

# Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House

n e w s l e t t e r

Volume 42

June 2006

Number 2

## The Year in Review

June 30 will mark the end of Bellarmine's fiscal year, however April 30 was the end of our weekend retreat season. This year we are very pleased to report that for the first time in five years we have had a significant increase in the number of retreatants attending Bellarmine's Ignatian retreats. This year 1,843, an additional 98 persons, experienced an Ignatian retreat at Bellarmine. Consequently our average retreat attendance has gone up to almost 60 retreatants. Bellarmine has indeed been wonderfully blessed with great captains and loyal retreatants.

Equally encouraging is the growing number of younger men attending retreats at Bellarmine. Many of our older retreatants have been inviting their sons, sons-in-law, and nephews,

and in return these younger men have been inviting their friends and associates. One of our long-time retreatants said it well when he remarked, "It is good to look out over the crowd and see something besides gray hair and bald heads." Yet another encouraging sign is the number of younger men who are returning after making an initial retreat.

We are also pleased to report that retreat revenues are up significantly even though Bellarmine has continued its policy of asking for donations rather than a retreat fee. No one will be turned away because of a lack of ability to pay.

The Jesuits have a strong commitment to the youth of the church. Last year 1,337 high school students and young

adults made a retreat at Bellarmine. Four Catholic high schools brought over 900 students to Bellarmine for Kairos retreats. Sixty-eight students from Loyola Academy experienced a silent, directed retreat much like the typical adult retreat. St. Mary's in Buffalo Grove brought 183 students to Bellarmine for their Confirmation retreat. Other teen groups included St. Ignatius Parish Kairos and students from St. Procopius.

Charis Ministries brought 127 young adults ages 18-39 to Bellarmine for two separate weekend retreats and one week of individually directed retreats.

New this year were a Spanish speaking weekend retreat for Men, a Spanish speaking midweek retreat for women, and a one-day Sunday retreat for men ages 35-55.

Increasing in popularity have been various one-day midweek retreats. In most cases we have had a capacity crowd in attendance.

While we are pleased that attendance is up and revenues are strong we continue to pray and plan for new ways to fulfill our mission statement and serve the people of God.



# A Word From the Director

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John T. Dillon, S.J.

## Growth in Personal Christlikeness

With increasing frequency Bellarmine retreatants express their desire to live in ways which are more pleasing to God. Spiritual conferences with today's retreatants seldomly involve reports of open defiance of what a retreatant recognizes as God's will. Rather, retreatants most often want spiritual guidance and graces of healing for some perceived spiritual weakness or lack of virtue in their life. Retreatants want to be Christlike; literally and very concretely they want to bring Christ's love into the world.

In their relationships to others, retreatants want their behavior to be characterized by reverence and gentleness. Faith tells us that each person shares the life of Christ, which suggests that in human interactions each person should be accorded a type of reverence. Every human being has been hurt at times by a lack of love

and care from family members and friends; consequently we are aware of our vulnerability in human relationships. So retreatants see the importance of increasing their gentleness in building relationships with others.

Retreatants today lament their lack of patience when they encounter the limitations and weaknesses of self and others. These same persons want grace to be more generous in extending care to other persons in need. Retreatants see that to varying degrees their lack of reverence and gentleness in serving others and forgiving their imperfections is rooted in a type of personal willfulness. It seems that all persons subconsciously want to control personal relationships and the circumstances in their life which most affect their own comfort and convenience.

We are inclined to react with impatience or register dislike of others when persons and situations make demands on us that are unexpected and involve inconvenience. Our feelings of indignation and our reactions of impatience occasioned by unwanted intrusions in our life help us to notice signs of egoism or willfulness in our approach to life. We can imagine the ideals of Christlikeness we want to realize in the concrete circumstances of life. Then, our experience of our failure to measure up to our ideals of Christlike patience disappoints us. However, our very failure to reach the perfection of our behavioral ideal of patience can provide a

painful but spiritually helpful awareness that gifts of grace rather than willfulness in pursuit of moral perfection provide the help we need to be Christlike in difficult moments of life.

During the periods of prayerful reflection of a retreat, retreatants are learning to befriend and benefit spiritually from their own limitations and weaknesses. They experience awareness of imperfections like impatience as occasions to turn to Christ in their hearts for the spiritual help that they need. Christlike behavior is being seen less frequently as a proof of some type of moral and spiritual superiority. Rather, in the actual experience of their spiritual poverty, revealed in their lack of patience and gentleness, persons are learning to surrender to their need for grace. Retreatants are increasingly more able to see and accept and love themselves and others as the incomplete, imperfect persons all of us are. Helped by grace, retreatants are learning to exercise kindness and patience with increased reverence and gentleness. The Spirit is obviously quite active today in the spiritual development of retreatants. Christ is wonderfully active in the Church today. The power of His grace is being revealed in our weakness as we become more meek and humble of heart, more reverent and gentle in human relationships.

