

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House

n e w s l e t t e r

Volume 42

December 2006

Number 4

Leadership Transition



Rev. John T. Dillon, S.J.

Fr. John Dillon, S.J. resigned as Director of Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House on October 1, and turned over the reins to Interim Director, Fr. Steven Hurd, S.J. For the present time, Fr. Dillon remains at Bellarmine as Superior of the Jesuit Community.

Fr. Dillon was missioned to Bellarmine in 1999 by Jesuit Provincial, Fr. Richard J. Baumann, S.J., just as Bellarmine was embarking on a \$4.5 million Capital Campaign. Previous to that, Fr. Dillon had served as a frequent and respected retreat master and had served on the Advisory Board at Bellarmine.

Fr. Dillon is a native of Ludlow, Kentucky. He entered the Jesuits in 1952 and was ordained in 1963.

In the 1970's, he served Loyola University Chicago in a number of positions:

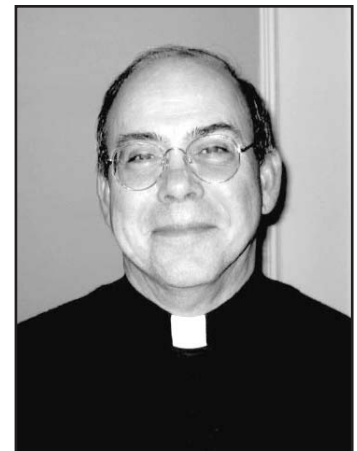
University Chaplain, Counselor, and Director of the Rome Center. He was also Director of Campus Ministry at Regis College in Denver for one year.

From 1977 to 1999 he served as Chaplain and Assistant to the President of Loyola University Chicago. He was Superior of the Jesuit Residence from 1996-1999.

During his seven years at Bellarmine, Fr. Dillon spearheaded a successful Capital Campaign which not only completely paid for the new addition, and over \$1 million in repairs and improvements to the original buildings, but also added \$5 million to the Endowment Fund. All this was accomplished while increasing retreat attendance and attracting younger retreatants. A job well done!

Fr. Dillon is known for his deep spirituality, as well as his no nonsense approach and colorful use of the English language. His contributions to the retreat house are many, and he will be greatly missed by the staff and retreatants.

Fr. Steven Hurd, S.J., has taken over the reins as Interim Director while the Advisory Board completes a nationwide search for a permanent Director.



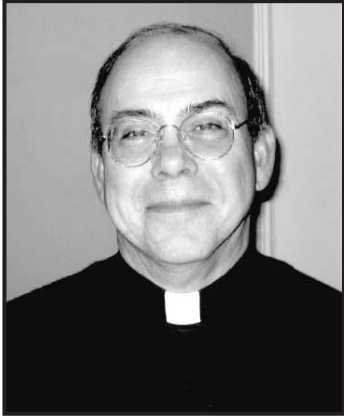
Rev. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.

Fr. Hurd joined the staff of Bellarmine in August, 2005 after spending two years at Milford Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio. He is a native of Tennessee, and after graduating from Moreau Seminary at Notre Dame he became a candidate for the Diocese of Nashville.

Fr. Steve was ordained in 1980 and in 1986 he entered the Jesuit Novitiate in Berkley Michigan. Since then he has been assigned, among other places, to St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, and Heartland Center in East Chicago, and Loyola Academy in Wilmette.

Fr. Steve has received high praise as a retreat master at Bellarmine, and we wish him the best in his new leadership responsibilities at Bellarmine.

A Word From the Director



Rev. Steven F. Hurd, S.J.

Not long ago, I went to St. Anne's in Barrington to say Mass for the Women's Group. After Mass, one of the ladies approached me and said, "Father, you're the reason I'm here." She went on to explain that her father had attended St. Ignatius College Prep and, as a student, made a retreat here at Bellarmine. The retreat made a deep impression; and, as an adult, he settled here in Barrington because he had fallen in love with the area and the retreat house.

