

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House

n e w s l e t t e r

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NUMBER 1

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Not only was November 21, 2011 my 67th Birthday, but it was also the day I began full time as Executive Director of Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House. We thanked Fr. Robert Flack, S.J., for his eleven months of great service as the Administrator of Bellarmine, and Fr. Bob left that day with a smile on his face because it was a job well done and now he could go back to his regular

work at the Chicago-Detroit Province Office. I tell people who ask, sometimes it seems like I have worked two years and not a few months at Bellarmine—Advisory Board meetings, conferences with all the staff and Jesuits, and just beginning to meet our supporters and the local parish priests. The first weekend of January, I also gave my first retreat at Bellarmine, a men's retreat for the Four Shepherds group. And so the time has been a rich period of learning about all the complexities and wonders of this ministry of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

This past summer of 2011, the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House Advisory Board commissioned a professional focus group study of six groups of captains and others who have made retreats at Bellarmine. In the autumn, we received the very excellent report of this study and were pleased to know that the primary mission of Bellarmine was reinforced—a ministry of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and the primacy of silence on our weekend retreats. At the same time, some newcomers are afraid of silence and so we have to do a better job of educating these participants on the value of silence and the fact that it does not have to be scary. We also were encouraged to try more programs for women and some longer retreats among other possibilities. And so, we have begun to experiment with some new schedules and plan some new future programs like a retreat beginning on Thursday evening and ending Sunday after lunch. We will also try a few more day programs to attract young adults whose childcare responsibil-

ities make it difficult for them to initially come for overnights.

The economic downturn in our global economy during these last two years has led to a smaller number of retreatants and a concern that our captains and retreat goers are getting older. And so we are starting to devise marketing programs and a concentrated development effort to insure that Bellarmine is here for many years to come in order to provide for the spiritual needs of the Church in the Chicago region. We count on very generous donors to help us meet our obligations and continue to grow this ministry. One concrete effort is to upgrade our webpage and make it more user-friendly which will be important to many of our younger clientele.

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House is committed to social justice and to the poor and unemployed who cannot afford to pay for a retreat at this time. We will never turn away a retreatant due to lack of funds; we will continue to sponsor retreats for the homeless and people with addictions because this is an important healing ministry of Jesus and the Church. For this reason, I am happy to announce the establishment of the Fr. Raymond Fussner, S.J., scholarship retreat fund. Fr. Fussner was my first rector when I entered the novitiate at Milford, Ohio in 1963. He was also a very popular retreat master at Bellarmine from 1970 to 1995. This scholarship fund will be focused on paying for retreats for deserving retreat goers with special needs. And so I would ask you to be generous to this fund and help it grow into a wonderful endowment to support retreats for those who cannot afford the full cost of a retreat.

May you receive Christ's rich blessings in this New Year of 2012, and I look forward to meeting each of you in the near future.

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Father Paul B. Macke, S.J.
Executive Director

A INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MARY MCKEON



Mary is the latest addition to the Pastoral Staff here at Bellarmine. She will split her time between working for the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House outside Detroit where she has been employed and working at Bellarmine. An added plus for Mary is that her daughter lives in the area.

Q: What are your responsibilities at the Manresa Retreat House?

Mary: I am on the ministerial staff at the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House. I give retreats and do spiritual direction. I also lead prayer groups - particularly for women - and facilitate Days of Reflection. I also do some youth retreats, peppered in with the other ministry.

Q: How long have you been working there?

Mary: I have been officially on the staff since the summer of 2006. I began volunteering at Manresa shortly after completing my training with their Ignatian Spirituality Program in 2004. It's a fairly intense program spread out over two years.

Q: What do you enjoy about being a spiritual director?

Mary: I enjoy journeying with people, companioning them, and helping them find the sacred in their stories. I enjoy helping people find God in the joys and challenges of their lives. Ministry is working with whomever God sends. I have a particular affinity for those who are broken or in crisis, those whose lives are significantly challenged.

Q: How did you come to such compassion for the suffering?

Mary: I learned it through my family. My only sibling, Martha, was born with cerebral palsy. She had epilepsy and was mentally challenged. I grew up with someone whose life was difficult, both physically and mentally. Martha taught me much about patience and simplicity. I also learned from my mother who lived until she was 98 years old. I was with her in her declining years.

