



BELLARMINE

Jesuit Retreat House

Retreat Directors for Summer 2021 Individually Directed Retreats



Patricia Ballard is a Benedictine Oblate of St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago. She completed her Internship in Spiritual Direction at Bellarmine. She has been teaching young children for many years and has served as a high school teacher, college campus minister, DRE, retreat leader, and speaker on the Spiritual Life of Children. Patty holds a BA and an MA in Religious Studies from Mundelein College and an MA in Reading/Literacy from Northeastern Illinois University. She has studied at Loyola University, the Catholic Theological Union, and the former Institute for Spiritual Leadership. Patty has three grown children and is the grandmother of twin babies.

Directing: June 18-26 and July 16-24, 2021



Fr. James Gschwend, SJ, PhD is a member of Bellarmine's resident staff. His background includes administrative positions in Jesuit high schools, working at Community Mental Health in San Francisco, and serving as Director of Spirituality in the sabbatical program at the School of Applied Theology in Oakland and Berkeley. In Berkeley he also served as Assistant Rector for the Jesuit School of Theology. Following a fellowship year on the clinical staff at the Southdown Institute in Canada, Fr. Gschwend served the Chicago Jesuit Provincial as assistant for personnel, assisting men with healthcare needs and transitions in ministry.

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Fr. Mark Henninger, SJ is a Chaplain at Loyola University Hospital in Maywood, IL and a Campus Minister for the medical and nursing schools. His training in spiritual direction includes an internship at Loyola University's Institute of Pastoral Studies. For many years he was a professor of medieval philosophy, most recently at Georgetown University in Washington DC, but with prior positions at Loyola University in Chicago, University of Detroit Mercy, the Gregorian University in Rome, and Arrupe College in Zimbabwe.

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Maureen Kuhn has been a Spiritual Director for the past 18 years. She and her husband graduated from the Institute of Pastoral Studies of Loyola University and then served in parish ministry in Wisconsin as Pastoral Associates. Along with her service at Bellarmine, she sees spiritual directees, offers At Home and Workplace Retreats, and works with the Diaconate Program for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Maureen is a past Regional Coordinator of Spiritual Directors International for the State of Illinois.

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Fr. Rick McGurn, SJ is a member of Bellarmine's resident staff. He has been an associate pastor at Jesuit parishes in Chicago and Cincinnati, and has directed the training program for Spiritual Directors at the Jesuit Retreat House in Cincinnati. Fr. McGurn has been the Socius – Executive Assistant – to the Provincial of the Chicago Province Jesuits, as well as the Provincial's Assistant for Formation where he oversaw the studies of men preparing for ordination and ministry. Just prior to coming to Bellarmine, he was superior of the Jesuit community at Loyola Academy, the Jesuit high school in Wilmette, IL.

Directing: July 16-24, 2021

(See reverse side for more Bellarmine Retreat Directors)



Mary McKeon is a member of Bellarmine’s regular staff. Mary is originally from Quincy, IL, and is a 1969 graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. She taught school in Milwaukee’s inner city before moving to Washington, DC to work for the United States Senate. Mary and her late husband, David, have a daughter, Catherine, and three grandsons who are the joy of her life. Mary received her training as a Spiritual Director at the Jesuits’ Manresa Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, MI, where she was a staff member for several years prior to joining our retreat staff here at Bellarmine.

Directing: June 18-26 and July 16-24, 2021



Deacon Gerald Nora is a permanent deacon who provides spiritual direction at Bellarmine and Cardinal Stritch Retreat House. A graduate of Bellarmine’s spiritual direction internship program, Jerry also ministers as a hospital chaplain and to the homeless. He has done substantial graduate work in biblical theology at Catholic Theological Union and holds graduate degrees from Georgetown and University of Chicago. A retired attorney, Jerry has been married for 42 years and has four children and eight grandchildren.

Directing: July 16-24, 2021



Leah Sealey is a former Jesuit Volunteer (Belize 1989-91, Staff 1993-96) and trained in spiritual direction through Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House (2015-18). In spring of 2020 she completed a Masters in Systematic Theology through Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology’s Cor Unum program. She maintains that “Spiritual direction is a faith life check-in as we share prayer and life stories. It is a time for spiritual conversation which nurtures discernment and insight.” She and husband John live in Milwaukee and have three children.

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Fr. Michael Sparough, SJ is a member of Bellarmine’s resident staff. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama and a DMin from St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL. He is the founder of Charis Ministries, the Jesuit retreat ministry for outreach to young adults in their twenties and thirties, and has trained spiritual directors at Loyola University Chicago’s Institute of Pastoral Studies. A prolific writer and speaker, Fr. Michael has published on prayer and the sacraments. His latest book, *What’s Your Decision?* is published by Loyola Press.

Directing: June 18-26, 2021



Lynn Sprehe is a Spiritual Director trained in the Ignatian tradition. She is a team member of Bellarmine’s training program for Spiritual Directors. She enjoys giving the Spiritual Exercises to individuals and small groups, as well as offering workshops based on Ignatian Spirituality. Lynn HAS graduate degrees in Pastoral Studies and Clinical Psychology. She is married and the mother of three sons.

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Fr. Jim Strzok, SJ is a member of Bellarmine’s resident staff. He has extensive retreat ministry experience and a varied background that includes expertise in cosmology, Earth sciences, chemistry and physics. Fr. Strzok spent 13 years working with Sioux Indians in South Dakota. He then began a 33-year-long ministry in East Africa where he helped form religious women and clerics at a spirituality center and trained religious and lay leaders to give the *Spiritual Exercises* at Mwangaza Retreat Center.

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