As I've reflected upon that experience, I've realized that the story is as poignant as it is heartwarming. Almost every weekend, I speak with at least one person who's been away from the Church for some time. For many and various reasons, it seems as if a retreat here facilitates that person's return to the sacraments. As a priest, I'm inspired by those moments: "There will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10) Still, I'm aware that there are many good people whose annual retreat is less momentous and equally rewarding.

Toward the end of his life, St. Paul wrote, "I am already being poured out like a libation." (II Timothy 4:6) I suspect that is the experience of almost everyone in our contemporary society. We spend ourselves with our families and friends; we spend ourselves at work. We pour our energy into solving problems, building relationships, and coping with the inexplicable. Whether we're young or old, male or female, we know what it's like to be poured out like a libation. To be sure, many of our investments create their own return: a loving home, a successful career, a string of accomplishments, etc. Some investments, though, are problematic. We wonder if they're worth the effort.

I suspect those doubts arise in proportion to the extent that we've lived an examined life. If we've taken the time to reflect upon our successes and failures, we've likely come to realize that there is something less tangible and, yet, more powerful in our lives than the individual experiences of which they're made. That power is God's abiding, loving presence – a presence that moves us not only to accept ourselves but also to love others as God has loved us, a presence that ultimately reveals itself as Christ himself revealed by the power of the Spirit. Great saints have understood this in peak experiences; the rest of us come to realize it slowly but surely as we take time annually to reflect upon the course of our lives.

While there are some for whom a retreat here at Bellarmine is a peak experience,

there are many, many more – like the woman at St. Anne's father – that grow slowly and steadily in their awareness of God's grace. Their stories may take years to mature into heartwarming anecdotes, and they are no less noteworthy. I'm grateful that Bellarmine can be a refuge for both those who need conversion and those who need, in Hemingway's words, "a clean, well-lit place" in which to grow in every way into Christ. (cf. Ephesians 4:15)

May God bless you, your families, and friends as we prepare to recall the great event of God's human entrance in both history and our present.

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.

Fr. George W. Steenken, S.J.

June 21, 1925 - October 18, 2006



Fr. George W. Steenken, S.J.

Fr. George Steenken died suddenly at Colombiere Center in Clarkston Michigan on October 18th. Fr. George retired to Colombiere in June 2006 after spending 15 years on the staff here at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House.

Fr. George was a long-time teacher and counselor at St. Ignatius College Prep and Loyola Academy before moving to Bellarmine. During his 15 years here, Fr. George was a fixture at the registration desk on Friday evenings. He was also pastorally active in hearing confessions and offering spiritual direction.

In addition to his ministry at Bellarmine, Fr. George regularly offered Mass at St. Anne's in Barrington, at Luther Village and Luther Home, and at St. Ansgar's. He frequently administered the Sacraments to the sick and dying at Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington.

Fr. George often introduced himself as "the gardener." He was very proud of the more than 100 trees he planted on the grounds of Bellarmine, as well as his award winning gardens.

A native of Covington Kentucky, Fr. George attended St. Benedict Grade School in his hometown and later St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati. In 1941, after his freshman year at Xavier University, he entered the novitiate in Milford, Ohio. After ordination to the priesthood in 1954, he continued his studies earning an MA in Economics from St. Louis University and a bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology from West Baden College in Indiana.

A memorial service will be planned in the spring on the grounds of Bellarmine. Details will follow later.

Welcome Fr. Bob Flack



Fr. Robert S. Flack, S.J.

Fr. Bob Flack was born in 1948 in Chicago. He attended the seminary system in the Chicago Archdiocese and was ordained at Mundelein Seminary in 1974. He served at several parishes of the Archdiocese before entering the Society of Jesus in 1983. As a Jesuit, he has served as a pastor on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, taught sociology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, directed retreats at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Washington (Seattle). He taught demography and urban studies for seven years in St. Louis University's Department of Public Policy Studies. During the last two years, he completed tertianship and served the Chicago Province in a number of capacities. We're fortunate that the Provincial has enriched our ministry with another "young" Jesuit.