I learned so much from my marriage with David, my husband. It was quite humbling and significant for me to journey with

David as his health declined battling depression and heart problems. For as his physical health declined, his spiritual life grew. And my own spiritual life grew leaps and bounds from accompanying my husband in the last stages of his life.

Q: What will be some of your responsibilities as you join the Bellarmine staff?

Mary: I've prayed a lot about this. And my prayer tells me that whatever God asks that's what I'll be open to. Fr. Macke and I have had some discussions about my developing a women's ministry program here. Starting next fall, I see a whole host of opportunities for me to contribute - offering one on one spiritual direction, as well as assisting on retreats and giving presentations. In particular, I look forward to offering prayer programs for women and Days of Reflection.

This spring I have been invited to co-present with Fr Macke on the Men and Women's Retreat, March 9 - 11. And I will team with Fr. Sparough on his Women's retreat, April 13 - 15.

Q: What would you say to the men of Bellarmine who might be a bit nervous about a woman joining the pastoral staff?

Mary: When I came to the Manresa Retreat House, there were men who wondered about a woman on the staff. "This is a men's retreat house," they told me. They were used to input exclusively from men. But over the years, I have seen men opening their heart to the female perspective. God speaks to and through women, as well as to and through men. I am at the point at Manresa where men tell me that they look forward to my presence. I bring a new perspective, a new dynamic, and a fresh way of looking at things, hopefully rooted and grounded in the message of Jesus.

Q: What closing words do you have for our readers?

Mary: How frequently I find myself praying for those who come to the retreat houses. I know that people are stretched when they come here and their relationship with God is deepened. It is such an honor to be with whomever God sends our way. Bellarmine is a beautiful, beautiful center and a very welcoming house of prayer, a quiet place of retreat. I come to Bellarmine with a grateful heart and very much look forward to being on the staff.

*B*ELLARMINI MISSION STATEMENT

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House is committed to fostering the spiritual development of Catholics and other people of faith through a variety of contemporary programs and retreats that are grounded in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

BELLARMI RETREAT SCHEDULE

WEEKEND RETREAT SCHEDULE

February 10-12, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Glen Chun, S.J.

Attending: Cathedral of St. Raymond/Joliet, Mary Seat of Wisdom/Park Ridge, St. Norbert/Northbrook, Individuals

February 17-19, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend -Fr. J.J. O'Leary, S.J.

Attending: Divine Savior/Norridge, KC/Barrington, KC St. Catherine/Dundee, Our Lady of the Wayside/Arlington Heights, St. Isaac Jogues/Hinsdale, St. Margaret Mary/Chicago, St. James and St. Edna/Arlington Heights, Walsh Jesuit HS Alumni, St. Ignatius Alumni/Cleveland, Individuals

February 24-26, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Naperville MM/PP/R/TH, St. Alphonsus/Prospect Heights, Individuals

March 2-4, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend - Fr. Keith Muccino, S.J.

Attending: St. Mary Magdalene/Joliet, St. Francis of Assisi/Bolingbrook, Individuals

March 9-11, 2012 Men & Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. Paul Macke, S.J./Mary McKeon

Attending: : Loyola Dental Group, Ziggie's Group, KC St. Bede/Ingleside, Santa Maria del Popolo, Young Men, Bill Galliani, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Chicago, Our Lady of Peace/Darien, Individuals

March 16-18, 2012 Men's Bill W. Silent Weekend – Fr. Gerry O'Brien, S.J.

March 23-25, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J.

Attending: Dick Brooker Memorial, Franklin Dupuis Memorial/KC Ryan/Chicago, Assumption Parish/River Forest, Catholic Cemeteries, Marie Council KC/Park Ridge, Motts Tonelli Memorial Group, KC8082- Fr. McGivney, Our Lady of the Brook/Northbrook, Individuals


March 30 – April 1, Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Ray Guiao, S.J.

Attending: Ed Gesualdo, St. James/Franklin WI, Ken Murphy Group, St. Therese KC, Holy Ghost, Al Johns Group/Milwaukee Area, Individuals

April 5 – 7, 2012 HOLY WEEK MEN'S SILENT RETREAT – Fr. Peter Fennessy, S.J.

