

Bellarmine Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting 3/11/08

In attendance: Advisory Committee members Doug Brausch, Jessica Stieritz, Fran Harmon, David Ketchings, Tony Dardy, Sally Fellerhoff, Richard Bollman, Debbie Weber, Suzanne Kammer; Finance Committee members Barbara Beimesch, and Blake Smith

Barbara and Blake gave a power point presentation on **Bellarmino's income/contributions, investments, and status of capital fund for the last fiscal year.** (Copies of the presentation will be emailed by Barbara.)

Someone asked where we are in respect to collecting pledges for the building fund (renovation of the chapel two years ago) and Barbara stated that we have collected 99% and are down to the last \$10,000.

Barbara stated that Finance Ctte. is constantly looking at how to serve the parish more efficiently with staff.

She said that there has been a significant increase over the past year in funding for social mission because there has been a significant need for the work of the St. Vincent DePaul society. With Christmas and a huge increase in utility bills, we didn't want people to become homeless. Two finance committee members are in the St. V DP society and Barbara and Blake have witnessed what a fantastic ministry it is. They don't just give out \$, they actually help people save \$. Case in point, they helped an elderly single man living in a big house shut down part of the house and winterize the whole house to save on utilities.

David asked if our budget mimics the economy at large. Blake stated that we don't know. Richard said that there was a lull in parish giving from 2002-2004 that is likely connected to the church sexual abuse scandal, and that this issue may have healed a little bit due to the Voice of the Faithful.

Barbara pointed out that our staff is always looking at ways to save money for the parish, and that we are blessed with a fantastic staff. Doug asked if the increase in cost for staff had to do with the increase in the cost of health benefits, and the answer was yes and possibly retirement benefits. We try to pay our priests and other staff in line with what the Archdiocese pays

In the discussion of the annual Archdiocesan Assessment, it came out that we have no control over that—they just bill us. We do pay less for this assessment than the surrounding dioceses pay.

We are obliged by the Archdiocese to collect for the Archdiocesan Fund, now called the CMA. Whatever we raised in the past year, they give us a new, higher goal for the

following year. The \$ are used for clergy retirement, jail ministry, hospital ministry, and Neuman Centers.

Another issue presented by the Finance Committee was **Parish Giving** (graphic to be emailed by Barbara). We have a lot of non-regular parishioners who do give, so this makes it hard for us to predict our outcome for collections. The Finance Ctte is debating whether they should study giving patterns more closely. Barbara said she thinks we should study giving by mass in order to tailor our message to each liturgy.

Sally brought up the fact that we need to create an Endowment Fund.

Finance Ctte. is looking at how to communicate regarding Stewardship (time/talent/treasure). They might attach a letter to the bulletin to communicate what we have done in the past with increased revenue when people increased their giving. Tony said what would be good would be a nice brochure with photographs and write-ups. Barb said that they are definitely going to do one. Richard said that one parish he knows is putting together a DVD to help raise \$ to pay off their debt. It cost only \$5,000 and they can use it over and over.

We do have a reserve put aside for some new services as we try to prepare for needs that will come up.

Jess asked how we can change the perception of young adults to encourage them to give. (Blake said that Matt had done a study that showed 10% of our parishioners give the majority of \$).

David suggested that we should have instructions on how to give by credit card and online on our website. He said maybe we need someone like a development director to manage our giving. But then we would need to pay another salary. Right now, Liz Keuffer manages credit card giving and counts the \$ that comes through envelopes, and the Finance Ctte. oversees the finances. There was discussion of creating a nice brochure for the parish on planned giving, but it takes a lot of expertise and time.

David said maybe we could work it out with XU so that XU grads could earmark some of the donations they send to the university to be applied to the chapel. Someone suggested that if we have more \$ saved than we need, the overflow could go to the endowment.

David suggested sending out a letter to parishioners that about 30% of our collection comes through credit card and we would like to increase that to 40% because it is easier for purposes of budget planning.

Other issues that were mentioned: keeping families with children and retaining XU grads.

Richard gave a presentation on his meeting with Liz Blume regarding **XU campus developments**. (See Richard's memorandum that he gave us, called "Things to Know".)

The main concerns that he voiced to Liz Blume were Bellarmine's accessibility and visibility. A discussion followed about how we might be able to work with the university to remain accessible and become more visible.

The next meeting will be held April 16, at 7:00 in the Alumni Center. David will be the scribe and lead the opening prayer.

Submitted by Suzanne Kammer 3/13/08

March 11, 2008

TO: Bellarmine Advisory Committee
From Richard Bollman
RE: XU Campus Developments

Things to know:

1. We have a Finance/Facilities committee who is meeting every two months with Liz Blume, of the University, who is one of the public relations people on top of the campus plan. This way we keep abreast of changes, and who to talk to.
2. We have been making the point that we need to be included in the timing and the outcome of the development. Major concerns: Accessibility and Visibility for the chapel and parish. Good signage and adequate car accessibility is key. Parking needs to be ample for staff and parishioners. We are being heard in a general way. That's why we meet regularly.
3. Current work:
 - The Zumbiel plant will be imploded early on Holy Saturday. This will make way for the "East Campus" development. Work ought to begin as the summer comes on, and will not affect the parish, from what I can tell. (See map.)
 - Existing houses on the east side of Ledgewood will be removed at the end of the school year. The new business school will be started at Dana and Ledgewood. (See map.)
 - Some of the new academic quad will be started after that on the west side of Ledgewood.
 - Vehicular accessibility will be open during the construction down to the chapel, and out Herald and Cleneay. The house next door to the Parish Center will be the construction staging area during these large projects. It will take about a year to complete this construction and will not require us to relocate.

4. Next Steps: not now in place. The campus map is rather blank. When there is a design for the rest of the campus near the chapel, the Parish Center will no longer be available to us. At that point, well ahead of time really, we will be asked by the University to describe the need for space and parking. This is about two years away. Perhaps longer.

5. Right now, no facility design is on the table to house the Parish Center, Campus Ministry, or the Dorothy Day house. The final plan will need to include facilities that serve the parish, those that are now housed in the Parish Center, such as child care, youth ministry, RCIA, two offices, and other meetings scheduled by more ad hoc groups. At the same time we would want to encourage an expansion of the chapel's available space, for the sake of educational programs, to bring our children's programs home for good. At that point, our inclusion in the planning would be assisted by our involvement in fundraising, I would guess.