## Farewell Father George Steenken, S.J.

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George W. Steenken, S.J.

For the past fifteen years retreatants at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House have been warmly welcomed at the front desk by Fr. George Steenken, S.J. On those rare occasions when he has not been at the sign-in desk, the first question many retreatants ask is, "Where is Fr. George?"

Next year there will be a new person greeting you at that desk, as Fr. George leaves us for his new assignment at Colombiere in Clarkston, Michigan.

Fr. George was very involved in the priestly ministry at Bellarmine, offering Mass, hearing confessions, and offering spiritual direction. In addition to these duties, he was also our sacristan and is best known as Bellarmine's head gardener. During his years at Bellarmine he has planted over 100 trees including the beautiful trees lining the driveway. He lovingly tended the gardens with the help of volunteers and a summer helper. For the past two years he has directed the work of a local landscape service, and has received two awards for excellence from the Barrington Garden Club.

In addition to his ministry at Bellarmine, Fr. George has regularly offered Mass at St. Anne's in Barrington and other local parishes, and has been available to bring the Sacraments to the sick and dying at Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington.

Before coming to Bellarmine Fr. George was a teacher and counselor at Loyola Academy. He was seventy when he retired from teaching to begin a new ministry.

His presence and talents for these past fifteen years have blessed Bellarmine. Farewell and good luck, Fr. George. We will miss you.

## New Board Member, Wally Block

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Mr. Walter F. Block

Long time retreatant, Wally Block, has recently joined the Bellarmine Advisory Board.

Wally has an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling from Loyola University and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

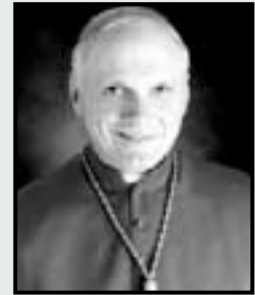
For 6 years he served as Dean of Students at Benedictine University, after which he was employed for twenty years as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. In 1992, he left Benedictine University to become Director of Development at Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center in Chicago where he worked until his retirement in 2003.

Wally and his wife Susan live in Darien, Illinois. They have 6 children and several grandchildren. Wally is

involved in several volunteer positions including the Board at Bellarmine. In his spare time, Wally enjoys family, gardening, traveling, and is an avid Cubs fan.

## Bishop George Rassas Joins Bellarmine Advisory Board

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Most Rev. George J. Rassas

Most Rev. George J. Rassas has graciously accepted an invitation to serve on Bellarmine's Advisory Board.

Most Rev. George J. Rassas was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Chicago on February 2, 2006 at Holy Name Cathedral.

Ordained a priest in 1968, Fr. Rassas, 62, was raised in Winnetka and attended Saints Faith, Hope and Charity grammar school. He graduated from Quigley North High School, Niles College, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary before being ordained. He served as an associate pastor at Queen of the Rosary Parish, Elk Grove Village; St. Genevieve Parish, Chicago; St. Norbert's Parish, Northbrook; Sacred Heart Parish, Winnetka; and St. Mary Parish, Lake Forest before being named Vicar General in November 2004. His background includes a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary and a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Loyola University, Chicago. He participated in a Doctor of Ministry Program at Saint Mary of the Lake.

# Bellarmino Retreat Schedule - September - December 2006

## SEPTEMBER 8 – 10

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Douglas J. Leonhardt, S.J.*

MATT CARPENTER GROUP

## SEPTEMBER 15 - 17

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. J. Peter Carey, S.J.*

BOB GORMAN

EUGENE MACIEJEWSKI

HOLY FAMILY (Decatur, MI)

JERRY JENDRO

JOE BUSSONE

JOHN HOLMES

MARK LESTER

ST. ANASTASIA-HNS (Waukegan)

ST. HUBERT'S (Hoffman Estates)

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS

ST. MICHAEL (Wheaton)

ST. PETRONILLE (Glen Ellyn)

## SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*

BERNARD KASH

HOLY FAMILY (Inverness)

JOHN KASTING

KC-MT PROSPECT

OUR LADY OF FATIMA (Chicago)

