



# BELLARMINE

Jesuit Retreat House

## Individually Directed Retreats | Spiritual Directors | Summer 2026

Spiritual Directors may include those listed.



**Mark Blancke** is a theology graduate student at the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University. Mark has 6+ years of spiritual direction experience - four years in spiritual direction internships, one year as a co-director of a spiritual direction internship program, one year leading a group in Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises in San Quentin prison. He served as the Assistant Superior of a Jesuit infirmary in Clarkston, Michigan. Mark has Bachelor's Degrees in Health Science and Nursing, a Master's in Social Philosophy, and is working on two Master's Degrees in Theology (with a certificate in Ecological & Social Justice).

**Directing: July 17-25, 2026**



**Br. Carl Caceres, SJ** grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey. He earned a bachelor of arts in philosophy and theology/religious studies from the University of Scranton and a master of science in student affairs in higher education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He is currently a doctoral candidate in higher education at Loyola University Chicago. Br. Carl is a trained spiritual director and helps teach spiritual direction through Loyola's Institute of Pastoral Studies. Br. Carl currently serves as the Jesuit in Residence for Loyola Chicago's Rambler Brotherhood Project.

**Directing: July 17-25, 2026**



**Arek Ciemiega, SJ** is a Jesuit priest from Poland who serves as a Campus Minister at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, IL. He entered the Society of Jesus in 2013 and has worked in pastoral ministry and education in Europe and the US, including service with the Jesuit Refugee Service. His studies are in philosophy, theology, educational leadership, and spiritual direction. Fr. Arek also accompanies Christian Life Community groups and married couples on their spiritual journeys. He lives in Chicago and is passionate about Ignatian spirituality, education, and helping young people experience God in their everyday lives.

**Directing: June 22-30, 2026**



**Fr. Bill Creed, SJ** has multiple academic degrees in theology and spirituality, in law and in counseling. He is a Jesuit priest from Chicago who is the co-founder of the Jesuit Renewal Center, chaplain and co-founder of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps in Chicago, founder of the Internship in Spiritual Direction in the Ignatian Tradition, and chaplain and co-founder of the Ignatian Spirituality Project for those experiencing homelessness and addiction. He has published a practical commentary on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and many articles on spirituality. He offers spiritual direction accompaniment and teaches Spiritual Direction Formation Programs and an Advanced Internship in the Spiritual Exercises.

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**Fr. Jim Flaherty, SJ** is a Retreat Director at Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, WI. He was previously the Director of First Studies and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. He also served as Pastor of Gesu Parish in Milwaukee, WI, after teaching philosophy at Marquette University. He has preached and/or directed retreats for many years at the Jesuit Retreat House, Demontreville Retreat House in St. Paul, MN, and Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, IL. He has earned an MDiv and MTS in Theology (Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA) and a PhD in Philosophy (New School University).

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**Rachel Forton** is a spiritual director trained in the principles of Ignatian spirituality through Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship program. She is a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations and Religious Studies from Loras College (Dubuque, Iowa). She served as the Retreat and Communications Coordinator for Bellarmine for six years. Rachel serves on the "Prayer and Care" team of her MOPS Chapter (Mothers of Preschoolers). Her most recent writings may be found at the Cora Evans website, promoting the cause for canonization of the mid-century mystic, wife, and mother ([www.coraevans.com/blog/author/102](http://www.coraevans.com/blog/author/102)).

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**Fr. Jim 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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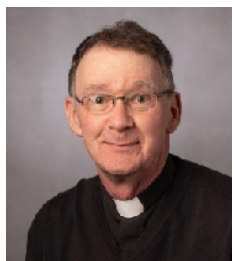
**Nancy Hulsebosch** is a spiritual director trained in the principles of Ignatian spirituality through Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship. Nancy meets with individuals for spiritual direction, trains new spiritual directors as a faculty member of Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship, and leads day and evening retreat programs both at local churches and at the retreat house. She also serves on the board and as a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine. Nancy has been married to her husband Tom for 36 years and they have four adult children.

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**Paula Kowalkowski** has worked as a music educator on the high school and college level for over 30 years. She currently is the Music Director at St. Thomas Becket Church in Mount Prospect. Paula has a Master's Degree in Contemporary Spirituality and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Loyola University Chicago's Institute of Pastoral Studies. Paula received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction with an emphasis on Ignatian Spirituality from the Midwest Jesuit Province. She has led retreats and speaks at parishes. A widow and mother, Paula is humbled and honored to be a part of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine.

