



Est. 1911

The Society of Jesus  
and  
the Board of Directors  
of  
Mount Manresa Jesuit Retreat House  
welcome you  
to the  
dedication  
of the

Rev. Mariano F. Pacis Room  
Rev. Joseph F. O'Brien, S.J. and  
Rev. Joseph T. Browne, S.J. Chapel  
Dr. Damir Velcek Hall  
Dr. Peter K. Kottmeier Room  
Dr. John L. Madden Room

October 30, 2011



Rev. Joseph T. Browne, S.J.

Born in Brooklyn, Fr. Joseph T. Browne, S.J. entered the Jesuits in Poughkeepsie in 1943 and was ordained in 1956. He served at retreat houses, in parishes and as a teacher. As superior and retreat minister at Mount Manresa, 1994–2002, Fr. Browne's ability to find people where they were and lead them to a God who loves them, made him beloved to everyone he met. At Mount Manresa, he was an instructor in the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola while he was serving in parishes, 1977–1986 and 1990–1994. Fr. Browne was rector at Murray-Weigel Hall, 1973–1977, and superior at Ciszeh Hall, both in the Bronx. He was Jesuit vice provincial for secondary education, 1968–1972 and assisted at St. Ignatius Loyola parish, NYC, 2002–2007. Mount Manresa honors his many years of dedicated service to the Retreat House and to the Society of Jesus.



John Leo Madden, M.D.

Served as St. Clare Hospital's director of Surgery, a clinical professor and attending in Surgery at New York Presbyterian and Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Dr. Madden was a distinguished master surgeon, teacher and writer. His innumerable contributions included developing techniques for various operations, such as colorectal tumors, aortic aneurysm and mastectomy. Dr. Denton A Cooley, pioneer heart surgeon, even recognized his contributions as groundbreaking. Among many other rewards he received, his work illustrating blood vessels earned him the prestigious AMA's Ludwig Hektoen gold medal in 1952. Dr. Francisca Tolete-Velcek, Dr. Madden's resident, 1966–1971, said, "His books and teaching inspired countless surgeons. He was the best surgeon, the best teacher and the most humane physician I have met in my entire life."



Rev. Mariano Flores Pacis

Born in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, to a family of many priests and nuns, Fr. Pacis was considered a saint by his parishioners in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, where he served his longest priestly assignment. He founded the Benito Soliven Academy in response to the many less fortunate, unable to pursue a desired high school education at the capital due to lack of travel funds. Not only did he help provide high school scholarships, but he also served as an inspiration to many students, who sought his guidance and became priests. He was the foremost Ilocanista in his time. He devoted time to begin the translation of the New Testament, psalms, and Lectionary into the Ilocano language, achieving its final completion after he retired from his parish assignment.



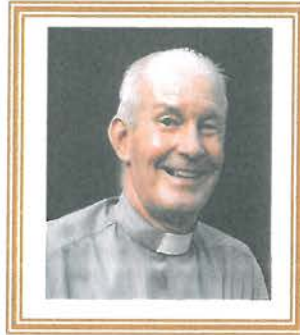
Dr. Damir Velcek

Dr. Damir Velcek immigrated to the United States from Croatia upon his discharge from the Yugoslav army in 1971. He did his surgical training at St. Clare's Hospital under Dr. John L. Madden, then pursued his Urology training at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center under the late Dr. Victor Marshall. In 1987, Damir joined the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps and was mobilized to Operation Desert Storm in 1991, where he was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal as well as the Distinguished Service Medal. A member of the Urology staff for over 28 years at Lenox Hill Hospital, Damir earned the admiration and affection of his colleagues for his love of medicine, his diverse and creative interests, and his energetic spirit. As a friend to Mount Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, as well as the Society of Jesus, Damir's generosity was always there when needed and his benevolence has sustained Mount Manresa as well as the Jesuit Mission Bureau. On October 31, 2008, God called Damir home.



Peter Klaus Kottmeier, M.D.

Born in Munich, Germany in 1925, Dr. Kottmeier immigrated to the United States after graduating from medical school. After his pathology residency in Texas and his surgical residency at KCHC in Brooklyn, he pursued his training in Pediatric Surgery under Dr. Clatworthy in Columbus, Ohio. Upon completion, he returned to KCHC and created a Pediatric Surgery Department where he trained many pediatric surgeons. Dr. Kottmeier established the first Pediatric Trauma Unit in the United States, and started the first Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Children's Emergency Room. Dr. Kottmeier was awarded the Distinguished Professorship, the highest honor given by the State University of New York. He is a compassionate clinician, and an outstanding teacher and surgeon, and continues to be a mentor to many surgeons during his retirement.



Rev. Joseph Francis O'Brien, S.J.

Born in New York City in 1915, Fr. Joseph O'Brien entered the Society of Jesus at age 16, after his graduation from Regis High School. He was ordained on June 18, 1944 and after WW II, he was assigned in the Philippines, a part of the New York Province at that time. Fr. O'Brien taught the Classics at various Jesuit Colleges, including Ateneo de Naga, Ateneo de Cagayan de Oro, and Ateneo de Manila. He was admired by all his students, not only for his love of teaching, but also for his pastoral work. Together with the late Fr. Pacifico Ortiz, S.J. & Fr. Raymund V. Gough, S.J., Fr. O'Brien continued the work of the late Fr. John P. Delaney as chaplain for UPSCA (University of the Philippines Student Catholic Action). Due to his hard work and spiritual guidance, UPSCA flourished with many vocations to the religious life. In the later years of his retirement, Fr. O'Brien commented that he was at the airport waiting for takeoff. God called him on September 3, 2002.