

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
June 2016

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The spring RCRA series concluded June 7. One candidate completed preparation to join the church and another preparation for adult confirmation.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the Baptism class in May. The next Baptism preparation class is June 13 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. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 30 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour May 23 at Queen of Peace Parish. The next Witness Hour is July 25 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilbertville.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is June 11 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant. The group will hold its annual summer picnic July 9 at the Cushing home.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Critical Choices Workshop.** 05 people attended the spring Critical Choices Workshop May 14 at Queen of Peace.

> Learn more about the Critical Choices Workshop here:

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

> Read evaluations from Critical Choices Workshops here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-587ZZK9S/>

2. **Summer Bible Study.** Dr. John Waldmeier from Loras College will facilitate the Summer Bible Study which will meet on Monday evenings, starting June 6, at Sacred Heart Parish. This year's theme is "Time for Prophets;" the four-week series will examine Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel. Cost is \$60 per person/\$100 per couple.

3. **Summer at the Cellar.** Our Summer at the Cellar enrichment series will focus on the theme of mercy. The first presentation will be Thursday, June 30. Erin Maiden, rabbi at Sons of Jacob Synagogue, will discuss mercy in the Jewish (ie, Old Testament) tradition. Fr. Bob Beck will discuss mercy in the New Testament; Dr. Charlotte Wells will discuss how the Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions developed their understanding of mercy; Fr. Jerry Kopacek will discuss how modern popes have approached mercy; and Fr. Scott Bullock will examine mercy as it is presented and celebrated in the Eucharist.

> Learn more about Summer at the Cellar here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/summer-at-the-cellar>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Online Pentecost Retreat.** 40 people participated by email in the online Pentecost Retreat May 7-15; an additional 221 people accessed the retreat on Facebook (daily average of 25).

2. **Care-Givers Retreat.** The Spring Care-Givers Retreat is scheduled for June 4 at Covenant Medical Center. The retreat is designed for anyone who has responsibility for the care of family members or friends who are sick, disabled, aging or dying.

> Learn more about the Care-Givers Retreat here:

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

3. **Year of Faith Pilgrimage.** The first Year of Faith Pilgrimage is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29. The pilgrimage will leave St. Edward parking lot at 8:30 and visit the Basilica in Dyersville and New Melleray Abbey enroute to the Cathedral in Dubuque. At the Cathedral there will be an opportunity to pass through the Jubilee Door, tour the Cathedral, and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance required to obtain the Jubilee indulgence. Cost is \$45 per person, which includes lunch.

E. Interfaith/Social Justice

1. **Yom HaShoah Commemoration.** About 150 people attended the annual Holocaust Commemoration co-hosted by the Catholic Parishes May 4 at the Grout Museum.

F. Administration

1. Total daily organic reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for May 1-30 was 4,623 (daily average:149; daily range:54/238); daily paid reach for the period was 3,792 (daily average: 158; daily range: 253/54). Total reach was 8,415 (daily average: 154).

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegelé

COR at 220 East

*** Community Events:**

Meeting with Parish Administrative Assistants - May 4, 11:30 am, leader FFAT

Jail & Ministry Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast - May 7, 8 am, leader Agnes Kress & Catholic Charities - 15 people attended

Antonio Scontorino Photography Exhibit Opening - June 5, 2 pm, leader Steve Mager Exhibit will be displayed through the summer

EMBARC Summer Resource Fair - June 11, 1 pm, leader Mallory Petsche

*** Faith Formation Events:**

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, May 5. - 2 people attended, 1 RCIA Inquirer
Next up: June 2

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock

Notorious was Friday, May 20. 6 people attended, 2 "off the street," 2 young adults
Next up: TBD

Discussion Night - Sunday, May 15 Topic: Angels & Demons - 4 people attended
Next up: Monday, June 20 Topic: Angels & Demons Part II

Taize Prayer - Sunday, May 15, 6 pm

COR hosted First Baptist for Taize Prayer on Sunday, May 15. This was an awesome event and got our beautiful sacred music out into the community. - 20 people attended

COR Hospitality Ministers Training A - Saturday, June 4, 9 am-12 pm - 13 people will be attending, 9 are young adults

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, May 15, attended the 9 am Adult Sunday School and 10 am service at Unity Presbyterian in Waterloo. We continued the conversation at lunch afterward with Rev. Christine Kaplunas from Unity. It was a great discussion. 3 young adults attended.

