



Bellarmino Chapel Mission Statement

Sentence 1

***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.***



At the root of our identity as a parish is our profession of the Christian faith and our communion with the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world. Bellarmine Chapel is a parish of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The pastor of Bellarmine, appointed by the Archbishop of Cincinnati, has traditionally been provided by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The Jesuits have served this parish since its founding on the campus of Xavier University.

Bellarmino parish shares the mission of the Archdiocese and the mission of the Society of Jesus by seeking to follow the teaching and example of Jesus, who said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19). As baptized Christians, the people of Bellarmine parish profess their faith in Jesus, and then are sent from the Eucharistic celebration to put that faith into action in their daily lives. The teaching and example of Jesus, his words and acts of healing and mercy, guide all Christians. We remember what Jesus told his followers after he washed their feet at the Last Supper: "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:15) This parish, sponsored by the Society of Jesus, follows the spiritual pathway of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. St. Ignatius and his friends such as St. Francis Xavier devoted their lives to the service of the Church through ministry of the Word and service of the poor. They offered to serve wherever the need was greatest.

St. Ignatius considered himself a "pilgrim" on the way. He composed a manual for prayer, the *Spiritual Exercises*, which helps guide people in prayer and reflection through a series of meditations on the scriptures. The *Exercises* allow for flexibility and adaptability. They encourage us to seek God's presence "in all things" and in the circumstances of daily life. Ignatian spirituality offers a way to discern the movements of the Spirit by reflecting on experience and seeking to hear where God is calling. Ignatian prayer often makes use of the imagination and other tools to help us grow closer to Jesus in order to love and follow him more closely. Bellarmine Chapel regularly offers its parishioners opportunities to pray the *Spiritual Exercises* together.

*The Advisory Committee, the Pastor, and the Parish Staff*