



# BELLARMINE BROADCAST

news, stories, and photos from Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House



SUMMER 2019, VOLUME 55, NO. 1



On June 15, 2019, Erin Maiorca received a special blessing in the Sacred Heart Chapel as she was installed as Executive Director of Bellarmine.



## Summertime at Bellarmine

By Executive Director  
Erin Maiorca

I am so grateful for my work at Bellarmine, the support of the team, and the warm welcome of so many as I step into the position of Executive Director. Thank you for your prayers and be assured of mine for you. Our prayers unite us in Christian community and deepen our holiness.

On the first official day of summer, warm temperatures arrived at Bellarmine and the plants flourished. When I imagine the Garden of Eden, I see lush summer-time: flowers in full bloom and trees providing wide canopies of shade with leaves that dance in the breezes of the day.

Bellarmino's grounds hint at this Eden with gardens tended by a gifted community of staff and volunteers. It is a blessing to welcome each season and appreciate the splendor of the glory of creation.

At the start of summer, many Retreat Captains gathered to prepare for the upcoming retreat season and reflect on the question, "Who am I called to invite?" This is a good question to ponder as you prepare for

**"In these warm summer days, find some quiet time to pray deeply and be with the One who has written His law of love on our hearts."**

your next retreat. Invite some friends, plant some seeds, give the Holy Spirit a hand. Please note that it will be an abbreviated season, ending with the Palm Sunday retreat. Bellarmine will be closed April through August of 2020 for renovation of the original manor home. Details on the project are explained inside the newsletter.

An exciting development in the Jesuit world this summer is the commitment to new Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) discerned together and missioned from Father General Arturo Sosa and Pope Francis. These will unite all apostolic works of the Society of Jesus. You will see and hear

more about these in the retreat seasons to come. The UAPs are: Showing the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment; Journeying with youth in the creation of a hope-filled future; Walking with the poor and outcasts of the world in a mission of reconciliation and justice; and Caring for our common home for the protection and renewal of God's creation. When I pray with and reflect upon the

UAPs, my heart is stirred, and I am excited to imagine how Bellarmine can focus on these preferences in our ministry.

My hope is that in these warm summer days you can find some quiet time to pray deeply and be with the One who has written His law of love on our hearts.

In Christ's love,

*Erin Maiorca*

## A Life-Changing Experience at Bellarmine Confirms Vocation



**Y**ou may have met Raymond Parcon, SJ on a recent retreat at Bellarmine. He is among a number of Jesuits-in-formation who have been assisting with our retreat ministry over the past year, both to lend us a hand and to discover if retreat ministry may be

for them. Raymond's connection to Bellarmine began at a crucial time in his discernment of his vocation.

Raymond was born in the Philippines and held public office there prior to moving to California at age 27, where he worked as a mechanical engineer.

A retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, California marked the beginning of his journey toward religious life. His experience of being embraced by God's love led him to start attending daily Mass, volunteer, and take a class on discernment.

He also began spiritual direction at the Loyola Institute of Spirituality.

Raymond's spiritual director suggested that he attend the Jesuit National Discernment Retreat here at Bellarmine to continue exploring a possible vocation with the Jesuits. On this retreat, in Bellarmine's small chapel (*right*), Raymond asked God, "What do you want me to do with my life?" God responded: "Be with the poor." Raymond asked again. "Accompany the poor," God responded. A third time, Raymond asked, and God's response was, "Follow your heart's desire. Do you trust Me?"

The peace and clarity Raymond experienced in this answer from God led him to join the Jesuits. In fact, of the 13 men who made the discernment retreat with him at Bellarmine, 12 joined the Jesuits. His time in the Society has taken him to Alaska to work with native people, to Los Altos to work in an infirmary, and currently to Loyola University Medical Center. This August, Raymond will begin a new assignment at San Quentin Prison in California. He carries the peace and clarity he found at Bellarmine into his upcoming assignment.

