

High School Youth Ministry:  
Submitted by Annie Zeets

### **July/August Happenings:**

The year began with a major cleaning of the youth office at Columbus. Many years of junk had accumulated in our storage closet, so I went through everything and hauled 550 pounds of garbage to the city dump. I am still working on organizing office supplies and files. The middle school students who were participating in Serve 'n Slide on July 22nd came over and helped me move a bookcase and reload all the books.

July 27<sup>th</sup>: Kick-Off for high school youth group. **36 students attended this very informal night.** We spent about an hour talking about what the students would like to see happen this year in youth ministry and eating lots of ice cream. We had a great mix of Columbus students and public school students, nearly half and half!

Ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Starting a praise and worship band
- Topic Nights
- Witness talks
- Adoration/New prayer experiences
- Peer Leader team to work with the middle school youth group
- Catholic karaoke night
- Overnight homelessness awareness campout
- Trip to a seminary and/or convent
- Technology-free lock-in/retreat

July 29<sup>th</sup>: I met with a few students who are highly motivated and interested in starting a bible study. I am in the process of ordering materials to look over and approve. It was decided that 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be invited to be part of this initial bible study. If it goes well and there is more interest, we will open it up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

August 5<sup>th</sup>: I attended the FFL & CSA day at Blessed Maria. Alan Hunt was the keynote speaker.

August 11<sup>th</sup>: Attended monthly WAYM meeting.

August 17<sup>th</sup>: Back to School Bash. 45 students attended! Grilled out, played pool, bags, ladder golf. Thank you to the pastors, Deacon Ray and Pat Wiss for stopping by. Thank you to my husband for hauling the grill over and cooking. The evening ended with a prayer service for a great school year and sharing of personal intentions.

August 24<sup>th</sup>: 6:30-8pm: Youth office open. 15 kids came just to hang out and shoot pool.

August 27<sup>th</sup>: 6:30-8pm: Youth office open

### **Coming Up:**

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>: Bowling at Cadillac Lanes. \$7 per bowler

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>: Informational meeting for Hispanic families for Confirmation and CORE at QP.

Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>: Topic Night: Forgiveness. Lesson based on Alan Hunt book I received at the FFL/CSA day on Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>: Confirmation informational meeting for all juniors and their parents at QP.

Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>: Topic Night: Tough Topics: Students will submit tough things they want to discuss for me to pre-approve and research Catholic teachings. Then topics will be thrown into a jar and students will pull out of the jar and we will discuss and debate.

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation informational meeting for all juniors and their parents at QP.

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>: #ServiceSaturday: This will be a quick fire response event. First 5-10 students to call/text/email me to sign up are in. We will meet at CHS, kids will bring their own lunch & we head out from 10am-2pm for service. We will come back to CHS to wrap up the day with discussion and prayer, ending at 3pm. We will be joining other youth groups from WAYM for this monthly event.

Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>: Movie Night: "God's Not Dead"

### **Down the Road:**

\*Christian band "Tenth Avenue North" is coming to the Gallagher Bluedorn on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Many students are familiar with their music as I have used many of their songs/videos at the annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat each year. We will gather to eat at HyVee and then attend the concert. This event is hosted by WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministry). Tickets are \$20 each with the group rate.

\*The archdiocesan youth rally is Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center. An estimated 1200 teens from all over the archdiocese are anticipated. Jesse Manibusan, who was the emcee for NCYC 2013 and was in Waterloo last winter, will be the keynote speaker. I am hoping Waterloo will bring at least 50 students. Chaperones are needed, please let me know if you would like to join us! Cost is \$40/student or adult.

\*NCYC 2015 planning will begin in September. Group estimates are due to the archdiocese by Oct. 1.

\*I have made contact with the East and West High School. Both will allow me to come in before school with donuts. The only requirements are I stop by the office when I arrive to get a visitor pass and I need to leave the building 5 minutes before the final bell rings. I will begin visiting the schools in October after CORE classes begin. I have a call in to Cedar Falls High School to try and get in there as well.

\* Columbus senior Andy Koch is taking Ms. Wiss 8<sup>th</sup> hour service class. He will be spending several days a week with me in the youth office doing service. A few examples: cataloging all my resource materials, painting a bookshelf, hanging pictures, organizing files, stuffing envelopes for bulk mailings.

\* I am planning to attend the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) in December in San Antonio. I have applied for a scholarship through the National Federation and the Diocese.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or stop by the youth office to say hello!

Annie Zeets: 233-3358 ext. 134 or email me: [dbqwcym@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcym@dbqarch.org)

Children & Family K-8:  
Submitted by Cathy Mills

**Wednesday Evening Religious Education**

We are preparing for the kickoff of the Wed. RE program. QOP & SH have shared a combined program for 6 years. This will be our first year as a Metro program involving all four parishes. We have projected 160 children, not including incoming K & 1st grade.

The program will be held in the SH school building on Wed. evenings from 6:15 –7:30pm. Orientation Night is Wed. Sept. 17th. Julie Hussey is the Coordinator of Religious Education. Her office is located in the SH school building.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

SH, SE & BLSAC currently have CLOW programs during varied Mass times. The CLOW team determined a set schedule for the parishes honoring the existing program and leaders. We will begin to utilize the same material. There are two Coordinators of CLOW for our parishes. Below is an outline of the proposed schedule:

#### **Stacie Mills**

St. Ed's 1st/ 3rd Sunday 9:00 Mass

SH 2nd / 4th Sunday 10:45 Mass

#### **Julie Hussey**

BLSAC every Sunday 10:30 Mass

QOP 2nd / 4th Hispanic Noon Mass

#### **Rosario Gonzalez Hispanic Liaison**

CVCS Pre k – 8<sup>th</sup>

The WCFF team is in dialogue regarding the relationship between the Director of Children & Family Catechesis and the CVCS elementary schools. We know retaining and building this relationship is vital for a strong faith community. I will be contacting the building administrators to discuss the best way to get to know the teachers/staff in each site. We look forward to sharing resources and continuing the spirit of collaboration.

