

# MONTHLY REPORT

## Faith Formation Administrative Team May 2015

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Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

### **A. Initiation**

1. Four candidates are participating the Spring Rite of Christian Reception series meeting on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish.
2. 7 families attended the Baptism class in April. The next Baptism preparation class is May 9 at Blessed Sacrament.

### **B. Evangelization**

1. The next Witness Hour is Monday, May 18 at Queen of Peace Parish. The witness talk will be given by Martha and Rigo Real. Archbishop Jackels will be the speaker for the witness talk in July at Immaculate Conception in Gilbertville.
2. A new list of activities for singles, ages 35 and older, has been posted online.

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

1. At last count, we had 15 seats left on the September bus trip to see Pope Francis. We have cancelled the second bus to avoid hotel cancellation fees.
2. A Critical Choices workshop will be held on Saturday, May 16, at Sacred Heart Parish.
3. Our annual Summer Bible Series will be held on Monday evenings, June 8, 15, 22, 29 at Sacred Heart. Dr. Bill Mulcahey from Mount Mercy University will lead a study of the Book of Revelation.

### **D. Spiritual Growth**

1. The Spring Care-Givers retreat scheduled for April 18 has been re-scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at Covenant Medical Center.

### **E. Social Justice and Interfaith**

1. 30 people attended the Taize prayer service in April at First Baptist Church. The May Taize service is at Sacred Heart.
  2. About 250 people attended the Yom HaShoah commemoration April 21 at the Grout Museum.
  3. In preparation for the Feast of Pentecost, we will be posting on a seven-day novena on Facebook May 17-23. The novena includes daily prayers and reflections on various aspects of the immigration issue
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prepared by the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants committee. The daily installments will also be available by email.

#### **F. Administration**

1. Ellen and I have been working on re-visioning our approach to formation and enrichment for adults and young adults; we are working on a new mission statement and a strategy based on the "thresholds" for discipleship described by Sherry Weddell in "Forming Intentional Disciples."
2. Total reach on our Facebook page for April was 3009 (daily average: 100; daily range: 62/156). Total reach for Holy Week was 892 (daily average: 127; daily range: 78/180).  
> Connect to Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here:  
<http://goo.gl/hwOVMI>
3. Details and live links for this report are available online at:  
[www.waterlooparishes.org/afreport.htm](http://www.waterlooparishes.org/afreport.htm)

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Young Adult Ministry  
Ellen Voegele

**YAP (Young Adult People)** - YAP took a break in April due to date conflicts. Next YAP will be on May 21.

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - On April 11 we attended "Food & Thought" with the Islamic Foundation of Iowa. The hospitality and food was incredible and Brother Ibrahim, gave an excellent introduction to the pillars of Islam. It was beautiful to see the virtue of total submission to God so present in their prayer. Axel Hoogland plans and schedules these monthly Get to Know Your Neighbors, and often invites friends and coworkers from John Deere to join us. Two of his friends, a Baptist and Non-Denominational Christian, debriefed with us at 220 East afterward and it was amazing to see how we could all come together under our common belief in Jesus. We also had such fruitful conversation about a variety of faith experiences including Islam, Christianity, and Mormonism. *5 young adults attended*  
Next up is Seventh Day Adventists on May 9.

**Monthly Movie Nights with Fr. Bullock** - April's movie night was *City Lights*. It was quite refreshing to experience a silent film that said more about love than any film with script. The group was small, but we had great discussion. *3 young adults attended*.  
Next up is *Gran Torino* on May 22.

**Small Groups** - I met with 3 of my 4 small group facilitators for an

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appreciation dinner on April 23. We went over group evaluations, shared glory stories, and discussed plans for the future. Two facilitators are interested in starting their own groups and 4 additional group members that expressed interest in facilitating will be contacted in the next few weeks. I hope to get a solid base of small groups that are meeting at any given time during the year that I can plug people into.

**Catholicism 101** - Catholicism 101 was held at 220 East on Sunday, April 12 from 7-8:30 pm. Josh Winters (Campus Minister at St. Stephen the Witness), Jenna Adams (Director of Liturgy & Music at Sacred Heart), and Ralph Davis (seminarian in the Archdiocese of Dubuque) did a great job leading the panel discussion and answering questions. Many hung around afterward for fellowship. *10 young adults attended*

**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.

**Encounter Conference** - The Archdiocese of St. Louis is hosting their first Steubenville Young Adult Conference on May 30-June 1, 2015 and I am in the process of seeing if there is anyone interested in attending.

