

BELLARMINE BROADCAST

news, stories, and photos from Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House



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Listening to the Music of the Holy Spirit

By Executive Director
Fr. Paul Macke, SJ

The busyness of the Advent season and Christmas are behind us. We have moved back into Ordinary Time before we begin our Lenten practices to prepare ourselves for Jesus' death and resurrection. This time of the year offers us all a chance to pause and think about our life and our faith. A retreat at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House is an opportunity to embrace an exterior and interior quiet; to listen to the music of the Holy Spirit in the daily rhythm of our lives so that a more in-depth individual and communal discernment is possible.

Movie director Martin Scorsese came out with a film in January called *Silence*. It is about the experience of Jesuit missionaries in Japan in the 17th century when Japan was persecuting the Church in order to wipe out all Western influences. One of the Portuguese Jesuit characters, Rodrigues, wonders why God remains silent while His children suffer. I guess that is another view of silence. Does God indeed remain silent in our lives, or do we need to

quiet down enough to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit in our individual and communal experience? I suspect it is the latter.

The Ignatian Examen of Consciousness is a method of daily prayer which helps us become aware of the movements of good and evil in our lives. A tool I have found helpful in bringing more life to the Examen prayer is an application that can be downloaded to your smart phone entitled

"Reimagining the Examen," which was created by Loyola Press and based on Mark Thibodeaux, SJ's bestselling book by the same name. Give this book or app a try and once again make silence a daily and vital part of your life in discerning the regular movements of the Spirit, both for yourself and for society.

Be assured that when you come to Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House for a retreat, silence will be a core part of your experience here. ✠

"Does God indeed remain silent in our lives, or do we need to quiet down enough to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit?"



The Heart of Bellarmine

By Development Director
Kathy Caudill

In a world filled with a cacophony of noises, voices, and demands for our time and attention, silence is a precious commodity.

Here at Bellarmine, we are grateful for the many friends who recognize the heart of the Bellarmine retreat, which is silence; support Bellarmine's retreat ministries; and generously donate to help make it possible for others to receive the great gift of silence spent with God in Bellarmine's sacred spaces.

We also give thanks to our God for the members of the Heart of Bellarmine Society, who have the vision and desire to offer a living legacy here at Bellarmine. They have made a planned gift to Bellarmine or have advised that Bellarmine will be remembered in their estate planning documents. This may be a bequest in a will, the gift of a paid-up life insurance policy, or as a charitable beneficiary in a trust. Such planned gifts provide a lasting legacy in support of Bellarmine's vision - sending retreatants forth into the world as companions with Christ in building the Kingdom of God.

As you pray and listen in the silence, perhaps you are hearing God calling you to remember Bellarmine with a planned gift. I invite you to consider joining the growing membership in the Heart of Bellarmine Society. ✠

Pope Francis on Silence

"This is the language of the Lord, the language of the love of a father, of a mother. The word of the Lord? Yes, we understand what He tells us. But we also see how He says it. [Silence] is the music of the language of the Lord, and we . . . ought to hear it: it would do us so much good. It would do us good to have a little silence and to hear these words of love, these words of such nearness, these words of tenderness . . ."

- Homily given in Rome on December 8, 2013



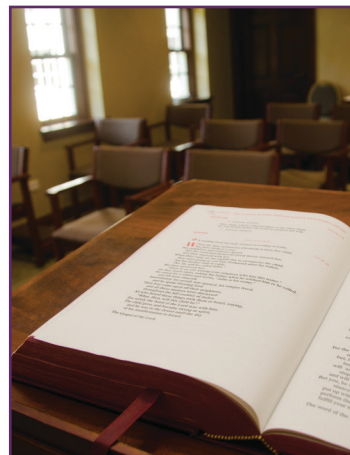
Photo from: https://wau.org/resources/article/re_pray_with/en/giubileo/preghiera.html

An Annual Tradition of Silence

Repetition is an important aspect of Ignatian prayer, a fact well known by many of our retreatants who return to the silence of retreat year after year. An annual silent retreat has become a tradition for many who seek to recharge, reflect, and deepen their connection with God.

