

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
October 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 04 candidates are enrolled in the fall RCRA series which began Sept. 24. We are meeting on Monday evenings at COR to accommodate one of the candidates who is in a wheelchair and lives downtown.

> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>

2. **RCIA.** 03 catechumens will be enrolled in the RCIA this year. They will be attending the monthly catechetical sessions at COR and meeting with a spiritual guide and parish companion at other times during the month.

3. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families participated in Baptism preparation in September. The next Baptism preparation class is Oct. 8 at Sacred Heart Parish.

> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWWJSY/>

B. Evangelization

1. **Alpha for Catholics.** About 30 people are participating in the fall Alpha series which meets on Wednesday evenings at St. Edward Parish. The winter season for members of Queen of Peace and Sacred Heart Parishes will begin February 7 and meet on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>

3. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 90 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Sept. 24 at Blessed Sacrament. The next Witness Hour is November 12 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

4. **Community Forum.** A Community Forum on sexual violence is scheduled Oct. 16 at COR. Gwen Bramlet-Hecker of Riverview Center will discuss the impact of sexual violence, the challenges of recovering from sexual abuse, and resources that are available to help victims and their families.

> Learn more: waterloocatholics.org/community-forum

5. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Oct. 17 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is October 24 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

6. **Sexual Abuse Crisis.** I am continuing to post various reflections on the sexual abuse crisis on our Waterloo Catholics webpage. The reflections, from a variety of perspectives, address the concerns and confusion Catholics may feel because of recent revelations about abuse by priests and other church employees.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/reflections-on-sexual-abuse>

7. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for September was 3,217 (daily average:111; daily range: 68/202).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is October 15 at COR; the topic is "Why Read the

Bible?" These discussion sessions are designed for participants in the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.

2. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Life.** 04 people attended the BCGCL on sharing faith Sept. 18.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>

3. **Bible Timeline.** The Bible Timeline video series scheduled to begin Sept. 24 was cancelled due to a lack of registrations. Instead, we will be offering Jeff Cavins video series on the Book of Acts which will begin Oct. 8 and meet on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.

4. **Authors Forum.** An Authors Forum is scheduled for Oct. 23 at COR. Dr. Radhi Al-Mabuk and Dr. Len Froyen will discuss their new book, "Gateway to Forgiveness and Beyond" which describes a process of forgiveness leading to healing and reconciliation.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/author-forum>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Parish Mission.** We have begun advertising the parish mission, "The Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul," which will be held Nov. 4, 5 and 6 at Blessed Sacrament. In addition to bulletin announcements, we plan to use standing banners in Blessed Sacrament, Queen of Peace and Sacred Heart churches, posters and a bulletin insert Oct. 21.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/waterloo-parish-mission/>

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The first Critical Choices workshop of the year is schedule for Nov. 7 at Sacred Heart Parish. These workshops explore important personal, spiritual and medical decisions which families face at the time of an emergency or when a loved one is dying.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>

E. Interfaith

1. **Holocaust Survivor's Presentation.** Steen Metz will discuss his experience as a young child whose family was deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in October, 1943. The presentation is sponsored by the Hearst Center and the UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the rescue of Danish Jews in the Fall of 1943.

2. **Knowing Your Neighbors--Sharing Sacred Seasons.** The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council is hosting this series for local communities of faith to learn about the holy days and traditions of those around us. The second event of this series will be on Sunday, October 4 at Queen of Peace Church; it will focus on how Hispanic Catholics celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing (dbqwfcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. Team Evaluation

The Team has received a preliminary summary from the Archdiocesan Evaluation Team. We will be meeting with the Archdiocesan Team to discuss the summary later this month. Following that conversation, the Archdiocesan Team will prepare a final report which will be distributed to the Team, the pastors, the Faith Formation Commission, and any other interested stakeholders.

2. Faith Formation Outreach

The Team has met with the parish administrative assistants and expressed our desire to have regular updates on new parish members. As a result, the administrative assistants will now forward contact information for new parish members to Becky, who will contact new members with information about faith formation and school opportunities in the parishes. In addition, Becky will share the contact information with individual Team members who may contact new members about specific faith formation programs (eg., adult formation, young adult ministry, youth ministry, etc.)

K-12 Religious Education

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. Religious Education Fall Enrollment

As of Sept. 26 there were 57 students enrolled in the Wednesday evening program at Sacred Heart. It is likely that Wednesday evening enrollment will grow in the weeks ahead due to late registration.

The Sunday morning program at Blessed Sacrament will start on October 7; as of Oct. 1 34 students were pre-registered for the Sunday morning program.

2. Religious Education Recruitment

We will continue to contact families whose children were enrolled in religious education in past year but have not registered this year, as well as families whose children have left Cedar Valley Catholic Schools. Once we have more reliable figures on this fall's religious education enrollment we will begin contacting families whose children are not enrolled in Catholic schools or parish religious education.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Five parent info meetings for First Reconciliation (in various languages) were held Sept. 24-30. Am doing follow-up with parents who did not attend a meeting. Will have the number of participants for the November report.
- Have gotten all necessary materials to school teachers and 2nd grade catechists.

