

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
December 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The fall RCRA series will conclude on December 3. Three of the candidates will be ready to celebrate Confirmation at Queen of Peace Parish; one of the candidates will celebrate the Rite of Reception/First Communion and Confirmation at St. Edward Parish.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family and 02 baptism sponsors attended the Baptism preparation class Nov. 10. The next preparation class is Dec. 10 at St. Edward 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. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 45 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour November 12 at Sacred Heart. The next Witness Hour is February 25 at St. Edward Parish.

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

2. **Alpha for Catholics.** The Alpha series for Queen of Peace and Sacred Heart members will begin February 7 and meet on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish. We will begin publicizing the series after the first of the year.

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

3. **Community Forum.** The next Community Forum is Dec. 17 at COR. Grief counselor Maureen Doherty will discuss the challenges of grieving during the holidays.

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

4. **Singles Ministry.** Friends in Faith will sponsor a potluck and Christmas Party Dec. 8 in Putz Hall at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

5. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Jan. 16 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is January 23 at COR.

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

6. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for November was 5,872 (daily average:196; daily range: 81/1,491).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Life.** 07 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent on November 29. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for December 13.

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

2. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is December 17 at COR; the topic is "Prayer--Our Relationship to God." 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.** 07 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent on November 29. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for December 13.

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

3. **Winter Forum Series.** I have begun planning for the Winter Forum enrichment series. Three presenters are confirmed, pending specific dates: Fr. Jerry Kopacek, Dr. Todd Green, and Dr. Charlotte

Wells.

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Parish Mission.** A total of 310 people attended the Parish Mission Nov. 4-6 at Blessed Sacrament: attendance Sunday evening was 150; Monday evening: 80 and Tuesday evening: 80. In addition, 228 people viewed the mission talks on the Blessed Sacrament web page (total 13.4 hrs) and 374 viewed the talks on the Blessed Sacrament Facebook page (12.52 hrs).

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** 03 people attended the Critical Choices workshop 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. The next workshop is Feb. 20 at St. Edward Parish.

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

3. **Online Advent Retreat.** "The Savior Among Us" is the theme for this year's Online Advent Retreat Dec. 10-16. Each day, participants will receive a reflection from Pope Francis, a reflective prayer and a scripture reading. There will also be an opportunity for participants to share their own thoughts and to read the observations of other participants.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/online-advent-retreat>

E. Interfaith

1. **Knowing Your Neighbors--Sharing Sacred Seasons.** About 30 people attended the Know Your Neighbors session on Our Lady of Guadalupe Nov. 4 at Queen of Peace Parish. The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council is hosting this series for local communities of faith to learn about the holy seasons and traditions of other faith traditions.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-board>

Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. Ellen is back from maternity leave and working 30 hours a week. We have made arrangements so that some of that time she can be working from home.

2. We have begun advertising for a part-time Evangelization Coordinator who would work about 16 hours a week and be primarily responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising events at COR.

3. Now that Ellen is back, the Team will take up the fall evaluation conducted by the Archdiocesan staff after the first of the year.

4. Members of the Team have been visiting with the pastors to discuss parish concerns and needs related to religious education of children and youth. We will use this information to guide our discussions about the future of our religious education programs.

5. Team will meet with Tom Novotney, CEO of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, after the first of the year to discuss Faith Formation's needs regarding space and facilities for offices and programs in the reconfigured CVCS buildings this summer and next year.

