May 7, 5:00-9:00 PM** at Shenandoah Country Club in W. Bloomfield. A cocktail hour with hors



d'oeuvres will be followed by a plated dinner and keynote address by Archbishop Edward Weisenberger.

To get your tickets, scan the QR code or go to manresa-sj.org/2026banquet-tickets.



Live Music Concert on the Lawn

Thursday, July 30, 7:00 PM

Join us on Thursday, July 30, at 7:00 PM for an inspirational Christian music concert on the lawn. Invite family and others who may not know about Manresa to join you. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on, along with your own beverages and snacks, and enjoy an evening of uplifting and worshipful Christian music with others.



Outdoor Mass & Picnic

Sunday, September 20, 2:00 PM

If you attended the Outdoor Mass we had to kick off our year-long 100th Anniversary Celebration, you know what a beautiful time of worship and fellowship we all had. And we're doing it again to close out

the celebration of our centennial. The Mass will be followed by a picnic. Make plans now to be a part of this historic event at Manresa. Registration opens in June at manresa-sj.org/100Years.



What happened to St. Ignatius at Manresa?

Coming Fall 2026

As Manresa celebrates 100 years of offering sacred encounters, we want to reflect on our historical namesake's roots in Spain. To that end, we've invited Fr. Tom Florek, SJ to tell us about his recent experience at Manresa in the Catalonia region where St. Ignatius of Loyola stayed in 1522. He will talk about the significance of St. Ignatius' time there and his own insights during his travels.



Our **100 Trees for 100 More Years** campaign is taking root! Thanks to the generosity of our faithful supporters, funds for **42 trees have been donated** as of March 1. Just **58 more** to go toward our goal of 100 Green Giant Arborvitae that will grace Manresa's grounds for generations to come.



These magnificent trees, standing 40 to 60 feet tall at maturity, will create a natural sanctuary along our eastern property line, softening traffic noise and adding another layer of beauty to the 39 acres our retreatants cherish. Planting these trees is also one of the ways we demonstrate our commitment to respond to the calls of God, the Church and Earth itself to preserve and enrich our common home.

Each tree represents a living legacy—a gift to future generations that will walk our grounds in prayer and contemplation.

We need your help to complete this vision. Your \$1,500 donation plants more than a tree; it plants hope, beauty and faithful stewardship that will flourish well into Manresa's next century. Visit manresa-sj.org/100Trees to donate a tree today and leave a lasting impact on our common home.

Arbor Day Celebration: Blessing of 100 Trees

All are invited to join us on Arbor Day, **April 24, 2026, 8:30 AM** (after morning Mass) when we'll bless the trees and honor our donors. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to frontoffice@manresa-sj.org or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

A plaque with the names of our donors will be placed near the row of trees in October.

TELL YOUR STORY

Mini Jesus fuels faith

I have a strong relationship with God, but I had trouble believing Jesus was the Son of God. A friend told me about Manresa. On my first retreat, I happened into the restroom near the library and there on the soap dispenser sat two mini Jesus figurines. Though I wanted one, I just visited them often during the weekend. Back at work at the grocery store, I was tidying up around the self scan machines and there in plain sight was a mini Jesus! For God to care so much to put that there for me was beyond me. That was the beginning of my relationship with Jesus. I now have complete faith that Jesus truly is God.

—Cindy Fiero

TELL YOUR STORY

Thank you for 25 wonder-filled years

Manresa has been a central part of my life for over 25 years filled with profound, heartfelt and life-changing sacred encounters.

Ignatian Spirituality Internship —

The program was led by Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ and Marion Love. We were a class of 30 students from all walks of life and were so inspired by the readings, discussions, homework and retreats. All of these led to deeper discoveries in our relationship with God and others.

Christian Yoga — During the 16 years of praising God through yoga postures and readings, we grew into a new form of praying. It was a wonderful, prayerful time of honoring God on our mats with beautiful, faith-filled people.

Outdoor Meditations — These immersions in Manresa's beautiful grounds not only awed us but kept wonder and discovery alive as we meditated on God's creation.

Weekday Mass — A wonderful faith-filled beginning to the day with others who come to offer their prayer intentions, celebrate the Eucharist, be inspired by a Jesuit homily and to share our friendship.

The prayer from my heart is, "Thank you, Abba, for Manresa!"

