



Mission Statement

Bellarmino Chapel is a Catholic faith community that strives to live out the teaching and example of Jesus Christ in the spiritual tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola. We seek to be a parish where lives are transformed by the new and creative ways of the Holy Spirit. Nourished at the table of the Eucharist, we are sent on mission to make disciples, serve those in need, work for justice, and welcome all with love.

Happy Easter! As one of the many gifts we receive in this season, Bellarmine Chapel is pleased to present our new Parish Mission Statement. As you can see, the statement itself is three sentences long but it covers a lot of ground. So, on most Sundays of this season, a part of the statement will appear in the bulletin along with a brief reflection. We hope that these inserts will provide glimpses into how God is working among us, and that they will help us to pray with the mission statement.

But first, here is a chance to take in the statement as a whole and learn how it came to be. The parish has had several renditions of a mission statement over the past couple of decades. Each reflected the priorities and involvements of the time it was written. Since the last one was developed over a decade ago, it's again time to update and renew the statement.

Over the past couple of years, we have been collecting input from the wider Bellarmine community about the parish, its ministries and functions. We've conducted surveys, "circle processes," and parish-wide leadership retreats. Our staff developed a "white paper" -- a snapshot of the current state of Bellarmine and its ministries. Among other things, all this information has helped in our pastor transition process.

At the same time, this data has formed the foundation for a parish planning process. The first step in this process was to develop a current mission statement. Parishioner Tim Kloppenborg, a retired Xavier distinguished management professor, and a team of his business students provided professional guidance. The bulk of the work took place in the parish Advisory Committee (a leadership core team). The Committee worked with the pastor and staff to make the mission statement a reality. Many drafts later, the version you see above gained unanimous approval from the Advisory Committee.

From here, we will develop a narrative to flesh out and enhance the mission statement. Then, with more input from parishioners, we expect to develop a parish strategic plan. We hope that such a plan will guide specific decisions, actions and attitudes, including the allocation of financial and human resources, volunteers, space, etc. As in all that happens here, we seek in this process to pay attention to the creative movement of the Holy Spirit within Bellarmine and beyond.

The Advisory Committee and the Parish Staff