ST. EDNA (Arlington Heights)

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

ST. PRISCILLA CHURCH HNS (Chicago)

TOM TULLY

## OCTOBER 6 – 8

Women's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Mark W. Andrews, S.J.*



## OCTOBER 10 - 12

Women's Midweek Retreat

*Fr. Mark W. Andrews, S.J.*

## OCTOBER 13 – 15

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*

FIVE HOLY MARTYRS

JACK DUGGAN MEMORIAL

KC-HOLY GHOST (Wood Dale)

KC-ROSELLE

KC-SPRING GROVE

NEWSPAPER

RED MOONEY/JACK CULLEN

ST. MONICA (Carpentersville)

ST. NORBERT'S (Northbrook)

## OCTOBER 20 – 22

Men's Bill W Silent Retreat

*Fr. J. Peter Deane, S.J.*

## OCTOBER 27 – 29

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*

FRANK GILL

HOLY NAME CATHEDRAL

JACK A. DAVIS MEMORIAL

JOHN DWYER

KC-RYAN (Chicago)

KC-SACRED HEART (Lombard)

PIONEER GROUP

ST. ANNE (Barrington)

## NOVEMBER 3 – 5

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Steven E. Kimmons, S.J.*

FRANK CONDON

KC-ST THOMAS (Crystal Lake)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

(Glenview)

SACRED HEART (Winnetka)

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Johnsburg)

ST. JOSEPH (Wilmette)

TOM TULLY (2)

## NOVEMBER 10 - 12

Women's Bill W Silent Retreat

*Fr. Peter J. Fennesy, S.J.*



## NOVEMBER 17 – 19

Men's Bill W Silent Retreat

*Fr. J. Peter Deane, S.J.*

## DECEMBER 1 – 3

Men's Silent Retreat

*Fr. Keith F. Muccino, S.J.*

BOB FINUCANE

DON GOODWILLIE

DON KELLY, JR

KC-HARVARD

KC-MARIA COUNCIL (Park Ridge)

RACINE/KENOSHA

ST. IGNATIUS FATHERS/ALUMNI

## DECEMBER 8 – 10

Men's Bill W Silent Retreat

*Fr. Thomas C. Weston, 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 office.

Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Phone: 847-381-1261

Fax: 847-381-4695

[bellarmine@bellarminehall.org](mailto:bellarmine@bellarminehall.org)

Mail:

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House  
175 W County Line Rd  
Barrington, IL 60010

# Bellarmino Retreat Schedule - January - April 2007

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## JANUARY 5 - 7

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Steven E. Kimmons, S.J.*

FOUR SHEPHERDS

## JANUARY 12 - 14

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. John J. O'Callaghan, S.J.*

AL RAFFIN  
BILL GALLIANI  
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (Lake Zurich)  
ST FRANCIS XAVIER (Wilmette)  
ST. MARY'S (Lake Forest)

## JANUARY 19 - 21

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Theodore C. Ross, S.J.*

DR. HUGH GRIMES  
KC - SCHAUMBURG  
KC - ST CHARLES  
MIKE DEUTSCH  
STS FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY (Winnetka)  
TOM SCHERER

## JANUARY 26-28

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Richard H. McGurn, S.J.*

BILL DUNN  
KC - CHICAGO / ST CABRINI  
KC - DES PLAINES  
ST MARY'S OF THE GROVE KC /  
ST MARY'S HNS (Buffalo Grove)  
ST FRANCIS XAVIER (Chicago)

## FEBRUARY 2 - 4

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Steven E. Kimmons, S.J.*

MIKE ROCHE / PHIL ZERA

## FEBRUARY 9 - 11

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*

CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAYMOND (Joliet)  
MARY SEAT OF WISDOM

## FEBRUARY 16 - 18

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Michael E. Dorrier, S.J.*

AL RAFFIN  
DIVINE SAVIOR (Norridge)  
KC - BARRINGTON  
KC - ST CATHERINE (Dundee)  
OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE  
ST. ISAAC JOGUES (Hinsdale)  
ST. JOHN (Winfield)  
ST MARGARET MARY (Chicago)

## FEBRUARY 23 - 25

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Richard H. McGurn, S.J.*

NAPERVILLE - MM/PP/R/TH  
ST ALPHONSUS (Prospect Hts)  
YOUNG MEN

## MARCH 2 - 4

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. John J. O'Callaghan, S.J.*

ST MARY MAGDALENE (Joliet)  
ST. JOHN NEUMANN (2)

