

BELLARMINÉ BROADCAST

news, stories, and photos from Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House



WINTER 2020, VOLUME 56, NO. 1



Build On Our Foundation: Caring for God's Place

By Executive Director
Erin Maiorca

We had another marvelous Advent at Bellarmine. The retreat house is splendid in each season. An extraordinary white blanket of snow glistens upon the grounds and rooftops at Bellarmine. If you have not yet made a retreat or Advent Day of Prayer, I would certainly recommend it for next year. The house is especially beautiful when decorated for Christmas. I

was moved by an Advent-time retreatant that commented, "Thank you for honoring God by how you care for His place."

As a team we do honor this sacred space, considering this house holy and caring for it as such. Bellarmine is one of the few places left in the world where you can find quiet and be invited into prayer. Jesus modeled this for us. He needed the quiet to hear the Father's voice; so too do we. In Scripture we read that He stepped back from His daily routine to rest, reflect, and listen. Bellarmine provides the quiet and an experience of the *Spiritual Exercises* that for so many is transformational. Showing the way to God through the *Spiritual Exercises* is central to the work of the Jesuits, illuminating the reality that we are men and women for others, that Christ is calling us to be united in

"Thank you for honoring God by how you care for His place."

His name and to care for His Kingdom.

As part of our care for Bellarmine and its mission, in April we will close for five months in order to rebuild the infrastructure of the original 1920s manor home. I ask for your prayers for the success of this critical and extensive project, which is the result of many years of research and planning. We are launching a \$6.2M Capital Campaign, Build on Our Foundation. We are very grateful that our Board of Directors and a few generous benefactors have already pledged commitments to this special effort. We need considerable help to preserve and protect this holy and sacred place. Soon we will be sending a mailing encouraging financial support from all of our weekend

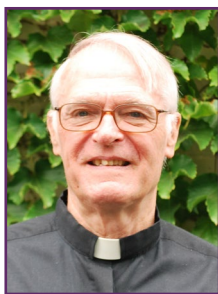
retreatants. We are repeatedly told of the blessings Bellarmine retreats provide, so we will ask for a monetary blessing toward this project as an expression of gratitude and thanksgiving. We pray many will prioritize Bellarmine as they consider their charitable giving.

I invite you now to revisit the grace of retreat and recall your most recent visit to Bellarmine... the turn up the driveway, entering through the red front door, the welcome of the Jesuits, the hospitality of the staff, the quiet, entering the Sacred Heart Chapel, the prayer journey... What stands out to you? I invite you to take a few moments to ponder it. Together we will ensure the future of this important ministry.

In Christ's love,

Erin Maiorca

A Bittersweet Farewell to Two Beloved Bellarmine Staff Members



One of Bellarmine's friendliest faces will not be found at your next retreat. **Fr. Karl Voelker, SJ** has officially retired and moved to the Jesuit community in Milwaukee as of October 2019.

Fr. Karl touched thousands of lives in his three years here.

Everyone who met him was made to feel welcome, special, and loved by God. Not only are we, the staff, tremendously grateful for his impact, but our retreatants are too. Here is a selection of quotes that retreatants shared on retreat and program surveys:

"The best part of my retreat was speaking with Fr. Karl - he is refreshing and full of wonderful guidance."

"Father Karl reached out to me the first evening of the retreat when he could see that I was lost."

"I feel at peace and had answers to two questions that I have been searching for some time, thanks to Fr. Karl."

"Fr. Voelker brought healing and peace. He truly has been given a great healing gift."

Fr. Karl's own take on his ministry reveals his genuine desire to serve from a place of prayer and humility. Recently interviewed about his time at Bellarmine, he says, "The good part for me is the Holy Spirit does all the work. I just pick up the pieces. My job is to be a listener, to listen closely to what the person feels, if it's either pain or joy... We are here to fill the hunger inside people and lift their spirits. I want them to know that Jesus came to give them new life. People come to accept that they are not perfect, but they are still beautiful people."

If you wish to send Fr. Karl a message of thanks or congratulate him on his retirement, we will be happy to forward anything you send via mail or email. Please join us in praying for his transition.

Special thanks to Mary Beth Sammons for quotes from her interview with Fr. Karl. ✕

"We are here to fill the hunger inside people and lift their spirits."



After nearly 20 years at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House, Housekeeping Director **Helen Reier** is moving back to her family home and leaving behind her responsibilities of supervising our Housekeeping team.

