

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
October 2015

Adult Faith Formation **Dave Cushing**

A. Initiation

1. 7 people are enrolled in the Rite of Christian Reception which began Sept. 24. The RCRA meets on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament School.

> 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 for adults and young adults who have not been baptized or catechized will begin October 7 and meet on Wednesday evenings at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about RCIA here:

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

3. 6 families attended the Baptism class in September. The next Baptism preparation class is October 12 at Blessed Sacrament 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. The next Catholic Witness Hour will be Sept. 28 at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. Discussion sessions for gay and lesbian Catholics will now be held on a regular schedule on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 220 East.

3. Listening Sessions for inactive and alienated Catholics will now be held on a regular schedule on the third Wednesday of each month at 220 East.

> Learn more about the Listening Sessions here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions-1>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 2 people are enrolled in The Bible Timeline video series which meets on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more about Bible Timeline here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/the-bible-timeline>

2. 11 people are enrolled in Sr. Meg Gemar's discussion of Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si" which meets on Thursday evenings at 220 East.

3. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Sharing Faith will be held on Saturday, Oct. 17, 9:00-11:00am at St. Edward Parish. This program will examine practical ways to share our faith and what we can learn from Pope Francis' example.

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

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

4. "Religion and Violence" is the theme of a four-week course in UNI's Lifelong University series. It starts Oct. 29 and will meet on Thursdays, 10:00am to Noon, at the Windcove Western Home.

> Learn more about the program here:

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

5. First Tuesday, a monthly support and enrichment opportunity for married couples will begin meeting regularly on Tuesday, June 8, at 220 East.

> Learn more about First Tuesday here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/first-tuesday-for-married-couples>

6. The Catholic Speakers Series will host Dr. Massimo Faggioli, Assistant Professor of Theology at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, on Sunday, Nov. 1, at St. Edward Parish. Dr. Faggioli's topic is "Pope Francis—Tradition in Transition."

> Learn more about the Catholic Speakers Series here:

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

7. The first Critical Choices Workshop of the year will be held Nov. 11 at Sacred Heart Parish.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. The Inter-city Charismatic Prayer Group will host a Healing Mass Oct. 6. at Immaculate Conception Church in Gilbertville. Fr. James Duber will be the celebrant.
2. Ellen and I are working on proposals for 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>

E. Social Justice and Interfaith

1. 6 people are registered for the eight-week JustMatters discussion series on prison reform co-hosted by Cedar Valley Episcopal Churches and the Catholic parishes. Two sections will meet: Sunday evenings, 7:00-9:30pm, starting Oct. 11 and Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:30pm starting Oct. 13.

F. Administration

1. I will be attending a two-day workshop on trends in faith formation sponsored by Vibrant Faith Ministries Oct. 1-2 in Iowa City.
2. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in August was 2,630 (daily average 88; range 24-220); total daily reach for the page in September was 3,478 (daily average 120, range 63-292).

> Learn more here:

<http://goo.gl/fFJNYB>

Team Leader

Dave Cushing

A. Overview

As usual, September has been a busy month for all Faith Formation Team members as programs launch in all areas. The expansion of religious education to Sunday mornings and development of 220 East represent major challenges and important opportunities. I have been impressed by the spirit and enthusiasm of the Team and members' willingness to work with one another.

-- We have added a Team Examen to our regular monthly meetings; this process invites Team members to share their personal or professional concerns (successes, challenges, problems).

-- We are keeping a list of issues and concerns which require further discussion and more study; these include collaboration and our expectations of one another as members of a collaborative team; our vision for intergenerational faith formation in the parishes; and our response to families with special needs.

-- We are also keeping a list of concerns and insights learned this year that will guide our planning and implementation of programs next year.

B. Developments

-- The Team hosted a picnic for CVCS administrators in August.

-- Annie Zeets is serving on the CVCS Strategic Planning committee.

-- New Team members were introduced at weekend Masses Oct. 19-20 and 26-27.

-- We have scheduled two Team retreats this fall. These will be half-day occasions at American Martyrs Retreat House dedicated to prayer, discussion and study. We will be using Pope Francis' book "The Church of Mercy" for professional development this year.

