



Jesuit Retreat League of Chicago

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Bellarmino Hall

newsletter

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Let it Rain!

Fr. George Steenken, our gardener in residence, often requests other staff members to join him in praying for the rain needed for the gardens at Bellarmine. Although the rain is often very much needed by the lawns and gardens at Bellarmine, in the past rain often occasioned a leaky roof in our retreat house building.

In 2003, we repaired the flat roof on the 1957 addition. Last month work was completed on the clay tile roofs of the original building and the chapel. According to the contractor who completed the roof repair, the clay tiles should last forever and the copper flashings should be good for at least the next 65 years. It is good to have this work behind us.

Now after a very dry April, we feel it is safe to join Fr. George in his prayers for rain, knowing that the roofs of our buildings are in good repair.

Look up as you travel up the driveway to Bellarmine, and notice the new siding on the dormers of the main building. Many of our retreatants and visitors have responded favorably to the change in color of the siding from white to a color that closely matches the color of the bricks. In order to properly install the flashings on the roof it was necessary to remove some of the old aluminum siding, which had begun to peel. Because of the condition of the siding, all of the contractors who bid on the roofing job recommended replacement of the siding.

We have received favorable comments from our retreatants regarding the new windows which, were installed in the



A single man-lift was used to install siding to third floor dormers.

two older buildings in December. Those attending retreats in the winter months greatly appreciated the absence of drafts. The six new windows for the Chapel have to be custom-made, and will be installed this August.

In addition to these major projects, Br. Bill Haas and Br. Joe Shubitowski with the maintenance staff have been busy making many repairs to the original building and improving the landscaping.

Financial support and volunteer labor for the maintenance of Bellarmine's facilities are greatly appreciated. Our friends really are loyal.



Clay tiles were removed and later replaced after repairs to the roof. A big job!

A Word From the Director



John T. Dillon, S.J.

Spiritual Growth

Bellarmino retreatants are virtually unanimous in reporting that their retreats stimulate "spiritual growth." The spiritual growth to which they refer manifests itself in their life in diverse ways. E.g., many enjoy improved interaction in their human relationships and exhibit greater patience in some of the trying circumstances of their life. Others see growth in the fact that they pray more frequently and more fervently as a result of their retreat. Most retreatants report an increase in their care and concern for other persons.

These examples of spiritual growth in retreatants are a valuable indication that Bellarmine retreats are providing

an effective means for a periodic re-grounding of one's life in basic Christian values. This re-commitment to the foundational truths of the spiritual life enables retreatants to preserve a strong Christian identity while adapting to the demands of ever-changing circumstances in life. Retreats provide a basis for the stability needed to cope with a world of transience, a world which challenges the validity of many Christian values.

In Matthew, Chapter 7, Christ exhorts His followers to build their lives on the rock foundation of His teachings. Otherwise, the storms of life like the pressures related to career advancement, threats to economic security, competition, and bombardment of advertising attracting us to excitement and pleasure will lead to erosion of our basic values and principles for Christian living.

Retreats provide a return to the rock foundation on which our commitment to Christ and His teaching will survive in a world characterized by self-centered choices pursuing personal advantage. Retreats provide a time of peace and quiet during which

retreatants assess the influence of the values of our culture on their life. Under the grace occasioned by prayerful reflection on the life of Christ, they choose to base their lives on the teaching of Christ. They understand that their life will be comparable to wheat growing in the midst of weeds. In a world characterized by self-centeredness, they are growing in their capacity to offer care and concern to others. Clearly retreatants are growing spiritually.

Bellarmino Mission Statement

The Mission of Bellarmine Hall is to serve the wider apostolic efforts of the Church of Chicago and the Midwest by skillfully adapting the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola* to the developing spiritual needs of God's people. Bellarmine Hall Jesuits are committed to sharing this ministry with qualified and dedicated lay colleagues who are in accord with Ignatian spirituality. We view our unified efforts in providing programs and resources at Bellarmine Hall as a type of Christian servant leadership.