Thank you doesn't begin to express what is in the hearts of her teammates as we ponder her years of service.

We are deeply grateful to work with a woman of great fortitude and strength.

Helen is as thoughtful, joyful, and prayerful as she is virtuous, organized,

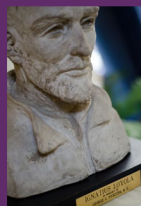
and meticulous. We are so grateful for her talents, the gift of our time together, and all she has done leading an amazing team that keeps our retreat house immaculately clean. Helen has been a role model of dedication to this ministry. We wish her all the best and pray for her next chapter.

Helen says of her time at Bellarmine, "Peace on the outside comes from knowing God within... I have always considered Bellarmine to be my home away from home, and truly a blessing to work here; more than a job, rather, much more like a ministry... I love being part of the team, helping to provide a clean/comfortable/quiet place for others to come and experience God speaking to their hearts!

'Be still, and know that I am God!' (Psalm 46:11). This speaks to my heart as an invitation to trust in God's ways. My path in life's journey is changing; however, always remaining is God's promise: *'I am with you always!'* (Matthew 28:20). I am so grateful for the past 20 years as part of the Bellarmine family! Praise God!" ✕

"Peace on the outside comes from knowing God within."

St. Ignatius Says...



"Try to maintain a holy and discreet fervor in your work and in the pursuit of learning as well as virtue. With both alike, one energetic act is worth a thousand that are listless..."

Pope Francis on Spiritual Hunger



"... Beyond a physical hunger, man has a different kind of hunger. We all have this hunger. It is a more important kind of hunger that cannot be satisfied with ordinary food. It is the hunger for life, the hunger for eternity that only Jesus can satisfy because He is the bread of life."

- Pope Francis' Angelus at St. Peter's Square on August 3, 2015.

Meet Our Newest Staff Member



Pat O'Hagan serves as the Building and Grounds Supervisor, overseeing all maintenance operations of the retreat house. Pat brings over 20 years of building maintenance knowledge after managing a variety of commercial office, distribution,

and hospitality facilities, as well as overseeing several large building construction projects. An avid gardener, Pat is looking forward to initiating many improvements throughout the grounds in addition to managing the major renovations within the buildings. Born in Cincinnati, OH and raised in Crystal Lake, IL, Pat now makes his home in the Powers Lake area of southeast Wisconsin with his best friend and wife, Karen, where they share their passion for the outdoors by boating, water skiing, and fishing the local lakes and hiking the many natural areas close to home. ✘

In Memoriam

We remember deceased retreatants and their loved ones whose passing we have learned of since the last newsletter.

Arlene Anthony - 11/28/2019
Sr. Mary C. Athens, BVM - 12/7/2019
Todd Baker - 10/9/2019
Rev. Raymond Baumhart, SJ - 10/10/2019
John F. Brennan - 7/9/2019
Mike J. Brennan - 2/2019
Rev. Robert J. Bueter, SJ - 12/2/2019
Sr. Rosemarie Burian, SSJ-TOSF - 9/22/2019
Raymond T. Denten - 5/10/2019
William Divane - 1/28/2019
Sr. Regine Fanning, RSM - 11/5/2019
Ruth J. Finneran - 11/3/2019
Robert C. Finucane - 9/14/2019
Karl Fruecht - 3/17/2019
John P. Gallagher - 3/20/2016
Alvin J. Grant - 8/10/2019
Thomas W. Harvey - 9/27/2018
Jerome E. Hickey - 3/23/2016
Terrence L. Martin - 1/13/2019
John P. McAuliffe - 4/20/2018
Daniel E. Meehan - 12/30/2019
Donald R. Michonski - 4/30/2018
Robert P. Miller - 5/10/2019
John P. O'Brien, Jr. - 12/23/2018
Rev. Raymond O'Connor, CMF - 8/17/2019
P.J. Perille - 7/3/2019
Francis Quigley - 12/27/2019
Francis X. Quigley - 12/21/2019
Marianne Reier - 1/3/2019
Thomas C. Russell - 10/20/2018
Pat A. Schiro - 6/27/2019
Br. Robert Schneider - 9/14/2019
Robert A. Skrak - 5/11/2019
Mary Vogrinc - 12/1/2019
Clayton E. Whiting - 8/16/2019
Rev. Thomas C. Widner, SJ - 8/13/2018