*Join us in praying for Raymond and for an increase in vocations to the Society of Jesus. ❖*

## Constructing Bellarmine's Future

**I**n 2015, Fr. Paul Macke, SJ and our Board of Directors launched a master planning effort. Focus groups, advisory committees, ministry team meetings, and consultants' expertise guided our discernment as to how we might best prepare for future retreatants.

The leading edge of the Master Plan is caring for our beloved retreat house's time-sensitive needs. Phase One was completed last summer during a six-week shutdown in which we replaced the plumbing in the lower level of the original manor home and the 1950s addition. We will embark on Phase Two next summer, and so the retreat house will cease programming from April to August of 2020.

The objective is to maintain the beauty and simplicity of the house while improving the safety and environment. This includes replacing plumbing in the original manor home, adding a sprinkler system, and updating heating systems. We will update bathrooms, paint and update fixtures and furniture. Ensuite bathrooms will be added to five bedrooms. We plan to improve the accessibility of the front entrance by adding a ramp if schedules and budgets permit. The Chapel, dining room, and rooms beyond will not be impacted during this phase.

We ask for your prayers for a safe and successful Phase Two. If you usually make a retreat during April through August, we apologize for the inconvenience and encourage you to attend a retreat before April.





## Pope Francis on Foundations



"Christ is the living Temple of the Father, and Christ himself builds his 'spiritual house': the Church, not made of material stones but rather of 'living stones,' which we are. ... This also invites us to reflect on the fact that if the brick of our Christian life goes missing, the beauty of the Church loses something."

- Pope Francis' General Audience at St. Peter's Square on June 26, 2013

## Meet Our Newest Staff Members



**Jim Gill** serves as Bellarmine's Major Gifts Officer in the Development Department. A native of Evanston, Illinois and a graduate of Regis College and Loyola University Chicago, Jim is married to Susie Gill. They have two adult children, Jimmy and Maddy.

Jim finished a 25-year career in the financial services industry in early 2018. He is a longtime retreatant who made his first Bellarmine retreat in the late 1980s. He shares, "Bellarmine holds a special place in my heart. I truly believe God wants me here to help further the mission of Bellarmine."



**Mandy Dillon** serves as Bellarmine's Retreat Coordinator for Kairos high school retreats and parishes, churches, and religious organizations. Before joining our staff, Mandy was the Pastoral Associate and Director of Liturgy at Our Lady of the Wayside parish in Arlington Heights. She

has a BA in Psychology and Theology and a Master of Divinity degree, both from the University of Notre Dame. Mandy brings more than 15 years of ministry experience that includes liturgy, adult faith formation, retreat work, and youth ministry. She has long been passionate about retreats and retreat houses and is delighted to be a part of the Bellarmine staff! ✕