Kairos Retreat Opportunity Available for High School Juniors and Seniors

Bellarmino Retreat House hosts a number of Kairos retreats each year. These retreats are for older adolescents, usually juniors or seniors in high school. These retreats provide the students with a tremendous sense of God's love and God's call to put that love into action. All but one of these retreats are sponsored by Catholic high schools for their students.

For the last 5 years, in early August, St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago and St. Nicholas Parish in Evanston have gathered a team from local Catholic high schools and parishes to work together on a Kairos retreat. Starting small, the retreat has grown significantly over the last few years. It now brings together young men and women, from the city and suburbs, from private and public high schools, Catholics and Christians of other denominations, from various socioeconomic levels, and a diversity of ethnicities to experience the Kairos retreat.

There are still some openings available at this retreat for older adolescents who have not had the opportunity to make a Kairos retreat. Perhaps you yourself are interested or know someone who is. Along with St.

Ignatius and St. Nicholas Parishes, Bellarmine retreat house invites you to be a part of this unique experience. This year the retreat will be August 11-14. Both young men and women are welcome provided they are entering their junior or senior year in high school or freshman year in college. Interested persons should contact David Heimann at 773-764-5936 x 14. Applications will be accepted until the retreat is full.

Charis Ministries Retreats For Young Adults

July 15 - 17, 2005 - Fr. Sparough, S.J.
"Faith and Sexuality"

This retreat asks who we are with God through our relationships.

July 18-24, 2005

Individually Directed Retreat

Young Adults will have the time and space to rest, to pray, to listen and to share reflections with a spiritual director. Come for one day or all seven days.

To register or for more information:
(773) 508-2840 • www.jesuits.net/charis

Obituaries

Since our last Newsletter, we have been informed of the death of the following retreatants. Please remember them in your prayers. A Mass is offered each month for all our deceased. Kindly inform us of the death of any members of the Bellarmine Family.

Dr. John Dempsey February 24, 2005

Ralph C. Inbusch March 26, 2005

Lawrence McBride May 13, 2005

William H. Meany April 9, 2005

James Neurauter May 4, 2005

Institute on Religious Life Women's Retreat

This retreat is conducted by the Miles Christi Priests. It is modeled after the retreats given by much admired Fr. John Hardon, S.J., so popular here at Bellarmine Hall.

July 11 - 14, 2005

Women's Retreat

Especially for women, Fr. Patrick Wainwright, MC, and Fr. Xavier Ray, MC, will conduct this retreat that starts on Monday at 5:30 p.m. and ends on Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for this retreat, please contact:
William Fairman (708) 425-6537
W_Fairman2@msn.com

Follow Up Your Retreat *written by Father Mark Andrews S.J.*



Fr. Mark Andrews, S.J.

Summer: A "Growing Season" for our Faith

*"For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to him who sows
and bread to him who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth.
It shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it."*

(Isaiah 55:10-11)

In mid-May we completed the "high holy season" of our Church year, the forty days of Lent leading up to the Easter Triduum, then the fifty days of the Easter season leading up to the

great feast of Pentecost. It was a time of great drama, filled with color and rich symbolism: the deep purple and penances of Lent, solemn readings of the Paschal events, followed by the bells and white vestments and joyous "Alleluias" of Easter proclamation. Now we find ourselves back in "Ordinary Time," a season whose liturgical color is green, a reminder that the seeds of salvation so spectacularly planted are now growing...quietly, sometimes imperceptibly. For some people, this shift in focus is not welcome: they crave an ongoing "tingle factor" in their spiritual life. The everyday tasks of loving God and neighbor seem about as exciting as...well, watching grass grow.

People can sometimes feel a similar letdown in between retreats here at Bellarmine. The beautiful grounds, the atmosphere of silence, the specially focused hours with our Lord, all of these factors contribute to a "high" not unlike the drama of Lent and Easter. In those moments of "getting it," of truly drawing closer to our Lord, a desire wells up inside of us to

never lose that special feeling. "Lord, it is good for us to be here," Simon Peter says to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. "Permit me to build three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But of course they have to come down from that mountain, because the story isn't over yet, and Peter (we are soon to see) isn't even close to understanding what Jesus is about...and neither are we. Growing in true discipleship takes time and patience, weeding and watering, just as plants do. As Jesus once reminded the farmers in his audience, plants that spring up quickly do so because they lack deep roots, and they quickly wither in the noon-day sun (Matt 13: 5-6). God wants those seeds to "take." He considers us worth waiting for.

