



# Manresa

## “Good News” Letter

Mr. Timothy Murphy, Director  
Superior & Associate Director: Rev. Len Kraus, S.J.

Associate Directors:  
Rev. Peter J. Callery, S.J.  
Rev. Richard Buhler, S.J. | Rev. Michael French, S.J.

Staff:  
Shellie Hayes, Office Manager; Jeff Bourgeois, House Manager;  
Adrien Delbastay, Maintenance Manager; and Tina Jones, Secretary

VOL. 45, NO. 1

SPRING 2019

### President's Remarks



Mark Varisco  
President

Recently my wife and I took some friends from Minnesota to several Louisiana attractions to give them a flavor of our beautiful state. After touring Oak Alley plantation, we took them to see the picturesque

grounds of Houmas House. While sipping on adult beverages in the Turtle Bar, a couple walked in and began telling us about themselves in a little bit of a braggadocious manner.

They were telling us how they were originally from California and were now living in Sun Valley, Idaho, a place they referred to as “God’s Country”. They were visiting the area because of a wedding they were attending that weekend. They had only been in Louisiana for about one day and were asking us “what in the world do you do here for fun?” Of course, we told them about the many festivals we have here in the state, the music, sports teams, and the food.

Later in the conversation, and I truly believe this was inspired by God, I told them about one of our treasures, Manresa House of Retreats. Now the conversation went to another level. I explained how men attend retreats conducted by the Jesuits and inspired by the Spiritual Exercises of

*Continued on page 2*

### A New Service Opportunity

## Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Are you 50 years of age or better and looking for an opportunity to help those in need? Do you have experience and skills that might benefit an under-resourced, non-profit organization? Do you feel called to more fully live your faith in your daily life?

If so, you might be interested in participating in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC).

Started in 1995 by two Jesuit priests, the IVC now engages more than 600 volunteers in 19 regions around the country to serve people and organizations in their home cities. This year, the IVC is coming to New Orleans, and you are invited to share in this meaningful ministry.

The IVC matches the talents and interests of volunteers with the needs of organizations and those they serve. Volunteers agree to donate one or two days each week from September through June. The volunteers and

partner organizations work together to coordinate the days and hours the volunteers work each week, allowing flexibility for the volunteer.

Guided by the Jesuit tradition of Ignatian spirituality, the spiritual component of IVC sets it apart from other volunteer opportunities. Volunteers meet monthly for prayer, reflection, and discussion of their experiences. In addition, each volunteer has a spiritual reflector or companion for individual, ongoing conversations. Through the IVC, volunteers serve in faith to share their gifts and talents while following the Ignatian tradition of being men and women for others.

If you are interested in IVC and would like additional information, email [IVCNewOrleans@gmail.com](mailto:IVCNewOrleans@gmail.com) or call Roland and Arlene Wiltz at 504-835-4707.



## Director's Comments



*Timothy Murphy*  
Director

God continues to bless us all here at Manresa. Week after week the retreat house is virtually full with men seeking to grow in their faith. When one compares what life is like here at Manresa and contrasts it against the general secular world of the 21st century America in which we all live, we see a huge contrast indeed. One often reads and hears about how the American population is growing further and further from its Judeo-Christian roots and origins. Fewer and fewer Americans go to church or synagogue. More and more of the populace identifies as being atheist and/or agnostic at best. That is not the case here at Manresa. Men come here seeking to grow in their knowledge of how to encounter God in their lives, and how to better communicate with Him. We should all thank God for this very special place where so many

of us encounter our loving creator and learn ways to stay in contact with Him as taught to us by St. Ignatius Loyola through his Spiritual Exercises. We truly are a blessed place.

Upon entering the month of May, my thoughts once again turn to our Blessed Mother, Mary the Mother of God. May has traditionally been known as the month of Mary. May follows directly after the month in which we commemorate and celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is only fitting then that we look to Mary to ask her to inspire us to come to discern the will of God in our lives and then to act in the most positive way as we respond to what our Lord is asking of each of us. We need to teach ourselves how to respond to our Lord in the same manner in which she did.

I often spend time in Sacred Heart Chapel here at Manresa in prayer. As I kneel before the altar and gaze at the tabernacle, I see the image of a young woman reaching out to the hand of a figure that is angelic in nature. There



is a dove hovering above the angelic figure, and rays of light are emitted from the bird as it were. There is an inscription written on the door of the tabernacle that reads "et verbum caro factum est." If my Latin is correct, I

*Continued on page 3*

## President's Remarks *Continued from page 1*

St. Ignatius. They were really impressed that 111 men would attend every week of the year and wanted to know why. What makes this place so special?

Of course, I told them about the beautiful surroundings, the presentations, and the food. But that still wasn't enough for them to understand why these men return every year. And then, the Lord encouraged me to share with them the key ingredient: Silence!

