

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
November 2015

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing

## A. Initiation

1. 8 people are participating in the Rite of Christian Reception which meets on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament School. 4 of the candidates are from Waterloo parishes; 4 are from Cedar Falls. The RCRA continues through November.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

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

2. 2 people are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation which meets 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 October. The next Baptism preparation class is Nov. 14 at Sacred Heart 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. 60 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour in September at St. Edward Parish. The next Catholic Witness Hour will be Nov. 30 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

## C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 50 people are enrolled in the UNI Lifelong University class "Religion and Violence" which meets on Thursday mornings at the Windcove Western Home.

> Learn more about the program here:

<http://www.uni.edu/llu/>

2. 19 people are enrolled in the Just Matters study course on prison reform. Two groups are meeting, one on Sunday evenings and one on Tuesdays at St. Luke Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls. The series is co-sponsored by the Catholic Parishes and the Cedar Valley Episcopal Churches.

3. 45 people attended the Catholic Speakers Series with Dr. Massimo Faggioli on Sunday, Nov. 1, at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about the Catholic Speakers Series here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/catholics-speakers-series>

> Read evaluations from the Speakers Series here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-5759K5WC/>

3. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Prayer will be held on Monday, Nov. 16, at Sacred Heart Parish. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent will be held on Monday, Nov. 23, at St. Edward Parish.

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

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

4. The first Critical Choices Workshop of the year will be held Nov. 11 at Sacred Heart Parish. Critical Choices Workshops are co-sponsored by the Catholic Parishes and Cedar Valley Hospice.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

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

#### **D. Spiritual Growth**

1. The Inter-city Charismatic Prayer Community will sponsor a healing Mass Nov. 5 at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville.

2. Ellen and I have submitted suggestions to Waterloo Pastoral Leaders on how the parishes will celebrate the Year of Mercy which begins Dec. 8.

> Learn more about the Jubilee Year of Mercy here:

<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>

3. The fall retreat for family care-givers will be held Nov. 21 at Covenant Medical Center. Care-Givers Retreats are co-sponsored by the Catholic Parishes and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare.

> Learn more about the Care-Givers Retreat here:

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

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

1. 16 people attended the Interfaith Dialogue sponsored by Cedar Valley Interfaith Council Oct. 27 at St. Edward.

#### **F. Administration**

1. I mailed 700 postcard invitations for the Catholic Speakers Series and 500 postcard invitations for the Family Matters Workshop.

2. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in October was 4663 (daily average 150; daily range 51-710)

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**Young Adult Ministry**  
**Ellen Voegele**

**220 East**

\* Events:

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, October 1. Despite no one attending this month, I am glad we have these in place and are offering them. A goal that I have is to increase awareness of this resource for evangelization in our parishioners. For instance, when they are talking to a friend or family member who has lots of questions about their faith, they can invite them to Q&A when the time is right. - *0 people attended*

Next up: Thursday, November 5

**Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock** - October 16 we watched and discussed *Singin' in the Rain*. - *4 people attended (1 "off the street")*

Next up: *Star Wars* on November 20

**Catholicism 101** - Monday, October 19. Topic: Who is Jesus? Presenter: Anastasia Nicklaus. - *4 people attended (1 "off the street")*

Next up: Sunday, November 15 Topic: The Problem of Evil Presenter: William Brandle

**DoTerra Essential Oils** - Thursday, October 29, 6:30 pm. This event will be led by Jamie Rathjen will explore the many uses and benefits of essential oils as well as their spiritual foundations.

**NCYC Watch Party** - Thursday, November 19, 6:45 pm. I am working with Annie Zeets and parents to host a watch party for NCYC. This will include refreshments and live streaming of the opening session.

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - Sunday, October 11, attended the 3 pm service at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Church Row. The pastor stayed after and spoke with us for awhile and it was quite informative. Dinner and great discussion followed at Brown Bottle. *5 young adults attended.*

Next up is Candeo Church on Sunday, November 8.

**Men's Flag Football** - Men's Flag Football concluded October 25. Games were held at St. Edward field on Sundays at 12:30 pm. The league was run by William Brandle and I will be working with William to encourage these men to plug into our young adult ministry events. *Approximately 50 men participated in the league.*

**RCIA** - We have two catechumens going through RCIA, one from St. Edward and one from St. Patrick, 4 team members, and many presenters. RCIA is meeting from 6:30 - 8 pm in the Adult Faith Formation Room on Wednesday evenings. The Rite of Acceptance will be on Sunday, November 1 at St. Edward and St. Patrick.

