

Background of the Name of Presentation Manor

Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB



The icon of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple of Jerusalem was commissioned by Basilian Fathers George Smith and Thomas Rosica in 2017. It was written by the late Sr. Marie-Paul Farran, OSB and Sr. Marie-Bénédicte Martin, OSB of the Benedictine Monastery of Notre Dame du Calvaire on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Israel) from 2017-2019. It arrived at Presentation Manor in 2020 and was donated by Andrew Barnicke and his family. It is a centerpiece in the chapel of Presentation Manor.

Why “Presentation Manor” as a name for our residence...

Religious men and women, representing many religious congregations in the Canadian Church formed the organizing group that planned Presentation Manor and saw the project to its completion. From the beginning, this residence, founded in the Catholic tradition, would open its doors to people of many Christian denominations and peoples of other faiths. They chose the name “Presentation” for this residence, based on the New Testament story from Luke’s Gospel of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem by his parents, to fulfill what was required in Jewish law. It is a very poignant New Testament story that features four individuals gathered around the infant Jesus: his parents, Mary and Joseph, and the elderly and faithful priest, Simeon and the wise, elderly prophetess Anna. When his parents presented the child Jesus to Simeon, he took the child in his arms and blessed God with a beautiful prayer that is an anthology of all prayer in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Simeon and Anna were elderly persons of deep faith in God, and they had the ability to bless the new life presented to them by Mary and Joseph. The prophetic words of Simeon and Anna not only announced the Saviour’s coming into the world and his presence in Israel’s midst, but also his future life. The Gospel story of the Presentation story is a very fitting one to describe the many residents of our home who are women and men of deep faith and courage – men and women who are not afraid to welcome the new life that enters our midst each day. For this reason, the icon of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple of Jerusalem is the centrepiece of our chapel. Many people pray before that icon each day.

February 2, 2023

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB