



BELLARMINÉ BROADCAST

news, stories, and photos from Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House



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Service to the Poor

By Executive Director
Fr. Michael Class, SJ

"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'"

- Matthew 25:37-39

Service to the Poor is one of Bellarmine's six core values. It is a value that sets a context for all of our ministry, for it is in the poor that we find the face of Jesus.

Everything we do must in some way offer service to those who are poor, because in serving the poor we are serving the Lord. So, like the righteous in Matthew's Gospel, you might be asking just who are the poor? How do we serve them?

When we think of the poor, we probably first think of those who are economically poor. They hold a special place in God's eyes and thus hold a special place at Bellarmine. On any given weekend retreat, we welcome individuals who are not able to afford the full cost of the program. Through our Kairos retreats, we welcome high school students regardless of their economic status.

Thanks to the generosity of our retreatants and friends, we are able to welcome those who cannot afford the cost of these programs but who may be most in need of spending time listening to and finding God's love and care. Through donations to the Fr. Fussner Fund, our annual appeal, and our endowment fund, we are able to offer an encounter with the Lord to those who do not have the means to pay for it.

There are many other ways people may experience being poor. We welcome those who experience the poverty of addiction to join us for Bill W 12-Step or Friends/Family of Bill W Retreats, regardless of their ability to pay or their way of worshipping a Higher Power.

Through our partnership with Ignatian Spirituality Project, we welcome those who are experiencing homelessness to attend weekend retreats.

We welcome Veterans whose poverty may be a Poverty of Spirit, giving them a chance to feel thanked for their service and welcomed back to their families and homes.

We welcome caregivers whose lives are dedicated to serving the sick and the dying. We help them find their God in all that they do as they care for others.

Finally, everyone who comes to Bellarmine with a hunger to know God is fed with His Word, His Sacraments, and His Love.

Thank you for joining us in living out this Service to all those who are Poor. ✠



Spiritual Direction: Finding Our Heart's Deepest Desire

By Jesuit Community Superior
Fr. Rick McGurn, SJ

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Jesus tells us that possessions alone cannot satisfy our deepest longings. What truly satisfies is a personal experience with Him who is our Savior. This is the reason we Jesuits here at Bellarmine, along with our lay spiritual directors, value our role in assisting retreatants to feel Jesus touching their deepest heart's desires. Who comes here, and what desires do they bring?

- ✦ high school students having their first mature experience of God;
- ✦ military veterans seeking peace of mind and healing from the wounds of war;
- ✦ the homeless, thirsting for self-worth and hungry for hope;
- ✦ individuals recovering from addiction, who want to take another step forward; and
- ✦ the many lay men and women, priests, and sisters, who want to be touched anew by God's grace.

For their sake we not only offer spiritual direction, we also train new spiritual directors in order to expand our outreach. We enable new spiritual directors to help our retreatants find Christ in the midst of their everyday life concerns – whether they arrive with financial worries, emotional burdens, or simply with a longing to experience the grace of Him who, for our sake, “emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:7).

We will begin a new three-year internship program to train spiritual directors this coming fall. To receive an application form, call 847-381-1261 or visit our website. Classes will begin on September 17, 2018. ✦

"Possessions alone cannot satisfy our deepest longings. What truly satisfies is a personal experience with Him who is our Savior."



St. Ignatius Says...

“Be generous to the poor... and those in need. The [person] to whom our Lord has been liberal ought not to be stingy. We shall one day find in Heaven as much rest and joy as we ourselves have dispensed in this life.”



The Hope We Find in Christ

By Retreat & Marketing Coordinator
Rachel Forton

Several years ago, I made my first Kairos retreat as a spiritually hungry high school student. It was the first time I saw Jesus as a real Person desiring a relationship with me. That realization changed the way I saw myself, and my desire for prayer grew. The impact Kairos had on my life continues to unfold.

