

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team February 2015

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. The Rite of Initiation (RCIA) will enter the Enlightenment Period the week after Ash Wednesday. Our catechumens will attend the Rite of Election on the weekend of Feb.15 and the Lenten Enrichment Series on Wednesday evenings during Lent. We will begin the Inquiry Period with two new catechumens during Lent.
2. 5 candidates are participating in the Rite of Christian Reception which is meeting on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish.
3. 3 families attended the Baptism class in January. The next Baptism preparation class is Feb. 9 at Blessed Sacrament.

B. Evangelization

1. 35 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Jan. 26 at St. Patrick Parish. The next Witness Hour is March 23 at Blessed Sacrament.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 55 people attended the first program in our Winter at the Cellar series Jan. 19; 28 people attended the second session Jan. 29. The series continues with Fr. Scott Bullock on Feb. 2 and Dr. Corrine Winter on Feb. 9.
 2. 70 people received the daily New Year Reflection by Fr. Richard Rohr OFM the week of Jan. 12-18. 241 (a daily average of 31) people read the daily reflections on our Facebook page.
 3. 40 people responded to our survey about a bus trip to the Pope's event in Philadelphia next September. As a result, we will contract with Star Destinations for a tour package which leaves Waterloo Sept. 24 and returns Sept. 28, with overnights on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
 4. Our 2015 Lenten Enrichment Series will focus on prayer. Each week, we will discuss or experience three different types of prayer. The series will meet on Wednesday evenings, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at Sacred Heart Parish.
 5. Other Lenten opportunities include a video series by Fr. Robert Barron, "Priest, Prophet, King;" small faith-sharing and prayer groups for men and women; a Bridges to Contemplative Living faith-sharing
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group; a Lenten mini-retreat; a Lenten social justice retreat; the *Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent* and the *Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation*; a Lenten online retreat and a Holy Week online retreat

6. I have begun sending by email two features from our Facebook page, a weekly guide to the Sunday Gospel and a Saturday Sabbath, a weekly guide to prayer and reflection.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. 11 people attended the Advent Mini-Retreat Jan. 25 at American Martyrs Retreat House. The next mini-retreat will be a video Retreat with Pope Francis.

2. 225 (a daily average of 25) people participated in the Nine Days for Life novena on our Facebook page during January.

E. Social Justice and Interfaith

1. 40 people attended the Taize prayer service co-hosted by the parishes and First Baptist Church Jan. 25 at Sacred Heart Parish. The next Taize Prayer Service is Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church.

2. Brian Terrell will facilitate this year's annual Social Justice Lenten Retreat Jan. 28 at Sacred Heart Parish. The retreat is co-hosted by the Cedar Valley Catholic Social Justice Network, St. Francis Catholic Worker, and the Cedar Falls Mennonite Church's Center for Peace and Justice.

F. Administration

1. Total reach on our Facebook page in January was 3,759 (the daily average was 121; the range was 70/490).

2. Details and live links for this report are available online at: waterloocatholics.org/afreport.htm

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegele

YAP (Young Adult People) - YAP was at Caribou Coffee in Cedar Falls on January 15. Discussion topics included purgatory, the necessity of the sacrament of Baptism, wedding planning, and structure of YAP. It was decided that each month, one woman would volunteer to facilitate and bring 3 topics to discuss in addition to the monthly updates and check-ins. *4 women attended*

Get to Know Your Neighbors - On January 11, we attended the 1 pm service at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as well as 2 hours of adult formation following the service. We learned a great deal about the Mormons and had great pizza and conversation at Mulligans afterward. *2 young adults attended*

Monthly Movie Nights with Fr. Bullock - Every 4th Friday of the month there will be a movie night with Fr. Bullock. Our first movie night was on January 23. We hosted *The Shawshank Redemption* at the Law Court Theater at Waterloo Center for the Arts. Father broke open the theological virtue of hope and other spiritual themes of redemption, evil, and eternity. It was a fruitful discussion and fantastic start to our movie nights. I was struck by two things. 1) There were at least 4 young adults that came that had just moved to the area and saw the announcements in bulletins and 2) Every person there contributed at least one thing to the discussion. *12 young adults attended*

Catholicism 101 for Young Adults - I was contacted by Kristopher Falkena, the Faith Formation Leader at St. Athanasius in Jesup to do a panel discussion of basic topics and questions in the Catholic Faith. Kristopher presented on the Eucharist/Mass, Msgr. Lyle Wilgenbusch presented on Pope Francis and the Church, and I presented on prayer. Participants could ask questions pertaining to the topics or any other questions they had. Great questions were asked. I am considering collaborating with Kristopher to offer these periodically throughout the year. *9 young adults attended, 3 were from Waterloo*

Adult Confirmation - We are halfway through the Adult Confirmation sessions. Chris Mitchell is the catechist and I have begun to reach out to the candidates and will continue to connect them to young adult ministry. *There are 2 young adults going through the process.*

220 East - We are in the final phase of renting 220 East, a building on 4th street in the heart of downtown Waterloo for two months to use for Lenten programming and to see if it might work as a possibility for a space dedicated to faith formation and evangelization in the future. We will be praying and discussing this in the next two months to discover if this is a direction we want to go in or not.

