

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
February 2016

Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

## February 2016

### A. Initiation

1. 07 candidates are enrolled in the winter RCRA series which began January 24 and its meeting on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish. Several more candidates have decided to wait until the Spring series in March.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

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

3. 03 families attended the Baptism class in January. The next Baptism preparation class is Feb. 8 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. The Catholic Witness Hour scheduled for January was cancelled because we did not have a parish interested in hosting it. The next Witness Hour will be March 28 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. The next Friends in Faith Singles Potluck is scheduled for Jan. 30 in Putz Hall at Blessed Sacrament. The next Singles Mingle is Feb. 13 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 25 people attended the Winter at the Cellar series Jan. 18, presented by Dr. Charlotte Wells. Dr. David Cochran will discuss how Catholic values and principles might transform civic and political discussion in the U.S. Feb. 4; Dr. Jacob Kolhaas will discuss the need for a Catholic theology of parenting Feb. 9.

2. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent will be held Feb. 11 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>

3. 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>

4. "Global Warming--A Prophetic View of Collective Responsibility" is the title of the next Catholic Speakers Series presentation by Fr. Dale Launderville OSB from St. John University/School of Theology in Collegeville on March 3 at St. Edward Parish. The presentation is sponsored by the School of Theology and includes a free dinner.

> Learn more about the presentation here:

[www.csbsju.edu/sot/theology-day](http://www.csbsju.edu/sot/theology-day)

5. A five-week video/discussion series "Psalms--The School of Prayer" will begin on March 14 and meet on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish during Lent.

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

1. 104 people participated in the "Practicing Mercy" online novena Jan. 18-26.

2. Bill Mulcahey, a retired scripture professor from Mount Mercy University, will facilitate the Lenten Mini-Retreat Feb. 14 at American Martyrs Retreat House. Bill will present an overview of the Gospel of Luke, with an emphasis on Luke's passion narrative.

3. The Christian Experience Weekend for women is scheduled Feb. 12-14; the CEW for men is Feb. 26-28; both weekends will be held at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

3. Queen of Peace Parish will host a city-wide Lenten Mercy Mission Feb. 28-Mar. 1. The mission will be conducted by Fr. Dennis Koopman OFM.

#### **E. Interfaith/Social Justice**

1. The bus to the Midwest March for Life Jan. 16 in Des Moines was cancelled due to an insufficient number of registrations.

2. Fr. Tom McDermott will represent the Catholic parishes at an interfaith prayer service Jan. 30 at the Waterloo mosque.

#### **F. Administration**

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in January was

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**Young Adult Ministry**  
**Ellen Voegelé**

**COR at 220 East**

**Preview Receptions** - Wednesday, January 13 and Thursday, January 14. Over 100 invitations were sent out to the preview receptions. Cottonwood Canyon Coffee Shop catered the events and the COR subcommittee and Faith Formation Team served as hospitality ministers. Turn-out was not good. We will discuss next steps at our next subcommittee meeting.

**Public Open House** - Thursday, January 28, 4:30 - 6 pm. Bulletin inserts went in Jan 23-24 in all Waterloo parishes. Refreshments and drinks will be served.

**\* Community Events:**

**Hillary Clinton Campaign Office** - Friday, January 29-February 1. The campaign office will use COR for overflow space for volunteers making phone calls for the caucuses. We checked with all Waterloo pastors and the Archdiocese on the feasibility of this request. The Archdiocesan *Policy for Church Involvement in Public Affairs* does not per se prohibit the rental of church facilities to political campaigns if 1) the market rate is charged 2) all campaigns have an opportunity to rent the facility, and 3) no publicity or public events are present in the facility.

**\* Faith Formation Events:**

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, January 7. - *0 people attended*  
Next up: Thursday, February 4

**Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock**

The Kid Brother was Friday, January 15. *10 people attended, 3 "off the street," 7 young adults including 1 RCIA candidate*

Next up: *The Pope's Toilet* on February 19

**Catholicism 101** - Sunday, January 17. Topic: *The Sacred in Everyday?* Presenter: Annie Zeets. - *0 people attended*

Next up: Monday, February 15 Topic: *The Problem of Evil* Presenter: William Brandle

**New Catholics Small Group** - Thursday evenings, 6:30 - 8 pm beginning February 4. Sessions will be held every other week until May 12. All those who went through RCRA, RCIA, and Adult Confirmation in the past three years are welcome to attend. Melissa Mitchell will be facilitating.

