

# MONTHLY REPORT

## Faith Formation Administrative Team April 2015

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Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

### **A. Initiation**

1. Four catechumens and 5 candidates were received into the church at the Easter Vigil this year. Two catechumens are continuing in the Rite of Christian Initiation which began in March.
2. 3 candidates are attending the Spring Rite of Christian Reception series which began March 31 and is meeting on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish.
3. 8 families attended the Baptism class in March. The next Baptism preparation class is April 13 at Queen of Peace

### **B. Evangelization**

1. 180 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour in March at Blessed Sacrament. The next Witness Hour is May 18 at Queen of Peace

### **C. Adult Formation and Enrichment**

1. 70 people attended the four-week Lenten Enrichment series, "Pray All-Ways."
2. 26 people attended the Catholic Speakers Series presentation by Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan on March 12.
3. 00 people are registered for the September bus trip to see Pope Francis.
4. 9 people attended the Critical Choices workshop March 4. The next workshop is May 16 at Sacred Heart.
5. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Sharing Faith will be held on Monday, April 22, at Sacred Heart Parish.

### **D. Spiritual Growth**

1. 7 people attended our Lenten mini-retreat, "A Retreat with Pope Francis," March 15, at American Martyrs Retreat House.
  2. 32 people participated in our Lenten Online Retreat "The Way of the Lord."
  3. 30 people are participating in our Holy Week Online Retreat.
  4. The Spring Care-Givers Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 18 at Covenant Medical Center.
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### **E. Social Justice and Interfaith**

1. 25 people attended the Social Justice Lenten Retreat "Observing Lent in a Time of Permanent War" Feb. 28 at Sacred Heart.
2. 32 people attended the Taize prayer service in March at Sacred Heart. The April Taize service is at First Baptist Church.
3. The parishes will be co-sponsors for the annual Yom HaShoah commemoration of the holocaust on April 21 at the Grout Museum.

### **F. Administration**

1. Total reach on our Facebook page for March was 3128 (daily average: 101; daily range: 66/336). Daily averages and range for specific features on the Facebook page: Daily Prayer 61 (44/87); Daily Reading 37 (21/56); Daily Examen 36 (19/60); Trending Today 38 (15/133); Daily Lenten Thought 19 (12/38); Saturday Sabbath 32 (23/47).
2. Details and live links for this report are available online at:  
[www.waterloocatholics.org/afreport.htm](http://www.waterloocatholics.org/afreport.htm)

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Young Adult Ministry  
Ellen Voegele

**Intergenerational Hispanic Teaching Mass** - Sunday, March 1, was our spring intergenerational event. We offered this in Spanish during the Hispanic 12 pm Mass at Queen of Peace. Msgr. James Miller presided and offered the teaching and stayed after for confessions. We shared a meal and fellowship afterward. It was a wonderful event with a lot of positive feedback.

**YAP (Young Adult People)** - YAP was at 220 East in Waterloo on March 26. 4 women attended

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - March 8 we were scheduled to attend the 9 am service at Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church. No one showed up, but I still went. The pastor recognized me as a visitor and reached out immediately. She asked a member of the congregation to take me under her wing. It was a great service and such a lesson in hospitality. Next up will be "Food & Thought" with the Islamic Foundation of Iowa, Saturday April 11, with conversation continuing at 220 East for those interested.

**Monthly Movie Nights with Fr. Bullock** - February's movie night was *The Quiet Man* on Friday, February 27. 10 young adults attended. March's movie night was *Vertigo*. It was the best one we've had yet with great discussion. Some also decided to continue

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the conversation afterward at Screaming Eagle downtown. 6 young adults attended. Next up is *City Lights* on April 24.

**220 East** - We are moving forward to make 220 East part of our long term plan for evangelization. We are working on finding a partner to sublet with us as well as possibly applying for grants and seeking the help of donors to fund the project for the next year.

**Lenten Small Groups** - Four small faith sharing groups for young adults met weekly throughout March.

1) Scripture: Connection to the Cross - facilitator: Jenna Adams (Sacred Heart), 7 young adults have attended

2) Theology of the Body - Facilitator: Lauren Schmitt (Sacred Heart) 4 young adults have attended

3) The Temperament God Gave You - Facilitator: Kelsey Kaufman (St. Patrick) 6 young adults have attended

4) Family Matters: Mission to Love - Facilitator: Mike & Misty Holmes (St. Edward) 6 young adults (3 couples) have attended

**RCIA/RCRA** - 10 adults are joining the Church at the Easter Vigil this year. SE - 4, BS - 2, SH - 2, QP - 2. We joined with St. Stephen the Witness again this year to offer the RCIA retreat on Palm Sunday. It was a powerful experience for all that attended. We have 2 adults as of now planning to go through Spring RCRA. Dave and I continue to meet and brainstorm how to move into a year round model for RCIA.

