

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
December 2015

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. The fall Rite of Christian Reception series concluded on 19. I have been meeting individually with each of the candidates, prior to their reception into the church. The winter RCRA series begins on January 10 and will meet on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish. Four people have expressed an interest in participating in the winter series.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-5HDVHJR2/>

2. The Rite of Christian Initiation continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at Blessed Sacrament School.

> Learn more about RCIA here:

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

3. 4 families attended the Baptism class in November. The next Baptism preparation class is Dec. 14 at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about baptism preparation here:

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

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

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

B. Evangelization

1. 45 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Nov. 30 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

2. The Friends in Faith Singles Mingle and Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 12, in the Retreat Center at Riverside Conference Center in Cedar Falls. Events sponsored by Friends in Faith are open to any single adult, age 35 and older.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 02 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Prayer Nov. 16, at Sacred Heart Parish; 03 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent Nov. 23, at St. Edward Parish. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation will be held prior to the communal penance service on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2:30pm in Putz Hall at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about our Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living Series here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>

2. 04 people attended the Critical Choices Workshop Nov. 11 at Sacred Heart Parish. The next Critical Choices Workshop is scheduled for Feb. 24 at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. The fall Care-Givers Retreat scheduled for Nov. 21 was cancelled due to the weather. Five persons were registered for the retreat.

> Learn more about the Care-Givers Retreat here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/care-givers-retreats>

2. Our annual online Advent Retreat will be held Dec. 7-13. The retreat features a daily reading, prayer and reflection. This year's reflections are excerpted from "A Season of Mercy" by Fr. David M. Knight.

> Learn more about the Online Retreat here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/search?query=advent%20retreat>

3. During Advent I am posting a daily Advent Suggestion on the WaterlooCatholics Facebook page. The suggestions are adapted from material provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. I will also be available for morning prayer on weekdays at 7:00am at COR at 220 East.

4. For the Year of Mercy, Ellen and I will be creating a weekly "Mercy Challenge" which can be used in parish bulletins and school newsletters.

E. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in November was 3998 (daily average 133; daily range 54/220).

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegele

COR at 220 East

Social Media:

We are on Facebook! If you are reading this, please like our page and invite everyone you know, any age, Catholic or not, to also like our page. Small way you can evangelize right here. We need your help to spread the word! Search "COR at 220 East" or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/COR-at-220-East-1024758740897176/>

Faith Formation Events:

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, November 5. Participant expressed appreciation that "we wanted to listen to his questions and concerns about the Church." - *1 inactive Catholic attended*

Next up: Thursday, December 3

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock - November 20 movie night was cancelled due to weather. It has been rescheduled for Friday, December 11.

Next up: *Star Wars* on December 11 and *It's a Wonderful Life* on December 18

Catholicism 101 - Sunday, November 15. Topic: The Problem of Evil Presenter: William Brandle. This event will be rescheduled. - *0 people attended*

Next up: Monday, December 21 Topic: What is Truth? Presenter: Fr. Scott Bullock

NCYC Watch Party - Thursday, November 19, we hosted a watch party for NCYC targeting parents and family members of attendees and NCYC "alumni" or college students and young adults in the area that have attended previously. We had a great spread of refreshments provided by select parents and live streaming of the opening session in the basement. Many in the group were adults I have never seen at any faith formation event before. It was an awesome night. - *24 people attended*

Caroling Evangelization Event - December 19, 5-9 pm. Plans for this event are still coming together, but we will be standing outside caroling and possibly caroling at nearby restaurants and businesses. COR will also be open for hot chocolate and Christmas treats. We will have flyers available of upcoming events and Christmas Mass times.

COR participation in Community Events:

Holiday Fudge Walk - Saturday, November 28. Each year Main Street Waterloo hosts a fudge walk for "Small Business Saturday" in which participating businesses provide samples of different kinds of fudge and raffle chances for a grand prize. The COR subcommittee decided to be present and open during this event. We got some holiday decorating done and visited with *15 people "off the street" who stopped in.*

Winter Wonder'Loo - Saturday, December 12, 3-6 pm. This event is held each year at the Black's building for children and families. We will be offering hot chocolate and refreshments at COR. Stop in and say hi!

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, November 8, attended the 10:45 am service at Candeo Church in Waterloo. We ran into a non-denominational young adult who joined us when we went to the Mosque and he came to lunch with us after. There also was one of the founding members of Candeo that joined us for lunch and dialogued with us about the church. Lunch and discussion followed the service at Highway 63 diner. *6 young adults attended.*

Next up is Chanukah Party at Sons of Jacob Synagogue on Sunday, December 12.