## MARCH 9 - 11

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*

ED DENTEN  
KC - ST BEDE (Ingleside)  
LOYOLA DENTAL  
ST AGNES (Butler, WI)  
ST LIBORIUS (Steger)  
ZIGGIE'S GROUP

## MARCH 16 - 18

Men's Bill W Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Richard W. Dunphy, S.J.*

## MARCH 23 - 25

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Richard H. McGurn, S.J.*

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES  
DICK BROOKER MEMORIAL  
FRANKLIN DUPUIS MEMORIAL  
KC-MARIA COUNCIL (Park Ridge)  
KC - RYAN (Chicago)  
RIVER FOREST

## MARCH 30 - APRIL 1

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Mark W. Andrews, S.J.*

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY  
ED GESUALDO  
KC - GLEN ELLYN  
KC - HOLY GHOST (St. Theresa, Palatine)  
OUR LADY OF THE BROOK (Northbrook)  
RICHARD ANTONELLO  
ST JAMES (Franklin, WI)

## APRIL 5 - 7

Men's Holy Week Silent Retreat  
*Fr. J. Peter Carey, S.J.*

EUGENE HARTRICH MEM.  
RON FROST /  
GELDERMANN MEMORIAL  
KC - COMMODORE BARRY  
MCDEVITT CLAN  
MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL  
ST MARTHA - MORTON GROVE

## APRIL 13 - 15

Women's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.*



## APRIL 20 - 22

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. Michael E. Dorrier, S.J.*

FOUR SHEPHERDS  
FRANK CONDON (2)  
HOLY CROSS (Batavia)  
KC - ADDISON  
LOYOLA ACADEMY FATHERS' CLUB  
OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE (2)  
ST FRANCIS XAVIER (Wilmette)  
ST MARY'S (Elm Grove, WI)  
TOM BAK

## APRIL 27 - 29

Men's Silent Retreat  
*Fr. J. Peter Carey, S.J.*

CHARLIE MATHEWS  
KC - MCHENRY  
OUR LADY OF PEACE - HNS  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERS  
ST FRANCES OF ROME - HNS  
ST JAMES (A.H.)  
ST JOHN (Villa Park)  
ST MATTHEW (Oak Creek, WI)  
ST. STEPHEN DEACON & MARTYR



Mark Andrews, S.J.

## No Longer Alone

***Entering the city, the disciples went to the upstairs room where they were staying...Together they devoted themselves to constant prayer.***

*(Acts 1:13-14)*

Over the past four years that I've been on the staff here at Bellarmine, I've often heard people express surprise at a particular aspect of their retreat experience: despite the atmosphere of silence, they end up feeling close to their fellow retreatants, even the ones whose names they never learned. And why is that? Because they've discovered a deeper kind of belonging, in the time that they have spent praying together.

This is not some magic technique that Bellarmine cultivates and then shares with its weekend "customers." This comes with being a member of the Body of Christ. It is an initial fulfillment of our destiny as human beings, a "first taste" of the happiness that

God wants to give each one of us. Simply put, we are created to share life with one another. So, when we gather to express our common calling and to support one another in prayer, it stands to reason that we are going to feel "built up" and strengthened. Yet, often in our daily lives we are taught to see ourselves as isolated individuals, struggling with the challenges of life all on our own. Or, when we read in the Acts of the Apostles about the disciples gathering in the upper room and the Holy Spirit moving dramatically in their midst, we assume that this was an event reserved for special people in the distant past. The fact is, when we make the effort to "show up" with fellow believers, seeking together the presence of God, we are guaranteed that Christ will be there, in our midst.

So, how do we nurture that shared sense of prayer, outside of retreat time? Our principal way, and Christ's greatest gift to us, is our regular attendance at the Eucharist. Now, we all know the problems that can come with Mass at our local parish: large crowds of people we barely know, some people whom we don't like, screaming children, mediocre music, and priests who are sometimes tired or don't have a lot to say. Instead of focusing on what we do (or don't) "get out of it," we might want to ask a different question: what are we willing to put into it? Would it help if we made the effort to pray before leaving for church? To pray for the other people who'll be gathering with us that

day, for any burdens that they might be carrying? For an open heart for each person there, that we can really listen for God during this Mass? For an increase in patience and acceptance, especially for the people in our lives who bother us or hurt us?

A second form of shared prayer might be with your spouse, or with a close friend. I was recently talking with a man who is trying this for the first time in his life, praying with his wife for God's guidance as they each approach retirement age, with the many challenges and possibilities that this presents. He admitted to me that it still felt strange, saying words out loud, but also that he and his wife were beginning to feel more connected to one another at this very important level of their lives, their faith. Theirs has always been a solid and happy marriage, but now they are learning a new kind of intimacy, and liking it.