**Conferences** - I have been encouraging young adults to have a "bigger church experience" at least once a year. There are several retreats and conferences and it is important to discern which one fits where you are spiritually and in life.

**Family Matters: Mission of Love** - November 7, Waterloo. Target - married couples, parents, all adults. Encouraging all parents to attend as well as RCIA candidates.

**Encounter Steubenville Young Adult Conference** - November 14, Milwaukee, WI. Target - college students, single young adults, newly married couples.

We have three young adults interested in attending Encounter, so we are going! I am working with the Milwaukee Archdiocese to arrange lodging.

**Young Adult Ministry Communications -**

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/cvyoungadults](http://flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)) 89 subscribers
- Facebook - ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](http://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 176 likes

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Community Meals - October 16, 23, 30
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - October 21 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - October 28 (AFF)
- Laudato Si Discussion Group - September 17-October 22 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)
- Flu Shot Clinic & Coat Drive - October 24 (EMBARC)

**Promoting:**

- Downtown Trick-or-Treat - October 31 (Youth Ministry)

**In process:**

- Calendaring 2015-16
- 220 East Hospitality Minister Trainings
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- Adoration Hour
- Halloween Party
- Columbus Art Show (220 East)
- Praise & Worship group

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Spiritual Direction
- Archdiocesan RCIA Study Days - October 16-17
- Archdiocesan Fall Pastoral Leadership Day - October 27

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**Children & Family Catechesis**

Kelleryn Rauzi

**Religious Education:**

- Both Sunday and Wednesday Religious Education are in "full swing" now.
- We have all catechists necessary for our programs.
- **Sunday RE** has 50 students enrolled
- **Wednesday RE** has 101 students enrolled
- These numbers are subject to change as we still have families trickling in and are attempting to contact families who are enrolled but not showing up for class.
- Total 2015 #'s (including Summer RE): 265 students
- Total 2014 #'s (including Summer RE): 251 students
- Due to the generosity of the priests during Wed. night class; we have priests regularly scheduled to visit the different grades. Fr. Ken Stecher will be giving church tours to all grades this year.

**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 November; included in them is both info regarding RE and ways to include faith within family life.
- Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> during regular class time we will have communal Reconciliation for grades 3-8; parents will be invited and encouraged to attend.
- Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> we have an intergenerational night planned for RE students and their families. The theme will be centered on Advent and Mercy; more info to come!

#### **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; this will happen most likely beginning of December.

#### **CORE:**

- CORE (H.S. Religious Ed). has been running smoothly.
- #'s for Wed. Night CORE are: 39 students
- #'s for Summer CORE are: 22 students

#### **In Process:**

- Planning communal Reconciliation/Advent Intergenerational night
- Contacting families who are not showing up for RE but are enrolled
- 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.

#### **Spiritual/Professional Growth:**

- Attended Pastoral Study Day on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>
- Mentoring with Ellen Voegele
- Attended Archdiocesan ZOOM meeting for Faith Formation Leaders
- Spiritual Direction

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#### **High School/Middle School Youth Ministry**

##### **Annie Zeets**

#### **High School Youth Ministry**

Oct. 4: Confirmation retreat at CHS: 73 students attended the retreat day which was planned and led by a team of high school seniors and college students. There were witness talks, games, afternoon stations based on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and good food. The evening ended with an Emmaus walk and prayer around a bonfire.

Oct. 6 & 20: Small group faith sharing during CHS theology classes. I am leading one faith sharing group this semester which is all seniors.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: CORE: students spend 30 minutes of their time at CORE with me in the youth ministry office. So far this semester we have covered meditation prayer, fun facts about the Pope and getting to know Jesus.

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: Upperclassmen faith sharing after CORE. On average 10-12 students attend. It is a mixed group of students from CHS and public school.

Oct. 12: NCYC archdiocesan chaperone training/meeting, hosted by WCYM at Blessed Maria.

Oct. 18: Taize at First Baptist. 5 students attended the service and several more joined us after at Culvers for discussion and food.

Oct. 23: CHS sophomore renewal day at AMRH

Coming Up:

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>: Final NCYC meeting

Nov. 4, 11, 18: CORE

Nov. 11: Upperclassmen faith sharing

Nov. 14: CHS play and bowling

Nov. 19-22: NCYC in Indianapolis: Depart from St. Ed's at 5:30am on Thursday. Return on Sunday approximately at 5pm.