Here we offer a selection of recent retreatants' comments on the grace of silence. Is it time for you to re-enter the silence or invite a friend on retreat?

"God speaks so clearly through the silence. I always leave with the feeling that I am a cherished child of God..."



"I loved the quiet time to read Scripture and rest. Peaceful, since my life is chaotic."

"The Bellarmine Retreat House and beautiful grounds allow for God's whisper to be heard and embraced."





Prompting Silence

By Associate Director
Erin Maiorca

When I make a retreat, the first several hours are spent quieting my busy mind. While I am delighted to focus on the words of a Retreat Master, once on my own, my attention wanders to things to do, decisions, dreams, the list goes on. It takes time for me to unwind enough to just “be” present with our Lord. Once I am quiet enough to appreciate His presence, I am awash with an indescribable sense of His love and a peaceful contentment. Quieting our minds and opening our hearts take practice and grace. Over time, it has become apparent that the environment can help or hinder my efforts.

As our team works each day in this quiet sacred space and looks to the future of Bellarmine, we hope to maintain an environment that readily invites you into quiet contemplation. We have become students of silence and learned that room layout, color and décor can help us to quiet and focus our minds. As we have looked at our communication tools, we now know that even a website can provide a sense of invitation, calm and quiet, and even a sacredness.

Our team has been working for months on how best to communicate our mission, vision, and dreams in words and images. We have been helped by generous consultants who provided tools to articulate the shared voice of our ministry and capture the beauty of the lovely home and extraordinary grounds we call Bellarmine.

We will be launching a newly designed website in the coming months. We hope you will find it easy to navigate and that it will reflect your Bellarmine experience. If you are interested in participating in a beta test in February, please drop me a line at emaiorca@jesuitretreat.org. ☩



Coming soon - the new Bellarmine website!



St. Ignatius Says...

"We should speak only with necessity, and for the edification of ourselves or others, and leave aside those things which do not profit the soul."

In Memoriam

We remember our deceased retreatants, their spouses, and loved ones whose passing we have learned of since the Summer 2016 Newsletter.

Elizabeth Avellone - 5/5/2015
James W. Bayley - 10/4/2016
Andrew J. Bizub - 3/10/2015
John L. Bordes, Jr. - 10/23/2016
Arthur Bowie - 12/1/2015
Patricia Covey - 7/30/2016
Dorothy I. Dasbach - 1/13/2016
Deacon William F. Dunn - 7/8/2016
Tom Finnegan - 6/20/2016
Joseph P. Fitzgerald - 8/24/2015
John L. "Jack" Flynn - 4/7/2016
Deacon J. Brendan Foley - 11/8/2016
Edward Geier - 6/2/2014
Allan Hall - 8/22/2016
Frank R. Holecek - 7/21/2016
Ruth Hughes - 2/8/2016
Robert Hulseman - 12/21/2016
Diane Hunter - 10/26/2016
Charles "Chuck" Infante - 9/10/2016
Paul Kaiser - 11/12/2016
Ellin M. Kelly - 2/20/2016
Lawrence E. Klinger - 12/2015
John A. Lane - 8/24/2016
William A. Lorenz - 12/13/2015
Elise Meyer - 6/28/2016
Raymond Naczas - 12/22/2016
John D. Nelligan - 9/12/2016
Catherine O'Connor - 5/17/2015
Leon J. Paruszkiewicz - 7/22/2016
Edmund S. Sowa - 2/25/2014
Thomas Stemlar - 2/27/2016
John Truman - 1/7/2014
Thomas A. Tully - 6/26/2015
Ida Wilk - 6/28/2016
Gerald G. Zehren - 11/7/2015

