

BELLARMINE
Jesuit Retreat House

We Give Thanks



ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018



We give thanks... for Bellarmine's leadership

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The Board of Members is appointed by, and is a liaison to, the Provincial of the Upper Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus.

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The Board of Directors is elected by the Board of Members.

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A note from John Kurkowski Chair, Bellarmine Board of Directors

Dear Friends of Bellarmine,

We are grateful for an extraordinary year of ministry in 2017 to 2018. As you will see in the following pages, our silent retreats and programs offered greater numbers of people the opportunity to encounter God on retreat this fiscal year. We are grateful to have served all of you as you sought time with the Lord in silence and prayer.

As fiscal year 2018 comes to an end, Fr. Michael D. Class, SJ has stepped down as Executive Director of Bellarmine. The Board of Directors has accepted Fr. Class' resignation and formed a search committee to identify his successor. In his time at Bellarmine, Fr. Class provided vision for sustaining this ministry through continued expansion of programming and upgrades to the buildings and grounds. Fr. Class expressed his gratitude for "the truly graced opportunity to serve here this past year. Bellarmine is a wondrous place and truly serves God's Church." Fr. Class, who is a priest in good standing in the Church, will now be taking some personal time and will be in dialogue with his Jesuit Provincial Fr. Brian Paulson, SJ, regarding his next assignment.

The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Erin Maiorca as Acting Executive Director. During her tenure as Bellarmine's Associate Director since 2012, she has partnered with the Board to develop and implement Bellarmine's strategic plan and annual budgets.

Amidst this transition, all of us at Bellarmine remain hopeful for another year of grace in our ministry. We look forward to welcoming you back for the new retreat season, which is now underway. Please keep us in your prayers and know that we will continue to pray for you at our daily Mass.

Yours in Christ,

John Kurkowski

John Kurkowski, CPA is a managing partner at Crowe LLP. He has served as the Chair of Bellarmine's Board of Directors since 2013.



A note from V. Rev. Brian G. Paulson, SJ Provincial, USA Midwest Province Jesuits

Dear Friends of Bellarmine,

On behalf of the Midwest Jesuits, I want to thank you for your generous support of Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House this past year. We all cherish this beautiful sacred space and holy ground which allow us to hear the "still small voice" of God once heard by the prophet Elijah long ago.

I also want to thank Fr. Michael Class, SJ, who served as Executive Director over the past year. Fr. Class helped Bellarmine think through the many challenges which are in front of us regarding the care of our older buildings, assisted with fundraising, and offered a pastoral presence to our weekend retreatants. Fr. Class, the Board of Directors and I have agreed that he would step down and accept another mission from me as provincial.

I am grateful to Ms. Erin Maiorca, who has generously agreed to serve as the Acting Executive Director while a search begins for Bellarmine's next leader. With God's grace and your generosity, I am confident that the retreat house will continue to flourish as we seek the greater honor and glory of God in all that we do.

Sincerely in Christ,

V. Rev. Brian G. Paulson, SJ



Meet Erin Maiorca

Erin joined Bellarmine in 2012 as Associate Director with an extensive management background in global dining services, human resources, training, and recruiting.

She holds a BA in Communications from the University of Illinois Urbana and a Culinary Arts Degree from Washburne Culinary and Hospitality Institute. She and Tom, her husband of 25 years, are active members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish and have two boys that attend St. Ignatius College Prep, of which Erin is a graduate.

Erin has a great love for retreat ministry and a deep understanding of Ignatian Spirituality. She serves on the Governance Committee for the Board of Directors of the Ignatian Spirituality Project, as well as the Jesuits' National Committee reviewing the guidelines for those entrusted with leading the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius.

