

## Bellarmino Advisory Committee Minutes

April 6, 2005

**Present:** Jim Brown, Karen Hurley, Mike Marrero, Janet Neidhard, Wanda Smith, Andrew Thompson, Connie Widmer. Staff: Richard Bollman, S.J., Karen Brandstetter

**Absent:** Rita Pritchard

1. Jim led the group in a “Meeting Prayer.”
2. Wanda introduced the first part of the “Check In” with the question: *What gift has God given you personally through the recent Triduum.* After some wonderful sharing, Wanda posed the question: *Is there a gift that God is giving to the parish?* A few highlights of this sharing:
  - The feeling shared by a number of people of the Narthex as a “new home” with the baptismal font as a center. People like to be around it; like Jacob’s Well. The space is lending itself to the building up of the three Bellarmine communities into one.
  - The Lenten series was a good one, but not quite sure what it did for us as a community.
  - It struck Richard that the tensions and anxiety of years ago seem to be gone. People are looking for something more, something deeper in their lives. But he is not sure where the younger generation is. There are a lot of them out there, but not sure what their questions or concerns are.
  - The Triduum brought together who we are.

**Future Step:** Put back on the agenda our *younger parishioners*.

3. The committee viewed the VOTF video put together by the Cincinnati chapter. Karen explained the packet of materials that are being sent out with the video. It includes a letter to the pastor and the Pastoral Council chair. After some sharing of impressions and thoughts about the video, the question was posed: *is there something we want to do here at Bellarmine?* Wanda suggested that we consider showing the video after masses as well as to Bellarmine’s small faith groups. Janet raised a caution about bringing children. Karen B. suggested we provide child care.

**Next Steps:** Karen B will share our suggestions with VOTF.

4. Richard gave an update on the campus development project and the letter he wrote to Gary Massa, the VP for Development. . It was suggested that Richard copy John Kucia, the Assistant to the President and follow up with Gary Massa in person. The committee was grateful for how well Richard captured in his letter the discussion of this topic at the 3/2/05 Advisory Committee meeting.

5. The committee discussed a report on Possible Models of Bellarmine Parish Leadership developed by Andrew, Jim, Karen B. and Wanda. (document attached) The first part of the discussion focused on understanding the ideas presented in the report. Some key points:

- a. Tasks/responsibilities were listed with the intent of sorting out what could be shared among the staff, and the tasks that only an ordained minister can do.
- b. This possible pastoral team configuration was based on having a half-time Pastor.
  - There is an assumption that at least half the weddings held at the Chapel would be handled by other Jesuits on campus.
  - It would be desirable to have a half-time Jesuit Assistant Pastor as long as possible.
  - Mike raised a question about controlling the number of weddings, baptisms and funerals and if we would want to draw some line on this number. It was agreed that we do not want to go down this path. (Richard noted that alums have the right to have weddings at BC. It is not the obligation that the BC pastor or associate pastor have to do all these weddings. Most of these alums do use the parish's Focus program - parishioner couples involved in the marriage preparation process.).
- c. Karen B. remarked that the current "pastoral team" has not been really in place with all the turnover and we won't be able to see what the new pastoral team does or is until the new DRE is in place.
- d. Karen B. stated that her position is more like a "pastoral administrator." Her target audience is really the whole parish in contrast to Stephanie or Sue for example.

**Next Step:** The minutes of this meeting and the Model piece will go on the Website. The model piece needs an introduction.

6. The Advisory Committee membership was briefly discussed. A sub-committee of Janet, Mike, Karen H. and Richard will meet and prepare a process recommendation on the discernment model for late Spring. Two hopes were expressed for this year's process:
  - a. It be an open process within the parish - even more open than last year's if possible.
  - b. It be more of a discernment process than a selection process. Last year, the prospective members went through their own discernment process, then the discernment sub-committee did its own discernment of who should be selected for the 2004-2005 Advisory Committee.

**Final note:** Janet volunteered to be prayer leader and scribe for the **May 4** meeting at 7:00 PM.