Next up: we will break for the summer and start up again in September

Sacraments: Masterworks of the Merciful God - 7-part series held on Wednesdays after Easter, 6:30-8 pm at St. Edward.

| Date: | Topic | Testimony | Presenter | Attendance |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| March 30 | Baptism | Theresa Seliger | Mary Pedersen | 10 |
| April 6 | Confirmation | Ellen Voegelé | Diane Flaherty | 15 |
| April 13 | Eucharist | Karen Jo Griffith | Anastasia Nicklaus | 22 |
| April 20 | Reconciliation | Kelleryn Rauzi | Fr. Scott Bullock | 35 |
| April 27 | Anointing of the Sick | David Hoth | Nancy Rigel | 24 |
| May 4 | Holy Orders | Aaron Junge (video) | Fr. Jerry Kopacek | 40 |
| May 11 | Matrimony | Lee & Kelsey Kersting | Dave & Mary Cushing | 18 |

Dinner with Jon Leonetti - Saturday, May 7, 6:15 pm @ Fr. Bullock's Residence

We had a fabulous dinner with Jon Leonetti and Fr. Bullock was an excellent host. This was a great community-building experience for young adults. *13 young adults attended*

RCIA/RCRA Team Appreciation Dinner - Tuesday, May 31, 6:30 pm @ Brown Bottle. We will gather to show appreciation, share glory stories, review the past year, and discuss changes for the upcoming year.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *104 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) *187 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *99 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - May 6, 13, 20, 27
- Taize Prayer - May 15 (First Baptist & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - May 18 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - May 25 (AFF)

Promoting:

- Community Meals - June 3, 17, 24
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - June 15 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - June 22 (AFF)
- Year of Mercy Pilgrimage - June 29 (AFF)

In process:

- Year of Mercy Closing Celebration - October 30, 2 pm at Sacred Heart - working with Dave Berns and Agnus Dei to put together "A Musical Journey of Mercy"
- Calendaring 2016-17
- Moving office to COR
- COR signage
- COR Networking Friends
- COR Summer planning
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Presented on my "white paper" detailing COR during the opening keynote at the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership held in Jacksonville, Florida, May 23-26.
- Spiritual Direction

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

Religious Education:

- Both Sunday and Wednesday Religious Education programs are finished for the year. Both programs ended the year by going to Mass and a reception after for families
- Stacie Mills (Coordinator of Summer RE) and I are in the midst of organizing our Summer RE program which will be held at St. Edward Catholic School from June 20th-July 1st.

- We have some exciting things planned for Summer RE including a teaching Mass said by newly ordained priest Fr. Aaron Junge; adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction, some seminarian visits, and opportunity for students to go to Confession.
- Summer CORE is also being planned at this time. We will be having students have opportunities to go to Mass and confession as well as the usual service opportunities afforded the high school group.
- We are having our last registration opportunity for summer programming June 1st at 6pm at the St. Edward Church basement

Intergenerational Opportunities:

- At the end of our Wed. and Sunday RE programs we invited all families to join the RE program at Mass and a reception afterwards. We had an excellent turn out of families at both Masses.
- At Summer RE we will be inviting families to participate the teaching Mass Fr. Aaron Junge will be offering for us as well as adoration.

Totus Tuus:

- Totus Tuus planning is now in "full swing".
- We have already received about 28 registrations and that is with registration only being open for a little over a week. We have more registrations coming in every day.
- We will be doing more promotion for Totus Tuus at our Summer RE and CORE sessions as well as continuing bulletin announcements, etc.
- We are also recruiting volunteers and High School helpers for Totus Tuus.

Professional/Spiritual Development:

- Spiritual Direction

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

May 9: Lawn Chair Wars: 13 students attended this photo scavenger hunt.

May 11, 18, 25: Bible Study: 8-10 students regularly attend

May 16: Helped with CHS senior retreat

May 20: Senior Lunch: 17 seniors attended

Coming Up:

June 2: East High graduation

June 3: West High graduation

June 8: End of the year party

June 14: Mass and breakfast

June 28: Mass and breakfast

Professional Development:

May 13-14: Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Leaders Retreat

Attended:

CHS graduation

I have attended several dozen graduation open houses over the last 3 weeks.

In Process:

Comprehensive high school ministry plan for 2016-2017 school year based on the 8 components of youth ministry as outlined in renewing the vision; Advocacy, Catechesis, Community, Evangelization, Justice & Service, Pastoral Care, Prayer & Worship, Leadership.