Years later, I now have the privilege of coordinating Kairos retreats for the high schools that come to Bellarmine nearly every week of the school year. The students often come with mixed emotions - doubts, insecurities, fears - and leave with peace, confidence in their status as Beloved children of God, and a newfound hope.

Witnessing the riches these students find on Kairos gives me hope as well. Our world and our Church are in desperate need of Christ's light. It is not difficult to see the many poverties that plague humanity in our time. Yet when we recognize our identity as Beloved, we begin to see how our poverty unites us with one another and with God, Who took on the poverty of humanity and redeemed it. We begin to see how the Holy Spirit empowers us to alleviate suffering in the world, to be spurred to hopeful action rather than inactive despair.

The future of our Church rests on people filled with the hope that is found only in Christ. It is in the silence of our hearts that we experience His love, the source of our hope. Join me in praying for the many students who come to Bellarmine seeking this hope and love - these students who are indeed the future of our Church. ✦



Celebrating 70 Years

By Development Director
Kathy Caudill

As we approach our 70th anniversary of Ignatian retreats at Bellarmine, I find myself thinking about the first 22 retreatants who arrived on the very last train into Barrington on January 2, 1948. Among them were doctors, lawyers, professors, engineers; some worked in sales, manufacturing, and office management. I imagine after a long week of work and a snowy ride to Barrington, they were cold and tired. Had they been educated by Jesuits? Did they know each other? Were they familiar with Ignatian Spirituality, the Examen, and silent retreats?



Fr. McGinnis, SJ recounted, "No retreat ever opened under less auspicious circumstances." The accommodations were not quite ready when the men arrived. The stove was not connected, and the altar was still being finished. Despite these issues, did the men find their retreat beneficial? Actions speak louder than words, and the resolution adopted by the first retreatants showed they had experienced something meaningful they wanted to share with others, regardless of ability to pay a full share of the expenses.

At the end of the next retreat, the men adopted the same resolution to provide retreats for all, regardless of ability to pay, and suggested monthly contributions to support Bellarmine's ministry. Seventy years later, the generosity of many men and women continues to help Bellarmine share the gift of Ignatian Spirituality with others. On behalf of all those who benefit from your support of this retreat ministry, thank you! ✠

In Memoriam

We remember deceased retreatants, their spouses, and loved ones whose passing we have learned of since the Summer 2017 Newsletter.

- Kenneth R. Ballowe - 11/14/2017
- Joseph Bowler - 4/4/2017
- Joseph J. Bredemann, Sr. - 2/20/2014
- Donald Coffey - 2/27/2017
- Carol J. Conway - 9/1/2017
- Joseph A. Dockendorff, Jr. - 9/15/2017
- John M. Duffy - 10/2017
- Winifred Duffy - 12/11/2014
- Thomas Fillippini - 10/28/2017
- David V. Foley - 4/10/2016
- Mark J. Gamber - 9/4/2017
- William Gaus - 6/29/2016
- Rev. Raymond T. Gawronski, SJ - 4/14/2016
- Patricia M. Gecewicz - 11/6/2017
- H. J. Gitlin - 12/2/2016
- Mike Jaekels - 2/15/2017
- Joan Keegan - 7/2/2017
- Luke Kehoe - 8/2017
- Charmayne W. Kreuz - 3/4/2017
- Jeffrey Kubes - 8/14/2015
- Jim Kuether - 4/23/2016
- Richard A. Lahart - 9/1/2016
- Eleanor F. Laraja - 10/11/2017
- Robert M. Leonhardt - 8/9/2017
- Hector Lobo - 6/12/2013
- Richard C. Mankowski - 9/11/2017
- Peter McGrail - 8/3/2017
- John D. Moyers - 3/9/2014
- John Myers - 4/11/2017
- Stephen J. Nagy - 10/20/2017
- Joyce B. Pagels - 3/2017
- Frank Perhats - 9/21/2017
- Silvio A. Petitti - 2/7/2016
- Gerry Spatz - 6/26/2017
- Ray G. VanderZanden - 6/9/2017
- Robert K. Wilmouth - 9/14/2017

Please let us know of retreatants and loved ones who have passed away so that we may join you in prayer for them.

