



Social Mission Catalog

Bellarmino Chapel



Social Mission Core Team

Community Care Network

The mission statement for the Social Mission Core Team is that “social mission is faith in action, an integration of gospel values into our lives through service and education aimed at systemic change.”

The committee promotes and coordinates Bellarmino’s efforts to work for social justice and offer service to others. Membership on the core team involves monthly meetings as well as organizing monthly outreach collections and reviewing grant requests. In addition, the core team offers support to Habitat for Humanity, The AMOS Project, St. Vincent de Paul, Community Care Network, JustFaith and “justice spirituality” in the parish. **If you are interested or have questions, contact Social Mission Director Jeff Campbell at (513) 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu.**

For twenty-some years, we have been doing what friends and neighbors have always done. We simply pitch in and do what we can whenever someone needs a hand, whether that need lasts just a short while or has a life measured in months or years. Members of the Community Care Network often volunteer to do one or some of the following:

- Prepare and deliver meals
- Provide transportation to church, doctor’s appointments, and stores
- Run errands
- Bring communion
- Visit people in hospitals, nursing homes or their own homes
- Give a caregiver a break
- Offer support to families caring for a newborn

The AMOS Project

The AMOS Project is a group of congregations committed to living out their faith through public action. Opportunities for leadership and leadership development for living out our faith in the public arena center on becoming involved in a campaign that addresses pressing community needs, based on different opportunities that change over time.

Part of The AMOS Project mission states: We affirm the value and dignity of every human life and address critical systemic problems at their root causes. We are challenged and impelled by the prophet Amos who urges: "See that justice is done."

If you would like to learn more about how you can become more involved in systemic change here in Cincinnati, contact: Jeff Campbell, Director of Social Mission at (513) 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu.

In a parish as geographically far-flung as Bellarmino, communication is the key issue. One of us may get a phone call; more often coordinators for the different types of service send out an e-mail and wait for our response. The exact extent of our commitment is therefore flexible enough to accommodate the circumstances of our own lives.

In a sense, everyone at Bellarmino is a necessary part of our ministry as a communicator. Hospitals once notified churches when a parishioner was admitted. Especially in these days of privacy laws, you may be the first to know that someone is in need of help. We rely on you to let the chapel’s staff know when a friend or neighbor could use our help.

If you have questions or want to join the Community Care Network, sign up at the parish office or contact: Jeff Campbell at (513) 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu.





Christian Foundation for Children and Aging

CFCA is a lay Catholic sponsorship organization serving the poor at numerous international mission sites. CFCA’s mission is to build relationships of love through direct sponsorships between the people of the U.S. and the global poor in developing countries.

Through sponsorship of children and the aging, we build relationships of mutual respect and support while raising awareness in our own country of the needs and gifts of the poor and the Mission outreach of the Church.

Sponsored friends receive supplemental nutrition in the form of: nutritious food provisions and meals; school supplies and tuition assistance; medical and dental care; clothing, shoes and school uniforms; housing repairs, beds and blankets; health and parenting workshops; literacy programs and tutoring; and skills training and livelihood programs.

CFCA works in 25 economically developing countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean.

CFCA asks for \$30 a month from a sponsor. The sponsor is also encouraged to write regularly to the sponsored child so the child will have the encouragement of knowing that someone cares. The sponsor, in turn, will receive letters from the child translated into English.

Informational brochures about CFCA are regularly available in the narthex.

CFCA’s address is: One Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103. The agency’s phone number is 1-800-875-6564. **For more information about Bellarmino’s involvement in CFCA, contact parishioner:** Jane Sansalone, 4902 Chalet Dr, No. 8, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1436; or by phone at (513) 242-8538.

Frederick Douglass School Community Involvement Program

The Douglass School, named for the famed abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, has long been an educational beacon in Cincinnati. For most of that history, which dates back to the 1850’s, it was a magnet for African American children and teachers and well known for its educational excellence. Many of Cincinnati’s African American leaders attended the school, including Wilbur A. Page, DeHart Hubbard and Jennie Porter.

