

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
December 2016

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** Three people completed the Rite of Christian Reception and were received into the church this fall.

> Learn more about the Rites of Initiation and Reception here:

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 05 families attended the Baptism class in November. The next Baptism preparation class is December 12 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. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 35 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Nov. 28 at St. Edward. The next Witness Hour is January 30 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** Friends in Faith will hold their Singles Potluck and Christmas Party on Dec. 10 at Blessed Sacrament.

3. **Inactive Catholics.** A discussion session for inactive and alienated Catholics meets on the third Wednesday evening of the month at COR.

> Learn more about Inactive Catholics here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/information-for-inactive-and-alienated-catholics>

4. **Gay and Lesbian Catholics.** A discussion session for gay and lesbian Catholics meets on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month at COR; a discussion session for family members of gay and lesbian Catholics meets on the fifth Wednesday evening of the month at COR.

> Learn more about Gay and Lesbian Catholics here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/information-for-gay-lesbian-catholics>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Busy Catholics Guide.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent will be held on Nov. 29 at St. Edward; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation will be held on Dec. 8 at Blessed Sacrament.

> Learn more about the Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living series here:

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

2. I am working now on arranging presenters for our Winter at the Cellar programs in January and February.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Advent Morning Prayer.** Ellen and I will be leading Morning Prayer at COR on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during Advent.

2. **Advent Online Retreat.** I will be offering an on-line Advent Retreat Dec. 5-12. We will be purchasing rights from Twenty-Third Publications for material from their Advent publication "A Season of Praise" by Fr. David M. Knight.

3. **Advent O Antiphon Reflections.** During the last seven days of Advent (Dec. 17-23) I will be offering a daily reflection on the "O Antiphons," scriptural names for Jesus which are traditionally sung as a part of Evening Vespers in the Liturgy of the Hours. These will be posted on Facebook and be available by email.

4. **Faculty Advent Retreat.** I am working with James Larsen on planning an Advent retreat for the staff at Columbus and Blessed Maria Dec. 9.

E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **Interfaith Prayer Service.** About 200 people attended the Interfaith Prayer Service Nov. 13 co-hosted by Cedar Valley Interfaith Council and the Catholic parishes.

2. **Racism Study Circles.** I am in discussion with Abraham Funchess, pastor of Jubilee United Methodist Church and executive director of the Waterloo Human Rights Commission, to develop a series of study circles on racism during the coming year.

F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for November was 4935 (daily average: 183; daily range: 58/344).

**Young Adult Ministry/COR at 220 East
Ellen Voegele**

COR at 220 East

Administration:

Hospitality Ministers Training A - Rescheduled for January 7, 9 am - 12 pm

COR Subcommittee - now meeting quarterly, first meeting was November 21.

Faith Formation Events:

Monthly Offerings:

"Faces of Main Street" Photography Exhibit - October-December

- Many have viewed during events, 17 from the street have walked-in so far

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, November 3. - *0 people attended, 2 hospitality ministers present.*

Next up: December 1

Discussion Night - Sunday, November 20 Topic: Naked vs. Nude: The difference between porn & nudity in art - *0 people attended*

Next up - Monday, December 19 Topic: The Presence of God in the Midst of Suffering

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock - Friday, November 18

November Movie: Marty - *15 people attended*

Next Up: December 16, Meet Me in St. Louis

Taize Prayer - Sunday, November 20 - *6 people attended, 1 "off the street"*

Next up - February 19

One-time Events:

Christmas Decorating, Saturday, November 26, 1-4 pm - *We decorated COR for Christmas while Winter Wonderloo & the Holiday Fudge Walk went on downtown. We offered fudge and the photography exhibit was open for viewing. - App 15 people stopped in and two volunteers helped decorate.*

Art in the City: Wine & Canvas with a Twist - Saturday, December 3, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

COR Reception of Appreciation with Archbishop Jackels - Tuesday, December 13, 5:30-6:30 pm
A reception will be held for donors and volunteers who have given exceptionally of their time, talent, and treasure to COR in the past year. Appetizers and a short program and blessing will be part of the evening.

Young Adult Ministry:

Get to Know Your Neighbors - November 13 Interfaith Prayer Service for our Leaders - *2 young adults went to the prayer service*

Next up - December 11 - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Waterloo

Meet at COR (220 East 4th St) at **8:30 am**. We will join the Lutherans for their 9 am service and Sunday school. Lunch and conversation will continue after the experience at LJ's.