RCIA - The Rite of Acceptance/Breaking Open the Word was on Sunday, November 1 at St. Edward for Shelby Kneeland. We continue to meet on Wednesday evenings and will do Breaking Open the Word once a month in the parishes. We had Breaking Open the Word for the First Sunday of Advent on November 29 at St. Ed's and St. Pat's. Next up will be January 10.

Encounter Steubenville Young Adult Conference - November 14, Milwaukee, WI. We ended up not taking a group to the Encounter Conference, but I still went and attended with Lee & Kelsey Kesting, a young adult married couple from Cedar Falls. I attended a breakout session on Evangelization in the Secular Workplace. Despite not working in the secular workplace, I meet a lot of young adults who do and learned some excellent tips. I will use this as a prompt for my December Young Adult Ministry Newsletter. We all loved the conference and Lee & Kelsey have agreed to help promote it in the future. It is a conference geared to ages 20-29 and excellent for both single and newly married young adults - *two young adults attended*

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *95 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) *178 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *39 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - November 6, 18, 20, 26
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - November 18 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - November 25 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - November 15 (AFF & Sacred Heart)

Promoting:

- Advent Morning Prayer - November 30 - December 23 (AFF)

In process:

- Calendaring 2015-16
- COR Hospitality Minister Trainings
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- Columbus Art Show (COR)
- Praise & Worship group

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
- Encounter Conference

Children & Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

Religious Education:

- The first semester of Religious Education is coming to a close
- Progress reports for students will be mailed home toward the end of the month
- Summer, Sunday, and Wednesday night students w/ their families will be invited to our intergenerational night on Dec. 16th: Advent, Season of Mercy. See details below.

Intergenerational Faith Formation Opportunities w/in Religious Education:

- Fr. Scott Bullock is doing the closing prayer during Wed. RE. We invite the parents to join us in the gym where they pick up their child. We read the Gospel for the upcoming week in both English and Spanish and then Fr. Bullock gives a short reflection and blessing. We seem to have good parental attendance.
- For Sunday RE we close with a prayer every week led by Kelleryn Rauzi and invite the parents to join us as well.
- Newsletters to families will be going home in December; included in them is both info regarding RE and ways to include faith within family life.
- Brochures regarding how the family can celebrate the Year of Mercy will be going home with students in December.
- Dec. 16th Intergenerational Night: Parents/families of RE students will be invited to come and take part Advent/Mercy themed crafts, prayer, and an appearance from St. Nick! The night will end with a short Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Scott Bullock.

Totus Tuus:

- Preferred dates and deposit has been submitted to the Archdiocese
- We are now waiting for the diocese to let us know which dates we will host Totus Tuus.
- Ongoing discussion on the best host site for Totus Tuus.

CORE:

- 1st Semester CORE has concluded
- Registrations for 2nd Semester CORE will mailed 1st/2nd week of December.

In Process:

- RE Intergenerational Night planning
- Improving and updating records for Religious Ed. families to make process easier for contacting them in the future.
- Sunday and Wed. Religious Ed.
- Planning ways to better support catechists and parents.
- Putting together continuing education plan for myself in collaboration with Ellen Voegele.
- Outlining 2nd semester RE
- Emergency Action plans for RE.
- Collaborating with Hispanic liaison in order to better communicate with Spanish speaking families.

Spiritual/Professional Growth:

- Mentoring with Ellen Voegele
 - Spiritual Direction
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High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

Nov. 2nd: Helped with poverty simulation at CHS

Nov. 9th: Final NCYC meeting

Nov. 4, 11, 18: CORE

Nov. 11: Upperclassmen faith sharing: *8-15 students attend on a regular basis. We talk about what is happening in their lives, then try and find bible verses that go along with their struggles and successes.*

Nov. 14: CHS play and bowling: *11 students attended the play. And 42 students showed up to bowl. I am happy to report that 9 public school students joined us for the evening, proving that those connections happening at CORE are slowly starting to work.*

Nov. 19-22: NCYC in Indianapolis: *75 students and 14 adults attended.*

Nov. 19: NCYC opening session "Watch Party" at 220 East: I hear 24 parents attended and that it was a really good night for all involved. Thanks to Ellen for helping me organize this event.

