

BELLARMINE BROADCAST



news, stories, and photos from Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House

SUMMER 2018, VOLUME 54, NO. 2



Welcome to this Sacred Space

By Executive Director
Fr. Michael Class, SJ

The Scriptures are full of examples of sacred spaces. Sacred Space is that space where we encounter God in a very personal way.

Our retreatants come to Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House for a personal encounter with our Lord. They come to make weekend retreats, days of reflection, Kairos retreats, or to visit our gardens and chapels for quiet time alone knowing that Bellarmine is Sacred Space. Our staff works diligently to make sure this space is always welcoming and pleasing to the soul and that there is always something new for the eye.

After a journey down our inviting driveway and a welcome from the Sacred Heart statue, guests are greeted at our main entrance by a new portrait of our patron, St. Robert Bellarmine, the work and gift of local artist Pamela Shumway and her husband, Grant.

The Sacred Heart Chapel may be the first space that folks think of as sacred when they come to Bellarmine. On weekend retreats, it is the site of Masses and retreat talks, where the retreat master leads retreatants through

the *Spiritual Exercises* with passages from Scripture, fascinating tales, and instruction on ways to pray. Its crucifix, portraits, and Stations of the Cross are all original works of art intended to help stir the imagination.

Just down the hall in the newest wing is the John & Lenore Fogarty Chapel. It is a more intimate space where retreatants can spend time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Outside the main house is Our Lady's Garden, where retreatants can spend time in a formal garden surrounded by flowers and fountains under the watchful gaze of the statue of Mary. Just outside of that glorious garden, folks can begin the Way of the Cross as they wend their way among the stations scattered throughout the garden area.

On the north side of the retreat house is the St. Joseph Gazebo Shrine, a hidden treasure in a quiet stand of trees just a few steps away from the house. A hundred paces or so beyond the gazebo is Suzi's Garden with its hand-crafted pergola, natural grasses, and the wildflowers that draw butterflies to that quiet hollow.

These public spaces are inviting, but so are the private guestrooms at Bellarmine. That most personal sacred space is where folks hear the voice of God in their prayers and rest in the Lord. We welcome you to return to these sacred spaces for new retreats beginning this September. Where might God be waiting for you this year? ✠

**"Where might God
be waiting for you
this year?"**

Your Favorite Sacred Spaces at Bellarmine

At the end of each retreat, we ask you - our retreatants - to share with us your experience at Bellarmine. Our staff looks forward to your comments and suggestions. One of our greatest joys is reading about where you found God on your retreat. It is amazing to see how each of you cherishes a unique place or aspect of the Bellarmine house and grounds. Truly, God comes to us in personal, sometimes unexpected, moments and places.

Take a moment to reflect back on your most sacred times at Bellarmine:

- ✘ Do you recognize your own Bellarmine retreat experience in any of the comments below?
- ✘ Where does God "come to you" on your retreat?

"I didn't realize just how impactful silence can be on spiritual growth and peace. I truly heard Jesus whisper to me while here. The gardens are beautiful to see His presence in."



"The retreat has given me peace and rest and most of all a closeness to God. I enjoyed praying the rosary outside and walking the Stations of the Cross."

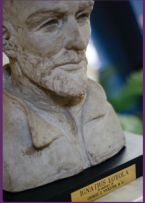
"I thought the retreat was beautiful. The grounds were fantastic. Saw lots of wild life. I was able to find what I need to change in my life to serve God better."



Photo courtesy of Bellarmine Volunteer Gardening Angel, Alison Hoffman of Every Green Plant.



"I love the adoration chapel. It's lovely and healing and perfectly sized."



St. Ignatius Says...

“The more the soul is in solitude... the more fit it renders itself to approach and be united with its Creator and Lord; and the more closely it is united with Him, the more it disposes itself to receive graces and gifts from the infinite goodness of its God.”

- Puhl, L. J. (2003). *The spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius: Based on the studies in the language of the autograph*. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press. 10.



God is Present Here

By Housekeeping Director
Helen Reier

Anywhere you experience "God present there" is a sacred space.

I feel confident that, as the Housekeeping Director for eighteen years, I can speak for the entire housekeeping team... It is truly a blessing to work at Bellarmine!

We often remain unseen, diligently preparing a clean and comfortable environment, to ensure that the physical needs of our guests are free from any distractions or cares. We create a space where you can experience "God present there."

"We create a space where you can experience 'God present there.'"

Ultimately, it is the work of the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Bellarmine that can result in a sacred space which will be yours at all times ... "God present in the depths of your heart!" It is our prayer that, after your retreat in the sacred spaces of Bellarmine, you will find that place in your heart where God is always present. ✠



In Memoriam

We remember deceased retreatants, their spouses, and loved ones whose passing we have learned of since the Winter 2018 Newsletter.