So let us rejoice in this "growing season" that we've been given, apart from Easter or our personal retreat. A time to let our roots deepen. A time to trust that God is present (and patient) in what seems like slow growth. An opportunity to bear fruits of love that will last. Happy summer!

Bellarmino Welcomes New Board Members



Eugene Croisant

Gene Croisant, a long time retreatant at Bellarmine, has joined the Bellarmine Advisory Board of Directors. Gene has attended more than 40 retreats at Bellarmine, the first while still in college. He is a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago, earning a BS degree in 1959 and a MS degree in 1965. He was formerly employed by Continental Bank in Chicago, as Executive Vice-President of Operations. He retired in 1998 as Executive Vice-President of Administration at R.J.R. Nabisco.

Gene has served on numerous boards including 18 years on the Board of Trustees at Loyola University. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees at Carroll College in Helena Montana, and is the Chairman of the Board of Advisors for Greenwich Associates. He is a Knight of the Military Order of Malta and Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher.

Gene and his wife Barbara have two grown children and five grandchildren. They currently reside in Montana during the summer and Arizona during the winter months.



John Kurkowski

We also welcome John L. Kurkowski to Bellarmine's Board of Advisors. John graduated from Loyola Academy in 1984, and from the University of Illinois in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

John is an audit partner in the accounting firm of Crowe Chizek and Company LLC in Oak Brook, Illinois. He currently lives in Glenview with his wife Karen and three young children.

John follows in the footsteps of his father, Lloyd Kurkowski who was a long time member of the Advisory Board.

We are very happy to welcome both Gene and John as new Advisory Board members, and appreciate the experience and expertise they bring to the Board.

Your Good Will Is A Gift

Good Things Happen
When You Make A Will

Are you delaying writing your will—or updating an old will? If so, you are not alone for many of us are guilty of doing this. Why? Many reasons—too busy, can't make up your mind how to divide your assets, too expensive, not necessary, estates too small or your property will automatically pass through to your heirs.

If you die without a will, your assets will be divided according to state law. A stranger could wind up allocating your assets. The court could appoint a guardian for your dependents—perhaps someone you wouldn't have wanted. Estate taxes could reduce your assets and your heirs could be exposed to a maze of technicalities.

An outdated will is almost as bad as no will because of the changes that can occur over the passing of years.

Use your will to support Bellarmine's ministry. To explore possible ways this could be beneficial to your family and at the same time contribute to Bellarmine's future after your lifetime, contact Bob Pasek, Director of Development at Bellarmine, (847) 381-1261.

Captains this year have continued to offer dedicated support for Bellarmine's retreat ministry. Captains begin to realize that you reveal your own deep faith when you invite friends and acquaintances to "Come to the Quiet" of Bellarmine. Your enthusiasm for the retreat experience is attractive to those whom you invite to come and see. The Lord clearly is working through you.

Thanks for being loyal friends. I hope that many captains will be able to participate in our annual meeting scheduled this summer for June 24 and 25. There, in the company of fellow captains, creative energies surface and personal enthusiasm deepens.

You probably have received a letter of invitation for the June meeting. Please try to join us for this joyful weekend. It will be a pleasure to enjoy your company. See you in June.

Summer at Bellarmine

I am occasionally asked if I look forward to summer when things slow down at Bellarmine. My answer to that question is, "Yes, I am looking forward to summer; however, thankfully things never truly slow down at Bellarmine." The addition of our Conference Center as well as the new landscaping has made Bellarmine an even more attractive place for summer retreats.

In June we look forward to hosting the 8-day Bi-Province Jesuit Retreat as well as a Liturgist Reflection Weekend, the Loyola Academy Leadership Retreat, and our annual Captains' Meeting.

July will be an exceptionally busy month, as we host the St. Procopius Students Retreat, the Institute on Religious Life Women's Retreat, the Marian Catechist Retreat and the Charis Weekend Retreat for young adults ages 18-39. Charis Ministries is also sponsoring a full week of

directed retreats for young adults. See the article on page 7 for more details.