Attending: E Hartrich Memorial, Ron Frost/Geldermann Memorial, KC Commodore Barry/Ed Gesualdo, McDevitt Clan, Mother Good Counsel, St. Martha/Morton Grove, Individuals

April 13-15, 2012 Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Gloria Kazimer, Marie Pfeiffer, Margie McCalester, Melinda Henson, Holy Name Catholic Women, Our Lady of the Wayside, Loretta Caravette, Our Lady of Peace, Individuals 

April 20-22, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. James Gschwend, S.J.

Attending: Loyola Academy Father's Club, St. Francis Xavier/Wilmette, Our Lady of the Wayside/Arlington Heights, Holy Cross/Batavia, St. John the Apostle/Villa Park, Richard Antonello, Individuals

April 27-29, 2012 Men & Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. John P. Foley, S.J.

Attending: KC McHenry, School of Engineers, KC-Hughes Council, St. James & St. Edna/Arlington Heights, St. Stephen/Tinley Park, Four Shepherds Individuals, St. Michael/Wheaton, Individuals

May 4-6, 2012 Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. Steve Kimmons, S.J.

Attending: Elizabeth Golden, Loretta Caravette, St. Adelaide, Women of Cathedral of St. Raymond/Joliet, Individuals 

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1, 2012 FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS

2012-2013 RETREAT WEEKEND SCHEDULE

September 7-9, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Jim Kubicki, S.J.

Attending: Matt Carpenter

September 14-16, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Bob Gorman, Holy Family/Decatur, MI/John Kasting, John Holmes, Mark Lester, St. Anastasia HNS/Waukegan, St. Hubert/Hoffman Estates, St. Petronille/Glen Ellyn, St. Monica/Carpentersville, Jerry Jendro, Individuals

September 21-23, 2012 Men's and Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. William Barry, S.J.

Attending: Individuals

September 28-30, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Robert Flack, S.J.

Attending: Bernard Kash, Holy Family/Inverness, KC/Mt. Prospect, Our Lady of Fatima/Chicago, St. John Neuman/St. Charles, St. Priscilla HNS/Chicago, Tom Tully Group, Jerry Jendro, Joe Bussone, Individuals

October 5-7, 2012 Women's Silent Weekend – Mary McKeon, Fr. Paul Mcke, S.J.

Attending: Catholic Cemeteries, Gloria Kazimer, Holy Name Cathedral, Loretta Caravette, Margie McCalester, Mary Jane Fortman, Melinda Henson, Lighthouse Women's Group, Women of St. Isaac Jogues, Individuals

October 9-11, 2012 Women's Midweek Silent Retreat – Fr. Rick McGurn, S.J.

Attending: Gloria Kazimer, Mary Jane Fortman, Melinda Henson, Nancy Herr, Shannon Kurtz, Individuals 

October 12-14, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

Attending: Newspaper, Red Mooney/Jack Cullen, St. Norberts, Five Holy Martyrs/Chicago, Sts Peter & Paul, KC Ryan/Chicago, Pioneer Group, KC/Spring Grove, Individuals

October 19-21, 2012 Men's Bill W Silent Retreat – Fr. Robert Hanlon, S.J.

October 26-28, 2012 Charis Ministries, Young Adult

November 2-4, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend, Fr. David Meconi, S.J.

Attending: Frank Condon, KC St. Thomas/Crystal Lake, Sacred Heart/Winnetka, St. John the Baptist/Johnsburg, St. Joseph/Wilmette, St. Anne/Barrington, Jack A. Davis, Mazzuchelli's Men, Individuals

November 9-11, 2012 Women's Bill W Silent Weekend – Fr. Gerry O'Brien, S.J.

November 16-18, 2012 Men's Bill W Silent Weekend- Fr. Jim Harbaugh, S.J.

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1, 2012 FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKENDS

2012-2013 RETREAT WEEKEND SCHEDULE (continued)

November 30-Dec 2, 2012 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Bob Finucane, Don Goodwillie, Don Kelly, KC/Harvard, St. Ignatius Fathers Alumni, Frank Gill Memorial, Rockford Diaconate Class, St. Walter/Roselle, and KC Roselle, Individuals

December 7-9, 2012 Men's Bill W Silent Weekend – Fr. Gerry O'Brien, S.J.

January 4-6, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. David Meconi, S.J.

Attending: Four Shepherds

January 11-13, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Jim Kubicki, S.J.

Attending: St. Francis DeSales/Lake Zurich, St. Mary's/Lake Forest, Al Raffin, Individuals

January 18-20, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Paul Macke, S.J.

