

Minutes from Bellarmine Advisory Committee meeting of November 7, 2006

On Wednesday November 7, 2006 Connie Widmer called the meeting to order in the Alumni Center

In attendance were Richard Bollman S.J., Karen Brandstetter, Sally Fellerhoff, Kinny McQuaid, Janet Neidhard, Jessica Stieritz. Tara Cleveland, Fran Harmon and Doug Brausch . Absent were Margaret O'Gorman and Mike Marrero .

#### 1, PRAYER AND CHECK-IN

Sally began the meeting by reading a Thanksgiving prayer, "My Words Can't Carry All The Praise", from Ted Loder's book, Guerillas Of Grace.

Connie then invited the "check-in" discussion, which again was focused on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Members all voiced their personal thanks for family, friends and health.

#### 2. FOLLOW-UP TO ADVISORY RETREAT PRIORITIES

##### a) APPRECIATION OF OTHER FAITHS

Karen discussed the meeting that she, Connie and Richard had with Paul Knitter, a retired Theology professor at XU, about the best way to go about plans for Inter-Faith "Conversations". She distributed a proposal for these "Conversations" to be presented as the 2007 Lenten Series. It was very favorably accepted with just a few questions and a decision to run the series on Monday evenings for five weeks, eliminatlng a Lenten Series program for Holy Week. Fran suggested we seek to include information about how those of each faith actually practice their religion and what it means to them. There will be a moderator. No specifics as to the participants have been arranged yet, but other details are in the proposal which everyone present received.

##### b) ADULT FAITH FORMATION

There was conversation all around the room about the idea of faith formation, and precisely what it means. Some feel that there are quite a few opportunities in place for this, i.e small groups and Just Faith. Fran asked if we mean the tenets of our faith in this idea of formation. Janet wondered the same and spoke about Eucharist, community, strong homilies all being more important to her than these other events. She also commented about times in our lives when one aspect might be more important and also about the faith formation of teenagers. Kinny spoke about the educational opportunities at Bellarmine and the

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than these other events. She also commented about times in our lives when one aspect might be more important and also about the faith formation of teenagers. Kinny spoke about the educational opportunities at Bellarmine and the chance to be a part of the liturgies, noting 46 volunteer readers. Doug added that all the various programs were a part of putting faith in action towards growth. Sally also spoke of her concept of faith formation as continually seeking to grow in our faith. Fran said she seeks her own further formation through spiritual reading. Tara feels that the Lenten Series will be a part of formation for her. She loves the opportunity to ask questions. She also recalled how learning the meaning behind different parts of the Mass had been so important to her as a younger person. Jessica also suggested Yoga and finding peace as tools in formation. The discussion seemed to indicate that the parish was not lacking in faith formation and offered many opportunities to satisfy the searchings of parishioners.

### 3. Finances and Stewardship

Matt Walz, chairman of the finance committee, brought the Advisory Board a detailed Finance Report, prepared for an open meeting held by the committee in October of this year. He distributed the report to all present and went over each point. He stressed the need for parishioners and the finance group to learn from each other and the benefits of the open meeting. He also commented that the beginning of the Bellarmine chapter of Saint Vincent de Paul was a very positive move and brought a great model to the table. After listening as each point in the plan was presented board members began questions about envelopes versus credit cards and about how those with automatic monthly credit card deductions were covered as far as extra contributions were concerned. This will be looked in to. Another suggestion, prompted by the plans for the future, was that planned giving could give another boost to revenues, Further discussion followed about the possibility of a development director. This idea will also be reviewed. A final thought was that this financial discussion could also be seen as a part of the earlier faith formation discussion, seeking to build a culture of philanthropy as committed parish members.

Janet volunteered to lead the prayer and be the scribe for the next meeting on December 6 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Fellehoff