Now they were really questioning my sanity. You mean silence is one of the reasons these faithful men attend every year? Again, they were looking for fun things to do in Louisiana, and silence didn't sound to them like the ideal outing.

I tried my best to help them understand that through silence we as humans are able to "see inside ourselves". Silence gives us the opportunity to listen to God and hear what He wants us to do to help us get our lives aligned to better serve him and someday enter into His kingdom. With all the distractions and noises we experience in our everyday lives it is sometimes difficult to hear God. We

tend to focus on the material clutter of our daily activities, important as they may be, but which often get us on a different path that leads us away from God.

Now I don't want to judge this couple, but it was evident church and religion were not an important part of their lives. They had difficulties understanding how we can actually hear God talking to us. While we don't hear actual words, we can feel God's presence and sense his direction. I am not sure if telling them about "seeing inside themselves" was something they were interested in. But I hope they will someday try to understand and let the concept of silence help them realize God's love for them and help them turn to Him. The seed has been planted, if it is in fertile soil then it will grow.

As you read this newsletter, you may have already attended your 2019 retreat or still be waiting for your retreat week to arrive. I have been a member of Group 9, we call ourselves the "Torchbearers", since 1994 and a captain since 2003. I became a member of the Manresa Board

in 2008. I took a six-year sabbatical while working in Africa and returned to the Board in 2017. I am honored and excited about serving the Board as president this year.

I am happy to announce that Manresa has been and continues to be well managed by Tim Murphy and his staff. They work seamlessly behind the scenes maintaining the property, scheduling retreats, and doing the day-to-day activities necessary to enable Manresa to be the best retreat center in America. And, of course, I cannot say enough about the Jesuit Fathers we are so fortunate to have at Manresa. I can't imagine what a retreat would be like without them listening to our life experiences and hearing our confessions.

Please pray for all the men of Manresa to have inspiring retreats and to continue to experience God's graces in their daily lives.

**Ad majorem Dei gloriam**

---

## Director's Comments *Continued from page 2*

believe that translates to read "and the word was made flesh."

Jesus, the Word of God, took on human flesh and became man because the woman, Mary, listened to and responded positively to God's asking her to become the Mother of God. Jesus was enabled to take on human flesh and dwell among us as a human being and as God because of Mary's faith. Her telling the angel Gabriel "Be it done

unto me according to His will, I am the handmaid of the Lord" enabled God the Father's plan for human redemption to become a reality. All humanity owes a great debt to Mary for this selfless act of complete faith. The best way for us all to repay her is to ask her to inspire us to learn how to discern the will of God in our life and to respond to it as she once did. "Be it done unto me according to Thy will," is not a motto

for us to repeat. It is a directive we need to preach to ourselves and to act according to this directive.

As we celebrate the holiday of Mothers' Day, it is my sincere wish that all the mothers of the Men of Manresa are honored and cherished and that all of us thank God for both our natural mother as well as for the gift of Mary, the Mother of God, who is spiritual mother to us all.

---

## Potpourri .....

### Group 10-A

Mr. Wiley Mossy, a graduate of Jesuit High School in NOLA, and a Navy veteran of WWII, attended this year's retreat, with two of his sons and a grandson (who traveled from California). Mr. Mossy made his first retreat in 1950 at Manresa; and has served as a Captain.

Group 10-A retreatants came from 14 states, and Dubai, UAE, and ranged in age from 27 to 96 years of age.

Six Deacons were in attendance, along with nine fathers/sons and four groups of brothers.

Our group would like to thank Ms. Tina, and Ms. Shellie, for all their help with our retreats, year after year!

### Group 17

Cliff White, Sr., made his 68th consecutive annual retreat this year. In attendance with Cliff were three sons-in-law, and three grandsons,

representing three generations.

Jimmie Gaubert made his 53rd annual retreat.

Mike Buisson, Sr., a 35-year retreatant, was also in attendance with his son and grandson, representing three generations.

In total there were 14 fathers with sons, one Priest, one Deacon, and 27 retreatants from out of state.

### Group 47

Captain Ron Drey's Group #47 had a successful retreat. Attendees included five Deacons, one Priest, 15 fathers/sons and/or brothers teams, one head football coach (Jesuit High School in NOLA). Thirteen different states were represented (some as far away as Minnesota, New York, Arizona, California, and Illinois.)

### Group 50

Three generations of Barretts (grandpa Andrew ("Burt"), Son Andy,

and Grandson Christopher) were in attendance.

Fathers/sons groups: Albert J. Frey, Jr., and Albert J. Frey, III; Carl, Jeffrey, Jeremy, and Jonathan Balint; Robert and Robert Barkley; Donald and Chris Faler; Charles and Paul Monteich; Moses and Julian Waite.

Other family groups: Donald and Robert Quintana; Dennis P., Christopher, Howard "Perry", John III, and Timothy Curren; Eston and James Hammer; Paul and Stephen Martinolka; Cary and Chris Trapani; Dennis and Johnny Narcisse; Charles, Matt, and Ted Schmidt.