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**Fr. Tom Krettek, SJ** is a member of Bellarmine's resident staff. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1971 in Saint Paul, MN. He was ordained a priest in 1982 at the Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee. He has experience in Jesuit Formation and Governance. He was at Creighton University from 1989 to 2000 as Director of the Jesuit Humanities Program and teaching philosophy. In 2000 he was appointed Rector of the Marquette University Jesuit Community and taught philosophy. He was a visiting professor of philosophy and academic director of the Jesuit First Studies Program at Loyola University Chicago from 2018 to 2022.

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**Bert L'Homme** was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2004. He has extensive experience ministering in federal and state prisons. Bert devoted more than forty years to education, serving as a teacher, principal, superintendent, and university adjunct professor. He earned a Ph.D. in Education at the University of Maryland/College Park with a concentration in Special Education early in his career. Following his retirement from education, Bert pursued an M.A. in Christian Spirituality at Loyola University Chicago with a concentration in spiritual direction in the Ignatian tradition. He now offers individual spiritual direction and guides others through the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

**Directing: July 17-25, 2026**



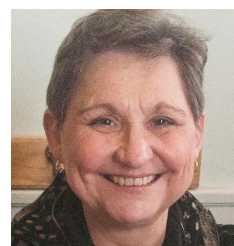
**Thérèse McCall** is a Pastoral Associate and Lay Ecclesial Minister, for the Archdiocese of Chicago. She completed a Master of Arts, Pastoral Studies, from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, in May 2023. She anticipates completing a Master of Divinity degree, at Loyola University Chicago, with a specialization in Spiritual Direction, in May 2026. She is a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine. In retreats and reflections, she creatively weaves her theological understanding, the richness of the Tradition of the Catholic Church, and the wisdom of Christian writers across the centuries, into thought provoking insights and resources to support a deeper relationship with the Divine Mystery.

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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.

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**Rev. Carol Ann Munro** is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has served as a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, development officer, retreat leader and spiritual director. She completed Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship program and is a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine. Primary areas of focus for her ministry have been 12-step spirituality, adult faith formation and biblical literacy. She is currently a volunteer with the Ignatian Spirituality Project, which provides spiritual companionship for people recovering from homelessness and addiction.

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**Deacon Gerald Nora** is a permanent deacon with the Chicago Archdiocese. Along with spiritual direction, his pastoral ministry has concentrated on hospital and nursing home chaplaincy. He completed Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship program and is a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine. Deacon Jerry and his wife Patty have four grown children and eleven grandchildren. He is a retired attorney.

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**Fr. Roc O'Connor, SJ** is a member of the Ministry Team and Jesuit Community. He has served in a number of parishes around the country as well as in campus ministry settings. He taught Eucharist and Sacraments courses at Creighton University from 2000 to 2013. OCP published his collection of eight new songs, *All Shall Be Well: The Hand of God in May* 2020. Fr. Roc is one of the original members of the St. Louis Jesuits who composed many of the familiar hymns we sing at Mass.

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**Tim Reuland** completed Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship program in May 2021. He and his wife Kate have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. He is an emeritus member and past chair of the Bellarmine Board of Directors, and a life member of the Board of Trustees of Marmion Academy in Aurora. Tim has a B.A in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago where he was introduced to Ignatian spirituality. He has a law degree from Northwestern University School of Law, and recently retired from a 48-year career as a trial lawyer. Tim currently accompanies both lay people and clergy in spiritual direction.

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**Anne Rometty** completed her Spiritual Direction Internship at Bellarmine (2023), and an Advanced Internship at Bellarmine (2025). She is a member of the retreat ministry team at Bellarmine and has been active in many overnight and Individual Directed Retreats. She loves to volunteer as an adult Kairos leader, and as a mentor for young adults in the Samuel Group Vocational Discernment Program. She had led Professional Pathway online learning programs for educators in Ignatian Spirituality through the Archdiocese of Chicago. Anne loves to spend time outdoors with her husband, John and her family. She is happiest sharing her faith, and walking with others on their faith journey.

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**Fr. J. 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. Fr. Michael has published on prayer and the sacraments. His latest book, *What's Your Decision?* is published by Loyola Press.

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**Lynn Sprehe** is a spiritual director trained in the Ignatian tradition. She is a faculty member of Bellarmine's Spiritual Direction Internship. 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 the mother of three sons.

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