K-12 Religious Education

Team

K-8 Religious Education:

Wednesday RE

- Catechists: K/1 - Rod & Mary Crowe, 2nd - Dee Wilberding with volunteer helpers Vicki Cutsforth and Donna Thiessen, 3rd - Annette Mayer, 4th - Renae Brandle, 5th - Brittany Markley, 6th - Rusty Claypool, 7th-8th - Glenda Schmitz

- 59 students registered (By parish: BS - 3; QP - 34; SE - 6; SH - 16)
- Reconciliation service for gr. 3-8 and parents was Nov. 14

Sunday RE

- Catechists: K/1 - Rod & Mary Crowe, 2nd - Heather Dice with volunteer helper Erin McGrane, 3rd/4th - Rebecca Carrier, 5th/6th/7th - Brittany Markley.
- 40 students registered (By parish: BS - 31, QP - 2, SE - 5, SH - 2)
- Classes take turns going to Reconciliation with Fr. Tony after the 8:30 Mass. Next up is gr. 3/4 on Dec. 16. (All grades attended the 8:30 Mass on Dec. 2)
- Currently Sunday RE meets every other Sunday morning from 8:15 to 10:15am. The program started in October and was scheduled to continue through the first weekend of May. We discussed changing the 2nd semester to go 8 weeks in a row ending before spring break on March 10th. Some of the reason for this change was the amount of time between classes, especially if a student missed a week, and what they are retaining with long periods between class, and a lot of absence during the spring with spring activities. With this we also looked at changing the start time to 8:30am. We mailed a survey to the families in Sunday RE and had a positive response from most families to change to the 8 week session ending in March so we have decided that we will be doing this for the 2nd semester, starting on January 20th and ending on March 10th. We will start at 8:30am and end at 10:15am.
- Family Night
- Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6:00-7:30 at Sacred Heart School. Families will visit stations to learn about the characters in a Nativity creche. Many thanks to Mary and Rod Crowe for their creative planning!
- Invitation to Family Night will be extended to the Sunday and Summer RE families. Notices will be sent to parish bulletins and to CVCS administrators.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- 21 children along with one or both parents attended the optional Reconciliation Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 am - noon at Sacred Heart Church. All 9 Burmese children with parent(s) attended the Burmese retreat (Fr. Luigi assisting) on Sunday, Nov. 18
- 84 second graders and 17 P.R.E.P. students from grades 3-7 were scheduled to celebrate First Reconciliation Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart and Dec. 5 at Blessed Sacrament.
- Along with First Reconciliation certificates, parents received an evaluation survey and information about First Communion prep. Parent meetings will be held in January.

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

- PREP classes for Reconciliation are finished. I will be doing a make-up session for four children who missed their last class. These children will celebrate the sacrament at a later date.
- PREP classes for First Communion begin after Spring Break.

Confirmation

- Retreat for Candidates and their Sponsors (or a parent) was on Sunday, Nov. 11 from Noon - 3 pm at Blessed Sacrament. A make-up activity for the Candidate and Sponsor (or parent) to do together was provided for those who couldn't make the retreat.
- Class #2 will be at Sacred Heart on Sunday, Dec. 9 (in the gym) and Wednesday, Dec. 12 (in O'Hagan Hall). Topic will be Holy Spirit, grace.

Children's Liturgy of the Word CLOW meets weekly at the 9:00 Mass at St. Ed's, and at the 10:30 Mass at Blessed Sacrament. CLOW continues 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH. Since Blessed Sacrament CLOW has recently resumed, I'll offer a "brush-up" training with them in early January.

Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Will attend MAC group (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting Dec. 13.
- Am assisting with two Faith Sharing groups at Columbus (twice a month)

- Am sending “catechetical resources” ideas to CVCS administrators at the beginning of each month.
- Met with 2nd grade students at St. Edward and Sacred Heart schools who were preparing for Baptism. Assisted families in arranging for the Baptism. In January will begin to meet with two Congolese 5th graders at St. Edward School. One will prepare for full initiation, the other will prepare for First Sacraments.