A note from Fr. Bob - I have always been very interested in the ministry of the Spiritual Exercises and am very happy to be given the opportunity to be engaged in this ministry here at Bellarmine. My first weeks here have been great! Getting to know the people who come here for retreats has been inspiring. I hope that I can be of some help in the coming years to help people come to know how God works in their lives.

Linda Ballowe Joins Office Staff

Linda Ballowe joined the office staff in November as bookkeeper and reservationist. She replaces Fran Golec, who recently retired and moved to Tennessee. Many of you may already know Linda, as she was a cook in Bellarmine's kitchen for the past year. The transition to the office will be easy for Linda as she already has many years of office experience and is familiar with the workings of the Retreat House.

Linda and her husband Ken live in Kildeer, and have two grown sons.



Linda Ballowe (center) joins Barbara Wasilewski and Sandra Koehler in the Office

Remember Bellarmine in Your Will

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 Retreat Schedule - January - April 2007

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 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. Dorrlor, 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)

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)
ST THOMAS VILLANOVA (Palatine)
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
ST JOHN NEUMANN (2)

MARCH 30 – APRIL 1

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

ED GESUALDO
KC – HOLY GHOST (St. Theresa, Palatine)
MAZZUCHELLI'S MEN
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. Dorrlor, 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 JAMES THE APOSTLE (Glen Ellyn)
ST JOHN (Villa Park)
ST MATTHEW (Oak Creek, WI)
ST STEPHEN DEACON & MARTYR

2007 Annual Appeal

By now many of you have received a letter asking for your support of the 2007 Appeal.

In recent years we have asked you to help us financially accomplish major repairs to the retreat house such as tuck pointing, new roofs, new windows, and most recently the replacement of our antiquated steam boilers.

This year we are asking for your help to finance a number of smaller, but equally necessary needs. Although the majority of the work has already been accomplished, we need to complete the renovation of our heating system that was begun last year.

When it was becoming cost prohibitive to continue to repair our old dishwasher we needed to replace it. Once that was completed two of our washing machines quit working and we

were faced with the need to not only replace, but to upgrade our laundry equipment. In addition we need to replace our photocopier as it is fast approaching the end of its useful life.

Most of our maintenance equipment is aging quickly, and we will likely need to replace at least one mower this spring. Also many of the beautiful old trees on the property are nearing the end of their life spans and we need to begin replacing them in order to maintain the beauty of our grounds.

You, our loyal friends, have been generous to Bellarmine in the past and we are grateful for that support. We hope that you will help us again to meet our goal of \$100,000, which is the amount needed to accomplish this work.

Boiler Replacement and Heating Conversion Update

The contractors have left, the dust has settled and the heat is on! Although it cost \$75,000 more than anticipated and went on for 2 months longer than expected, the major work of replacing Bellarmine's steam boilers and installation of hot water boilers is now completed. There are still, however, a number of control issues that need to be resolved — including some in areas with radiators that are not on a thermostat, and a number of pipes must be insulated. We expect to have some minor heat issues this winter as we learn to "tweak" the system.

Many of our retreatants have commented on the improved comfort of the Retreat House. Most importantly, retreatants have not had to use their open windows as a way of controlling the heat in their rooms.

Many thanks to our retreatants and friends who supported this project. We now look forward to a future of increased comfort and substantial energy savings.

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.