Today Frederick Douglass School serves the children of the Walnut Hills Community in a new structure opened in the fall of 2007 as a Community Learning Center, located at 2627 Park Avenue.

Bellarmino parishioners have volunteered as tutors and character coaches for Winners Walk Tall over the past 10 years. Some spend an hour a week, on average, working 1-on-1 with students who need to build skills. Others enter a classroom wearing a bright pink hat with a message underneath to discuss character issues with the students — such as Manners Matter, Don’t Be a Bully, Read to Succeed, Make the Right Choices, and many others. Some volunteer in the After School Program.

Recent studies show that many children in poverty come to school at a great disadvantage. It is a problem of language and vocabulary — as they have only heard approximately one-third of the words that middle and upper class children have heard by the time they are 3 years old.

By working 1-on-1, and/or doing Winners Walk Tall, we share our time, our talents – and our language – with them. It truly makes a difference in the lives of these young people!

If you want to help students at Frederick Douglass School, contact: Kathi McQuade at (513) 608-5793 or email kmcquade@fuse.net.





Shalom XII Habitat for Humanity House

Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to provide simple, affordable, decent housing for all people, one house at a time. Each new homeowner puts in 500 hours of “sweat equity” building their home while learning good homeowner skills. The criteria for becoming a new partner family includes housing need and ability to pay the interest free mortgage, among other things. Habitat is not a hand out, but a hand up!

The Shalom Coalition is a group of seven partner congregations and one company who have banded together with Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity to build one house per year. Shalom congregations provide volunteers, much of the funding and site construction leadership. Join in the fun and the good work fellowship while we add more houses to the list!

We need several kinds of help...

Fundraisers to raise money for cost of materials.

Meal preparers to make lunches for the construction workers.

People with email and excel skills to help in contacting the volunteers weekly.

Construction workers of various skill levels.

- **No skills** just an able body and a willingness to learn. If you are a minor, there are restrictions.
- **Skilled** with the ability to come to the site, work with volunteers, and learn the Habitat way...You may just get Habitat-itus!!

Your time commitment is as little or as much as you want. We work every Saturday during building season (usually April thru October). Some work most Saturday’s, others work once a season, and anywhere in-between. We have two shifts on Saturday: 8:30 am to 12 and 12:30 to finish (about 3 pm). Some folks work both shifts.

Christi Eisenberg is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Shalom Coalition. **She can be reached at:** (513) 741.1629, or at ceisenberg@fuse.net . To sign up to volunteer, go to this website to complete the vol. form: www.hydeparkchurch.com/ministries/habitat.html .

Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Greater Cincinnati

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is men and women, age 50 and over, sharing their skills, talents, and life experiences with organizations directly assisting people who are poor, or address issues related to poverty. Ignatian Volunteers serve people in need, work for a just society, and grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.

IVC was founded in 1995 when two Jesuit priests gathered a small group of retired men and women to explore ways to minister to those who were materially poor while also gaining spiritual growth through service. Today the Ignatian Volunteer Corps is a national organization with regional programs in major metropolitan areas nationwide.

The Ignatian Difference

Americans have a long-standing commitment to service with seemingly limitless opportunities to volunteer. So what makes the Ignatian volunteer opportunity different from others? **The reflection experience.**

Ignatian Volunteers are guided through a reflection process based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. This process helps volunteers discover the deeper meaning of their service and to see Christ more clearly as they labor among their brothers and sisters who are poor. Reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition — individually and communally — deepens the service experience as a unique feature of IVC.