Attending: Dr. Hugh Grimes Group, KC/Schaumburg, KC/St. Charles, Michael Deutsch Group, Sts. Faith, Hope and Charity/Winnetka, Jerry Ryndak/Hampshire, Our Lady of Perpetual Help/Glenview, St. Giles Men's Society/Oak Park, Individuals

January 25-27, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J.

Attending: St. Patrick/Elkhorn WI, KC/DesPlaines, Our Lady of the Grove KC, St. Mary HNS, St. James the Apostle/Glen Ellyn, KC/Elmhurst

February 1-3, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Mike Roche/Phil Zera Group, Individuals

February 8-10, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Rick McGurn, S.J.

Attending: Cathedral of St. Raymond/Joliet, Mary Seat of Wisdom/Park Ridge, St. Norbert/Northbrook, Individuals

February 15-17, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. James Gschwend, S.J.

Attending: Divine Savior/Norridge, KC/Barrington, KC-St. Catherine/Dundee, Our Lady of the Wayside/Arlington Heights, St. Isaac Jogues/Hinsdale, St. Margaret Mary/Chicago, St. James & St. Edna/Arlington Heights #2, Walsh Jesuit HS Alumni, St. Ignatius Alumni (Cleveland), Individuals

February 22-24, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. John P. Foley, S.J.

Attending: Naperville MM/PP/R/TH, St. Alphonsus/Prospect Heights, Individuals

March 1-3, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Rick McGurn, S.J.

Attending: St. Mary Magdalene/Joliet, St. Francis of Assisi/Bolingbrook, Individuals

March 8-10, 2013 Men and Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. William Barry, S.J.

Attending: Loyola Dental Group, Ziggy's Group, KC St. Bede/Ingleside, Santa Maria del Popolo, Young Men, KC 8082 Fr. McGivney, Our Lady of Peace HNS, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel/Chicago, Bill Galliani, Individuals

March 15-17, 2013 Men's Bill W Silent Weekend – Ms. Mildred Frank

March 22-24, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Jim Kubicki, S.J.

Attending: Dick Brooker Memorial, Franklin DuPuis Memorial, KC Ryan/Chicago, Assumption Parish/River Forest, Catholic Cemeteries, Marie Council KC/Park Ridge, KC8082 Fr. McGivney, Al John's Group/Milwaukee Area, Individuals

March 28-30, 2013 Holy Week Men's Silent Retreat – Fr. J.J. O'Leary, S.J.

Attending: E. Hartrich Memorial, Ron Frost/Geldermann Memorial, KC Commodore Barry/Ed Gesualdo, McDevitt Clan, Mother Good Counsel, St. Martha/Morton Grove, Individuals

April 5-7, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.

Attending: Ed Gesualdo, St. James/Franklin, WI, Ken Murphy Group, St. Therese KC Holy Ghost, Individuals

April 12-14, 2013 Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. J.J. O'Leary, S.J.

Attending: Gloria Kazimer, Marie Pfeiffer, Margie McCalester, Melinda Henson, Holy Name Catholic Women, Heart of Mary/OLW, Loretta Caravette, Our Lady of Peace, Individuals

April 19-21, 2013 Men's Silent Weekend – Fr. Robert Flack, S.J.

Attending: Loyola Academy Father's Club, St. Francis Xavier/Wilmette, Our Lady of the Wayside/Arlington Heights, Holy Cross/Batavia, Ed Gesualdo, St. John the Apostle/Villa Park, Al John's Group/Milwaukee area/Richard Antonello, KC/Additon, St. Mary's/Elm Grove, WI, KC Hughes Council, Individuals

April 26-28, 2013 Men and Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. Rick McGurn, S.J.

Attending: KC/McHenry, School of Engineers, KC Hughes Council, St. James & St. Edna/Arlington Heights, St. Stephen/Tinley Park, Four Shepherds (Individuals), St. Michael/Wheaton, Individuals

May 3-5, 2013 Women's Silent Weekend – Fr. Michael Sparough, S.J.

Attending: Elizabeth Golden, Loretta Caravette, St. Adelaide, Women of the Cathedral of St. Raymond, Individuals

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.

