

February 4, 2009 Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Submitted by Debbie Weber

2/10/09

**Members Present:** Karen, Tony, Fran, Richard, David, Debbie, Mark, Kathleen

**Guest Presenter:** Jeff Campbell, Director of Social Mission

**Opening Prayer:** Debbie Weber

**Faith Sharing:** All shared their responses to the reflection question: "What is your own sense of your life as calling and/or what invitation to something new, do you hear?"

**Jeff Campbell** talked to us with sincere enthusiasm about his role at Bellarmine as Director of Social Mission. Jeff passed out a four page detailed summary of his responsibilities, involvement with other groups, events and projects, his goals initiated thus far and his goals for the year ahead.

The following are the topics he covered along with additional comments/discussion generated from his handout:

**Primary Roles and Tasks:** Jeff stated that he takes all of his tasks sincerely, but faith and justice formation is very important to him in that it is integrated and encouraged in all aspects of his responsibilities to parish life and parishioners. He feels that his role in parish/parishioner discernment is a fluid process. He listens intently to parishioners and enjoys accompanying them as they discern their personal and communal call to mission. Jeff looks over every new parishioner registration form. Either he personally welcomes new parishioners by phone call and personal contact or finds someone in the parish who may have similar interests to welcome the new parishioner. Jeff supports existing missions as well as identifies new outreach efforts. He asks the question: "How are we developing our parishioners" regarding empowering our leadership in mission/outreach. Along with his responsibility of monitoring issues of Catholic Social Teaching, Jeff is working to create awareness among parishioners in CST and how we can live it. He feels that CST is tremendous wisdom for the world. Jeff feels that his role in responding to parishioner assistance requests is a humbling and sacred experience.

**Parish Social Mission Groups Facilitated or Staff-Assisted:** Jeff wants to move beyond "programs." He sees that embracing relationships and connecting with other parishioners and those outside our parish as just as important as the groups/programs themselves. He would like to transition to building back the involvement and relationships with AMOS and to expand the Community Care Network outreach. Jeff has successfully recruited young adults as new members of the Social Mission Core Team.

**Major Projects/Events:** Again, in all the “projects” Jeff is involved in, he looks beyond the project/event to the relationships built and nourished, the mutual support, the faith journey together, and discovery of our interconnectedness. Jeff feels that God’s love is meant to be shared. It’s about the relationships, not the issues. The issues are very important, but the vibrancy of community is God’s love present in the world.

In the interest of time, Jeff was not able to discuss his goals initiated thus far, his goals in the works for the year ahead and his goals discernment and possible ministries. See his handout for a summary.

The advisory committee found that Jeff is connected with the parish. His ability to connect with others is life-giving for the parish. He is a bridge builder among parishioners and the community. He listens to parishioners to understand where they are in their faith journey and then connects them with others who can provide support, encouragement and action; whatever is needed. Jeff follows up with people after mass because he finds that many are stumbling with what’s going on in their faith journey. When he listens he says it’s the Spirit at work.

**Website:** Prior to our meeting, David, Richard and Phil Roberto met to discuss using Drupal, an open source content management platform. Phil has generously offered to volunteer his labor in designing and implementing a template for Bellarmine.

Mark gave a presentation of a similar content management platform called Joomla. This was very helpful for the committee to visualize the ease of use these platforms offer. It gave us an idea of what a content management platform looks like, knowing that the design can be created by someone like Phil Roberto. It is best if a developer, rather than a novice, set it up as there is psychology involved regarding end-user habits and preferences.

Benefits of such a platform are ease of use, consistency of design throughout the various pages, open source technology is free, management of the pages is streamlined, responsibilities of content can be spread among many staff members, it allows for security, it allows for interaction (register on-line for workshops, retreats, etc), and it allows for links to other websites.

Committee members added their thoughts: Our website needs to be changed. Look at the pro and cons of the Drupal and other platforms. Look at and discuss the responsibilities of each staff member. Young adults will use the website more if it is intuitive, clean looking, professional, and informational. Older adults may “try out” the site if it is easy to navigate. We are competing with other “attractive” sites out there – we have room to grow as far as our website goes. Switching to a content management platform is a good idea. It saves paper. It’s another way to connect with our parishioners. Make sure it is Mac compatible. Make sure all web browsers such as Internet Explorer, Safari, Firefox, etc are compatible.

**Communication Audit:** Lack of time prevented us from discussing this topic. We will discuss it at the March meeting.

**Future Presenters:** Sue Antoinette, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will be our guest presenter at the March meeting. The finance committee will present parish income and expenses at our April meeting.

**Next Advisory Meeting:** Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, 7:00PM-9:00PM, Alumni Center Surkamp Conference Room.