Lenten Small Groups - I am collaborating with Adult Faith Formation to put together opportunities for Lent. The thrust of Young Adult Ministry will be small faith sharing groups and plugging into additional Adult Faith Formation Lenten opportunities including

our Lenten Enrichment for all adults and RCIA and RCRA candidates and catechumens. I have been meeting with and training facilitators for the 4 young adult groups. Groups are structured so that adults can choose a group based on a topic they are interested in or a time that is convenient. Registration will be online and in parishes with a deadline of February 9 and groups will begin the week of February 22-28.

Open to all Young Adults (18-39)

- 1) Scripture: Connection to the Cross, Year B Sunday
Readings - Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm
- 2) Theology of the Body - Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm
- 3) The Temperament God Gave You - Mondays, 8-9 pm
- 4) Family Matters: Mission to Love - day & time TBD

Open to all Adults (18+)

- 5) Pope Francis & The Joy of the Gospel, Men's Group -
Saturdays, 9-10 am
- 6) Pope Francis & The Joy of the Gospel, Women's Group -
Saturdays, 9-10 am
- 7) Priest, Prophet, King: Robert Baron - Mondays 6:30-8 pm
- 8) Bridges to Contemplative Living - Saturdays, 9-10 am

See waterloocatholics.org/lent for more info on topics, dates, locations, and online registration.

Registration deadline is February 9.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - We continue to work on building subscribers to Flocknote. (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *63 young adults have subscribed*
- Facebook - (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) *97 young adults have liked the page.*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Winter at the Cellar - Jan 19 & 29 (AFF)
 - Taize Prayer - January 25 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
 - Winter Mini-Retreat - January 25 (AFF & American Martyrs)
 - Catholicism 101 - January 25 (St. Athanasius, Jesup)
 - Catholic Witness Hour - January 26 (AFF & St. Patrick)
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Promoting:

- Lenten Small Group Opportunities (AFF)
- Winter at the Cellar - Feb 2 & 9 (AFF)
- Hunger Outreach Service Project - Feb 11 (Waterloo Parishes, CVCS, & Blessed Sacrament)
- Taize Prayer - February 22 (AFF & First Baptist)
- Social Justice Lenten Retreat - February 28 (AFF & Sacred Heart)

In process:

- Adoration Hour
- Parent Faithtext subscription
- Men's Bible Study - will target the men who played flag football
- Community Meal at the Catholic Worker
- Catholicism 101
- Theology Boot Camp

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- February 9 - will be attending the Archdiocesan Young Adult Ministry Workshop
- Spiritual Direction

Children & Family Catechesis
Cathy Mills

Religious Education

Wednesday evening R.E. program continues. Classroom activities in January focused on Epiphany, the Holy family and the Baptism of the Lord.

Ten families have signed up to serve at the Hunger Project hosted at Blessed Sacrament on Feb. 11th. The families will attend the event in lieu of attending class that evening.

A survey has been made available for families to complete regarding their interest in Sunday R.E. The link was posted in the January Faith Formation parish bulletin newsletter and in the January Wed. R.E. newsletter. 24 people completed the on-line survey. Paper copies of the survey were distributed on Wed. Jan. 28th. Survey results will be given in the February report. Mailings to non-registered parish families will happen when the PDS system can accommodate the request.

Catechist Formation

Catechist have been gathering for a Catechist Formation series developed around St. Paul's journey to Emmaus. It includes a group and personal reflection component.

During Lent we will utilize the Archdiocese Faith Formation Sessions on the Family developed by the Office of Family Life.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

CLOW continues at all parishes. There is no change at this time. Rosario is currently trying to increase the number of QOP leaders so CLOW could be offered weekly.

Blessed Sac weekly at Sunday 10:30 Mass average 15 children.

QOP 2nd & 4th Sunday Noon Spanish Mass average 50 children.

St. Ed's 1st Sunday 9:00am 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday 11:00am average 15.

Sacred Heart 2nd & 4th Sunday 10:45 average 15 children.

Vacation Bible School

The Parent Core Team will meet in February to establish choice of program, facility use and determine sub committees for program stations.

Religion Curriculum

Religious Education programs will adopt the new curriculum series "Be My Disciples published by RCL Benzinger fall 2015. This program emphasizes learning and practicing the skills and habits, virtues and spiritual gifts that lead youth to higher levels of moral thinking. Each chapter has a Family page to enhance communication with families. There is an on-line component for students, parents and catechists at www.bemydisciples.com that offers a wide range of activities and information.

I will be attending the Archdiocese Religion Curriculum Meeting for Faith Formation Leaders in March.

CVCS prek - 5

I will be creating a Reconciliation Prayer Service and accompanying lesson plans for the CVCS schools grade 2-5. Each building will host their individual service during Lent.