Nov. 25: Bible Study: *12 students attended*

Nov. 29th: Advent Prayer and youth room decorating. *23 students attended (several "new" youth groupies who went to NCYC). We blessed our advent wreath and spent some time in silence reflection. We also spent an hour making the youth room look festive for the holidays.*

Coming Up:

Dec. 1, 15: Faith Sharing at CHS

Dec. 2, 9, 16: Bible study

Dec. 13: Advent week 3

Dec. 20: Advent week 4

Dec. 28: Christmas party

Middle School

Oct. 30th: Halloween dance at Blessed Sacrament. I hired a DJ and costumes are encouraged. *61 students attended and had a great time. Some of those girls REALLY like to dance. 11 parent volunteers helped chaperone. Thanks to my intern Lauren Schmitt for running the concession stand.*

Nov. 27: Movie night at CHS: Thanks to CORE team members Chris and Carrie Evans for hosting this evening. *17 students attended and watched "Elf".*

Nov. 29: MS Advent Afternoon; prayer and wreath making; *7 students attended. We made wreaths and talked about the significance of Advent in our lives and the church year.*

Coming Up:

Dec. 20: Service afternoon at CHS - making blankets for the Hospitality House and House of Hope

Dec. 29: Christmas Party

Promoting:

Dec. 5th: John Angotti benefit for the Hospitality House. Negotiated \$10 tickets for students with the event coordinator. (This is an attend on your own event - I cannot be there).

Dec. 16th: Faith Formation Intergenerational Night

Professional Development:

Ave Maria Press; Professional Development Web Series: "10 Ways to Get the Most Out of NCYC, Before, During and After"

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Reconciliation -

- Celebrations of the sacrament: Dec. 2 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Edward Church; Dec. 6 @ 2:00 p.m. - Queen of Peace Church
- Parents will be asked to complete a survey about the preparation process.

First Communion -

- Letters to parents will go home the week of Dec. 14 (w/ school and RE students; mailed to Summer RE families) to introduce the preparation process.
- Parent Info/Catechesis sessions: Sun., Jan. 10 (Spanish) after QP noon Mass, Monday, Jan. 11 & Tuesday, Jan. 12 @ 6:30 in St. Edward Church Hall; Wednesday, Jan. 13 @ 10:30 (Burmese) in SH O'Hagan Hall
- Preparation will again include lessons in the school & RE classrooms along with materials to be used by parents at home. A 2-hour Eucharist Retreat with the child and a parent/adult will be part of the preparation as well. Parents can choose to attend Sat., Feb. 20, Sun., Feb. 21, or Mon., Feb. 22.
- First Communion celebrations: April 9/10 - SH; April 17 - SE; April 24 - QP; April 30/May 1 - BleSac.

Confirmation

- First class was held Nov. 8/11. Make-up session was held Sun., Nov. 29. Next class is Jan. 20/24 at QP Scallon Hall.

Children's Initiation - For children in grades 3-8 who need sacraments

- Lists w/ mailing addresses are being compiled; information letters/invitations will be mailed the week of Dec. 6. Parish bulletin announcements will be run in December, and letters mailed as needed.
- Parent/student info meeting Wed., Jan. 6 @ 6:30 - SH O'Hagan Hall. Classes held Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:45 Jan. 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 17, 24;
- CVCS teachers Mary Cushing and Becky Keeling will be the catechists;

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Leader Guides and leaflets for Dec., Jan., and Feb. have been prepared and distributed.
- Still could use more leaders & helpers at BleSac and St. Ed's.

Burmese Sacraments -

- I am working with three teen-age siblings from a family who moved to Waterloo recently. All were baptized in the camp, but need other sacraments. They have not had much faith formation in their 4 years in the U.S., so we are holding 7 one-hour sessions on faith basics and sacrament prep. John Lazum is assisting; I plan to ask others from the Burmese community to help out.
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Office Manager

Becky McElroy

Invoice Mailing

- Mailed out invoices to those that have not paid the fees for Wednesday and Sunday RE.

On-line Registrations: Working on getting this set up for after the first of the year. Looking at a couple of companies on setting up on-line registrations/payments.

PDS

- Working on transferring updated information from parishes.
- Getting information put into PDS on participants of our programs. Inputting information from prior years along with current year.

Issues with the Copy Machine

- Working on resolving print issues with numbers on the copy machine, several meetings with Access about these issues.

First Reconciliation

- Helped Julie with printing of certificates, mailing labels for First Reconciliation.

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.