Our Mission

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



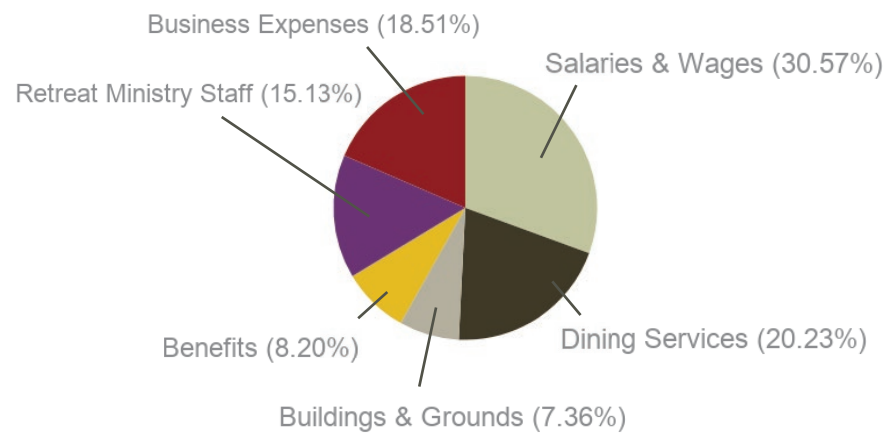
Our Values

Ignatian Spirituality for Adults & Youth
Silence
Service to the Poor
Prayer
Hospitality
Sacred Spaces

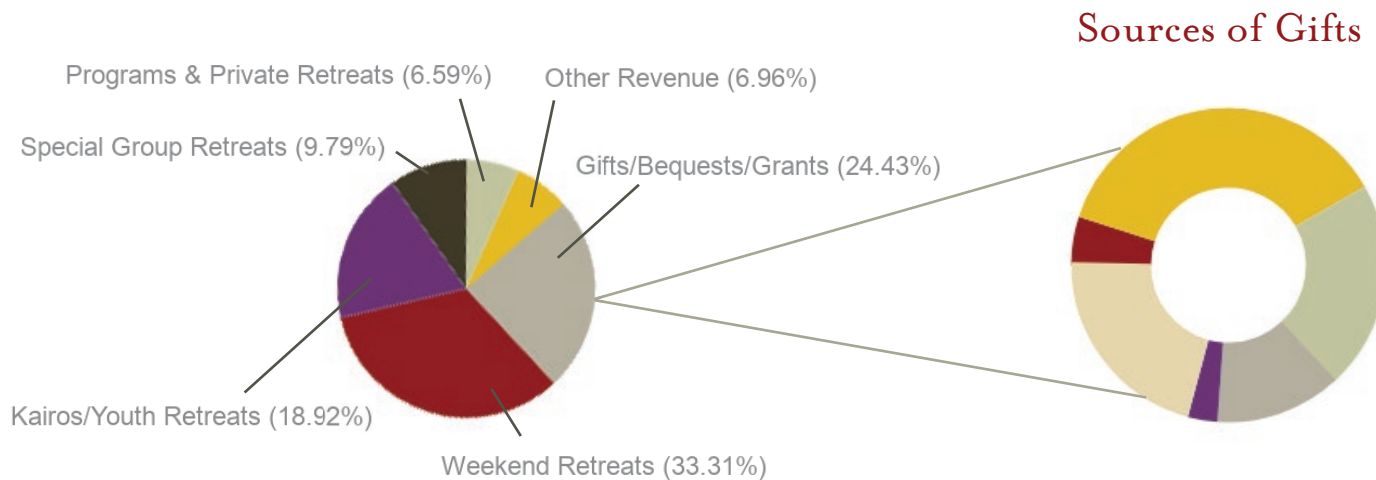
We give thanks... for your impact on Bellarmine's retreat ministry

Financials*

Expenses: \$2,070,639



Revenues: \$1,776,849



*The shortfall between revenue and expenses was made up by drawing on the earned interest from our Ministry Investment Funds.

Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to carry out our mission of fostering spiritual development through retreats. In fiscal year 2018, you helped us welcome **4,919** men and women to encounter the love of God on retreat.

This year, **164** new donors became partners in our mission by giving to Bellarmine for the first time. We are grateful for their new partnership.