What We Do

Ignatian volunteers work in direct service as well as address issues related to poverty. Matching their skills to the particular needs of community organizations, Ignatian Volunteers tutor, advance literacy skills, help find jobs and housing, provide companionship or healthcare, and work to overcome poverty. They may also engage in counseling, administrative tasks, fund-raising and more. **For more information, contact:**

Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Greater Cincinnati

c/o G. R. "Sam" Schloemer
5300 Hamilton Ave. #1606 — Cinti., OH 45224-3165
(513) 608-5551 sschloemer@ivcusa.org





Fair Trade Coffee

Fair Trade coffee products are sold at Bellarmine on the 4th Sunday of each month after each liturgy. Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate products are purchased from Equal Exchange. This organization gives a fair/just price for products to small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Equal Exchange has been in existence for 20 years and brings products from small-scale farmer corporations in 190 countries, thus, allowing them a steady income and a better future.

Bellarmino does not profit from selling these products but endeavors to create awareness and educate people about how their choices can impact small-scale farmers across the globe.

If you are interested in volunteering your time after Sunday Liturgy once a month, contact:

- 9AM Liturgy: Pam Venable (513) 793-7301 (chuckpam@fuse.net)
- 11AM Liturgy: Jane Friel (513) 825-4366 (janeufriel@hotmail.com)
- 7PM Liturgy: Marie Hill (513) 474-1564 (mmhill@fuse.net)



Oyler School A.P. Hampton Mentoring

The A.P. Hampton Mentoring Program is an academically structured program that pairs a mentor volunteer with a student to support and extend academic learning to help ensure their academic success. The program provides 1-on-1 attention that makes a difference in the life of a student. Mentors work with an individual student on materials and activities prepared by the Hampton instructor to target specific reading and writing skills. Time required is 30 minutes per week, with seven sessions each day so you can choose a time and day that is best for you.. We invite you to become a mentor at Oyler and make a positive change in a child's life. **Contact Oyler School at:** (513) 363-4168 or e-mail oaphamp@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. Or: Oyler School Mentoring, 2121 Hatmaker St., Cincinnati, OH, 45204.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Bellarmino has been involved in IHN now for nearly 3 years, as a way to join our sister congregations in Cincinnati in providing hospitality for homeless families. IHN is a comprehensive agency that assists families in rising out of homelessness. IHN operates a day center in Lower Price Hill where case management and other support take place. IHN relies on religious congregations to host families at night and to provide them with food during one-week rotations several times each year. Because Bellarmine lacks the physical space needed to house these families, we partner at Walnut Hills Baptist Church as a support congregation to help them provide hospitality. Our volunteers help provide the meals — a dinner, breakfast, and sack lunch — with 1-2 volunteers helping with the overnight supervision of the guests. IHN provides a personal way to serve families in homelessness, and is a very enjoyable opportunity in the parish for young adults and families with children to serve together.

The individual time commitment varies somewhat. Preparing meals can take 2 to 4 hours about 4 to 5 times per year. For overnight volunteers, the commitment can be 8 to 10 hours 4 to 5 times per year. Skills involved include the ability to prepare meals, make lunches, and to be available as a resource to overnight guests.

The IHN office is located at 2110 St. Michael St., Cincinnati, OH 45204, (513) 471-1100. **The Bellarmine contact is:** Kathy Aerni, aernicin@yahoo.com or 871-7803.



Tender Mercies

Tender Mercies provides housing and related services to homeless persons with histories of emotional and / or mental disabilities. We serve lunch on the second Saturday of every month from 11-1pm. There are no special skills required, just buying the food and helping to serve it to about 50-60 people. **The parish contact is:** Rita Pritchard (513) 325-1579 and the volunteer coordinator at Tender Mercies is Michael Reardon.





Environmental Team
(“Care for Creation”)

Encouraged by growing concern for and action on issues of environmental integrity and sustainability, several parishioners began meeting in Fall 2008 to see how Bellarmine Chapel can integrate ecological awareness into Bellarmine’s faith-life and spirituality, while becoming a more environmentally-conscious and “green” parish.

By discussing Catholic social teaching’s rich tradition of concern for God’s creation, team members are identifying ways the parish itself can practice greater environmental responsibility, along with creative and helpful ways for parishioners to do so in their own lives, families and homes.

