

Bellarmino Chapel Mission Statement

Sentence 2

We seek to be a parish where lives are transformed by the new and creative ways of the Holy Spirit.

(See the dynamic Holy Spirit moving in the new stained glass window prepared by our teen Confirmation candidates now suspended over the entrance into the Chapel!)

Christians are invited to nothing less than complete transformation in God. As baptized believers, our lives are not just about modest self-improvement but about conversion in Christ. We experience this transformation when we actively imagine and explore God's ongoing creative project within us. We also witness this transformation in one another in community. Finally, we pay attention and pray with expectant faith in collaboration with the Holy Spirit and with each other to further God's creative project.

Transformation often includes experiences like a conversion of heart toward humility and gratitude, a renewal of mind, an increasing capacity to love God and others, a greater desire to give and to receive generously and with compassion.

We are transformed when we see and hear and walk in new and life-giving ways. We may notice that more and more of what we do is in and through the Risen Christ.

In order to recognize and name the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our midst, we need to pray. To be witnesses of the Spirit at work, we are called to learn to be more attentive to the movements of God in our lives. One way our parishioners respond to this call to prayer and attentiveness, is by making "retreats in everyday life," through *The Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. Participants who have done so report experiencing "a deeper relationship with God, increased knowledge of self, and getting to know other parishioners".

Lives are also transformed through preparation for and celebration of the sacraments. The Holy Spirit is creating something new each time a child seeks First Communion, a couple seeks marriage preparation or Baptism for their child, a teen seeks Confirmation. We witness a remarkable new creation each time a candidate joins us in Full Communion during our Easter Vigil. Finally, we are transformed as we continue to live our ordinary lives by coming to the Eucharistic table week after week.

We invite you to take this mission reflection into your prayer this week

"How is the Spirit moving within me... within our community?"

"How does this part of the parish Mission Statement inspire me?"

The Advisory Committee, the Pastor, and the Parish Staff