Don DeGroot	June 2, 2006
William A. Foran	August 9, 2006
Frederick V. Gabriel	April 11, 2006
Robert E. Gallagher	August 30, 2006
Bill Hall	February 2006
David Q Hanes	July 5, 2006
Lawrence Patrick Keller	August 26, 2006
Lee McCarthy	August 24, 2006
Kenneth R. Rudolph	February 21, 2006
Leroy Scallon	November 11, 2006
James Skrodzki	July 9, 2006
Vincent Smyth	September 17, 2006
George P. Sullivan, Sr	November 6, 2006
John K. Tapp	July 14, 2006
Roman Wozniak	November 12, 2006

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House ANNUAL APPEAL-CHRISTMAS 2006

I would like to contribute:

\$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Method of Payment: Check Master Card Visa

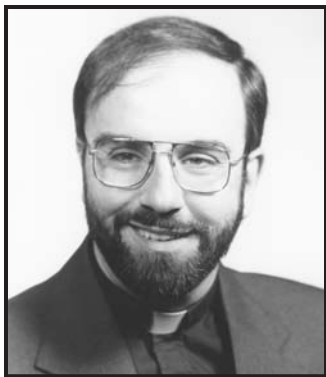
Amount: _____

Card No: _____ Expir. Date: _____

Signature: _____

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

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



Mark Andrews, S.J.

Some years ago I accompanied our Jesuit novices to Guadalajara, Mexico for a summer of Spanish language study. After our hours of classroom instruction, Monday through Friday, we were given opportunities each weekend for cultural immersion (and lots of conversational practice!) by accompanying the Mexican Jesuit scholastics to their apostolados, ministry placements in the city or in the surrounding countryside.

I spent one of those weekends with a few of our men in a ranchito, an isolated (and very poor) farm village. Late that Saturday afternoon we were invited into the home of a young couple with three small children, and offered a cold drink. This family's home consisted of two small rooms with a dirt floor, no running water, and minimal lighting provided by bare light bulbs strung across the ceiling. In the course of our visit they proudly showed us the figurines for the village's Nativity creche, of which they were apparently the guardians. As we began to take our leave a bit later, the young wife asked us, in all sincerity: But, won't you be able to spend the night with us? We were six adult men, and the bottles of Coca Cola they had just served us had probably taken a chunk out of an already-meager food budget, and this couple considered

it the most natural thing in the world to invite six strangers to stay in their home. They had clearly taken to heart the message of Las Posadas, the annual festival in which Mexican Catholics prepare for Christmas by reenacting the drama of Mary and Joseph seeking lodging in a crowded Bethlehem.

This year the newspapers and TV reported that many people had begun the holiday season by skipping Thanksgiving dinner with their families and camping out in front of various department stores, in order to be first in line for what is now being termed Black Friday, a literally violent frenzy of hunting for discounts.

In Week Two of the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius proposes that we meditate on the opposing strategies of Christ and Satan as each seeks to attract human beings, the one to fullness of life, the other to eternal damnation. The two scenes described above give us a vivid picture of the choices laid before us. Is an economy healthy when it depends upon this din of mindless grasping and self-seeking? How do people become so insecure that they can ignore their families and focus exclusively upon things? Are we willing to allow the Child of Bethlehem to turn our hearts and to break them open, and so discover that love alone matters, and there really is room for everyone?

Day in and day out, our hope at Bellarmine is to provide people with a quiet place, so that each person may hear the poor Christ knocking at the door of their heart. Blessed Christmas!

Captains' Corner

Phillip Couri wrote the following letter and inserted it in his parish bulletin. As a result of this letter, along with other efforts, Phil was able to recruit an additional 15 new retreatants. Phil has graciously agreed to allow us to reprint the letter. You may feel free to use this letter as a model for your own recruiting efforts.

MEN'S SILENT RETREAT

(Date)

Retreat – “a place of refuge, seclusion, or privacy”

I am the retreat captain for St. Joseph's parish and am recruiting men from the parish to attend a weekend SILENT retreat being held at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington for the weekend of I have been attending this retreat for the last 11 years and cannot say enough about how it has had a very positive effect on my life each year. I am sure many of you cringe at the word “retreat” especially in the religious sense. Retreats are often associated with group meetings sharing your thoughts and personal lives; interacting with others while talking about God, religion and life experiences or even fire and brimstone speeches bellowed by an overzealous priest attempting to expose our imperfections and frailties. I, too, cringe at the prospect of being exposed to those types of atmospheres. This silent retreat, however, offers a comfortable milieu that destroys those perceptions. I assure you that this retreat does not encompass any of those attributes, but, rather, is built around introspection.

