

Bellarmino Chapel Advisory Committee Meeting October 5, 2005 Minutes

Present: Richard Bollman, Karen Brandstetter, Jim Brown, Sally Fellerhoff, Karen Hurley, Kinny McQuade, Mike Marrero, Janet Neidhard, Margaret O’Gorman, Rita Pritchard, Jessica Stieritz, Connie Widmer.

Prayer: Connie led the opening prayer, using the reflections on Philippians 2: 1-11 from the parish bulletin of September 25.

Check-in: Responding to the question “Have you noticed any moments of hope since our Saturday retreat”, committee members shared many moments that had nurtured hope in recent days.

Parish Mission: During the Advisory Committee retreat, the issue had surfaced that Bellarmine should be on message about its purpose and mission and that this message should be attractive and made known. To facilitate a discussion of this issue, Committee members had been asked to prepare brief statements regarding Bellarmine’s mission. The intent is to formulate a description of Bellarmine that could be used in the reflections of the Advisory Committee and possibly in the bulletin or in other publications.

The statements shared contained many thoughts on Bellarmine including:

Bellarmino as part of a larger community, as an intentional community. as both challenging and assisting in our faith lives, as being formed by Vatican II ideas; as an antidote to materialism and self-centeredness, as an Ignatian parish, as a welcoming place, and as a place of hope.

Statements were turned in to Richard and Jim who will put the ideas together into a draft statement for our November meeting.

Birthday Celebration: We took a short break from business to celebrate Rita’s 40th birthday and enjoy the refreshments Jim had brought for the occasion.

Establishing a forum for discussion of questions concerning the Church:

Following up on another issue that had emerged during our retreat, we shared suggestions for ways to enable parishioners to ask questions and discuss Church issues of importance to them.

Ideas shared included:

- Invite people to just attend RCIA (even if not a sponsor)
- Include some Q & A sessions as part of the Lenten series
- Schedule sessions for discussion of issues
- Provide an opportunity for parishioners to come and state their questions. Use these for future sessions. Do this once or twice a year.
- Distinguish between questions that are answerable and questions that need discussion

- Focus on the audience: who is this for?
 - Should not just be self-help topics
 - How do we deal with issues such as consumerism?
 - Look at questions that come from your faith
 - Need a focus; not just a free-for-all
- Could ask in the bulletin for suggestions for topics for a “mini-RCIA”, focused on learning about the Church.

Kinny, Karen Hurley and Connie volunteered to get together and form a draft proposal. This will be sent to committee members before the November meeting and discussed at that meeting.

Announcements from Richard:

- AMOS: Richard encouraged members to attend the AMOS public meeting at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains on October 27. The Advisory Committee will be returning to the assessment of Bellarmine’s participation in the AMOS project, begun in 2003-04.
- “Personal Ministry”: Richard distributed a sheet of suggestions for “Personal Ministry and Mission”, putting forth ways we could, as individuals, approach and welcome new people at Sunday Mass. Committee members were encouraged to make this effort and bring ideas back to the committee.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 2. Janet volunteered to be Prayer Leader and Scribe.

Jim raised the question of whether the group preferred that meetings start on time or wait a bit for any latecomers. The group’s preference was to start on time.

We closed the meeting with prayer and singing “Happy Birthday” to Rita.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Widmer, October 10, 2005