In August our schedule slows down just a bit. The only scheduled events at this time are the St. Ignatius Parish Kairos and the Mundelein Deacons' Retreat. However, we are still in the talking stages of scheduling two additional events. On the maintenance side, we plan to replace the Chapel windows in August and we hope to accomplish other maintenance tasks best scheduled when the retreat house is not in use.

Before the summer is over the Bellarmine staff will be planning for the fall retreat season. We look forward to welcoming back our long time friends as well as welcoming new retreatants.

Written by Pat Kluzak, Bellarmine's Operations Manager

Bellarmino Retreat Schedule - September-December, 2005

SEPTEMBER 9 - 11
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. James J. O'Leary, S.J.

MATT CARPENTER GROUP

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. Theodore C. Ross, S.J.

BOB GORMAN
EUGENE MACIEJEWSKI
HOLY FAMILY (Decatur, MI)
JERRY JENDRO
JOE BUSSONE
KC - ST. CHARLES
LARRY OPHUS
MARK LESTER
ST. ANASTASIA-HNS (Waukegan)
ST. HUBERT'S (Hoffman Est)
ST. MARY OF THE WOODS
ST. MONICA (Carpentersville)
ST. PETRONILLE (Glen Ellyn)

SEPTEMBER 23 - 25
Men's Bill W Silent Retreat
Fr. Richard W. Dunphy, S.J.

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. John P. Foley, S.J.

BERNARD KASH
HOLY FAMILY (Inverness)
JOHN KASTING
KC-MT PROSPECT
OUR LADY OF FATIMA (Chicago)
ST. EDNA (Arlington Heights)
ST. JOHN NEUMAN
ST. LUKE'S MEN'S CLUB
(River Forest)
ST. PRISCILLA CHURCH HNS
(Chicago)
TOM TULLY
YOUNG MEN

OCTOBER 7 - 9
Women's Silent Retreat
Fr. Michael E. Dorrler, S.J.



OCTOBER 11 - 13
Women's Midweek Retreat
Fr. Michael E. Dorrler, S.J.



OCTOBER 14 - 16
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. J. Peter Carey, S.J.

FIVE HOLY MARTYRS
JACK DUGGAN MEMORIAL
KC-HOLY GHOST (Wood Dale)
KC-ROSELLE
KC-SPRING GROVE
NEWSPAPER
RED MOONEY/JACK CULLEN
ST. NICHOLAS HNS (Evanston)
ST. NORBERT'S (Northbrook)

OCTOBER 21 - 23
Men's Bill W Silent Retreat
Fr. Fred G. Reynolds, S.J.

OCTOBER 28 - 30
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. Mark W. Andrews, S.J.

FRANK CONDON
FRANK GILL
HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL
THOMAS KESTLY
JOHN DWYER
KC-RYAN (Chicago)
KC-SACRED HEART (Lombard)
PIONEER GROUP
ST. ANNE (Barrington)

NOVEMBER 4 - 6
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. Mark W. Andrews, S.J.

KC-ST THOMAS (Crystal Lake)
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
(Glenview)
SACRED HEART (Winnetka)
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Johnsburg)
ST. JOSEPH (Wilmette)
TOM TULLY

NOVEMBER 11 - 13
Women's Bill W Silent Retreat
Fr. Richard W. Dunphy, S.J.



NOVEMBER 18 - 20
Men's Bill W Silent Retreat
Fr. Fred G. Reynolds, S.J.

DECEMBER 2 - 4
Men's Silent Retreat
Fr. Theodore C. Ross, S.J.

BOB FINUCANE
DON GOODWILLIE
DON KELLY, JR
KC-HARVARD
KC-MARIA COUNCIL (Park Ridge)
RACINE/KENOSHA
ST. IGNATIUS FATHERS/ALUMNI
ST. MONICA HNS (Chicago)

DECEMBER 9 - 11
Men's Bill W Silent Retreat
Fr. Peter J. Fennessy, S.J.

One need not come with a group to attend any of Bellarmine's Retreats. To make a reservation for any of our retreats, please contact the Reservations Office.

Mon - Fri 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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