Stephen A Inkrott	September 27, 2011
John Van Beckum	October 13, 2011
Thomas M Garvin	July 30, 2010
Adrian Jones	March, 2011
Thomas S. O'Donoghue	October 12, 2011
Robert L McCarthy	November 13, 2011
Frank P Schorsch	November 10, 2011
Bernard Carey	May 14, 2008
Donald Vincent	October 26, 2011
George J Keefe	December 2, 2011
Arthur Berg	February 27, 2011
Stanley J Lata	December 14, 2011
Jerold V. Lupori	December 30, 2011
Ruth S Cameron	January 6, 2011

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House

Individually Directed Retreats

July 20 - 28, 2012

August 17 - 25, 2012



Join us this summer at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Illinois, northwest of Chicago, for our summer, 2012, silent, individually directed retreats, based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. Each retreat offers:

- ◆ Daily Eucharist
- ◆ Daily meetings with a spiritual director
- ◆ A quiet atmosphere of silence for prayer and meditation
- ◆ 80 acres of beautiful grounds for walking and meditation
- ◆ Wonderfully prepared meals
- ◆ Many air-conditioned bedrooms available



Cost: \$85 per night for private room, meals, and individual spiritual direction. Come for all 8 days or as few as 3 days.

Registration: Deposit \$85 (one night's stay), non-refundable. Deadline for registration is June 1, 2012. You may register by phone or on our website.

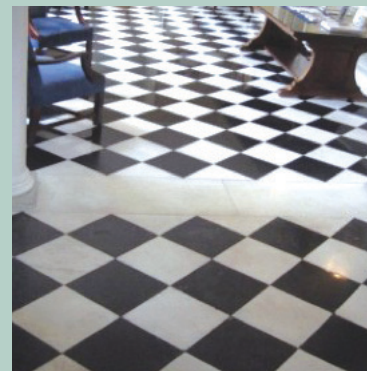
Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House, 420 W. County Line Rd., Barrington, Illinois 60010-4043, Tel. 847-381-1261

Email: bellarmine@bellarminehall.org

Website: www.bellarminoehall.org See website for driving map.

FOLLOW UP...

Marble Tile Entryway



Last year, you will recall, we published an article about our entryway marble tile floor.

Many of our readers and retreatants responded with their generosity and we were able to refinish the floor. Today it once again shines brightly as we greet our Bellarmine guests. Thanks to all who responded to this appeal.

REMEMBER BELLARMINO

To enable Bellarmine to flourish for decades to come, consider including the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in your will and estate plan. Inquire about the planning of your will, at no cost to you. Call 847-381-1261

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BELLARMINE BIZ

By Kelly Florek

Hi! My name is Kelly Florek, I've been working with the Jesuits since 1992 and came to Bellarmine's office in March of 2010 to help with Development, Accounting, Web-site & Systems Management and Special Projects.

Many changes have been made recently at Bellarmine to improve your experience with us. And, in the hope of keeping our friends/readers in the loop with all of "Bellarmine's Biz" we plan to use this space not just in this issue, but, in future Newsletters also. It is here that you will find noteworthy events and any changes happening here in the office that may affect you. This is what we've been working on since the last Newsletter:



Do we have your current email address? We hope to move toward sending this newsletter and other correspondence via email if it is convenient for you, as it would save us valuable dollars. Please let us know if your email has changed. (We will keep your information confidential.)



Tax letters ~ Bellarmine has many generous benefactors that we pray for at our daily Mass. Beginning with 2012, letters for tax purposes will not be generated at the time of the donation. Instead, in January of 2013, our donors will receive a letter that lists all gifts received and gives a total for the calendar year ~ we hope this will make your tax reporting/document retention easier.



Survey Monkey ~ (That is the name of the program we are now using to automate our evaluation system.) The next time you are here on retreat when we ask you to complete an evaluation you will have the option of doing it online later if that is easier for you. These surveys are so important in helping us know how we are doing and what we can do to serve you better in the future ~ please take a few minutes to fill your survey out.



Have any special occasions we can celebrate with you? Let us remember you in a special prayer at our daily Mass. Maybe you would like us to include your Wedding Anniversary in a special intention, or pray for a deceased loved one on the anniversary of their death. No matter what the occasion, if it is important to you, please share the date with your Bellarmine family, because it is important to us too!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments regarding these matters, or information I've requested here. My email address is kellyf@bellarminehall.org, my phone number is 847-381-2625.

JESUIT RETREAT LEAGUE OF CHICAGO

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