Art in the City: Wine & Canvas with a Twist - Saturday, December 3, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Advent Awakening: Young Adult Small Group - Meets Mondays, starting November 28 through December 19 from 5-6 pm at Ellen's home. Participants may attend one or all sessions - *5 people have signed up thus far.*

Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA - We will likely be changing RCIA to Sunday mornings due to schedule changes with one of our catechumens. Every Sunday RCIA will meet at 11 am Mass at St. Edward. Catechumens and team will be dismissed after the Intercessions for Breaking Open the Word. Breaking Open the Word will focus on the liturgy and one of the Sunday readings. A topic will follow and we will conclude at approximately 12:45 pm.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/wcff) 320 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 195 likes
- Facebook - COR - 108 likes

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - November 4, 11, 18, 24 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - November 1 (AFF & COR)
- Family Night - November 6 (C&F Catechesis & BS)
- Poverty Simulation - November 8 (Pat Wiss & CHS)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - November 16 (AFF & COR)
- Taize Prayer - November 20, 6 pm (SH & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - November 23 (AFF & COR)
- Catholic Witness Hour - November 28 (AFF & SE)
- Discussion for Family Members of Gay & Lesbian Catholics - November 30 (AFF & COR)

Networking/Promoting:

- Advent Morning Prayer - Every M, W, and F from Nov 28 - Dec 23 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals - December 2, 9, 16 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - December 6 (AFF & COR)
- Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation - December 8 (AFF & Blessed Sacrament)
- CVCS Professional Development Day - December 9 (CVCS & FFAT)
- Family Night - December 14 (C&F Catechesis & BS)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - December 21 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - December 28 (AFF & COR)

In process:

- COR Networking Friends
- COR Internships
- Updating COR Promotional Materials

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- "Sustaining Yourself in Ministry" MAC Group - November 4
- Spiritual Direction

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- After class, for both Wed. and Sunday RE we have been having different grade levels present on different Saints and lead us in prayer. Parents are invited to join us! See pictures of the presentations here: <https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/>

- [We had our first family night on Nov. 6th. All Catholic families were invited but we took attendance for Wed. and Sunday RE. We are pleased to announce we had around 200 people attend.](#)
- [Our next family night is Dec. 16th; here is our advertisement for it:](#)

Awaken Your Heart: An Advent Prayer Experience for Families - Wednesday, December 14 - 6 - 7:30 pm @ Sacred Heart School

Take a break from the busyness of this season and join other Waterloo Catholic families for a meal and prayer. We will start with pizza in the gym, picnic-style (bring your own blanket) and continue with family prayer stations. Several stations will be set up with different forms of prayer. Pray the familiar favorites or learn new ways to pray with your family. All are invited and child care will be offered for children under age 5. Attendance will be taken for Wednesday & Sunday RE families. Please use the 5th street entrance of the school.

- During December we are hoping to have St. Nicholas visit our religious education programs.
- Grades 3-8 in Sunday RE will be attending Reconciliation in December. Wed. RE had Reconciliation in November.
- A mid-year parent survey will hopefully be going home in December for our RE programs. If not December then definitely in January (depends on how fast it can be translated in the midst of a busy month for our translators).

CORE:

- We met with Kevin Feyen, Director of Adolescent Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, in November and looked at ways we can improve high school faith formation. More info to come.
- The second semester of CORE will start on Jan. 4th.

Intergenerational Opportunities:

- At the end of Sunday RE and Wed. RE this year we will be having different grade levels present on a different Saint they have learned about and invite all students and parents to join them asking that particular Saint's intercession. To see pictures from our presentations go to <https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/>.
- Family Night, Wed. Dec. 14th (see above for more specific info).

Totus Tuus:

- We are still waiting to hear from the Archdiocese what date we submitted was actually selected. We put a deposit down to have Totus Tuus again in the early fall.

Spiritual Growth/Professional Development:

- Monthly Spiritual Direction
- Attended Archdiocesan Renewal Day for Faith Formation Leaders and Catholic School Administrators on Nov. 15th.

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- Nov. 1 & 15: CHS faith sharing (*Prayer, Catechesis*)
- Nov. 6: Faith formation family night at Blessed Sacrament (*Prayer, Catechesis, Community*)
- Nov. 15: Helped with CHS poverty simulation (*Justice & Service*)

- Nov. 13: Service project. Made blankets and donated to House of Hope. 7 students attended (*Service, Community*)
- Nov. 20: Bowling at Cadillac. 9 students attended (*Community*)
- Nov. 27: Youth room holiday decorating party. Set up the tree and lights. Spent some time in prayer for a positive season of Advent. 17 students attended. (*Community, Prayer, Catechesis*)

Coming Up

- Dec. 4: Advent Prayer Week 2
- Dec. 11: Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 11: Advent Week 3
- Dec. 18: Advent Week 4
- Dec. 29: Christmas Party

CORE: High School RE

- Class nights: Nov. 2, 9
- Students rotate each week coming down to the youth room.
- The last night of class, all students were with me for the entire evening. We had a great discussion about politics and faith, watched some videos to promote NCYC and had lots of snacks.
- After CORE happened each week. Students stayed after class to hang out and have snacks. On average, 3-5 students stayed each week. One student, not in CORE, but a junior in confirmation, would come for the after CORE part each week.