Your gifts have provided an opportunity for not only recognition of God's grace, but an experience of this grace that is carried forward into a world that needs it today more than ever. Thank you!

on Bellarmine's retreat ministry

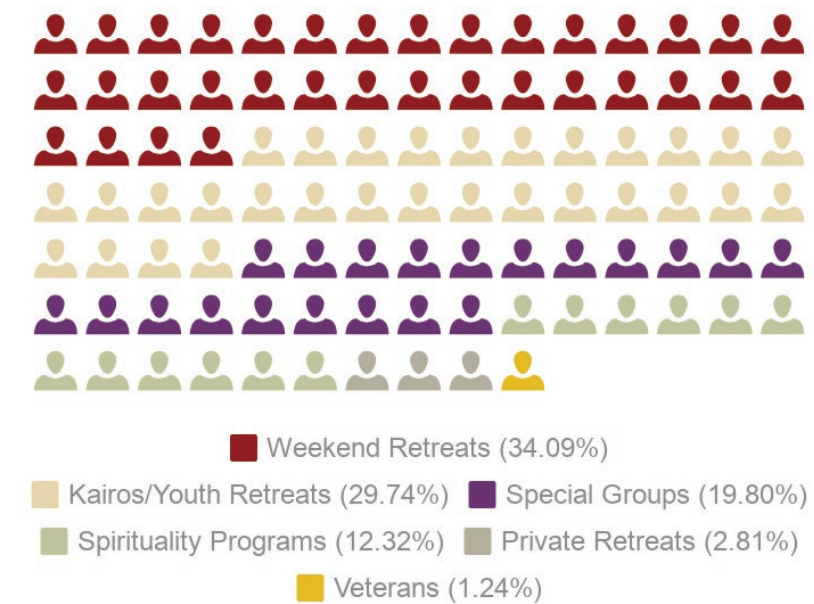
We are excited to report that in fiscal year 2018, more people came on retreat than in each of the last five years. We had a **15%** increase in number of retreatants from 2017 to 2018.

This year, **27%** of those on weekend retreats were new to Bellarmine, and the average age of those retreatants was **56**.

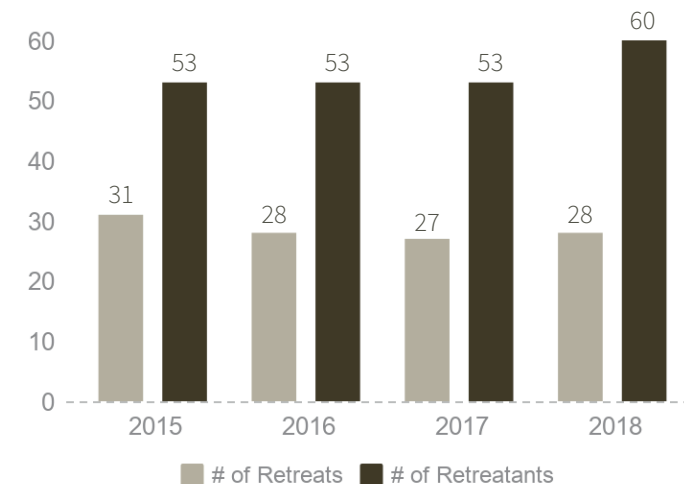
We had so much interest in our programming that **43%** of weekend retreats had waiting lists. We look forward to you coming and making your own retreats this year. Please take this point to heart and register early.

We pray for all of our retreatants daily. Please join us in praying for past, present, and future members of the Bellarmine community.