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - Sunday, January 10, attended the 10 am service at Trinity Episcopal in Waterloo. *3 young adults attended.*

Next up: Sunday, February 14 - Cedar Falls Mennonite Church

**Super Bowl Party** - Sunday, February 7, 5-10 pm @ the Brandle's house. All young adults and families are welcome.

**Adult Confirmation** - Sessions were rescheduled to begin on January 26 and will conclude on February 16. We have *3 young adult candidates.*

**Young Adult Ministry Communications -**

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/cvyoungadults](http://flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)) *98 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *182 likes*

- Facebook - COR - 83 likes

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Community Meals - January 8, 15, 22, 29
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - January 20 (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - January 24 (First Baptist)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - January 27 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)
- Midwest March for Life - January 16 (AFF)

**Promoting:**

- Busy Catholics Guide to Lent - February 11 (AFF)
- Lenten Mini-Retreat - February 14 (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - February 21 (Sacred Heart)

**In process:**

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

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Spiritual Direction
- Prepared and taught 2 credit course on Evangelization and Young Adult Ministry at University of Notre Dame, January 25-27

**Children and Family Catechesis**

**Kelleryn Rauzi**

*Religious Education:*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of classes started Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>
- A "thank you dinner" was given to the catechists on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at Highway 63 Diner. The purpose of this dinner was to not only thank the catechists for their service so far but to also allow them time to socialize and connect with one another.
- Surveys were given to the catechists regarding their thoughts on the religious education program. Results from the surveys are pending until I receive all the surveys back.
- Catechists will be attending one night of the Jesup parish mission by John Leonetti as their spring inservice.
- February 10<sup>th</sup>: No religious education classes so families can go to Ash Wednesday masses together.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have communal reconciliation for Wed. RE students. Reconciliation Service we use will be made available to the Catholic grade schools if they would like to utilize it.
- Sunday RE students will have a chance to go to Reconciliation on a few different Sundays depending on grade level. (Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Flocknote: Ellen and I are still figuring out how to make this work for RE. Taking longer than we anticipated, but will definitely have it ready for Summer RE.

*Intergenerational Opportunities:*

- Ongoing: prayer services that are open to parents/other siblings after every RE session. Wed. night sessions are led by Fr. Scott Bullock and are bilingual

- Lenten Family Newsletter being sent home soon. It includes ideas on how to practice the 3 pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving) as a family.
- Intergenerational Night Opportunity: Tentatively April 3<sup>rd</sup>; 5-7pm. Location TBD. We are thinking this night will include a meal, praise and worship music, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. More info to come.

*CORE:*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester CORE classes began Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. Still having registration forms coming in so I will update the #'s for CORE next month.

*Totus Tuus:*

- We will be hosting Totus Tuus instead of Vacation Bible School this summer the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Location: St. Edward School. This was decided due to availability of air conditioning for all facilities needed (classrooms, etc.) as well as a feasible outside area (needed for Totus Tuus programs).
- Promotion: Archdiocese will be offering promotional materials for FREE. These will be offered sometime in February from the Archdiocese.

*Professional/Spiritual Development:*

- Mentoring with Ellen Voegele
- Currently enrolled in Dayton's Online Course: Introduction to Catechetics
- Spiritual Direction

**High School/Middle School Youth Ministry**

**Annie Zeets**

**High School**

Jan. 5: Faith sharing at CHS

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: Bible study: Numbers are increasing for this student led group. Several CORE students are staying after to be part of bible study. *Averaging 11-14 students each week.*

Jan. 10: Stress Relief Night: This was the last week before finals. The evening began with a centering prayer. Massage therapist, Kelly Bogardus came in and did chair massages for the students. We had many snacks including Scratch cupcakes. *29 students attended.*

Jan. 13, 20: CORE. Youth Ministry gets 30 minutes each week with each class. So far we have discussed dealing with stress and did a guided meditation and had a lengthy discussion on the topic of respect.

Jan. 21-24: Adult leader for Columbus High School "Kairos" retreat.

Jan. 26: NCYC adult chaperone appreciate dinner in Independence (hosted by Archdiocese) *9 of our 14 chaperones attended.*

Jan. 31: Tough Topics:

**Coming Up:**

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>: Topic Night: Relationships

Feb. 10, 17, 24: Bible Study

Feb. 17, 24: CORE

Feb. 21: Taize Prayer at Sacred Heart

Mar. 4: Dinner and Movie Night

**Attended:**

CHS bowling meet

East/West bowling meet.

**In Process:**

Kelleryn and I will be making a trip to St. Cecilia Parish in Ames to observe their high school religious education program.

Summer Scheduling: Currently looking into ND Vision, Steubenville Conference (Rochester) and a local summer service experience.

**Middle School**

Jan. 16: Mass, pizza and game night at Blessed Sacrament: 13 students attended.

Jan. 30: Service morning. We made tie blankets and care packages with toothpaste, toothbrushes, gum, handwarmers, fruit snacks and granola bars in them. Items will be taken to Catholic Worker and Hospitality House. 15 students attending.

**Coming Up:**

Feb. 19: Movie Night

Feb. 27: Service morning

**In Process:**

Planning is underway with WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministry) to host middle school Serve 'n Slide in late June/early July.

Planning for the April 9<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Middle School "Youth Jam" is underway. It will be held at BMAP and Columbus. I am leading the diocesan planning team for this event.