—Grace Seroka

Group encounter inspires sacred calling

By Rosemary Insley



IN 2017, AFTER A YEAR OF INVOLVEMENT WITH A COMMUNITY ORGANIZING GROUP HOPING TO HAVE AN

impact on local

issues, I was invited to have lunch with my parish priest, a few others and a young woman who had recently moved with her husband to Detroit on a visa from El Salvador.

The couple were professionals experiencing threats from gangs and the political instability in their country. They would soon seek asylum here in the United States.

As I listened to her story, I was struck by my lack of awareness of the circumstances of people migrating north hoping to find primarily greater safety and better opportunities for work and a community.

I thought about my maternal grandfather, who came to the US from Poland in the early 1900s. Though he didn't know English, he found work in the mines of Pennsylvania. I remember my mother saying that people made great fun of him because of his struggle to communicate. Luckily a coworker befriended him, and he was eventually able to save enough money to purchase land and begin to farm in rural Connecticut as he had in Poland.

My paternal grandfather also immigrated from Poland, and he worked until he accumulated sufficient resources to bring my dad, his twin brother and my grandmother to join him.

Within a few weeks of that impactful lunch, I was invited to start attending monthly strategy meetings around finding ways to welcome immigrants. In light of the political atmosphere at the time, I knew this would be challenging. I felt out of my depth. I had a lot of experience with listening and facilitating discussion, reflection and prayer, but little in social injustice, which I largely left to other people. Moving out into the community, contacting officials, police chiefs and legislators was new and intimidating.

After a few months, the group, now identified as Strangers No Longer, met for a training day at the University of Detroit Mercy. At the end of the day, we gathered in the chapel to pray and share what the day meant to us. As we went around the circle, a young man stood up and said that the day meant a lot to him because he realized that he wasn't alone in his struggle. He teared up as he said, "Thank you for today. I didn't think anyone else cared about what we are going through."

His words moved me deeply, and in that moment, something broke open

in me. My reluctances became small; my inexperience didn't matter. Even being overwhelmed by the vastness and complexity of the problems didn't matter. Something in me was calling for a response, and while I didn't yet have clear direction, I felt an inner urging to act.

Though today I feel less reluctant and more experienced through training, I am still overwhelmed by the scope of the problems. I have also been encouraged by other people who have joined these efforts. I am more deeply convinced that in some mysterious way, I was moved beyond myself. It gave me the capacity to respond to the need for justice and advocacy as well as charitable giving.

I now have a sense of joining with the suffering of people who have become part of an extended family. I am more willing to speak for those whose voices aren't heard by those in positions of power. In doing so, I exercise a power I was not aware that I have. Though altering the prevailing atmosphere may be unlikely, I am so grateful for the grace that God gives even in unlikely encounters. †

Rosemary Insley is a retired chaplain and counselor who facilitates book discussion groups at Manresa. As a spiritual companion, she accompanies people in spiritual direction and guides others in the Spiritual Exercises.

We are grateful for your support

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continued on next page

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Born into Resurrection

July 1–December 31, 2025

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Awards

July 1–December 31, 2025

Manresa Pin 15 Retreats

Lynne M. Crowton
Joseph B. Frederick
Robert Harrison
Louis Kawam, Jr.
Peter Kreher
Paul J. Molnar
James Morey
Aquiles Palmagil
Michael J. Tavierne
Ralph F. Valitutti

Manresa Crest 25 Retreats

Kathleen Bielinski
Sharon A. Kessler
Harry Oster
John R. Rygiel

In the Grotto

By Anna Hay

The grotto, solemn.
Backdropped by gray skies and rain,
we journey inside.

Awash with silence,
we stand on this holy ground.
Reverence consumes.

Rosaries abound.
They hang in great multitudes,
bearing unseen weight.

Beads full of sorrow,
the rosaries hang heavy
among the cold rocks.

Quiet Hail Marys
are whispered, then float away
into the still air.

Prayers penned on paper
are tucked among the hollows,
Seeking to be found.

Some are crisp and new.
Most withered away by time,
seen by holy eyes.

Hearts poured out, bleeding.
Crying out to God for help.
The pleas are endless.

Tears flow from our eyes.
Testimonies of hardship
echo in this place.

The grotto tells us
that we will all suffer, true.
But God will provide.

Light and hope break through.
They settle inside our hearts,
fragile, but present.

Renewed by the faith
and bravery of strangers,
we journey onwards.

Courage put in words:
To endure is to have hope.
Lord, thy will be done.