Prayer with one another takes us beyond the world of our immediate concerns, as important as those concerns may be. Prayer with one another ultimately knits us to the larger Church, and to the larger world. Through it we enter into the prayer of Christ himself, who wishes to bring creation to its fulfillment...and, through the generosity of God, each of us has a part to play in bringing that about. Blessed summer!

## Captains' Corner

### Captains' Meeting June 23-24

Bellarmino is enjoying a successful ministry. The enthusiastic support of our retreat captains is crucial to our continuing success. We thank each and every one of you captains for providing the help we need to provide effective ministry. To continue to benefit from the experience and advice of our captains, we have scheduled our annual captains' meeting for June 23-24.

This meeting of captains enables us to share reactions about the previous year, discuss some possibilities for future development of facilities and new programs while carefully preserving our basic program of men's silent weekend retreats.

We can accommodate only a limited number of captains for the meeting. So, we will reserve rooms at Bellarmine on a first come, first served basis as you phone our office or return the postcard you were sent or e-mail us to reserve a place. We hope to attract a diversified group of captains to provide a good mix of the wisdom of veteran retreatants and the creativity of younger men. Please reserve a place if you are reasonably sure of attending.

## Boiler Update

Thanks to a successful appeal, plans are well underway to replace Bellarmine's 50-year-old boilers, and convert Bellarmine's current steam heating system to a hot water heating system. The new system will not only be more efficient and cost effective, but will add greatly to the comfort of the retreat house. Engineering drawings are complete and we are now waiting to receive bids for asbestos abatement. The plan is to finish this project before the beginning of the retreat year in September.

## Remember Bellarmine with a Bequest in Your Will or by Setting up a Trust

Two ways to assure the continuation and growth of Bellarmine's Ministry is to name us in your will or establish a trust.

Please consult your lawyer for details for writing or revising your will or to set up a trust that will meet your present and future needs and at the same time provide for Bellarmine in the future. Please contact Pat Kluzak at (847) 381-1261 for more information of a general nature.

## Bellarmino Mission Statement

The mission of the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House is to cooperate with the Church in Chicago and the Midwest in fostering the spiritual development of Catholics and fellow Christians in the area. As its primary ministry, Bellarmine offers weekend retreats based on Ignatian Spirituality; it also offers other programs tailored to the changing needs in today's Church. Jesuit and non-Jesuit colleagues collaborate in the planning and execution of all of Bellarmine's retreats and other programs. As an expression of its ecumenism and civic fellowship, Bellarmine's facilities at times are open to other religious and civic groups.

## 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.

James L. Fox	April 14, 2006
Maria Lipezker	May 8, 2006
Deacon Ed Lober	March 26, 2006
William J. Prodoehl	January 2006
Dr. Stanley Tikusis	April 22, 2006

# Farewell Brother Bill

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William R. Haas, S.J.

Br. Bill Haas, S.J., has received a new assignment, and will leave Bellarmine this summer to join the staff at Colombiere. Br. Bill was one of three Jesuit Brothers assigned to Bellarmine when he came here from Loyola Academy in 1985. For many years he has been the only Jesuit Brother on the Bellarmine staff, where he has masterfully carried on the maintenance work at Bellarmine. His list of contributions seems endless. Not only has he supervised the many major repairs

necessary at Bellarmine, but he has also been available 24-7 to do those minor, and not so minor tasks necessary for the smooth operation of the retreat house.

He has several special ministries that few people know about including an on-going outreach to former Bellarmine employees, and a dedication to maintaining a welcoming space in the lower level for Tuesday evening AA meetings.

Br. Bill has a special love for mowing, and keeps the grounds at Bellarmine looking as beautiful as any park in the area. He also has the not so pleasant tasks of plowing the snow from Bellarmine's long driveway, clearing the parking lots, digging out and frequently jump-starting retreatants'

cars on cold winter's mornings. Not only does he do these jobs well, but always with a smile and a spirit of genuine caring.

Br. Bill never complains about any job being too small or unimportant. He is always available to turn on or off lights, close windows, lock doors and answer the phone even if it is the middle of the night.

Br. Bill, your talents and contributions at the Retreat House have been many. We will miss you in so many ways, and we wish you the very best in your new assignment. May God continue to bless your work for years to come.

## Jesuit Retreat League of Chicago

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