

July 10, 2009

Dear Friends of Mount Manresa:

I am pleased to report that, on June 18, 2009, the Board of Directors of Mount Manresa Jesuit Retreat House accepted the recommendation of our departing Executive Director, Fr. Edward J. Quinnan, S.J., and appointed an outstanding member of the Mount Manresa ministerial staff to serve as Interim Executive Director of Mount Manresa while the search for a permanent Executive Director continues. Fred Herron, who has served as Director of Programs at Mount Manresa since March of 2007, assumed the responsibilities of Interim Executive Director upon the July 1 conclusion of Fr. Quinnan's term.

For those members of the Mount Manresa Community who have not yet had an opportunity to meet and get to know Fred, I can share with you that, during his tenure as our Director of Programs, Fred has made important contributions to the development of new retreat and other ministerial offerings and, in particular, has significantly strengthened our collaborative relationships with Staten Island parishes as well as Catholic schools on Staten Island and in Brooklyn. Also, Fred has collaborated closely with Fr. Quinnan, our Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the Board of Directors in developing and administering Mount Manresa's long-term strategic plan. When not working hard at Mount Manresa, Fred is a member of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at St. John's University, the chairperson of the Religious Studies Department at Fontbonne Hall Academy, a girls' Catholic high school located in Brooklyn, and Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Clare's parish on Staten Island. Fred is the recipient of the 2008 *Mustard Seed Award*, presented by the National Catholic Educational Association for outstanding catechetical leadership. The author of seven books and numerous popular and professional articles in the areas of spirituality, adolescent formation and Catholic education, Fred's latest book, *Tuning the Rig: Catholic Schools for a Learning Church*, will appear in the Fall. Fred and his wife Kathleen are residents of Staten Island and are the parents of five children.

The Board of Directors is enormously grateful to Fred for his generous willingness to assume the role of Interim Executive Director, while continuing to perform his responsibilities as Director of Programs. Fred will benefit from the outstanding service and assistance of Mount Manresa's long-time Associate Director, Arlene Volsario.

As the Search Committee of the Board of Directors continues its search for a permanent Executive Director, we are gratified by the volume of interest by so many talented candidates. It is currently expected that a final decision and appointment will be made by the Board of Directors, the Board of Members and the Provincial of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus in early Fall.

With gratitude to Fred and with confidence in the support of the entire Mount Manresa Community, I look forward to some exciting developments for Mount Manresa during the next several months.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Nolan, Jr.

Richard T. Nolan, Jr.
Chairman
Board of Directors

cc: V. Rev. David S. Ciancimino, Provincial,
NY Province, Society of Jesus
Rev. Msgr. James Dorney, Co-Vicar of Staten Island
Rev. Msgr. Peter Finn, Co-Vicar of Staten Island
Mount Manresa Board of Directors and Board of Members