Initial activities have included:

- selling organic cotton tote bags with the parish logo as an alternative to plastic grocery bags
- arranging for an ecological spirituality focus at the January 2009 parish retreat
- identifying ways the annual Fall parish picnic can “go green” with recycled items and an environmental homily focus

...along with possible upcoming plans and activities:

- promoting faith-reflection and “eco-spirituality” that nourishes a deepening relationship with the environment
- exploring a parish environmental audit
- providing friendly, creative “green-living” tips via the parish bulletin and website
- looking at annual environmental parish celebrations, such as Earth Day

For more information about the Environmental Team, **contact:** Liz Keuffer, parish business manager and team convener, at the parish main office, 745-3398 or keuffer@xavier.edu .

Bellarmino Dismantling Racism Team (BDRT)

The Bellarmine Dismantling Racism Team (BDRT) formed after a number of parishioners attended a 2007 conference focusing on faith, justice and overcoming racism. The theme of that conference was “From Racism to Reconciliation”.

Inspired by that conference to do something locally, BDRT members have met regularly to study, discuss and discern ways to overcome racism (interpersonal and institutional), while helping Bellarmine Chapel become an even more welcoming, inclusive and multi-cultural community of faith.

BDRT members are also working on several exciting parish initiatives for 2009:

- a parish anti-racism and cultural competency training for up to 40 parishioners
- scheduling occasional guest speakers/homilists
- encouraging greater parish involvement and collaboration with nearby lower-income neighborhoods and congregations

Any parishioner is welcome to join in this effort!

If you have any questions about BDRT or have interest in working on issues of racism and diversity, **contact:** Jeff Campbell, Bellarmine Social Mission, at 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu .



Alternative Gift Fair & Holiday Fair Trade Sale

Just before Advent in 2007, Bellarmine Chapel began its first-ever Alternative Gift Fair/Holiday Fair Trade Sale to promote charitable giving and fair-trade purchasing as positive ways to catch the spirit of Christmas.

Various nonprofit organizations and fair trade groups are invited each year to provide parishioners a fun way to support local charities and shop fair trade.

To learn more about the Alternative Gift Fair or join the planning team, **contact:** Jeff Campbell, Bellarmine Social Mission, at 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu .





Ignatian Spirituality Project Retreats
(Spiritual Exercises Retreats for Persons in Homelessness)

The Ignatian Spirituality Project has been bringing faith and hope to the lives of homeless men since 1998, when Jesuit Provincial Richard J. Baumann, SJ, asked Province Jesuits to think about ways of sharing the Spiritual Exercises with the materially poor. Fr. Bill Creed, SJ, created the Ignatian Spirituality Project (ISP) in response to this request.

ISP retreats are designed to help homeless and addicted men make the first step toward rejoining society. ISP uses the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius to help the men encounter God, who loves them, believes in them, and offers them hope for recovery. Other formerly homeless men give witness during the retreat to the reality of recovery. The retreat fosters in men a desire to put their life and their will into the care of God one day at a time. Many of the homeless men who have attended a retreat are battling an addiction to drugs or a mental illness. The time spent off the streets and in a spiritual setting helps them look at themselves honestly and see what kinds of positive changes they can make to better their lives. Each retreatant is referred by the director of a shelter which ensures that each participant is ready for the experience. The retreats are kept small, with a maximum of twelve men. This size is deliberate to foster community building and trust among one another.

Since its inception, ISP has offered more than 50 retreats; most in Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Milwaukee. Boston and San Francisco have also welcomed ISP retreats. Plans are currently underway to expand ISP to other major U.S. cities.

Currently in the Cincinnati area, one ISP retreat is offered each year, with the hope of soon offering a second retreat opportunity each year.

For more information, contact Bellarmine ISP coordinator: Gerry Mundy at 513-729-4234.

JustFaith

We are called to be compassionate as our God is compassionate. (Luke 6:36) What does the compassion of Christ look like in the modern world? How do I become a more compassionate person?