NCYC 2017

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-20, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- As of this report, 137 students and 23 adults have turned in their deposits - trip is full and there is a waiting list. We will have 3 buses and will be the largest group in the archdiocese!
- \$100 deposits were due Nov. 15. Payment #2 of \$100 is due Jan. 15.
- Total cost of the trip is \$600.
- Parent fundraising committee will meet the second week of January to start making fundraising plans.
- Will be speaking to the parishes about ways to get parishioners involved; prayer, fundraisers, etc.

Promoting

- St. Edward Lessons and Carols
- Christmas concerts at all area high schools

Other

- Served as member of CHS Kairos administrative team. Helped chose student leadership team and also listened to student talks and provided feedback. I did not attend Kairos as a leader, but did take the time to write a letter to every student who went on the retreat.
- I routinely have 3-8 individual meetings with students each week. Many times a student simply needs someone to listen to them. But sometimes they are really struggling with their faith and need some advice and guidance. I try to provide books and other resources such as reputable websites and blogs to help them find some answers and support. Nearly every Sunday a student will ask to come before youth group to talk with me. It is in these moments that I find the depth of ministry.

Middle School

- Nov. 19: Archdiocesan Youth Jam at Columbus and Blessed Maria. Theme of the day was #LetMeBe. Keynote speaker Greg Wasinski was great and really got the youth to think about why it's cool to be Catholic. We ended the evening with mass celebrated by Fr. Aaron Junge. Thank you to CHS and Blessed Maria for allowing us to host this diocesan event. Special thanks to Tom Novotney, Julie Graff and Brian Zeets for lending a helping hand all day. And to Rick Johnson and Harvey Parcel for helping

with building logistics and set up on Friday. 29 students from Waterloo parishes attended/185 from the diocese (Catechesis, Prayer, Evangelization, Community)

Coming Up:

- Dec. 10: Movie and Prayer Night at the youth office
 - Dec. 16: Caroling at community meal at 220 East
 - Dec. 30: Christmas party
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Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments - (revised numbers)

- 87 Second graders are preparing for First Reconciliation (96 last year)
 - By parish: BS - 17; QP - 18; SE - 32; SH - 20
 - By program: CVCS - 52; RE - 33 (Summer - 8; Sun - 7; Wed - 18); Home - 2
- Optional Reconciliation Retreat was offered Sat., Nov. 19 10 a.m. - Noon at SH church; 17 children and their parents attended. Retreat activities were designed to be very "parent-led". Fr. Luigi and I conducted a parent-child learning session for the 7 Burmese families.
- First Reconciliation celebrations -- Wed., Nov. 30 - 6:30 pm @ Blessed Sacrament Church OR Sat., Dec. 3 - 10:00 am @ Sacred Heart Church; 2 second graders have not yet been baptized; their First Reconciliation will be celebrated after Baptism - likely in the spring.

Children's Initiation

- 29 students from gr. 3-8 RE programs participated in Children's Initiation classes that focused on the sacrament of Reconciliation. 25 of them celebrated First Reconciliation on November 16. 4 of the CI students need Baptism. Their parents will work with Deacon Rigoberto for that. First Reconciliation will be celebrated later in the spring.
- Met with 5 Sacred Heart School third graders for Reconciliation during three of their religion class times; First Reconciliation on November 10. I also met with a 3rd grader at St. Ed's in this way; his parents are deciding on when to celebrate the sacrament.
- Continue to have individualized classes for students from Blessed Sacrament School (gr. 3 & 5) and BMAP/Columbus (gr. 7 & 10) who desire Baptism. Will begin meeting with
- Prepared 2 high school students for Reconciliation. They will celebrate it at Queen of Peace on Dec. 3. Will work with these youth in the spring to prepare for First Eucharist.

Confirmation

- 85 Candidates enrolled.
- Class Session #1 was held on Nov. 9/13 at St. Ed's. Candidates attended with their sponsor or a parent. All but 9 Candidates were able to attend. Those nine have a make-up task to do with their sponsors and then will meet with me. Class #2 will be Jan. 8/11 at Queen of Peace for Candidates only.
- Meeting w/Cole Photography this week to design group photos to display in parishes.
- I will contact parishes about asking parishioners to be "prayer partners" for Confirmation candidates. Candidate names and info will be provided for this.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH; weekly CLOW at St. Ed's.

Professional Development

- Attend monthly regional MAC (Ministry-Affiliated-Cohort) meetings with area Faith Formation Leaders.
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Office Manager

Becky McElroy

Labor Law

- Worked on the Labor Law and preparing letters for staff regarding the changes which were to be effective on December 1st. Setting up time sheets for staff, organizing timeline that staff will be paid.

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.
- Working on cleaning out file cabinets and the office.
- Working with staff on our budget for 2016-2017.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave and Julie.
- Printed certificates for Julie for Reconciliation.