



April 2, 2009

Dear Friends of Mount Manresa:

It is with enormous gratitude for seven productive and successful years, but no small amount of regret, that I announce, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mount Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, that Fr. Edward J. Quinnan, S.J. will conclude his tenure as the Executive Director of Mount Manresa on June 30, 2009. As of July 1, 2009, Fr. Quinnan will assume his new responsibilities as he is appointed by the Provincial of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus to serve as an Assistant Director of the newly established Jesuit Collaborative. The good news is that this new assignment will keep Fr. Quinnan close to Mount Manresa.

Since his arrival in July of 2002, Fr. Quinnan has served Mount Manresa with enormous passion, energy and creativity. His efforts have had a dramatic impact upon the growth and success of our apostolic work. Such efforts include: (i) the corporate reorganization of Mount Manresa and the establishment of a governing Board of Directors, a Jesuit Board of Members, as well as the various standing committees of the Board of Directors; (ii) the establishment of managerial processes and controls that have contributed to a more efficient and cost-effective administration of Mount Manresa; (iii) the formation of the "Circle of Friends" in support and promotion of the ministry of Mount Manresa; (iv) the inauguration of our "Second Century Campaign" in support of our capital improvement program; (v) the establishment of the "Annual Fund for Mount Manresa" in support of our operating budget; (vi) the building of an outstanding staff, with new retreat leaders and new spiritual programs -- particularly youth retreat programs; (vii) the growth of our volunteer lay retreat leader movement; (viii) the establishment of a program of visiting authors and speakers; (ix) the undertaking of a comprehensive strategic planning process for the long-term future of Mount Manresa, and the hard work of implementing such strategic plan; (x) the building of collaborative working relationships with other Jesuit apostolates; (xi) the creation of our unique partnership with Global Medical Relief, as well as our relationship with the Staten Island Knights of Columbus Councils; (xii) increased outreach to and collaboration with parishes on Staten Island (including the re-establishment of the "Speakers Bureau"); (xiii) the renovation of the second floor of our main administration building and the dedication of such building as "Bruno Hall"; (xiv) capital improvements to Sacred Heart Chapel, Shealey Hall and Bruno Hall; (xv) the planning of additional and ambitious capital improvements to our grounds and other campus buildings; (xvi) the establishment of a first-class web site, the monthly dissemination of our electronic newsletter, and the re-establishment of our print newsletter, *The Founder*; and (xvii) the establishment of a planning committee for Mount Manresa's centennial celebration in 2011.

This is an enormous record of achievement that has fostered a resurgence for Mount Manresa and its ability to effectively serve the needs of the Church -- as well as those of the broader community -- on Staten Island, as well as in Brooklyn, Manhattan and beyond.

I also wish to acknowledge the extent to which Fr. Quinnan's service as a Jesuit priest frequently found him working hard well beyond the hills of Mount Manresa. He has assisted with Mass and other sacramental services at St. Mary of the Assumption Church and Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St. Benedicta Church (the two neighboring Staten Island parishes served by the Jesuits). Fr. Quinnan also has served as an assistant to the Provincial with respect to matters relating to the three retreat houses of

the New York Province, and served in a leadership capacity with respect to the design and formation of the Jesuit Collaborative -- a new and creative organization designed to foster and promote Ignatian Spirituality.

Upon assuming his new assignment as an Assistant Director of the Jesuit Collaborative, Fr. Quinnan will work on behalf of the retreat movement in coordination with the eight retreat houses, including Mount Manresa, operated by the Jesuits on the eastern coast of the United States. While Fr. Quinnan's responsibilities will require a great deal of travel, he will remain in residence at the Rectory of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St. Benedicta Church and will maintain an office at Mount Manresa for use when he is not traveling. Hence, we can look forward to seeing Fr. Quinnan from time to time, and Mount Manresa will be a grateful beneficiary of his priestly service to the Jesuit Collaborative.

A comprehensive search for the next Executive Director of Mount Manresa has commenced, with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors serving as a Search Committee. We are coordinating with Fr. David S. Ciancimino, S.J., the Provincial of the New York Province, who has been very supportive of Mount Manresa at this time of transition. Following careful consideration by the Board of Directors and discussions with Fr. Ciancimino, an important decision already has been made at the recommendation of Fr. Quinnan. The next Executive Director of Mount Manresa will be a layperson. It is our desire that the Jesuits serving Mount Manresa be free to serve entirely in a ministerial capacity, unburdened by administrative responsibilities and distractions. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of the next Executive Director, as a skilled layperson, to manage the administration of Mount Manresa, attending to finance and budgeting issues, fundraising, publications and ministry promotion, human resources, physical plant and hospitality, our food service and dining hall, while at the same time possessing a sophistication with the Spiritual Exercise and Ignatian Spirituality that will equip such individual to effectively lead and promote this Catholic apostolic work of the Society of Jesus in a way that will continue to build upon the hard work and success of Fr. Quinnan.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express our gratitude to Fr. Quinnan. These are exciting times for Mount Manresa, with an energizing combination of important recent achievements, significant remaining challenges (particularly during the current economic environment), and additional opportunities to be pursued in earnest. Mount Manresa is well positioned for a future characterized by success and important service to our Church and community. With gratitude to Fr. Quinnan and with confidence in the support of the entire Mount Manresa Community, I look forward to an exciting future for Mount Manresa.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Nolan, Jr.  
Chairman  
Board of Directors

cc: Most 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  
Mount Manresa Board of Members