

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

“Older is Okay”

Four years ago, Fr. Raymond C. Baumhart SJ, arranged a two day retreat for Jesuits 60 years of age and over. He expected only 20 to 25 Jesuits to show, but 88 showed up at Bellarmine Retreat House in Barrington, IL, showing the spiritual hunger of older people. “I realized if Jesuits showed up who weren’t required to, then lay people are in need as well, which is what allowed me see that beginning a retreat focused towards seniors was well worth doing.”

The idea of “Older is Okay” allows the tone of the retreat to be reassuring, positive, and reinforcing. “There’s not enough attention given to elder Catholics, and there needs to be more,” says Fr. Baumhart. “I’m one of them, and I understand the difficulties of getting older.”

“Older is Okay,” has already taken place twice, and the lay turnout has been quite good, with the first annual retreat welcoming 68 participants. It is a three



Members of the “Older is Okay” retreat gather outside at Bellarmine Retreat House.

day retreat patterned on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. Participants receive the sacraments of reconciliation, Eucharist and, for those who wish to receive it, anointing is available as well. The retreat is a silent retreat, with a series of eight talks, one of which focuses on the health problems of seniors; there is also a faith sharing session on the middle evening. It is held at the Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat house in Barrington, IL, and offered to people over the age of 60. “Older is Okay” will be held this coming year either in the spring or the fall. If you are interested in attending an “Older is Okay” retreat, please contact the Bellarmine Retreat Center at (847) 381-1261.

—Amy Hudec

LAY COLLABORATION



Lay Partner

Bob Stautberg

Since 1977, Stautberg has been a household name throughout the halls of St. Xavier High School. It began when the first of Bob Stautberg’s five sons enrolled in 1977 and continued for eighteen years until the last of the five graduated in 1995. It’s not one of Bob’s five sons that walk the halls now, however; it is Bob himself, who currently holds the title of Vice President of Operations at St. X. “I care very much about the school and the Ignatian education mission. It’s extremely important and valuable, and in my opinion is unmatched in the educational field,” Bob says. “I felt it was so important, I rearranged things in my life so that I could be a part of St. X.”

Fr. Walter Deye, SJ, President of St. Xavier High School clearly is happy to have him at the school. “Bob Stautberg has been a faithful and long standing friend of St. Xavier, serving in so many ways: chair of the board, vice president for development, vice president for strategic plan & facilities, and now vice president of operations,” says Fr. Deye. I learn from him everyday how to be open to growth and flexible. He loves to see others shine and create conditions so this can happen. This man has little to no “ego”. He is reinforced in generosity by his wonderful wife, Nancy and following them are sons and a daughter who have caught the Ignatian spirit of service of others.”

In 1984, he became a member of the Board of Trustees, serving as Chairman from 1988-1990. Later, in 1998, St. X was in the middle of a \$14 million capital campaign. Bob served on the search committee to seek a development director, without realizing he would eventually fill the spot himself. “After searching for quite some time we just couldn’t find the right person, so Fr. Verbryke asked me to come on board for a few months. Then of course, I agreed to stay on longer, and two months turned into two years.”

In 2001, Bob decided to turn over his development responsibilities and began working on a strategic plan called Vision 2010, made up of unfinished projects that couldn’t be included in the past campaign Bob was involved with. It called for replacing the outdoor athletic complex, which has already been completed, as well as a new theater, fine arts classrooms, and a renovated academic wing. As for Bob’s future, “I will be at St Xavier’s for as long as I can be helpful,” he says. “I thoroughly love the institution and I am happy to do what I can to be a part of it.”

—Amy Hudec



Debra Mooney Ph.D., Acting Director for Ignatian Programs and the Lilly grant programs co-director, meeting with Kandi Stinson Ph.D., Interim Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Xavier University Receives Lilly Grant for Ignatian Mentoring Program

Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH is launching an exciting new Ignatian Mentoring program for tenure-track faculty with the help of a recently received Lilly Fellows program grant. The grant will be used to implement a new program to enhance second-year faculty members' abilities to carry out their teaching and scholarly work in a substantial and clearly mission-focused manner. "Our hope is the program will help incorporate the Ignatian vision into the professional identities of the faculty early in their academic careers, with the tenure process in mind," says Debra Mooney, Ph.D., act-

ing director of Xavier's Ignatian Programs.

The program will begin in August of 2004 as a mentoring relationship, and will continue throughout a 12 to 14 month period. The mentors will be tenured faculty who have graduated from AFMIX, an Ignatian program whose acronym stands for Assuring the Future Mission and Identity at Xavier created by Fr. George W. Traub, SJ. Each mentor will be paired with two second-year faculty members from the same college, but not necessarily the same department.

During the first semester of the mentoring period, the senior faculty member will adapt the program to their partner's specialty, discipline, and even sub-discipline, and will guide the junior faculty through meetings, readings, discussions, feedback, and more. How the program is done is entirely up to the pair, as long as the junior member of the faculty can articulate the mission. During the second semester, the junior faculty member will then begin a scholarly research project in a way that also articulates the mission, as well as translating the mission into a class they are teaching in the spring semester.

The program itself is an optional supplement to the basic training all faculty and staff members receive in their first year, but it is strongly encouraged. "In the grant, we have written in a certain number of participants; we are able however to accommodate every faculty member who wants to participate with the help of shared funds of the Office of the Provost and the Xavier University Jesuit Community," says Dr. Mooney.

—Amy Hudec

Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps



Front row: Michael Monnelly, Maureen Treanor, Jean Shea, Sue Bale, Bee Benesh, Nina Pierre-Louis, Peter Goschy, Bill McKechney,
Second row: Marilyn Snider, Frank O'Hara, Dana Hayes, Michael Garanzini, SJ, John Lynch, George Sullivan, Pat Guillen, Dick Johnston, Jorge Caicedo,
Top row: Don Gimbel, Pat Fahey, Dave Clark, Warren Grienberger, Dan Lynch

SOLIDARITY WITH THE POOR

The Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps (ILVC) provides men and women age 50 and over the opportunity to serve the needs of people who are poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow deeper in Christian faith by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition. ILVC's Chicago Chapter is currently preparing for its fourth year. If you're interested in joining the Chicago Chapter's 25 members, many of whom are pictured here, please contact ILVC's regional director, George Sullivan, at (312) 845-3714 or gsullivan@ilvc.org. You can also visit the national website at www.ilvc.org.