**Young Adult Ministry Communications** -

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/cvyoungadults](http://flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)) *78 subscribers*
- Facebook - ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](http://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *123 likes*

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Easter Triduum - April 2-5 (Cedar Valley Catholic Parishes)
- Taize Prayer - April 26 (AFF & First Baptist Church)

**Promoting:**

**In process:**

- Calendaring 2015-16
  - Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation Collaborative Visioning - April 29
  - 220 East & Evangelization
  - Healing Oils of the Bible (Jamie Rathjen)
  - Adoration Hour
  - Evangelical Catholic
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- Parent Faith text subscription
  - Men's Bible Study - (William Brandle)
  - Theology Boot Camp

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Spiritual Direction
  - Summer Retreat (in process)
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**Children & Family Catechesis**  
Cathy Mills

**Children & Family Catechesis K-8**

There have been two Religious Education registration opportunities for our parish families. A third one is scheduled for Sunday May 3rd noon-1:00pm. Understandably, the numbers for the Fall 2015 programs will increase as time draws closer to the start dates.

Current registration data:

**Summer 2015**

Families: 25 Anglo; 12 Latino; total of children 57

Parish listed per family: St. Pat's Iowa City 1; St. Pat's Cedar Falls 3; St. Mary's Waverly 1;

Sacred Heart 6; QOP 14; Bls Sac 6; St. Ed's 6

**Wed. 2015/16** runs Sept.-April, hosted in Sacred Heart School 6:15-7:30pm

Families: 8 Anglo; 10 Latino; total of children 27

Parish listed per family: Sacred Heart 3; QOP 12; Bls Sac 1; St. Ed's 2

**Sunday 2015-16** runs Oct. - May hosted in Bls Sac. School two Sundays a month, 8:15-10:15am

Families: 11 Anglo; 0 Latino; total of children 19

Parish listed per family: Sacred Heart 2; QOP 0; Bls Sac 6; St. Ed's 3

There has been several mailings to parish families who have not been registered in a CVCS school or WCCFF Religious Education program. I look forward to this continuing.

Vacation Bible School 2015 Everest Conquering Challenges with God's Might Power

Hosted at Blessed Maria Middle School July 14-17 9am - noon  
Registration/Publicity begins May 13th

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**High School Youth Ministry:**

High School Youth  
Ministry/Middle School Youth  
Ministry/CORE  
Annie Zeets

April 1: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing  
April 3: Stations of the Cross at St. Edward: 17 students helped plan and lead the Good Friday presentation. The stations were

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presented and then there was a short reflection on each one from the viewpoint of a child and an adult. We heard lots of positive feedback from those who attended.

April 8 & 15: Bible Study: Our group continues to meet, even though our numbers are small. Usually 3-5 kids show up. But we always have very deep and meaningful discussions based on the readings for the Sunday coming up. I am looking into purchasing the T3 Bible series for next year.

April 8 & April 15: NCYC "Boot Camp" meeting: All paperwork was distributed and filled out by those attending NCYC. I only had to make 3 follow up phone calls for students that did not attend. This is a GREAT group of students and parents!

April 19: Karaoke Night at 220 East: 16 students attended and sang their hearts out for 2 hours. We had pizza from Screaming Eagle.

April 22: Helped with CORE registrations at Sacred Heart for summer and fall classes.

April 28: WAYM meeting in Cedar Falls

April 29: Helped with CHS senior renewal day

April 29: Bible study

April 29: Upperclassmen faith sharing: Topic: Pope Francis and his challenge for the young church

#### **Coming Up:**

May 3: CHS Pops concert

May 6 & May 13: Bible study and Upperclassmen faith sharing

May 17: CHS graduation

May 28: WAYM meeting

June 3: End of the Year Party/Bonfire

#### **Professional Development:**

April 14: Attended Pastoral Study Day in CF

May 8-9: Attending Archdiocesan Youth Ministers Retreat

Ongoing: Taking free online course through NFCYM/NACYML:  
"Fostering a Culture of Encounter with Young Disciples"

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**Follow up to sacramental preparation:**

- 1) We have sent information to each parish regarding the children who celebrated First Communion in the parish. The parishes will record the information in their sacramental records books/PDS files.**
  - 2) Photos that were ordered by each family will be sent home with CVCS students and mailed to RE families.**
  - 3) Evaluation results will be tabulated by survey monkey. They will be posted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-7YCL7LT9/>.**
  - 4) The teachers and principals will be invited to participate in a discussion with Dave and Pam to evaluate and plan for 2015-16 in May.**
  - 5) Pam will send a digital photo from Cole Photography to each parish for them to publish on their websites, as well as the Faith Formation website.**
  - 6) Families at Queen of Peace who did not participate in the First Communion Mass will be contacted by Rosario to schedule an alternative date for celebration.**
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