Pope Francis on Poverty

"Poverty is not an accident. It has causes that must be recognized and removed for the good of so many of our brothers and sisters." - Pope Francis on Twitter, November 16, 2017



Photo from the Canonization of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014

2018 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS

= MEN ONLY
 = WOMEN ONLY
 = MEN & WOMEN

February 2-4	Women's Weekend Retreat	Carol Ackels
Feb 9-11	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Meconi, SJ
February 14	Men & Women's Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection	Fr. Michael Class, SJ
February 19	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Discerning Your Decisions</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Feb 23-25	Men's Weekend Retreat	Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
February 25	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Veterans Committee
March 1-4	Men & Women's 4-Day Retreat (Thurs - Sun)	Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ
March 9-11	Friends/Family of Bill W 12-Step Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
March 16-18	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Dr. Kevin McClone, PsyD, MDiv
March 23-25	Men's Palm Sunday Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Shields, SJ
March 27	Women's Evening of Reflection: <i>The Way of the Cross through Mary's Eyes</i>	Mary McKeon
March 29-31	Men & Women's Holy Week Retreat	Fr. Peter Fennessy, SJ
April 6-8	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Brad Held, SJ
April 10	Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Women Doctors of the Church</i>	Mary McKeon & Rachel Forton
April 13-14	Women's Overnight Retreat (Fri - Sat)	Sr. Wendy Cotter, CSJ
April 15	Day of Prayer in Spanish for Men & Women: <i>Orando la Liturgia, Orando con la Iglesia</i>	Fr. Esequiel Sanchez
April 20-22	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. George Drance, SJ
April 27-29	Sacramentally Married Couples' Weekend Retreat	Tom & GERALYN Sparough & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
May 4-6	Women's Weekend Retreat <i>Optional 4-Day begins on Thurs, May 3</i>	Mary McKeon
May 6	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Veterans Committee
June 20-28	8-Day Individually Directed Retreat* <i>*Limited spaces available</i>	Bellarmino Jesuits-in-Residence & Mary McKeon
Sept 7-9	Matt Carpenter Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Mark Andrews, SJ
Sept 14-16	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Kevin Schneider, SJ
Sept 21-23	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Sept 28-30	Women's Weekend Retreat	Susan J. Stabile
October 2-4	Women's Midweek Retreat	Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
October 5-7	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Paul Mueller, SJ
Oct 12-14	Men's Weekend Retreat	Mary McKeon
November 2-4	Women's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	TBD
Nov 9-11	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jeff LaBelle, SJ
Nov 30 - Dec 2	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Meconi, SJ
Dec 7-9	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	TBD
Dec 14-15	Advent Overnight Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Mary McKeon



"Our Lady of the Way," oil on canvas 66x68 © Holly Schapker. Inspired by "Madonna della Strada" at the Church of the Gesu, Rome. Used with permission, www.hollyschapker.com.

Our Lady of the Way

You present us with your son,
 The one sure way to peace,
 As serenely you survey our world
 Beset by scandal... bigotry... deceit.

He raises His hand in blessing,
 Holding before us the Book of Life.
 This little child alone will lead us
 From living hell to ending strife.

For if He is, indeed, the Christ,
 And you, His gift to us, our Mother,
 Then that alien stranger is no other
 Than my own sister or my brother.

Must we echo: "No room in the inn"?
 Why can't we learn from history?
 God's little ones still flee for their lives.
 Their faces shrouded in mystery.

We need new eyes this new year
 To behold Christ's works of art,
 To see us all as He sees us -
 Garments of love adorning His heart.

He weaves a fabric from all humanity -
 Blacks, Reds, Yellows, Whites, & Browns.

For all who dare bare His face
 Bedeck your holy, living gowns.

- J. Michael Sparough, SJ



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