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**Children and Family Catechesis**

**Julie Niemeyer**

**First Communion - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders**

- 97 second graders are preparing for First Communion.
  - By program: 58 in school programs, 29 in Wed/Sun RE, 10 summer RE in home study
  - By parish: BleSac - 21; QP - 19; SE - 33; SH - 24
- Parent Meetings were held Jan. 10 (Spanish), Jan. 11, Jan. 12, and Jan. 24 (Burmese). Have had make-up sessions with 8 parents who couldn't attend the info meeting; will ask Rosario to meet with 3 Hispanic parents needing the make-up.
- Will partner with parents in preparing children for First Communion. The eight lessons will be done in classroom; books will be sent home for review and reinforcement during 2 weeks in March, then again after completion of all lessons. Parents have the "Together" magazine with ideas for activities and/or conversations that can be done either with or without the textbook. All children receive "My Own Mass Booklet" to be completed with parents at home. (Summer RE families do the text as a home study.)
- A 2-hour Eucharist Retreat for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and a parent is part of the preparation. Elements of the "bread and juice party" that had been used in individual parishes will be incorporated. Parents will help their child decorate a blessing cup that will then be glazed, fired, and given to the child at their celebration. Parents can choose from 3 dates & times for the retreat: Sat., Feb. 20 10 a.m. - Noon; Sun., Feb. 21 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 22 6:00-8:00 p.m. All retreats are held at Sacred Heart Church.

- There's a common preparation format for all 4 parishes, but each parish will have it's own celebration. Emphasis in parish celebrations will be on the child's primary role of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. For this reason the celebrations may not be as elaborate as they may have been in past years. Changes that began last year will continue.
- Celebrations
  - SH - April 9 @ 5:30, April 10 @ 10:45; Rehearsal & photos April 7 @ 6 p.m.
  - SE - April 17 @ 11 a.m.; Rehearsal & photos April 14 @ 5:30 p.m.
  - QP - April 24 @ 9 a.m. & Noon; Rehearsal April 23 @ 10:00 & 10:45; photos after Masses on the 24<sup>th</sup>
  - BS - April 30 @ 4:30; May 1 Q 8:30 & 10:30; Rehearsal & photos April 30 @ 9 a.m.

### **Confirmation**

- Class Session #2 was held Jan. 20/24; Class #3 (with sponsors) will be Feb. 24 & 28.
- The Loras College Choir will be leading the music for the Confirmation celebration Friday, April 1 @ 7:00 p.m. Archbishop Jackels will be the celebrant.

### **Children's Initiation**

- 37 students in gr. 3-7 are enrolled in Children's Initiation
  - by grade: 3<sup>rd</sup>- 12; 4<sup>th</sup> - 6; 5<sup>th</sup> - 8; 6<sup>th</sup> - 3; 7<sup>th</sup> - 4; 8<sup>th</sup> - 4
  - by parish: SE - 4; BS -2; SH - 1; QP - 30
- 33 students need First Reconciliation & First Communion; 4 students need those plus Baptism
- Parents will choose whether to have their child(ren)'s celebration at the same time as the parish 2<sup>nd</sup> grade celebration or at a different date.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

- Due to lack of volunteers, Blessed Sacrament CLOW will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays only; SE continues with every week, but has a small number of volunteers; QP has CLOW 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays; SH has CLOW 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays but is considering moving to an every week format.

### **Burmese Sacraments**

- Nearing end of prep program for two Burmese high school students needing Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Burmese parents expressed in a meeting w/ SH pastoral council leadership that that they are concerned about whether children are learning what they need to know about their faith. They are seeing that as their children get older, they are drifting away from their Catholic faith (and toward the secular culture.) Dave and I met with Fr. Luigi to share perspectives. We found that contributing factors include:
  - Children learn prayers in English; parents need to be encouraged to teach them in the home language. We need to let parents know what prayers children need to know.
  - When parents ask children questions about the faith there's a language barrier. Children may not understand exactly what the parent is asking; s/he may know the answer in English but not be able to communicate that in their home language.
  - In some Burmese villages and in the refugee camps, faith formation for children was largely in a catechism-based Q & A format.

- Traditionally in Burma and the refugee camps, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion weren't celebrated until around the age of 10. It was required that children knew many prayers and answers to "catechism questions" before.
  - Burmese parents want to help their children, but they either don't know how or they don't have a strong enough background themselves.
  - Plans in the works to help address the concerns include:
    - Providing Burmese translations of the prayers students are required to know so that parents can help teach them in their home language. (though the only translation we can provide is in Burmese, not Karenni)
    - Julie will offer an additional parent-child "coaching" lesson for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who are preparing for First Communion. It will be done during spring break.
    - Will look for Burmese high school students and parents to train to assist with Children's Liturgy of the Word so that CLOW can possibly be offered every week. This was a request of the Burmese families.
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**Office Manager**  
**Becky McElroy**

Invoice Mailing

- Mailed out invoices to those that have not paid the fees for RE. 2<sup>nd</sup> Mailing.

PDS

- Out of balance, worked on solving that issue.
- Getting information put into PDS on participants of our programs. Inputting information from prior years along with current year.

Internet Issues

- Issues with the Internet and being able to be on-line. We were down a lot the first couple of weeks of January, but Doug has been working on getting us more Wifi access. Contacted Mediacomb and provided Dave and Father Tom with information on the cost of adding a hard line in our office or adding more space to the school. Wrote a proposal.

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.