Young Adult Ministry **Ellen Voegele**

220 East

* Events:

DoTerra Essential Oils - Monday, August 31, 7 pm. This event was led by Jamie Rathjen and explored the many uses and benefits of essential oils as well as their spiritual foundations. - 8 women attended

Next up: October 29

Catholic Q&A - Our first Catholic Q & A was on September 3. It was a great session. One person came in "off the street" (not affiliated with the Waterloo Parishes). Three women attended who are interested in joining the Catholic Church. - 4 people attended

Next up: Thursday, October 1

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock - This month we gathered at 220 East on September 18 for *Life is Beautiful*. We had an excellent conversation about Christian hope and a few tears might have been shed as well. Next up is *Singing in the Rain* on October 16. - 7 people attended

Catholicism 101 - Sunday, September 20. Topic: Does God exist? Presenter: Dave Cushing. This was an awesome night and again affirmed the need for 220 East. Of the attendees, one was from "off the street," one is interested in becoming Catholic, and one is a cradle Catholic that is seriously questioning his beliefs. - 4 people attended

Next up: Monday, October 19 Topic: What is Truth? Presenter: Fr. Scott Bullock

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, September 13, attended service at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist in Waterloo. Lunch followed at El Patron. 3 young adult attended.
Next up is St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, October 11.

Men's Flag Football - Men's Flag Football is back and started on September 13. Games are held at St. Edward field on Sundays at 12:30 pm. The league is run by William Brandle. Approximately 50 men attend.

- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - September 23 (AFF)
- Laudato Si Discussion Group - September 17-October 22 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

Promoting:

- * Family Matters Conference - November 7 (Archdiocese of Dubuque)
- * Encounter Conference - November 14 (Steubenville Young Adults)

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

Children & Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

A. Wed. Night Religious Education:

- Kick-off Mass was on Sept. 16th; we had all 4 Pastors present which was a great blessing. We had decent attendance and many people stay after to register, socialize, and eat snacks.
- First night of classes was Sept. 23rd and they went very smoothly. The Faith Formation team was a great help and the catechists seemed well prepared and reported their individual classes went well.
- As of the morning of Sept. 23rd we have 85 students registered for Wed. RE. This number will most likely change with more registrations coming in the next few weeks.
- We have all the catechists we needed for Wed. Night RE and we have also hired a Site Supervisor named Jessica Hert. She has been a DRE before and has been a great help to me so far.
- The English Parent Meeting was held Sept. 23rd. The Spanish Parent Meeting will be held Sept. 30th.
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B. Sunday Morning Religious Ed.

- We currently have all our catechists except one more 2nd grade catechist.
- We currently have 35 students enrolled.
- Classes will start Oct. 4th at 8:15am. A parent meeting will be held that day at 8:15am and will be bilingual if needed.
- After classes we will join the 10:30am mass at Blessed Sacrament and then have treats back at Blessed Sacrament School.

C. Totus Tuus

- We are going to go ahead and register for Totus Tuus.
- Discussion still ongoing as to where we will hold Totus Tuus.
- Totus Tuus will be in place of Vacation Bible School

D. Intergenerational Activities

- We have an intergenerational night planned for Dec. 16th. The theme will be around the topics of Mercy and Advent. More details to come.
- Spring Intergenerational activity is also in the works. Details will be announced later this year.
- Catechists are encouraged to give homework in their R.E. classes and if they do so we have asked that they gear it to be done with the whole family in hopes that discussion of faith matters will happen throughout the family. This is to emphasize how faith formation goes beyond school-aged children.

E. In-Process

- Totus Tuus registration and discussion.
- Intergenerational night planning
- Calling families who were "no-shows" to Religious Education to see why they didn't come.
- Thinking of ideas of how outreach to families who didn't "re-register" their children in R.E. from last year.
- Updating/Organizing Resource room at Sacred Heart.
- Updating RE rosters/waivers
- Beginning Sunday RE
- Developing schedule for priests visits @ Wed. RE

C. Spiritual Development and Professional Growth

- Spiritual Direction
- DIOCORE monthly meetings
- Mentoring with Ellen Voegele

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

Sept. 2 & 9: NCYC meetings: 76 students and 14 adults will be traveling to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis Nov. 19-22. Meetings were held to talk about travel plans and to

begin the prayer process for the journey. The theme of the conference is "Here I Am Lord". Almost 1700 from the archdiocese of Dubuque are attending, making us the largest delegation in the country. Our group is the largest in the archdiocese!

Sept. 6: High School: Kick-off party at CHS. 27 students attended the kick-off. We had food, played games and talked about the year of youth ministry.