Nov. 19: NCYC opening session watch party at 220 East

### **Middle School Youth Ministry**

Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>: service morning. Students were divided into 2 groups. One headed to Blessed Sacrament where they did some yard work which included trimming bushes and spreading mulch. The other group headed to the Hospitality House where they raked up 20 bags of leaves. We then went to Pizza Hut for lunch. Thank you to parent volunteers Vanessa Gomez, Kris Frush and Renee Lupkes for driving and helping chaperone the students.

Oct. 26: BMAP 6<sup>th</sup> grade day of renewal at AMRH

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: Halloween dance at Blessed Sacrament. I hired a DJ and costumes are encouraged. 11 parents have volunteered to help chaperone and man the concession stand.

Coming Up:

Nov. 27: Movie night at CHS

Nov. 29: MS Advent Afternoon; prayer and wreath making

Service student and Intern Update:

I am blessed to have help this year for youth ministry! This first semester of school, CHS senior Emily Leibold is taking the service class with Pat Wiss and her service is with me. Emily has been working hard getting the youth office looking pretty. She has hung pictures, painted a huge shelving unit, and will be working the next few weeks on getting trade items and t-shirts organized for NCYC.

Lauren Schmitt is the youth ministry intern. She graduated from CHS in 2010 and UNI in 2014. She works full time for VGM but has a love for ministry. Her oldest nephew is now in middle school so Lauren came to me to ask how she could be involved. Since then she spends an hour or so each week helping me with lots of little tasks. She was at the first middle school youth night and will be helping with the dance.

Her biggest project right now is tackling YEARS of files in the youth office cabinets. She is going through them, shredding things as needed and reorganizing things so maybe soon I can actually use the file cabinet. She says she loves organization so I am thrilled to have her help as that is not one of my greatest gifts.

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## **Children and Family Catechesis**

**Julie Niemeyer**

### Confirmation

- There are 76 candidates. Breakdown by parish: SE - 31; SH - 21; BS - 17; QP - 6; St. Pat's - 1.
- 70 candidates attended the Oct. 4 metro confirmation retreat at Columbus. Alternate experiences are planned for those who could not attend. Candidates were asked to attend Mass at either Blessed Sacrament at 4:30 Saturday or St. Ed's at 9 a.m. Sunday prior to the retreat. They sat in a group and the priest acknowledged them, asked the assembly to pray for them, and gave a blessing. All but two of the candidates who were expected to attend one of these Masses did so.
- Two options are offered for the first class session - Sunday, Nov. 8 at 10:15-11:45 a.m. or Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Both sessions are held in Scallon Hall at Queen of Peace. The Confirmation Team has met and planned the session. A total of 7 parents have volunteered to be table leaders at a session. Team members will fill in the remaining spots as small group leaders.
- Plans are underway to have parishioners be "prayer partners" for candidates from their parish as they journey toward Confirmation.

### First Reconciliation

- 96 students are preparing to receive First Reconciliation. Breakdown by parish: BS - 22; QP - 16; SH - 34; SE - 24
- It has been challenging to contact parents and arrange make-up sessions if they did not attend one of the parent info sessions that were held in late September. This is especially true with non-English-speaking parents.
- Students are preparing with lessons in the RE/school classroom as well as with supplemental materials to be used in the home. Lessons will be completed and books sent home no later than Nov. 20 - depending on which program the student is in (school, Wed. RE or Sun. RE) Parents will then review with the student to help him/her prepare for the celebration. (For students who are in the Summer RE program, parents guide their child through the textbook at home as well as using the supplemental materials.)
- A letter will go to parents the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November reminding them to of their role in preparation and giving details about the celebration.
- Celebrations of First Reconciliation are Wed., Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. (St. Edward Church) and Sun., Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. (Queen of Peace Church).

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

- CLOW is going on in all four parishes now. Weekly at BS and SE; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at QP and SH.

### Burmese Sacraments

- John Lazum is preparing a written translation of one of the at-home materials so Burmese parents can participate in the immediate preparation as well.

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### **Office Manager**

**Becky McElroy**

### Invoice Mailing

- Mailed out invoices to those that have not paid the fees for Confirmation and First Reconciliation.

### On-line Registrations

Looking at a couple of companies on setting up on-line registrations/payments.

## PDS

- Putting the yearly budget on to PDS.
- Getting information put into PDS on participants of our programs. Inputting information from prior years along with current year.

## Issues with the Internet/Printing/Fax

- Many issues for a couple of weeks after the new Firewall was put in at Blessed Sacrament with internet access, being able to send jobs to printer from my computer, and fax. Still having problems with the fax, working on getting this resolved.

## 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.