

Bellarmino Chapel Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2006

Present: Richard Bollman, Karen Brandstetter, Jim Brown, Sally Fellerhoff, Karen Hurley, Kinny McQuade, Mike Marrero, Andrew Thompson, Connie Widmer

Absent: Janet Neidhard, Margaret O’Gorman, Jessica Stieritz

Prayer: Connie led the opening prayer, using “Building a Church of Communion” from the Catholic Common Ground Initiative.

Check-in: Committee members shared their reactions to the Triduum and Easter celebrations.

Tutoring: Kinny gave an update on the tutoring program. He and Stephanie have agreed to put together a plan of action. They are suggesting that Bellarmine work with one or two schools, possibly Douglas and a Price Hill school, and have families “adopt” a student. The goal would be for every student in the school to have a mentor. The hope is to have the program in the place by fall. Kinny will also talk to Mary O’Dwyer about Bellarmine’s connection with Oyler.

Welcoming and Engaging New Parishioners: Committee members reported on phone calls they had made to parishioners who had registered within the last year or so. Overall the committee felt that the new parishioners appreciated the phone calls, that they feel welcome, and they like the liturgies. It was also noted that several were brought by a friend and that there was a range of reasons why they chose Bellarmine.

After much discussion about the mentoring program and how to welcome new parishioners, the committee decided to try the following as a 12-month pilot program:

1. Registration form: Eliminate the checklist of possible interests at the bottom of the form. In its place add a question to the effect of “ Would you like a call as to how you might become involved in the parish? If so, please give your phone number and the best time to call.” Forms with positive responses to this question will go to Karen Brandstetter who will make the contacts.
2. Welcoming letter: New parishioners will continue to receive a welcoming letter. This letter will mention that there are many opportunities for becoming involved in the parish and that these are often announced in the bulletin or through announcements after Sunday Masses. The letter will also mention that someone from the parish will be calling to see how things are going and if there are any questions. The mentoring team will make these calls.
3. Call from Mentoring team: Within six months of registering, new parishioners will receive a call from someone on the mentoring team. The caller will ask how things are going and find out if there is someone from the parish that the person would like to meet with to learn more about some specific ministry or activity.

Jim Brown offered to work with Karen B. in heading up this project. Karen Hurley also offered to help.

Policy on Political Issues: Due to time constraints, the committee decided to postpone the discussion on political issues and pulpit announcements until the May meeting.

Suggestions from Fall Retreat for Future Agenda: Karen B. will report at the May meeting about volunteers at Bellarmine. Committee members should be prepared to discuss points listed

under Question 3 from the fall retreat: “What do you hope we might look back upon in June, 2006 where we have helped the faith of the parish, and its authentic mission?”.

Announcements:

Amos “group”: Connie announced that she and Karen Hurley and Jessica had met and were now meeting with Stephanie and probably also with Carren Herring on April 24. They expect to have a report at the May meeting.

June Meeting: Karen Hurley offered to host the Advisory Committee for a dinner at her home for the June 14 meeting. This will be a chance to say farewell to the departing members. This motion was very quickly seconded and unanimously approved. We will begin at **6:30** that evening. Karen will bring directions to the next meeting and also let us know if we can bring something to make it a potluck dinner.

New AC Members: The continuing members of the Advisory Committee will meet on July 19 for discernment concerning new members. There will be no regular meeting in July.

May meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the third floor meeting room of the Gallagher Center. Jessica has volunteered to be prayer leader and scribe.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Widmer