Sept. 20th: Taize prayer at SH. 8 students attended. We went to Culvers for ice cream after, where 4 more students joined us late as CHS had play practice until 6:45.

Confirmation Retreat: Will be held Sunday, Oct. 4th at CHS. 10am-8pm. Students are asked to attend either the 4:30pm mass on Saturday evening at Blessed Sacrament or the 9am mass on Sunday at St. Edward. We will be at the masses to check in the students. The retreat team has been meeting on Saturday mornings. We have a very solid plan in place for the day that includes witness talks, reconciliation, an afternoon of "stations" based on the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit and an evening outdoor prayer experience. Seniors from CHS, West High and East High are on the team, as well as college student from UNI, Loras, Mt. Mercy and Hawkeye.

Sept. 23: CORE begins: Students who attend CORE spend 30 minutes with me as part of their class time. We will be focusing on different ways to pray during the first semester.

Coming Up:

Oct. 4: Confirmation retreat at CHS

Oct. 6 & 20: Small group faith sharing during CHS theology classes

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: CORE

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28: Upperclassmen faith sharing after CORE

Oct. 11: Service afternoon

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

Oct. 18: Taize at First Baptist

Middle School Youth Ministry

Sept. 12: Middle School: Kick-off party at CHS. 13 students attended this kick off. We had pizza, played Apples to Apples, Jenga, and Charades. We talked a little about some things they would like to do this year. Ideas included; girls and guys nights, movie nights, concerts (if any come to the area), lock-in.

Sept. 23: The 6th grade religion classes from Blessed Maria took a "field trip" to the youth office at Columbus. The goal was to show kids the youth room so they know where to come for events and to get to know me more. Thank you to the 6th grade teachers for saying yes to this idea I presented them! Hoping to do the same with the 7th & 8th grade classes in the coming weeks.

Coming Up:

Oct. 10: Service Day

Oct. 30: Halloween party/dance at Blessed Sacrament

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

Confirmation -

- 62 Candidates with their parents attended Information Meetings on Sept. 13/16; 9 other candidates met with Julie in the following week; contact is being made with 15 more potential candidates to determine their intentions.
- Annie Zeets is making preparations for the Oct. 4 Confirmation Retreat at Columbus.
- Candidates will attend Oct. 3 4:30 p.m. Mass at Blessed Sacrament or Oct. 4 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Edward as a component of their Retreat day.
- Confirmation Handbook & Service Opportunities info is posted on WCFE website under Sacraments tab (Confirmation - Youth Confirmation).

First Reconciliation -

- Parent meetings will be held Sept. 27 @ 1 p.m. (Scallon Hall - in Spanish); Sept. 28 & 29 at 6:30 (Blessed Sacrament parish center - in English); Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. (O'Hagan Hall - Burmese). The meeting will feature adult catechesis/review about the sacrament along with explanation of the immediate preparation process.
- Immediate preparation for First Reconciliation: School religion teachers & Rel.Ed catechists guide students through *God's Gift of Reconciliation* text, and parents support and enhance the learning by using the "Together" magazine and by guiding their child in completion of the "My Reconciliation Book" at home. Children will take the completed text home two weeks prior the celebration of the sacrament so parents can review and prepare with them.
- First Reconciliation will be celebrated at St. Edward Church - 6:30 on Wed., Dec. 2 OR at Queen of Peace Church - 2 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 6.

Children's Liturgy of the Word -

- Will resume at Blessed Sacrament (10:30), St. Edward (9 a.m.), and Sacred Heart (10:45 on 2nd & 4th Sundays) in October. We are still in need of additional leaders & helpers at each of these parishes.
- It has been on-going at Queen of Peace - Noon Mass on 2nd & 4th Sundays.)

Burmese Sacraments

- 5 Burmese students who attend public schools want to be confirmed. All attended Columbus or Blessed Maria for at least one year, but have not participated in additional faith formation through CORE due to transportation problems or not understanding the need for

it. Julie will coordinate additional faith formation sessions on Sunday afternoons at Sacred Heart for these students.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

RE/CORE Registrations:

- Entered RE and CORE registrations on spreadsheets and organized binders with the RE registrations per child in each grade for Wednesday and Sunday RE and CORE.

On-line Credit Card Payments:

- In contact with E-Catholic about setting up an online payment option for registrations.

PDS

- Working with PDS to set up on-line registrations.
- 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.

Folding Machine

- Looking at purchasing a folding machine for the office. Getting prices.

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.