**Catholicism 101** - Plans are underway for Catholicism 101 which will be held at 220 East on Sunday, April 12 from 7-8:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for all of those interested in learning more about Catholicism. Help us evangelize by inviting your young adult children who may have questions about their faith, spouses/significant others who are not Catholic, or those who are not practicing in any faith tradition.

**Community Meal at Catholic Worker** - Thursday, April 30. We will gather to prepare the meal at 4 pm and plan to serve at 6 pm.

**Young Adult Ministry Communications** -

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/cvyoungadults](http://flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)) 75 subscribers
  - Facebook - ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](http://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 115 likes
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### **Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Social Justice Lenten Retreat - February 28 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Pray All-Ways Lenten Enrichment for Adults & Adult Small Group Opportunities (AFF)
- Hispanic Teaching Mass - March 1 (WCFF)
- Holy Hour for Vocations - March 4 (DIOCORE)
- Taize Prayer - March 22 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Catholic Witness Hour - March 23 (AFF & Blessed Sacrament)
- Joshua Winters - (St. Stephen the Witness Campus Ministry) - meet monthly to discuss Evangelical Catholic's approach as well as to streamline the process of graduates moving into young adult ministry from campus ministry.

### **Promoting:**

- Easter Triduum - April 2-5 (Cedar Valley Catholic Parishes)
- Chrism Mass - March 31 (Archdiocese of Dubuque)
- Taize Prayer - April 26 (AFF & First Baptist Church)

### **In process:**

- Healing Oils of the Bible (Jamie Rathjen)
- Adoration Hour
- Evangelical Catholic
- Parent Faithtext subscription
- Men's Bible Study - will target the men who played flag football
- Theology Boot Camp

### **Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Spiritual Direction
- Summer Retreat (in process)

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Children & Family Catechesis  
Cathy Mills

### **Religious Education**

**Wed. R.E.** - We have one month left for our Wed. evening classes. The 7/8 Graders will be presenting Station of the Cross on April 1 for the large group.

Our last class will be Wed. April 29<sup>th</sup>. We will close with a Prayer Service and Parties.

### **Sunday R.E.**

500 Postcards were mailed to all non-cvcs families requesting participation of the on-line Survey regarding Sunday R.E.

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Currently there are 42 completed surveys.

Results: 18 families stated they would be "very interested" in Sunday RE

10 stated "somewhat likely"

Of the 28 families that expressed interest in the Sunday RE program only 6 said they would STILL be interested in the program if it were at a neighboring parish. 50% of Survey participants were from Bls Sac.

### **Spring R.E. Registrations**

WCFF determined it would be beneficial to conduct a Spring Registration for the R.E. programs Summer 2015 and school year 15/16. This will provide a general indication of interests and will help guide the staffing of Catechists.

Anglo Registration Dates:

Wed. April 22<sup>nd</sup> Sacred Heart O'Hagan 6:15 - 7:30pm /

Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Ed's 12 - 1pm

Spanish Registration Dates: Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> following Noon Mass  
Scallon Hall

Burmese Registration Date: TBD

### **Catechist Formation:**

Weekly Catechist Formation focused on Family, developed by the Archdioceses Faith Formation Sessions developed by the Office of Family Life. In addition, Catechists completed a *Self Evaluation* and met to share in community with other Catechists.

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

April Schedules will vary due to Easter and First Communions. NO CLOW if First Communion at the Parish Mass.

### **Vacation Bible School**

Only 1 parent attended the Parent Advisory Meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. A second meeting is planned on March 30 and 31<sup>st</sup> hosted at 220 East. The new meeting dates have been publicized in all church and CVCS school bulletins for two weeks. I have received only 1 rsvp for both meeting dates.

### **Professional / Spiritual Development**

March 4<sup>th</sup> Catechist Holy Hour with Arch Bishop Jackels

March 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> EXCEL Computer Class at Hawkeye

March 22<sup>nd</sup> Taize Prayer Sacred Heart

March 29<sup>th</sup> Agnus Dei Sacred Heart

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## High School

March 1: Lenten service night at Blessed Sacrament: We gathered to make 12 dozen cookies. Some that were delivered to the Cedar Valley Hospice House and several dozen were given to 220 East for hospitality snacks. *18 students attended*

March 4: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 11: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 13: NCYC webinar

March 16: Karaoke and movie night at 220 East: We sang karaoke for almost 2 hours before heading down the street to Screaming Eagle for dinner. Then it was back to 220 East to watch "Big Hero 6". The students really enjoyed the space at 220 and it worked out perfectly for what we were doing. *14 students attended.*

March 18: Painting party at the youth office. *9 students* came and helped me prime the walls for painting. I provided lunch for the crew from Pancheros.