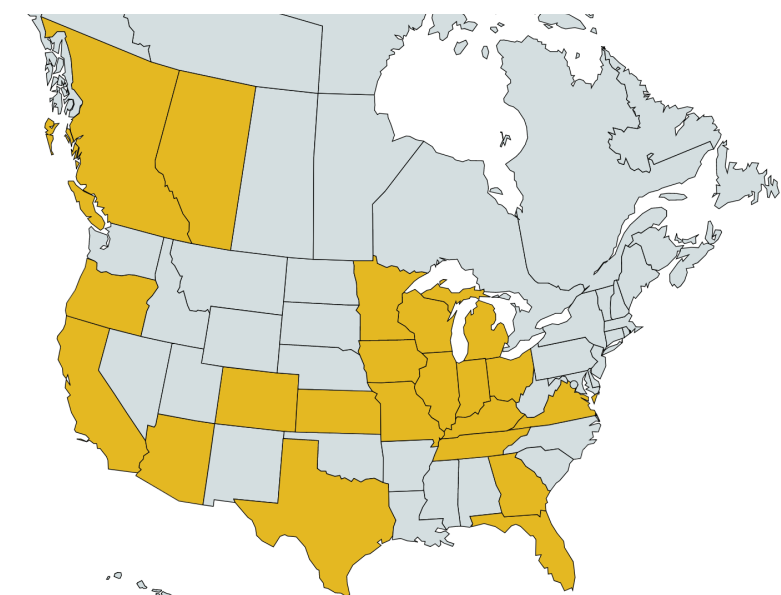
4,919 Total Retreatants in 2018



Number of Weekend Retreats & Average Number of Retreatants



Where 2018 Weekend Retreatants Reside



Honor Roll of Donors

We give thanks... for generous donors

We are grateful for the generosity of those listed below who made a financial gift to Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in fiscal year 2018.

Donor levels reflect the total lifetime giving (as of June 30, 2018) for those listed in each level of giving.

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“When I started making retreats at Bellarmine, it was the first time that I, a practicing Catholic, had made a retreat. It was spiritual rain for my parched soul.”
– Anonymous retreatant

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“Spiritual direction has helped me accept God’s love and grace. I have become more active in our parish and use my talents to serve our parish.”
 – Arlene Reichert



“I loved that there was no communication but I was still with people. It’s probably the first time in my 49 years that I had no choice but to be quiet and listen to what God was trying to tell me.”
 – Todd Ruder, first-time retreatant

Honor Roll of Donors



“Thank you for the meaningful spiritual programs you put together for us. It’s made a huge difference in my life, in my relationships with God, Jesus, family, friends – and even with people I find it hard to be with.”

– Marybeth West

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“Bellarmine has expanded my spiritual development – it started with one AA retreat a year, then days of reflection, 8-day retreats, and a referral to spiritual direction. My time at Bellarmine has reinforced my daily meditation, my choice of spiritual reading, literally every aspect of my spiritual expression.”

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1 Peter 4



If you have been on a retreat or attended a spirituality program, chances are volunteer **Rita Ehrenberg** has prepared your retreat folder or program materials. Retired from working at a newspaper, Rita has been volunteering two days a week with Bellarmine since 2012. She handles many different tasks in Bellarmine's front office – all with a smile and gracious wit. Thank you, Rita, for the talents you share with Bellarmine!

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Members of the Heart of Bellarmine Society have made a planned gift to Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House or have advised that Bellarmine will be remembered in their estate plan. Their lifetime planning will help make it possible for Bellarmine to share Ignatian spirituality for years to come.

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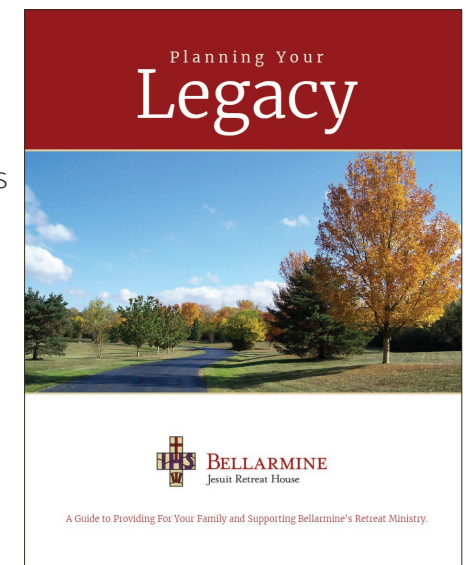
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"Try to keep your soul
always in peace and quiet,
always ready for whatever
our Lord may wish
to work in you.
It is certainly a higher
virtue of the soul,
and a greater grace,
to be able to enjoy
the Lord
in different times and
different places
than in only one."

- St. Ignatius of Loyola



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