## In Memoriam

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

Marion J. Balcerzak - 12/18/2018

William F. Beane - 7/3/2018

Frank Berger - 6/30/2018

Deacon Paul L. Brachle - 6/2017

Linda Chavarria - 1/17/2019

Robert E. Conway, Jr. - 12/6/2018

William P. Cowhey - 11/10/2018

Richard T. Czerniak - 6/10/2018

Mary F. Dempsey - 1/3/2019

Joseph Dietrich - 2/4/2018

Thomas F. Finley - 10/25/2018

Joseph D. Foreman - 5/25/2018

Jesus Gutierrez - 7/25/2018

David Hendershott - 1/20/2017

Vida Jaselskis - 12/19/2018

Clarence E. Kelly - 1/7/2019

Lloyd J. Kurkowski - 8/24/2018

Donald J. Massa - 12/17/2018

John P. McAuliffe - 4/30/2018

Rev. George Menke, SJ - 6/15/2018

Edwin L. Millet - 8/20/2017

Arthur C. Munin - 10/2/2017

Joseph Nimrod - 1/4/2019

Richard C. Ninneman - 4/13/2018

Joseph J. Palade - 10/6/2018

Michael Reilly - 5/30/2018

William A. Ryan - 10/20/2016

Jeanne Schmitz - 2/23/2019

Marion Siekierski - 8/20/2018

Richard A. Tarizzo - 5/16/2018

Donald G. Tres - 3/4/2019

John F. Walker - 3/2019

Barry Wawrzyn - 3/14/2019

Glenn Winter - 10/23/2018

James F. Womac - 2/13/2018

Virginia Yeck - 2/18/2018

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



## St. Ignatius Says...

"Let your first rule of action be to trust in God as if success depended entirely on yourself and not on Him: but use all your efforts as if God alone did everything, and yourself nothing."

## 2019-2020 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS

= MEN ONLY
  = WOMEN ONLY
  = MEN & WOMEN

August 16-17	Young Adult Silent Overnight Retreat	Fr. Joe Simmons, SJ
August 25	Men & Women's Day of Reflection in Spanish: <i>PRIMERO DIOS</i>	Fr. Dan Hartnett, SJ
Sept 6-8	Men's Weekend Retreat (Matt Carpenter)	Carol Ackels
Sept 13-15	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ
Sept 20-22	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Matthew Linn, SJ
September 23	Women's Evening of Reflection: <i>An Evening with St. Mother Teresa</i>	Mary McKeon
Sept 27-29	Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
October 1-3	Women's Midweek Retreat ( <i>Tues - Thurs</i> )	Fr. Paul Mueller, SJ
October 4-6	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ
Oct 11-13	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Timothy Lannon, SJ
October 13	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Team of Veterans
October 15	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Care for the Caregiver: Come Away &amp; Rest Awhile</i>	Mary McKeon
Oct 25-27	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
November 1-3	Women's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Fr. Al Johnson
November 4	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Transforming Grief: A Process of Healing, Grace &amp; Hope</i>	Mary McKeon & Fr. Al Johnson
Nov 8-10	Men's Bill W 12-Step Weekend Retreat	Sr. Linda Fischer, ASC
November 11	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Caring for Mother Earth: Prayers &amp; Practices</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Sr. Pat Bergen, CSJ
Nov 22-24	Semi-Silent Ignatian Yoga Retreat	Ignatian Yoga Team
December 6-8	Men's Weekend Retreat	Mary McKeon & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
December 10	Men & Women's Advent Day of Prayer: <i>The Infancy Narratives of Luke: Revealing the Jesus Who Calls Us Right Now</i>	Sr. Wendy Cotter, CSJ
Dec 13-15	Men's Bill W 12-Step Retreat	Elizabeth Neubauer
December 16	Men & Women's Day of Prayer: <i>Bethlehem Bound: Praying Advent with St. Ignatius</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Mary McKeon
January 3-5	Men's Weekend Retreat (Four Shepherds)	Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ
Jan 10-12	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Richard McGurn, SJ
Jan 17-19	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Richard Malloy, SJ
Jan 24-26	Men's Weekend Retreat (Roche/Zera)	Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ
January 27	Men & Women's Day of Reflection: <i>Discerning Your Decisions in the Ignatian Tradition</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Jan 31 - Feb 2	Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jim Kubicki, SJ
February 2	"Coming Home" Retreat for Military Veterans & Families	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Team of Veterans
February 7-9	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ
February 16	Sacramentally Married Couples' Candlelight Evening: <i>Tending the Flame of Love</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Mary McKeon
Feb 21-23	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Brad Held, SJ

Find the rest of the retreat season on our website at [JesuitRetreat.org](http://JesuitRetreat.org).



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### Bellarmino Pilgrims

Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ (*kneeling, front center*) recently returned from co-leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Several Bellarmine retreatants, pictured here on the Sea of Galilee, journeyed with him following in the footsteps of Jesus and the disciples. All Bellarmine retreatants and their loved ones were included in the pilgrims' prayers at many holy sites along the way! ✠

### With Gratitude to Our Board of Directors

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