Why does this retreat offer a better environment than other retreats? The answer is, in a word, SILENCE. That's right, complete and utter SILENCE. No family commotion; no overbearing boss; no small talk with people with whom you have absolutely nothing in common, just pure unadulterated silence. When is the last time you had a full day and a half without any interruption, commotion, or constant activity in order to examine your conscience, your life and your beliefs or non-beliefs. It is a terrific time to take a deep breath, step back and remove yourself from the hustle and bustle of every day life to examine your existence as it relates to others and to God. The prospect of silence for a whole weekend may seem intimidating, but I assure you the silence is relaxing, comforting and spiritual.

I have found that this retreat is better than any I have attended in the past. There is no protocol. You can choose what you want to do. There is a series of talks given by the Jesuit retreat master which you can choose to attend or not attend. The talks revolve around real life experiences and are tailored to facilitate self-examination. They are spread out throughout the day and held in a chapel which seats about 70 people and they last about 20-40 minutes. There

is plenty of purposely, scheduled down time in between the talks (in some cases as much as 2 hours for a siesta after lunch) to reflect on the talks, pray, read, go for a jog or a walk, or just sleep. They serve 3 squares a day and the food is actually very good.

In addition, the retreat grounds are unbelievable. The retreat house is huge with libraries, a living room with a fireplace and other separate rooms for reflection. Each retreatant has his own room as the Retreat House sleeps between 70-75 comfortably (you do not share a room with anyone else). So if you choose to not attend some or all of the talks you have the option of going outside, retreating to any other room in the house or your own room to read, reflect, sleep or pray. In addition the grounds at Bellarmine are enormous with over 75 acres to take a jog, exercise, walk or just sit outside at one of the many benches situated around the retreat house. For some of us (like me) who find it difficult to pray, the retreat grounds and the silence provide an unbelievable spiritual atmosphere which affords you the opportunity to actually communicate with God which I find very difficult to accomplish in every day life. There is no group participation, personal commentaries, or any question and answer sessions. If you would like, however, the retreat master or other priests are available at different times throughout the weekend for individual, private talks.

The retreat starts on Friday night with dinner at 7:00 p.m. followed by a talk and a Mass, and continues through Sunday, concluding with Mass again and lunch at noon.

This year's retreat leader is....

The bottom line is this: We all, at times in our lives, have moments where things either aren't going well or don't make sense or we just feel like we are running in quicksand. We need some injection of life, meaning or whatever you want to call it. We all know that our bodies need exercise and without exercise we feel lethargic, worn down and our bodies become soft. Well, our souls need exercise as well and this retreat is an excellent opportunity to fine tune, recharge and inject new life into the soul.

For those of you who are able to attend, I guarantee you will want to make it a yearly event. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot, just email me at or call me There are limited spots which do fill up quickly.

God Bless,
Phillip A. Couri

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection and Prayer

Ash Wednesday – February 21, 2007
Fr. Robert Flack, S.J.

Begin your Lenten journey with a day of prayer and reflection directed by Fr. Bob Flack, S.J.

The day will begin with check-in at 8:45 a.m. Pastry and coffee will be available during registration. The day will include lunch, Mass, distribution of ashes, an opportunity for reconciliation as well as time for prayerful reflection. The day will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

To register mail in form below with a \$40.00 deposit, or call 847-381-1261 to register with a credit card (sorry, no refunds). Registration is limited. If you register but find you cannot attend, please call to cancel your reservation.

ASH WEDNESDAY REGISTRATION
February 21, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Checks payable to BELLARMINE JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE)

Send this form to: Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House
175 W. County Line Road • Barrington, IL 60010

Save a Date

Sunday – February 25

A Day of Reflection is

being planned with

Fr. Robert Flack, S.J.

Please call the office in

January for more details.

847-381-1261

Jesuit Retreat League of Chicago

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