June 2017: Service learning mission trip to Guatemala. This is in the early research stages. Would book through International Samaritan and go with a group from Immaculate Conception parish in Gilbertville.

Middle School

July 26-27: Serve 'n Slide. This overnight event combines service and fun. Day one is spent doing service around the Cedar Valley. Day two we go to Lost Island. It is for students who have completed 5-8 grade. A mailing will be sent the first week of June inviting students to register. We will stay overnight at St. Mary's in Waverly. This a collaborative event with WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministry).

In Process:

Comprehensive middle school ministry plan for 2016-2017 school year based on the 8 components of youth ministry as outlined in renewing the vision; Advocacy, Catechesis, Community, Evangelization, Justice & Service, Pastoral Care, Prayer & Worship, Leadership.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments -

First Communion

- Info has been sent to parishes about children who celebrated First Communion there. Secretaries will enter it in their sacrament record books and send info on to any out-of-town parishes where children were baptized.
- Data has been compiled from the First Communion evaluation survey. The survey asked for opinions about the preparation for First Communion, not the celebration. Parents had the option to complete a paper copy or take the survey on-line. 17 of 95 parents responded. Results were very positive overall. There were no responses in the "Disagree" or "Strongly Disagree" categories to statements about the effectiveness of preparation components. Written comments were also quite positive.
- Met with Fr. Bullock and the teachers, principal, and liturgy director from St. Ed's in May to give input about the First Communion celebration there. They thought the rehearsal went well and the Mass went smoothly for the most part. They had not heard negative feedback from parents. We discussed suggestions that had been made by parents and teachers about future celebrations. Next year parents may choose to celebrate at the Saturday 5:15 p.m. Mass or the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass. A full pew will be reserved for each family. The children will process in as a group, but then sit with their parents. The parents will go up for Communion with their child. Fr. Bullock and Mr. Becker will send a letter about the changes to parents early in the year.
- In June will be meeting with a Burmese 4th grader to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion. She is a student at Sacred Heart School, but was not "reported" as needing C.I. during the school year. I will also meet with a 10th grade student from Queen of Peace. She attended CORE in the past school year, but has not yet celebrated Reconciliation or Eucharist.

Children's Initiation

- Plans 2016-17 call for a 4-week C.I. session in Oct./Nov. with an overview of sacraments and immediate preparation for Reconciliation. 4 C.I. classes will be held in March/April to prepare for First Communion. Loyola Press' *God's Gift of Reconciliation and Eucharist* will be purchased as the text for grades 3-5. Loyola Press' *Called to be Catholic* was purchased this year for gr. 6-8. This summer I am creating a syllabus/lesson plans for teachers to use.

Confirmation

- The fourth and final class session on May 4 for Confirmation was not well attended. Attendance had been encouraged, but not required. This class included info about how to be involved in parish life. For 2016-17, this 4th class will take place before Confirmation, and attendance will be expected.
- 9 students completed the on-line Confirmation survey that was sent out the first week of May. Comments were positive overall. Results will be shared with the Confirmation team on June 7.
- Some changes are planned for the immediate prep process for Confirmation 2016-17. Among the changes are: Classes will be 2 hrs. instead of 90 min. The retreat following a parish Mass will be 5 hours instead of 8. There will be 4 "required" classes instead of 3. Class session location will be rotated among all 4 parishes and the pastor will be invited to stop by the classes at their parish. Sponsors will be engaged in the preparation earlier. We will ask the sponsor to come to the first and the fourth classes.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- CLOW continues during the summer at SH and QP - 2x per month - because they have leaders available. LOTS of new leaders and helpers will be needed for next year (Sept. - May) at SE and BS if weekly CLOW sessions are to continue.

Burmese Liaison

- Have been trying to identify Burmese children who attend public school and need RE classes. I spoke at a weekend Mass at SH, but didn't have many families respond. Now am helping at the SH pictorial directory photo sessions w/ the Burmese to try to locate those in need of RE and/or sacraments.

Professional Development

- Taking a 5 week on-line class *Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview* through Univ. of Dayton's Virtual Learning Communities for Faith Formation. Plan to take another class in July/Aug that deals specifically with serving people with autism.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

PDS

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

Registration

- Taking registration payments for summer and fall programs and Totus Tuus, keeping spreadsheets of payments we have received.

Employee Letters

- Preparing employee letters for staff for 2016-2017.

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.