Classmates of Redemptorist H.S. (1965): Clyde Betz, Gerard Burke, Alvin Cirino, Paul Delyea, and Rolland Mura.

Long-haulers: Mike Enault - Little Rock, Arkansas; Ivan Defreitas - Conway, Arkansas; Tracy Ridgeway - Topeka, Kansas.

---

## Additional Potpourri .....

Here are two additional announcements that we would like to share with you all!

### First

There are two retreats that will be given at the Cenacle, for women, that are going to be led by priests on the staff here at Manresa:

Fr. Buhler is leading a preached Ignatian Retreat from Wednesday evening, August 14th, to Saturday, Noon, August 17th.

Fr. Kraus is leading a 12-step preached retreat from Friday, August 9th, to Sunday, August 11th.

To register, or for more information, call 504-887-1430, or 866-937-9170. The website for the Cenacle is [neworleansretreats.org](http://neworleansretreats.org)

### Second

In case you were looking for some places near Manresa to dine (now that Hymel's is closed), there are two nearby restaurants that you may want to know about:

Creole House (3409 LA-3125, Paulina, LA 70763; phone: 225-869-3333) is open on Thursdays from 8AM to 9PM (you can check their website for other days and hours, and for their

menu: <http://creolehousecafe.com>).

Nobile's (2082 W Main St, Litcher, LA 70071; phone: 225-869-8900) is open on Thursdays from 11AM to 2PM, and from 5PM to 9PM (you can check their website for other days and hours, and for their menu: <http://www.nobilesrestaurant.com>).



**REQUIESCANT IN PACE**

RETREATANTS RETREATS

James N. Adams	9
Joseph Alfonso	19
Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr.	34
Stephen P. Bartlett	34
Stanley L. Bridges	26
Maurice E. Brown	32
Ed Burow	5
John L. Calico	6
Anthony Carmody	10
Francis Cazayoux	10
Guy P. Charleville	23
Malcolm Domingue	4
Lenny Frazier	23
Louis G. Greer	55
Robert P. Harper, Jr.	33
James L. Hingle, Jr.	45
John Kerrigan	14
Carl Laforge	16
Llewellyn Levi	7
Andrew L. Lukinovich, Jr.	20
Roland J. Mestayer, Jr.	36
Jacques Mire	13
Harold J. O'Donnell, Jr.	16
Normand Roy	8
Joel M. Sermons	20
Wayne G. Spalt	20
Charles C. Spence, Sr.	26
D. Paul Spencer	15
Edgar E. Spielman	18
John A Spustek	32
George R. Thatcher	26
Jim Winston	7

**FOURTH QUARTER STATISTICS**

		2018	2017
40	Oct 4	Douglas Block	108 108
41	11	Dean Bartels	111 111
42	18	Allan Couvillion	112 112
43	25	Albert Pappalardo, Jr.	113 109
43A	28	Wayne Thomas	111 112
44	Nov 1	Joseph Exnicios	112 111
45	8	Mark Lorando	109 109
46	15	Mark Truxillo	109 110
48	22	Rob Brouillette	92 93
47	29	Ron Drez, Jr.	107 108
49	Dec 6	Paul Richard	111 111
49A	9	Anthony Buckley, III	105 106
50	13	Michael Hartenstein	111 108
51	20	Peter Connick	108 107
TOTAL		1519	1515

**SUMMARY**

14	RETREATS	1519	RETREATANTS
109	PER RETREAT	4	MORE THAN 2017
106	FIRST TIMERS	192	OTHER FAITHS

**FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS**

		2019	2018
1	Jan 3	B. A. Adams, Sr.	110 104
2	10	Matthew Bailey	110 108
3	17	Jimmy Lafont	112 102
4	24	Jeffrey Meyers	107 108
5	31	Hal Dupuy	111 111
6	Feb 7	Dr. Bruce LeBlanc	111 111
7	14	Robert Hale	110 111
8	21	David Lobue	110 107
9	28	Travis Fabre	109 110
10	Mar 7	Tim Sicard	109 112
10A	10	Van DeWitt	110 110
11	14	Lewis Derbes	110 109
12	21	Arthur Dupre	113 111
12A	24	Martin Macdiarmid	112 110
15	28	Michael Redmann	113 111
TOTAL		1657	1635

**SUMMARY**

15	RETREATS	1657	RETREATANTS
110	PER RETREAT	22	MORE THAN LAST YEAR
123	FIRST TIMERS	209	OTHER FAITHS



**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

Manresa Retreat House Office  
 P.O. Box 89, Convent, LA 70723-0089  
 1-800-782-9431 FAX (225) 562-3147  
 E-mail: manresahr@bellsouth.net  
 www.manresala.org

**Manresa "GOOD NEWS" LETTER**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 FPI