2026 Conference Retreats

Retreats for Men

April

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 24-26

Patron: Our Lady of the Way **Theme:** Reflecting on Pope Leo's *Dilexi Te*
Director: Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ

July

Friday-Sunday, Jul. 31-Aug. 2

Patron: Fr. Jack Schuett, SJ **Theme:** Recovery **Director:** TBD

August

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 21-23

Patron: St. Stephen Pongrácz, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

September

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 11-13

Patron: Blessed Sebastian Kimura, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 25-27

Patron: St. Francis Borgia, SJ **Theme:** TBD
Director: TBD

October

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 1-4

(4-days) **Patron:** St. John Ogilvie, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 16-18

Patron: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 23-25

Patron: St. Stanislaus Kosta, SJ **Theme:** TBD
Director: Fr. Steve Spahn

November

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 6-8

Patron: Blessed Rupert Mayer, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

December

Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6

Patron: St. Francis Xavier, SJ **Theme:** Recovery
Director: TBD

Retreats for Women

May

Friday-Sunday, May 8-10

Patron: Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus **Theme:** Journeying with Jesus
Directors: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ & Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Friday-Sunday, May 22-24

Patron: Fr. Frederick A. Harkins, SJ
Theme: Recovery **Director:** Sr. Luann Brown, BVM

June

Friday-Sunday, June 5-7

Patron: Sr. Mary Ward, IBVM
Theme: To Know Christ Jesus: The Life of Christ in Art **Director:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ

October

Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 8-11

(4-Days) **Patron:** Blessed Dominic Collins, SJ **Theme:** Praying Our Tears
Director: Fr. Patrick Hyland

November

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15

Patron: Blessed Miguel Pro **Theme:** TBD
Director: TBD

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 20-22

Patron: Fr. Ed Dowling, SJ **Theme:** Recovery—God in Action: Steps 3, 7, 11
Director: Kathleen McCauley

Retreats for Men & Women

Thursday-Saturday, Apr. 2-4

Patron: Fr. Pierre Teilard de Chardin, SJ
Theme: Holy Week: Companions at Calvary **Director:** Fr. Robert Flack, SJ

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 10-12

Patron: St. Peter Canisius, SJ **Theme:** Journeying with Jesus
Directors: Fr. Fran Daly, SJ and Sr. Kathie Budesky, IHM

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

Patron: Fr. Roberto de Nobili, SJ **Theme:** Christian Meditation
Directors: Dr. Mary Gresens, Dr. Timothy Hogan and DiAnne Patterson-Schultz | **Note:** No dinner on Friday; lunch served on Sunday.

Friday-Sunday, May 29-31

Retiro de fin de semana para hombres y mujeres de habla Hispana

Patron: St. Alberto Hurtado, SJ
Theme: Silent Retreat for Spanish-speakers **Directors:** Equipo liderado por Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ **Para información adicional,** teléfono 248.644.4933 Ext. 128 o correo electrónico ignacianosdemanresa@gmail.com. **For more information,** phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 128 or email ignacianosdemanresa@gmail.com.

Friday-Sunday, Jun. 26-28

Patron: St. Peter Claver, SJ **Theme:** Urban Parishes **Directors:** Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ and Team

Friday-Sunday, Jul. 24-26

Patron: St. Ignatius of Loyola **Theme:** Traditionally Married Couples
Director: TBD

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 4-6

Patron: Fr. John LaFarge, SJ **Theme:** Christian Yoga — Gift and Gratitude: Finding God in All Things **Directors:** Dr. Mary Gresens, DLS and Fr. Robert Scullin, SJ **Note:** No dinner on Friday; ends after lunch on Sunday

Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 15-17

Patron: Blessed Francisco Gárate, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** TBD

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 18-20

Patron: St. John de Brebeuf, SJ
Theme: Healing **Directors:** Fr. John Esper and Ms. Deborah Tourville

Friday-Sunday, Oct. 30-Nov. 1

Patron: St. John Berchmans, SJ
Theme: TBD **Director:** Fr. Steve Hurd, SJ

Retreat for Religious Sisters

Sunday-Friday, Jun. 21-26

Patron: Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque
Theme: The Pascal Mystery in the Life of Religious Sisters **Directors:** Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ and Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM

All retreats are silent unless otherwise noted, and all retreats require a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$50 per person at registration. Register at manresa-sj.org/events or call 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.

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100TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebration Banquet

Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Shenandoah Country Club
5600 Walnut Lake Rd
West Bloomfield Township, MI 48323



Keynote Address
Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger

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