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

COR AT 220 EAST:

- Movie Night this month will be on December 21 with a showing of Treasure of the Sierra Madre and a focus on the deadly sin of greed. Thank you to Anastasia Nicklaus, Brett Rauzi, and Becky Hargreaves for covering while I was on maternity leave. January movie is Millions and will show on the 18th with a focus on the virtue of generosity.
- Discussion night on Prayer, will be on December 17. Thank you to Fr. Scott Bullock and Julie Niemeyer for covering during maternity leave. January’s discussion is “Why Be Part of the Church?” on the 21st.
- COR Art Committee - working on reconvening this committee now that I’m back.
- Christmas - Thank you to Marilyn Schons, Maggie Hawkins, and Tracey Bennett who helped decorate COR for Christmas. It looks fabulous.
- Private Events - 2 private events during maternity leave with several additional requests. Thanks to Becky McElroy for fielding the requests. Two events scheduled during December so far.
- Downtown Halloween - Annie Zeets and Waterloo Catholic Youth Ministry did a FABULOUS job at decorating for COR and handing out candy. Over 500 kids stopped by for a treat.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- One social was hosted by Josh and Kathryn Van Besien this fall.
- Consulted with Archdiocese and will have team discussion about refocusing young adult ministry on utilizing the entry points of marriage prep and baptism prep.
- Will begin open tea/Scripture reflection again in January as well as a monthly schedule of socials to continue to help Catholic young adults connect with each other.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha - will begin planning for Alpha at COR this summer.

OTHER

- I have reduced my hours to 30/week and a committee is being convened to hire a part time coordinator to take on some responsibilities primarily with COR.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

*****Will be attending the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) in Tampa Dec. 2-9*****

High School

- Nov. 6: CHS faith sharing
- Nov. 11: Confirmation retreat
- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Dinner

Coming Up

- Nov. 28: Catholic Heart meeting
- Dec. 16: Advent prayer
- Dec. 23: Advent prayer
- Dec. 28: Christmas party

Middle School

- Nov. 6 & 20: BMAP after school club
- Nov. 18: Service Sunday

Coming Up:

- Dec, 11: BMAP after school club
- Dec. 16: Service Sunday
- Dec. 30: Movie Night

YDisciple

- 9/10 grade men's group had their second meeting on Nov. 14. Leaders are Jeff Lappe and Danny Zeets. 8 of the 10 young men registered attended the meeting. The group will meet again in December.
- Still working on calling, emailing families with students in high school to recruit
- Have recruited one new female leader for a women's group if we get one started
- Working on offering another public meeting about the program

NCYC 2019

- Registration is underway for NCYC 2019
- As of this report, more than 170 have registered and that number is still expected to grow
- Trip is Nov, 21-24, 2019 in Indianapolis
- Cost is \$650/person (youth and adults)
- Fundraising will begin after the first of the year and I will need all the parishes to help us raise funds for youth who will struggle with the cost of the trip

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2019

- Registration is underway for CHWC 2019
- At the time of the report, 13 youth and 2 adults have registered for the trip and I was able to add 2 additional spots so we can take a few more if interested
- Trip dates are July 7-13, 2019 in Kansas City
- Cost is between \$450-\$600 depending on what we decide for transportation
- Fundraising will begin after the first of the year and I will need all the parishes to help us raise funds for youth who will struggle with the cost of the trip

Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE;
- Monthly MAC meetings - have been asked to be our group facilitator
- Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
- Appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as the deanery Youth Ministry representative
- Will be visiting some smaller parishes in the diocese who have not taken kids to NCYC before to help them get a group going
- Webinar: "Trauma Informed Pastoral Care" through National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
- Monthly NCYC webinars
- Completed new Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training
- Helping archdiocese in planning and developing some training materials for youth ministry leaders on the "Art of Accompaniment" for NCYC chaperones/faith mentors for young people.

Service student

- Lucas Kahler continues to help me Tuesday-Friday during 8th hour. He has been instrumental in planning and leading the youth ministry involvement with the BMAP after school club. He has also helped me sort all the NCYC paperwork and does a great job keeping the youth ministry room clean and tidy.

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.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Keeping track of who has completed the Safe Environment Training that needs to be completed by the end of the year.
- Coordinator of Sunday RE at Blessed Sacrament.