March 22: Taize prayer at Sacred Heart: *14 students attended*

March 24: WAYM

March 25: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 29: Agnus Dei performance at Sacred Heart: *12 students attended.*

### Coming Up:

April 1: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

April 3: Stations of the Cross at St. Edward

April 8: Bible Study

April 8: NCYC "Boot Camp" meeting

April 15: Bible Study

April 15: NCYC "Boot Camp" meeting

## Middle School

Parent Advisory Team: Corey & Allison Vessely (St. Edward), Kris & Terry Frush (Sacred Heart), Vanessa Gomez (Queen of Peace), Chris & Carrie Evans (Blessed Sacrament).

March 7: Movie Night: This was the first event with the plan in place. We watched "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" and had actual movie theatre popcorn. We ended the evening with a short prayer and the students shared their intentions and were very respectful. *46 students attended! 9 were from public school.*

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Bash at Blessed Sacrament. We fed

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them walking tacos, showed a video about St. Patrick and played some great games including cabbage bowling, Lucky Charm marshmallow contest, Oreo cream stacking and Human Hungry Hippos. The kids also sang some karaoke and had ice cream and Irish crème cookies. *13 students attended this Spring Break event.*

Coming Up:

Dates TBD - mass and pizza at the parishes.

**Professional Development:**

Became member of NACYML: National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders

April 12-May 16: Taking free online course through

NFCYM/NACYML: "Fostering a Culture of Encounter with Young Disciples"

April 14<sup>th</sup>: Attend Archdiocesan Staff Study Day in CF

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**Burmese Ministry**  
Pam Johnston

**Burmese Sacraments**

There were 3 public school students and 3 Sacred Heart School students in grades 3-5 who prepared for First Reconciliation & First Communion. There was also 1 student from Blessed Maria who prepared for these sacraments. First Reconciliation was celebrated by the public school students in December with the second graders. Reconciliation was celebrated during the Lent Communal Penance for the school students. The BMAP student celebrated individually at Sacred Heart.

Six of the students will receive First Communion on Easter Sunday. One of the students will receive First Communion with her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade brother at the group celebration on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

There will be 4 Burmese adults (including 1 Columbus High student) who will celebrate Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist on Easter Sunday. Traditionally, Sunday is the celebration day in the Burmese culture.

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## First Reconciliation & First Communion

There were 111 children in second grade who celebrated First Reconciliation & First Communion.

The breakdown by parish:

Blessed Sacrament: 29 children      Queen of Peace: 22 children  
Sacred Heart: 25 children          St. Edward: 35 children

Latino children: 16

CVCS children: 71

Burmese children: 6

Religious Ed children: 39

Anglo children: 87

Home-schooled child: 1

Other Asian children: 2

Four families chose to celebrate First Communion in a parish other than the parish in which they have membership.

Three of these children are students in a Catholic school and wanted to celebrate with their school friends. One family needed to celebrate in another parish due to a parent's work schedule.

Evaluation forms will be sent to families as a follow-up to the celebrations.

## Children's Initiation

There were 32 children in grade 3-8 who participated in Children's Initiation.

The breakdown by parish:

Blessed Sacrament: 0 children      Queen of Peace: 31 children  
Sacred Heart: 0 children          St. Edward: 1 child

Latino students: 29

CVCS children: 1

Anglo students: 3

Only one student needed to prepare for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation. She was a CVCS student from St. Edward. The parent met with Fr. Bullock to determine when and how the sacraments would be celebrated. It was decided that Baptism would be celebrated at a school Mass and First Communion at the group celebration in April.

The remaining students prepared for Reconciliation and Eucharist only.

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\* Two Anglo students from Queen of Peace celebrated First Reconciliation on March 11<sup>th</sup> and will celebrate First Communion on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00am Mass.

\* The 29 Latino students celebrated First Reconciliation on March 11<sup>th</sup> or individually at Queen of Peace. They will receive First Communion April 26<sup>th</sup> at the 12:00 noon Mass.

Evaluation forms will be sent to families as a follow-up to the celebrations.

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