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

2017 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS

= MEN ONLY
 = WOMEN ONLY
 = MEN & WOMEN

Feb 17-19	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Paul Mueller, SJ
Feb 24-26	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Meconi, SJ
February 26	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Veterans Committee
March 1	Men & Women's Ash Wednesday Evening of Reflection: <i>Create in Me a Clean Heart</i>	Mary McKeon
March 2-5	Men & Women's 4-Day Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
March 10-12	Friends & Family of Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Sr. Cathy Cahill, OSF
March 13	Men & Women's Lenten Day of Reflection: <i>Jesus' Cross: The Tree of Life</i>	Fr. Rick McGurn, SJ
March 17-19	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Dr. Kevin McClone, PsyD, MDiv
March 24-26	Like Mothers & Daughters Weekend Retreat	Mary McKeon & Catherine Palenik
Mar 31 - Apr 2	Men & Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Kevin Kersten, SJ
April 7-9	Men's Palm Sunday Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ
April 12	Women's Evening of Reflection: <i>The Way of the Cross Through Mary's Eyes</i>	Mary McKeon
April 13-15	Men & Women's Holy Week Retreat	Fr. Kevin Kersten, SJ
April 22	Couples' Candlelight Dinner & Evening of Reflection	Mary McKeon & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
April 23	Men & Women's Hispanic Day of Prayer	Fr. Kevin Flaherty, SJ
April 28-30	Sacramentally Married Couples' Weekend Retreat	Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson
May 5-7	Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Shields, SJ
May 16	Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Praying with Scripture - Lectio Divina</i>	Mary McKeon
May 21	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Veterans Committee
June 19-26	Individually Directed 8-Day Retreat	Multiple Directors
July 14-22	Individually Directed 8-Day Retreat	Multiple Directors
Sept 8-10	Matt Carpenter Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Peter Etzel, SJ
Sept 22-24	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ
Sept 29 - Oct 1	Women's Weekend Retreat	Carol Ackels
October 3-5	Women's Midweek Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
October 6-8	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Kevin Kersten, SJ
Oct 13-15	Men's Weekend Retreat - <i>Optional 4-Day Begins on Thursday, October 12</i>	Fr. Mike Marco, SJ
Oct 27-29	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jim Harbaugh, SJ
Nov 3-5	Women's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Sr. Linda Fischer, ASC
Nov 10-12	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tom O'Neill, SJ
Dec 1-3	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Shields, SJ
Dec 8-10	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ

2017 "Semi-Silent" Retreat Options

Looking to "ease in" with a semi-silent retreat? Consider these wonderful options to share your retreat experience with a loved one:

- ✦ *Honoring the Mary Within - "Like a Mother To Me, Like a Daughter To Me" Women's Retreat*, March 24-26, 2017 with Mary McKeon & Catherine Palenik
- ✦ *Marriage, Mercy, & Joy: Welcome to the Divine Dance! - Sacramentally Married Couples' Retreat*, April 28-30, 2017 with Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson

Summer Individually Directed Retreats

What is the value of eight full days of silence? Consider the thoughts of some of last summer's individually directed retreat participants:

- ✦ The overwhelming presence of Christ in every detail.
- ✦ A peace that surpasses human understanding is present.
- ✦ The joy of the Lord is experienced at every turn.
- ✦ Daily Mass, adoration, and prayer prepared me to quickly find ease and comfort in the silence and to go deeper in relationship with God.

Each summer we offer two opportunities to make an 8-day, individually directed retreat. Accompanied by a spiritual director trained in the Ignatian tradition, the extended time allows for a deeper silence conducive to prayer.


An individually directed retreat can be an incredible time to grow in trust, hope, and faith in God. He is always present, but how often do we take time to listen to His voice in moments of grace? These blessings are apparent when we allow time for stillness of heart and mind.

Register soon for the June 19-26 or July 14-22 individually directed retreat, as limited spaces are available. ✦



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