#### **Parish Libraries**

The WCFF team has determined that an area of support for the parishes would be to oversee the current parish libraries. I have met with Ellen Voegele at St. Ed's and have set a date to speak with Nancy Rigel of SH. I will coordinate also with the volunteer from BL SAC.

#### **Young Adult Ministry Report**

Submitted by Ellen Voegele

**Connection Cards** – Often times, when young adults move out into the world and away from their families, they may lose connection with their home parish. We are seeking to help young adults to feel like an integral part of their parish community even while they may be away at school or starting a new career, or family. We are initiating a plan to periodically connect with college students, newly married couples, young adults living on their own, etc. through cards and care packages to let them know of our support and prayers. I am working with parents to collect contact information for our young adults and am recruiting volunteers in each of the parishes to help personalize cards and assemble care packages. If you know of young adults that would like to receive a note in the mail or volunteers to help with this ministry, please send names and addresses to [dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org).

**Men's Flag Football League** – Brenton Kuchera and William Brandle are starting a men's intramural flag football league from September 13 to October 25. Games will be played on Saturday mornings. Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring this to start to build community among young adults. This meets one of our goals to make initial connections with young adults through what they are already doing and participating in.

**Christ Our Life** – I will be attending the Christ Our Life conference in Des Moines on September 20-21 and decided to host lunch for any young adults from the Cedar Valley that will be attending. We will eat at Buzzard Billy's, a restaurant that is close to Wells Fargo Arena.

**Flocknote** – **Flocknote** is a communications tool that we are piloting with young adults. It allows subscribers to update their own contact information and to choose what information they want to receive and how (email, text, phone call). It also allows easy updating of social media, websites, newsletters, etc.

**Young Adult Ministry Online** – I am in the process of creating a webpage on [waterloocatholics.org](http://waterloocatholics.org) for young adult ministry as well as Facebook and twitter accounts. All faith formation staff are now on board with Google Calendar and we will be embedding our Google Calendars onto websites soon.

**Visioning & Strategic Planning** – I am continuing to research, meet with young adults, and gather information to put together a vision for Young Adult Ministry. Some initial thoughts include:

- Forming young adults who are currently engaged in the life of the Church in evangelization and intentional discipleship
- Intentionally connecting with young adults in our current programs including baptism prep, marriage prep, RCRA/RCIA, etc.
- Connecting with organizations that currently have young adults on staff including CVCS
- Using what young adults are currently doing to connect with them – recreational sports leagues, color runs, etc.
- Plugging young adults into existing Adult Faith Formation programming and parish ministries.
- Focusing on technology and more effective ways to acquire and store information and communication

## **Adult Formation**

Submitted by Dave Cushing

[Live links and updates are online at [waterloocatholics.org/AFreport](http://waterloocatholics.org/AFreport)]

1. Information meetings for adults and young adults interested in joining the Catholic Church will be held on Sept. 15 (7:00p) at St. Patrick's and Wednesday, Sept. 17 (6:30p) at Blessed Sacrament.
2. The Rite of Christian Reception for individuals who have been baptized in another Christian tradition begins on Thursday, Sept. 25 (6:30-8:00p) and meets for eight weeks at Blessed Sacrament.
3. The Rite of Christian Initiation for unbaptized individuals begins on Wednesday, Oct. 1 (6:30-8:00p) at St. Edward Parish.
4. 5 families attended the Baptism class in August. The next Baptism preparation class is Sept. 13 at Sacred Heart.
5. The next Catholic Witness Hour is Monday, Sept. 29 (6:30-7:30p) at St. Edward Parish. The Witness Hour will be held every other month in the Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Gilbertville parishes this year.
6. The Singles Group meets Sept. 13 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.
7. A total of 155 people attended the five Summer at the Cellar programs this year.
8. 150 people are registered for the Matthew Kelly program Nov. 22 at St. Edward.
9. The video series The Bible Timeline begins on Sept. 15 and meets on Monday evenings (6:30-8:00p) in the Rectory Classroom at Sacred Heart for 12 weeks.
10. The Catholic Readers Book Club holds its first meeting of the year Sept. 8 in the Rectory at Queen of Peace Parish.

11. An open house for married couples interested in First Tuesday will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 (7:00p) at The Cellar Lounge.
12. A Coming Home Retreat for Veterans will be held Sept. 19-21 at American Martyrs Retreat House. American Martyrs Retreat House, Cedar Falls.
13. Worldwide Marriage Encounters are planned this fall on Sept. 26-28 in Altoona and on Oct. 17-19 in Cedar Falls.
14. A Renewal Day for Spanish-Speaking Couples is planned for Saturday, Sept. 20. (8:00a-4:30p) at Queen of Peace Parish.
15. We are advertising for individuals who wish to join a prayer group and hope to form new prayer groups early this fall.
16. Ellen and I are investigating an email system called FlockNotes, which we think would work better than First Class or GoogleMail for adult and young adult ministry.
17. I have placed ads for the Waterloo parishes in the Courier's Welcome Back Students and Welcome Newcomers editions and a Fall Festival ad in the August 31 Celebrations section.

### **Sacrament Preparation**

Submitted by Dave Cushing

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1. Information Meetings for parents whose children will be preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this fall will be held on Sunday, Sept. 28 (1:00p) at Queen of Peace Parish; Monday, Sept. 29 (6:30p) and Tuesday, Sept. 30 (6:30p) at Blessed Sacrament Parish.