

Bellarmino Chapel  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes  
December 6, 2006

Present: Jessica Stieritz, Sally Fellerhoff, Doug Brausch, Karen Brandstetter, Connie Widmer, Fran Harmon, Mike Marrero, Richard Bollman SJ, Janet Neidhard (scribe)

Absent: Margaret O’Gorman, Kinny McQuaid, Tara Cleveland

Special Guest: Tony Stieritz

1. Janet let a prayer & Reflection with an Advent Theme
2. Connie described the role of scribe for this year’s new members: The scribe leads the prayer and keeps the minutes during their designated meeting. The scribe then meets with Richard, Karen and Connie to plan the agenda for the next meeting. The position is rotated each meeting, on a volunteer basis.
3. Richard gave an update on the Inter-faith Lenten Series. There will be five evenings of dialogue around the contemporary spirituality of the great religions. The plan is to have a three-person panel each evening, with Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism or B’hai, and Islam. For the fifth evening, we discussed the idea of having Christianity, with three parishioners on the panel to talk about our life of prayer.
4. Adult faith Formation – a continuation of the discussion from the prior meeting:  
Richard asked: Are we ready to be an Ignatian parish without a full-time Jesuit pastor? What do we need to do to get there? Do we need leadership/ discipleship training, a way to claim our Ignatian identity?  
Jessica mentioned the AFMIX – Adult Formation Maintaining Ignatius at Xavier as a good model, although we doubt it’s something we could piggy-back on.  
Karen suggested the model that she and Jim Crosby worked on at Good Shepherd parish. They actually developed a curricula focused on leadership. Some of the six topics were: Redemptive listening, pastoral boundaries, and praying with people.  
There was general support for this idea throughout the group, and we recommended that the topic be discussed among the parish staff, and then back to Advisory. The January staff meeting will fall on the same day – a few hours before our next meeting. Richard will look in bulletin archives for a series of articles about Ignatian spirituality that Don Nastold SJ wrote when he was pastor.
5. Bellarmino’s Power in the Community: Connie introduced Tony Stieritz as our guest facilitator.  
We recalled that this topic piqued a lot of interest at our retreat, but that we hadn’t really agreed on what it really means. Tony asked us to describe what we each think of:  
-Janet spoke of frustration with violence in our local community, and wondered if we as a parish in the city, can do anything about it

-Richard spoke of the power of the Church simply by a strong presence – mentioning neighborhoods where a religious community stands out in a way that crime simply doesn't happen.

-Karen pointed to a history at Bellarmine of putting resources toward a specific need. Wondering if we collectively have something to offer. So many parishioners are involved in many different outreach activities – is there a power to be had (or desired) by harnessing all of that activity?

-Sally spoke of a power in sharing. Our parish is located in a community, but many parishioners do not come from that community. We should be known as people who respond to the needs around us. The newly-formed St Vincent de Paul society was mentioned.

Tony summarized our discussion to this point – we had mentioned examples of:

- powerlessness
- power we know we have
- the influence of individuals – we don't know how many
- speaking institutionally

He asked us to think about where we want to use this power that we think we have, and who we want to do it for? Is it self-interest – as in reducing crime? Or reaching out to others? Are we interested in Bellarmine's power as in institutional body, or its collective power as individuals?

Mike asked if we have historical examples of Bellarmine's power. Suggestions were:

- CRISPAZ
- Affecting the Church – through the communion issue (10+ years ago)
- AMOS
- Inclusive language
- Model of liturgical style that affected the archdiocesan model (Leo Klein)

Other thoughts:

Do we have “power analysis” of the parish:

- CEO's
- Healers / medical
- \$-\$
- Access
- Demographic analysis
- People who are respected
- Where people volunteer

In the interest of time, Tony wrapped up our discussion with suggestions for further exploration:

- Where does power come from?
- Who should we use it for – self-interest, or bigger?
- How to celebrate our constituents?

6. Richard asked for volunteers to participate in a development meeting facilitated by Dan Averbek, to be held Saturday January 27 at 9:30 am. Volunteers were Janet, possibly Sally, Connie, and Kinny (volunteered in absentia!)

7. Next meeting January 10, Alumnae Center. Jess will be scribe.