PREP (Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation for gr. 3-8) & Children's Initiation

- Will likely offer the three PREP classes for First Reconciliation after the first of the year . . . in time for the Feb. 20 RE Reconciliation service. This is instead of a fall program that would need to finish by Nov. 14. The later start time gives students more time in their religious ed class and allows for late registrations.

Confirmation

- Candidate/Parent info sessions were held on Oct. 12 and 16. Am still tracking down candidates - from both public school and CHS who did not attend a meeting. Will have participation numbers ready for the November report.
- Enrollment Masses in parishes will be on October 7: Blessed Sacrament @ 10:30; Sacred Heart @ 10:45; St. Ed's at 11:00, and Queen of Peace at 9:00 and Noon. Candidates will sign a book to signify the start of their journey toward Confirmation and sit together during Mass. There will be recognition of them in the Prayers of the Faithful and a blessing sometime during the Mass.
- Class #1 will be held at Queen of Peace Scallon Hall - on Oct. 7 from 2-4 pm or Oct. 10 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Topic will be Sacraments of Initiation. We have purchased YouCat books for Candidates this year and will incorporate it into the class session.

Children's Liturgy of the Word CLOW begins at the 9:00 Mass St. Ed's on Oct. 7. There are six adult volunteers for the program there. Blessed Sacrament has discontinued its CLOW program until they can find more adult leader or adolescent helpers. They want to be sure there are always 2 adults/young adults in each CLOW session. CLOW continues 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH.

Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave.

- Will attend a second Advent Planning meeting at St. Ed's in mid-October; will help communicate any metro-wide planning to the FF Team and other parishes.
- Attended first meeting MAC group (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting of the year Sept. 27. I am the group's facilitator again this year.
- Will attend Archdiocesan Pastoral Leaders Study Day on Oct. 16. Topic is "Vocations."
- Am sending "catechetical resources" ideas to CVCS administrators at the beginning of each month.

Ellen Kuchera
COR & Young Adult Ministry
dbqwcya@dbqarch.org

Ellen is on maternity leave until November 19th.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

- Sept. 9: Back to school pizza and prayer
- Sept. 12: Prepared and served Catholic Daughter's 100th anniversary dinner at St. Eds
- Sept. 16: Topic night: How faith can help you get through the stress of high school
- Sept. 29: Service Saturday: Yard work at Hospitality House
- Sept. 30: Topic night: Finding joy in a difficult world

Coming Up

- Sept. 30: Topic Night: Finding Joy in a Difficult World. 6:00pm-7:30pm in the CHS youth office
- Oct. 7: Movie Night: "I Can Only Imagine" 6:00pm-8:00pm in the CHS youth office
- Oct. 23: NCYC 2019 information/registration meeting: 6:30pm at St. Edward in the church basement
- Oct. 24: NCYC 2019 information/registration meeting: 6:30pm at Columbus Catholic High School in the commons
- Oct. 27: Service Opportunity: Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat event @COR

Middle School

- Sept. 4: BMAP after school club: Getting to know you day
- Sept. 16: BMAP after school club: Topic: stepping out of the boat and becoming a disciple
- Sept. 23: Pizza and game night at the youth office

Coming Up

- Oct. 2: BMAP after school club
- Oct. 16: BMAP after school club
- Oct. 20: Archdiocesan middle school "Youth Jam"
- Oct. 26: Movie Night

YDisciple

- One men's and one women's group will continue: Leaders are Jeff Lappe and Danny Zeets for the men. Anastasia Nicklaus and Shannon Byerle for the women.
- Will be adding 6 freshman to Jeff and Danny's group who lost 4 and were left with 2 or 3
- Contacted Deacon Real to discuss roll out within Hispanic community
- Contacted all families who attended a spring meeting.
- Working on calling, emailing families with students in high school to recruit

- Bulletin announcements sent asking for adult leaders
- Have recruited one new female leader for women's 9th grade group
- Working on offering another public meeting about the program

Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave
- Monthly MAC meetings
- Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
- Newly appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as the deanery Youth Ministry representative
- Lead team member for archdiocesan middle school "Youth Jam" happening at Blessed Maria on Oct. 20
- Attending Pastoral Study Day on Oct. 16

Office Manager Becky McElroy

Meetings:

Preparing agenda's, updating information, and sending out meeting agenda's and minutes from the FFAT meetings.

Staff/Office

- Support staff with ongoing needs.
- Daily office duties.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.
- Preparing financial reports.
- Taking care of accounts payable.
- Mailings for Fall RE and letters to new members of the Parishes.
- Will be responsible for getting subs for RE classes and taking phone calls from parents.
- Building spreadsheets for Sunday and Wednesday RE Registrations. Making sure all registration paperwork is complete.
- Helped with registrations for Fall RE at Sacred Heart on Wed. evenings.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave. Will be checking emails for Ellen, taking calls.
- Completing all paperwork for Catechists and getting information out to all staff for the Safe Environment Training that needs to be completed.
- Will be the Coordinator of Sunday RE at Blessed Sacrament which starts Oct. 7th.
- Will attend the Pastoral Study Day for the Arch on October 16th.