

## **Advisory Committee Meeting Notes for 2/26/08**

Attendees: Tony, Suzanne, Kinny, Fran, Jess, Doug, Richard, Debbie, David

Opening Prayer: Debbie

Reflection Question: all

Summary of the two parent meetings:

The first meeting was well attended and a group came out of it. There will be a Family Mass on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Issues of communication and connecting the children to the parish were themes the parents talked about.

The second meeting was not as well attended but that may have been because of the weather and parking issues. It was, however, helpful for those attending.

Thoughts on parents and elementary education and the spiritual development of Bellarmine families. The agenda questions were “What are we proud of?” and “How do we change and grow?” The following is a summary of the themes that came out of this discussion:

- Education and spiritual development for Bellarmine children is a very important issue that isn't being adequately addressed by the church.
- People don't feel a strong foundation from cradle to 18. Gaps in the formation process to improve on. Catholic upbringing is controlled. Haphazard approach to formation. Need more focused approach.
- People crave community at Bellarmine. A lot is going on that others don't know about. It is being put out there, but people aren't getting it.
- Guidance and direction is desired to help raise their children Catholic/spiritual. People want to see their child(ren) participating at church at each stage of their lives. Parents don't know where to turn for direction.
- No priests or Jim Crosby at either meeting of the parents.
- Childcare should be faith friendly.
- Children need to be engaged – maybe they don't feel engaged at Bellarmine. They need spiritual nurturing. A sense of community is what parents want for their children. Religious ed at St Agnes has its problems.
- Is spiritual development a priority for Bellarmine? Do we measure for it? Do we make this a priority and assist our parents or just be the way we are now? This could be an opportunity! Is this a passion of our priests and staff? Is Bellarmine directed toward mission or members?
- Faith development is important, but people have to ask for it.
- Help the parents help themselves create a spiritual path for their children!
- Resources: Sue Antonette is passionate. The Archdioceses has a program for parents and youth.
- We will revisit this after the Family Mass in April.

Future space for parish activities after the parish center is no more:

Richard to meet with Liz Bloome Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> about XU development plans and timeline. We need a building of our own for parish activities including religious ed. What will happen to Bellarmine Parish in the long run?

Next meeting: March 11 at 7PM.