Meet Jesus again for the first time in the prayer, contemplation, education and dialogue of the JustFaith experience. JustFaith provides a lively and challenging format to read, view, discuss, pray, experience and be formed by the justice tradition, which changes lives, inspires faithful witness, and transforms the world through love and service.

JustFaith meets weekly for 30 weeks and affords the privilege of becoming community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life giving and challenging. **For more information, contact:** Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu.



JustFaith II

Attention JustFaith Graduates, those involved in Outreach Ministries, and those concerned about human suffering in our own country and around the world: JustFaith II is coming to Bellarmine in September. JustFaith II combines a spirituality of compassion with the practical skills of social ministry on behalf of those who have no voice, no power, no home, no food and no health care. If you've completed JustFaith or you have a solid understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, please consider joining us for JustFaith II. We will cover the following strategies: social analysis, community organizing and strategies for building local and global solidarity within the parish.

JustFaith II meets weekly and includes a one-day immersion and two retreats. **For more information, contact:** Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu.





St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School Project in Nairobi, Kenya

From parishioners maintaining a relationship with Fr. Terry Charlton, SJ, co-founder of St. Al's School and current Chaplain, a project support-circle of Bellarmine parishioners has formed to promote the school, its mission, fundraising for student scholarships, and awareness of global HIV/AIDS.

St. Al's Mission: Since its inception in December 2003, St. Aloysius has been a Catholic school dedicated to serving AIDS-affected youth from Nairobi's Kibera slum who have either lost both parents, or one parent with the second infected.

It serves bright youngsters of all faith backgrounds by providing a college preparatory education and support to overcome the deficits of their environment. This education and support is completely free to talented youth who otherwise simply could not afford a secondary education.

Our educational philosophy is based on Ignatian Pedagogy, the educational tradition of the Jesuits, proven by over 450 years of experience.

St. Al's School strives to help its students:

- **Discover** the richness and diversity of creation and their place in the world
- **Recognize** their potential based on their individual uniqueness
- **Realize** a personal dream arising from one's relationship with God, family, society and world
- **Become** men and women for others, dedicated to bettering the society in which they live.

The Challenge of HIV/AIDS: The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS is a great threat to education in Kenya. Kenya has over an estimated 3 million AIDS orphans and rising, many found begging in slums and streets. In Kibera slum, over 30,000 AIDS orphans of secondary school age cannot continue education due to poverty, cost of secondary education, and few secondary schools in the country.

For more information, contact: Jeff Campbell at 745-1908 or campbellj5@xavier.edu .

St. Vincent de Paul

The Bellarmine Chapel Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been providing assistance to our neighbors since 2006. Approximately 20 parishioners are involved in this outreach program. Our mission is to assist neighbors in areas surrounding the Chapel such as Evanston, Avondale, and Norwood, who are in temporary need, by providing clothing and furniture vouchers, beds, food cards, rent, utility assistance, etc.

Teams of two volunteers make visits to the homes of neighbors in need who contact Bellarmine seeking assistance. Ten home visits are made each week on Saturday mornings, from 9 AM until noon. Regular participation is beneficial, but there is no mandatory weekly commitment. Most volunteers come two-three Saturdays per month.

Spirituality is a significant portion of this service work. Prayer and reflection are regular parts of our Saturday gatherings as well as at our monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Quarterly three-hour afternoon retreats are held to provide time to share and deepen our ministry experience.

Parishioners interested in learning more about SVDP and possibly becoming involved in the ministry should have a desire to help our neighbors in need and be willing to meet people in a variety of life's circumstances. Most of our volunteers began this ministry without any professional or academic training in social work. The best way to get started is to simply experience a home visit.

Interested persons should contact: Fran Niehaus 513-891-4345, Barb Dardy 513-232-6576, or just come and experience a Saturday morning by meeting in the activity room on a Saturday morning at 9:00 AM.

**For more information
about Social Mission opportunities
at Bellarmine Chapel, contact:**
 Jeff Campbell
 Director of Social Mission
 (513) 745-1908
campbellj5@xavier.edu