DIACORE

Faith Formation leaders met in January to discuss the upcoming Catechist In service on March 4th. We will be hosting a Holy Hour with Archbishop Jackels and Fr. Schatz at St. Edward's Parish. Everyone will be invited to attend and catechists will have a 30 minute question answer session following with Archbishop and Fr, Schatz.

Professional Development

DIAOCRE book and discussion *Redeeming Administration*

Monthly Eucharist Adoration at Columbus

Taize Prayer Sacred Heart Church 1/25

High School Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School Youth Ministry

Youth Nights:

Jan. 11th: Game Night. 22 students got together to play Apples to Apples, Catch Phrase and shoot pool. This was a purely social event that was a lot of fun.

Jan. 17th: Mass, Pizza & Bowling: 13 students attended this evening that began with all of us gathering for 4:30pm mass at Blessed Sacrament. We headed over to Doughy Joey's for pizza. Again, many in the restaurant commented on how polite the students were and how nice it was that we prayed before we ate. We spent about 45 minutes at the youth office playing pool before heading to Cadillac Lanes for galaxy bowling.

Jan. 25th: Taize Prayer at Sacred Heart. 7 students attended this evening of prayer. The students really enjoyed the experience and want to make this a monthly event. They were very moved by the music and candles. Others in attendance commented on how nice it was to see young people there. We went to Culvers for ice cream and discussion after the prayer service.

Bible Study:

Jan. 7th & 21st: 3-5 students attend this weekly student led group. We read the readings for the upcoming weekend and discuss. We have great discussions that lead to ideas of how we bring young

people more into the church.

CORE:

Currently 32 freshman and sophomores are attending CORE on Wednesday nights. Brenton Kuchera is teaching the 9th grade class about prayer. William Brandle is teaching the 10th grade class about Sacraments and Morality.

On Feb. 4th we will be doing mass and reconciliation with the students.

On Feb. 11th, students are invited to be part of the hunger outreach event at Blessed Sacrament. They either need to attend that event OR be in class. Someone will be at the hunger event to take attendance for those who registered.

During Lent, as part of their youth ministry time at CORE, students will plan and lead Stations of the Cross.

NCYC:

We are now at 71 students and 11 adults registered for NCYC 2015. The archdiocese is offering scholarships and several students in our group have been encouraged to apply. Fundraising plans will be made in February.

Confirmation:

The metro retreat is Jan. 31st. John Angotti will be with us to share his faith and gift of song. 36 high school seniors and college students have been working hard to plan this day. Students will be in small groups, hear wonderful witness talks from several students, experience 4 "service" stations that include writing letters to soldiers, making baby blankets for Birthright, making pet toys for the Humane Society and filling pairs of socks with small supplies that can be given to the homeless in our community.

89 students will be celebrating the sacrament of confirmation! Our metro mass with Archbishop Jackels will be Feb. 1st at 2pm at Columbus. John Angotti will be leading the music with the help of the CHS choir. Readings will be in Burmese, Spanish and English. Thanks to CHS for being so accommodating and allowing us to use their space. Also thanks to James Larsen for rounding up all the "stuff" we need for mass and for designing the floor plan for the liturgy.

Professional Development:

I am participating in a series of NCYC webinars offered by the Archdiocese. The webinars are designed for group leaders to get information about the trip, find new fundraising ideas, learn how to make this trip more than a trip and to ask questions. These webinars happen the second Friday of each month.

Coming Up:

Feb. 4th: Bible study, CORE mass and reconciliation

Feb. 8th: Battle of the Sexes

Feb. 11th: CORE, Hunger Outreach at Blessed Sacrament

Feb. 15th: What is Love? (Upperclassmen night)

Feb. 18th: NO CORE - Ash Wednesday

Feb. 21st: Martha and Mary conference in Dubuque

Feb. 22nd: Lent: Die and Rise Anew

Feb. 24th: WAYM

Feb. 25th: Bible study, CORE

Feb. 25-28th: Annie will be chaperoning the CHS music trip to Nashville

Burmese Ministry
Pam Johnston

Burmese Ministry

I will begin another session of RCIA for two young Burmese men.

One of them is actually a student at CHS, but is not baptized.

First Communion classes for 2nd graders begin January 30th.

First Communion classes for 3 older Burmese students who attend public schools will begin in mid-February.

Sacramental Prep
Pam Johnston & Dave
Cushing

Sacramental Preparation

There are now 114 children in 2nd grade who are preparing for First Communion. Two of these children are not baptized, so may need to delay receiving communion. 19 children are Latino and 6 children are Burmese.

Dave and I are doing follow-up appointments with 15 parents who did not attend a First Communion parent meeting.

We will be finalizing plans for the retreats very soon. We are offering 3 retreats and asking parents/children to choose one date to attend. Children's Initiation update: We have 32 students participating in this six-week program: 29 Latino and 3 Anglo students in grades 3-8. The catechists are Mary Cushing, Becky Keeling, and Jodi Bauler.
