

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
November 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 04 candidates are enrolled in the fall RCRA series which will continue meeting through Nov. 26.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>
2. **RCIA.** Two of the candidates in our RCIA process dropped out; the third will participate in the Hispanic preparation process because they are practicing in the Hispanic community.
3. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families participated in Baptism preparation in October. The next Baptism preparation class is Nov. 10 at Queen of Peace 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.** The fall Alpha series which meets on Wednesday evenings at St. Edward Parish will conclude on Nov. 15. Members of the team for Sacred Heart/Queen of Peace have begun inviting parishioners to participate in the Alpha series which will begin February 7 at Sacred Heart.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>
2. **Community Forum.** 03 people attended the Community Forum on sexual violence Oct. 16 at COR.
3. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Catholic Witness Hour is November 12 at Sacred Heart. Deacon Dan Rigel will be the presenter.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>
4. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Nov. 21 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is January 23 at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>
5. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for October was 4,121 (daily average:133; daily range: 80/334).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Author's Forum.** Only 1 person attended the Author's Forum Oct. 23 with Radhi Al-Mabuk and Len Froyen.
2. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is Nov. 19 at COR; the topic is "Sacraments-- Encounters with God." These discussion sessions are designed for participants in the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.
3. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Life.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent is scheduled for Nov. 29 at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Parish Mission.** Fr. Bill Rhinehart will be the speaker for the Waterloo Parishes' Mission Nov. 4, 5 and 6 at Blessed Sacrament. "The Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul" is the theme for the three-night mission

which is open to members of all Waterloo parishes.

> 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>

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>

4. **Healing Mass.** A healing Mass sponsored by the Inter-city Charismatic Prayer Group is scheduled for Nov. 13 at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville. The evening includes confession, praise and worship, Mass, charismatic intercession, and fellowship.

E. Interfaith

1. **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, Nov. 4 at Queen of Peace Church; it will focus on how Hispanic Catholics celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

Faith Formation Team Administrative Report

November 2018

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. Team Evaluation

The Team has examined the preliminary summary from the Archdiocesan Evaluation Team and requested some clarifications. We will discuss the report with the Archdiocesan staff after Ellen returns from maternity leave. 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.

K-12 Religious Education

Julie Niemeyer

Wednesday RE

- Catechists: K/1 - Rod & Mary Crowe, 2nd - Dee Wilberding with volunteer helpers Vicki Cutsforth and Donna Thissen, 3rd - Annette Mayer, 4th - Renae Brandle, 5th - Brittany Markley, 6th - Rusty Claypoo, 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 will be Nov. 14

Sunday RE

- Catechists: K/1 - Rod & Mary Crowe, 2nd - Heather Dice with volunteer helper Erin McGrane, 3rd/4th - Rebecca Carrier, 5th/6th - Brittany Markley; 7th/8th - William Brandle

- 38 students registered (By parish: BS - 31, QP - 2, SE - 3, SH - 2)
 - Classes take turns going to Reconciliation with Fr. Tony after the 8:30 Mass, 7/8 on Nov. 4, 5/6 on Nov. 18; 3/4 on Dec. 16. (All grades will attend the 8:30 Mass on Dec. 2)
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Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- 82 second graders are preparing for First Reconciliation
 - By parish: BS - 18, QP - 22, SE - 24, SH - 18;
 - By program: CVCS - 44; RE - 38 (Summer - 10; Wednesday - 15, Sunday - 13)
- Lessons in school and RE classrooms will continue until just before Thanksgiving. Then books will be sent home for review and reinforcement with parents.
- Reconciliation Retreat will be offered Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 am - noon at Sacred Heart Church. This is encouraged, but not required. Retreat for Burmese students (Fr. Luigi assisting) will be Sunday, Nov. 18 at 2:30.
- First Reconciliation celebrations: 10:00 am. on Sat., Dec. 1 at Sacred Heart; 6:30 pm on Wed, Dec. 5 at Blessed Sacrament