Marybeth Benoit - 3/27/2017

Theodore Berg - 1/2017

Rev. Robert L. Bireley, SJ - 3/17/2018

John Cannon - 1/2/2018

Gene Connolly - 8/25/2017

Mario DiLullo - 4/17/2018

Thomas W. Dooley - 3/10/2015

Joseph Ender - 2/25/2018

Cosimo Ferraro - 5/4/2018

Bernard C. Garvey, Sr. - 6/2018

James Gleason - 5/27/2018

Robert S. Hanson - 4/17/2018

Thomas F. Leahy - 5/21/2018

Michael McGovern - 11/15/2017

Donald R. Michonski - 4/30/2018

Donald Peterson - 11/15/2017

Michael B. Roche - 2/25/2018

Mary Kathleen Roche - 1/12/2018

Lawrence B. Sullivan - 8/2017

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 Sacred Space

“How can we fail to realize the need to stop this rat race and to recover the personal space needed to carry on a heartfelt dialogue with God? Finding that space may prove painful but it is always fruitful. Sooner or later, we have to face our true selves and let the Lord enter.”

- Pope Francis' *Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World, Chapter 1, Paragraph 29*

Photo from CNS/Paul Haring



2018-2019 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS

= MEN ONLY
 = WOMEN ONLY
 = MEN & WOMEN

Sept 7-9	Matt Carpenter Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Mark Andrews, SJ
Sept 10	Men & Women's Day of Reflection for Caregivers: <i>Finding Balance & Receiving Grace in Our Giving</i>	Mary McKeon & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Sept 14-16	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Kevin Schneider, SJ
Sept 15-16	Men & Women's Young Adult Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Team of Young Adults
Sept 21-23	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Sept 24	Women's Evening of Reflection: <i>Calling All Marthas</i>	Mary McKeon
Sept 28-30	Women's Weekend Retreat	Susan J. Stabile
October 2-4	Women's Midweek Retreat (<i>Tues - Thurs</i>)	Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
October 5-7	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Paul Mueller, SJ
October 8	Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Befriending the American Women Saints</i>	Mary McKeon & Rachel Forton
Oct 12-14	Men's Weekend Retreat	Mary McKeon
October 14	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Team of Veterans
October 16	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Entering the Heart of Mary with St. Ignatius</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Holly Schapker
Oct 19-21	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Frank Majka, SJ
November 2-4	Women's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tim Meier, SJ
November 5	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Transforming Grief: A Process of Healing, Grace & Hope</i>	Mary McKeon & Lynn Sprehe
Nov 9-11	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jeff LaBelle, SJ
Nov 30 - Dec 2	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ
December 3	Women's Day of Reflection: <i>The 3 Wise Women of the Nativity</i>	Mary McKeon
Dec 7-9	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tim Meier, SJ
December 10	Men & Women's Advent Day of Prayer: <i>Hold Christ in the Manger of Your Heart</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Mary McKeon
Dec 14-15	Men & Women's Advent Overnight Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Mary McKeon
January 4-6	Four Shepherds Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Richard Malloy, SJ
January 11	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Discover Your Strengths to Grow Spiritually & Serve God</i>	Molly Henry
Jan 11-13	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ
Jan 18-20	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Jan 25-27	Roche/Zera Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Meconi, SJ
Feb 1-3	Women's Yoga Weekend Retreat	Bobby Karle, SJ & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
February 4	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Discerning Your Decisions in the Ignatian Tradition</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Feb 8-10	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Keith Maczkiewicz, SJ
Feb 22-24	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Rob Bieganowski, SJ

Find the rest of the retreat season on our website at JesuitRetreat.org.



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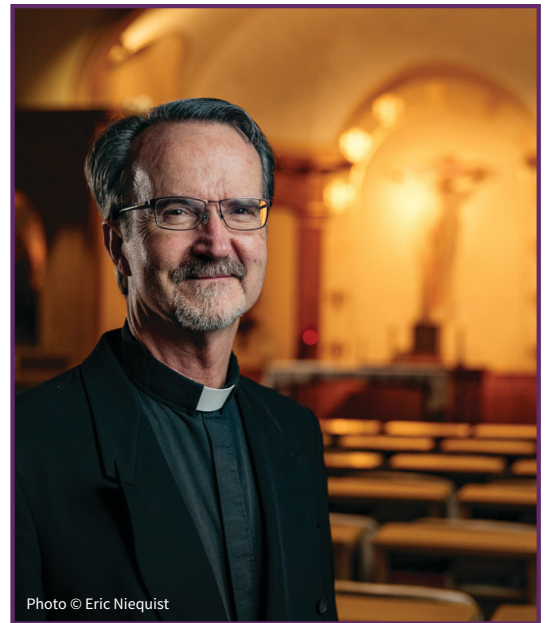


Photo © Eric Niequist

50 Years of Jesuit Life: Sacred Time, Sacred Space

By Ministry Team Member
Fr. J. Michael Sparough, SJ

This year we celebrate 70 years for Bellarmine and 50 years for me as a Jesuit. For a full sixteen of my years, I have been privileged to live and work in this holy house on its hallowed grounds.

Retreats have been an important part of my life since I was a sophomore at Loyola Academy. In fact, virtually every major decision I've made in my life has been made during or after a retreat. It's medicine for the heart and healing balm for the soul.

So many remark that they "feel a peace" as soon as they turn onto our driveway. Can't one just pray at home and experience that peace? Perhaps. But seven decades of thousands of spiritual seekers annually opening their hearts to God does create an atmosphere of grace. We who love retreats at Bellarmine know them to be Sacred Time in Sacred Space.

Join us in giving thanks to God for Fr. Michael's 50 years of ministry! ✠