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

With Gratitude to Our Board of Directors

Rev. Jeremiah Boland
Eugene Croisant
Charles Foos
Patricia Furgat
David Goelzer
Lauren Hackman-Brooks, Vice-Chair

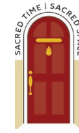
Paul Horcher
R. Anthony Hyler
John Kurkowski
William Loftus III
Erin Maiorca, Executive Director
Rev. Chris Manahan, SJ, Chair

Rev. Richard McGurn, SJ
David Meagher
Timothy Reuland
Fred Salazar
Grant Shumway, PhD
Rev. Robert Wild, SJ

2020 RETREATS AND SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMS

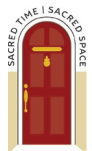
= MEN ONLY
 = WOMEN ONLY
 = MEN & WOMEN

Feb 28 - Mar 1	Men & Women's "Friends & Family of Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
March 5-8	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Keith Muccino, SJ
March 8	Veterans' "Coming Home" Retreat	Veterans Team & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
March 9	Day of Reflection: <i>"Forging a Forgiving Heart: Finding Freedom through Reconciliation"</i>	Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Dr. Avis Clendenen
March 13-15	Men's "Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Al Johnson
March 20-22	Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Paul Macke, SJ
March 27-29	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Meconi, SJ
April 3-5	Men's Palm Sunday Weekend Retreat	Fr. Kevin Schneider, SJ



This Old Retreat House

From early April until September, we will be closed for necessary renovations to Bellarmine's original 100 year old manor home. We have selected Bulley & Andrews to be our General Contractors. Together we plan to supply updates on Bellarmine's Facebook and Instagram accounts



This Old Retreat House

During our renovation, don't miss out on the fun as we reveal weekly updates...

Announcing our "insider look" mini-series on Facebook and Instagram!

Sept 11-13	Matt Carpenter Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Brad Held, SJ
Sept 18-20	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Tim Manatt, SJ
September 21	Day of Reflection: <i>Transitions</i>	Mary McKeon, Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ & Rachel Forton
Sept 25-27	Women's Weekend Retreat	Fr. David Shields, SJ
October 2-4	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Doug Leonhardt, SJ
October 6-8	Women's Midweek Retreat (<i>Tues - Thurs</i>)	Mary McKeon
October 9-11	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Matt Linn, SJ
Oct 16-17	Semi-Silent Young Adult Retreat (<i>Fri - Sat</i>)	Fr. Michael Rossmann, SJ
Oct 23-25	Men's "Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Tim Meier SJ
October 25	Veterans' "Coming Home" Retreat	Veterans Team & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Oct 30 - Nov 1	Women's "Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
November 2	Day of Reflection: <i>Transforming Grief</i>	Fr. Al Johnson
November 6-8	Men's "Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Al Johnson
Nov 14-15	Semi-Silent Young Adult Retreat (<i>Sat - Sun</i>)	Elizabeth Neubauer & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
Nov 20-22	Yoga Retreat	Ignatian Yoga Team
November 23	Day of Reflection: <i>Attitude of Gratitude</i>	Mary McKeon & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ
December 1	Advent Day of Reflection	Sr. Wendy Cotter
December 4-6	Men's Weekend Retreat	Fr. Jeff Putthoff, SJ
Dec 11-13	Men's "Bill W" 12-Step Recovery Retreat	Fr. Tom Weston, SJ
December 14	Advent Day of Reflection	Mary McKeon & Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ

showing some of our progress during the renovations. This will be done with a take on PBS's "This Old House." Please follow Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House on Facebook and Instagram to follow along for what we expect to be an exciting project.

The Jesuits converted the manor home to a retreat house in 1947. The home is beautiful; however, the plumbing is failing, and heating systems need to be modernized. Once we rebuild the systems behind the walls and add sprinklers and air conditioning, we will revitalize the in-room retreatant experience. The size of each guest room will remain nearly the same, but we have redesigned the room layouts with a focus on an invitation to prayer. The rooms will be simple and comfortable with a serene color palette, encouraging contemplation. Each room will include a comfortable chair positioned near the window and new furniture and furnishings that are functional and attractive. Samples of the design selections are on display in the front hallway of the retreat house.

Fall retreat registration will begin in May 2020 at www.jesuitretreat.org.



BELLARMINE
Jesuit Retreat House

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