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

- Have arranged to do PREP classes for Reconciliation yet this fall. Class dates are Nov. 7, 14 and 28. Classes meet in Sacred Heart School from 6:15-7:30. PREP students will choose to attend one of the First Reconciliation celebrations (Dec. 1 or Dec. 5).
- 25 students in gr. 3-7 are participating
 - By grade: 11-3rd graders, 5-4th graders, 4-5th graders, 3 in 6th grade and 2 in 7th
 - By parish: QP - 21, SH - 3, BS - 1
 - By program: Wed RE 11, Summer RE - 8, CVCS - 3, 2 who started PREP last year, but didn't celebrate.
- There will be 3 catechists: Mary Cushing (gr.3), Pat Jackson (gr.3/4); Judy Bullis (gr. 5-7)

Confirmation

- 67 youth are preparing for Confirmation.
 - By parish: BS - 13, QP - 11, SE - 24, SH - 19
 - By program: Columbus - 46; public school - 21
- Retreat for Candidates and their Sponsors (or a parent) will be on Sunday, Nov. 11 from Noon - 3 pm at Blessed Sacrament. Annie Zeets is planning it, and Confirmation Team members will assist. Some scheduling conflicts have arisen since the Retreat date was chosen. A make-up activity for the Candidate and Sponsor (or parent) to do together will be provided.
- Class #2 will be at Sacred Heart on Dec. 9 & 12. Topic will be Holy Spirit, grace.

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. CLOW continues 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH. Blessed Sacrament will let me know when they have the additional adult leaders/helpers needed to resume.

Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave.
- Attended metro Advent Planning meetings; will help communicate any metro-wide planning to the FF Team and other parishes.
- Attended Archdiocesan Pastoral Leaders Study Day on Oct. 16. Topic was "Vocations."
- Will attend MAC group (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting Nov. 8.
- 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.
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Ellen Kuchera
COR & Young Adult Ministry
dbqwcya@dbqarch.org

No report for COR or Young Adult Ministry. Ellen is on maternity leave and will return on November 19, 2018.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

- Oct. 7: Movie Night: “I Can Only Imagine”
- Oct. 16: CHS faith sharing
- Oct. 23/24: NCYC meetings
- Oct. 27: Downtown Waterloo trick-or-treat event at COR

Coming Up

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

Middle School

- Oct. 2: BMAP after school club
- Oct. 20: Archdiocesan middle school “Youth Jam” *26 students and 3 adult chaperones attended, 2 of which were grandparents which was pretty cool. Special thanks to the 12 area high school students and Wartburg student Daniel Novotney for coming and singing in the youth jam mass choir. And thanks to Abby Zeets and Lucas Kahler for giving witness talks at the youth jam.*
- Oct. 27: Movie Night: “Monsters, Inc”

Coming Up

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

YDisciple

- 9/10 grade men’s group had their first meeting on Oct. 17. Leaders are Jeff Lappe and Danny Zeets. 7 out the 10 young men registered attended the meeting. The group will meet again in November.
- The 10th grade women’s group is on hold as one of the group leaders, Shannon Byerle, took a nasty fall and ended up having shoulder surgery. They will being hopefully in November. Anastasia Nicklaus is the other group leader.
- 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 125 have registered and that number is 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, 12 youth and 2 adults have registered for the trip and this is likely a final number as camps sell out quickly
- 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; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave
- 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
- Lead team member for archdiocesan middle school "Youth Jam" happening at Blessed Maria on Oct. 20
- Attended Pastoral Study Day on Oct. 16
- Will be visiting some smaller parishes in the diocese who have not taken kids to NCYC before to help them get a group going
- Will be attending the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM) in Tampa in December.

Service student

- I have a service student this semester. Lucas Kahler is with me during 8th hour Tuesdays-Fridays. He has been a tremendous help with planning for the BMAP after school club and other middle school YM activities. He also makes sure the youth office is clean and recycling is taken care of. He has also helped with bulk mailings for myself and other FF team members. I will be using him to help organize NCYC and CHWC paperwork in the next few weeks as well as help prep for the confirmation retreat. It's really like having a YM intern which has been a real blessing!

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.
- Accounts payable.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave.
- Coordinator of Sunday RE at Blessed Sacrament.