

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
March 2016

Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

## A. Initiation

1. The Winter RCRA series concludes on March 13; seven candidates from the series and two candidates who have been preparing privately will be received into the church this spring. The Spring RCRA series starts March 22 and meets on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish. An information meeting for people interested in joining the church will be held on March 15 at St. Edward.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

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

3. 06 families attended the Baptism class in February. The next Baptism preparation class is March 12 at Blessed Sacrament.

> 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 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 Singles Mingle is March 12 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

## C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 25 people attended the Winter at the Cellar session with Dr. Cochran Feb 4; 11 attended the session with Dr. Kolhaas Feb. 9. Total attendance for the winter series was 61.

2. 03 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent Feb. 11 at St. Edward Parish. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for March 6 at Blessed Sacrament; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Holy Week is scheduled for Feb. 21 at Sacred Heart.

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

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

3. 14 people attended the Critical Choices Workshop Feb. 24 at St. Edward. The spring Critical Choices Workshop is scheduled for May 14 at Queen of Peace.

> Learn more about the Critical Choices Workshop here:

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

4. 09 people are participating in the video/discussion series "Psalms--The School of Prayer" which meets on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart during Lent.

5. 32 people attended the Catholic Speakers Series presentation by Fr. Dale Lauderdale March 3 at St. Edward.

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. 08 people attended the Lenten Mini-Retreat presented by Bill Mulcahey Feb. 21 at American Martyrs Retreat House.
2. "The Joy of Mercy--Forgiving and Forgiven" is the theme for the Busy Catholic's Online Lenten Retreat March 7-13. The retreat features a daily scripture, prayer and reflections by Fr. Joe Kempf, a popular Catholic pastor, author, and presenter.  
> Learn more about the online retreat here:  
<http://waterloocatholics.org/2016-busy-catholics-online-lenten-retreat>
3. We will be offering an online retreat during Holy Week and a series of hourly reflections on Good Friday.
4. St. Edward Parish is hosting the "Living Last Supper" March 6.
5. Queen of Peace Parish is hosting the traditional bi-lingual "Via Crucis" on Good Friday, March 25.

#### E. Interfaith/Social Justice

1. Brian Terrell is the presenter for the Social Justice Lenten Retreat March 12 at Sacred Heart Parish. The theme of the retreat is "Observing Lent in a Presidential Campaign Year."  
> Learn more about the retreat here:  
<http://waterloocatholics.org/cedar-valley-catholic-social-justice-network>
2. The Catholic Parishes and Sons of Jacob Synagogue will co-host a discussion about the origin, history, rituals and customs of the Jewish Passover on Tuesday, March 26 at the Synagogue.

#### F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in January was 3785 (daily average 115; daily range 67/295). Total daily reach in February was 4099 (daily average 141; daily range 77/393).

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Young Adult Ministry  
Ellen Voegele

#### COR at 220 East

**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. Turn-out was not good. Next steps are to focus on community events and taking COR to parishes

#### \* Community Events:

**Hillary Clinton Campaign Office** - Friday, January 29-February 1. The campaign office used 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 it. - *Over 120 people walked through the doors.*

#### \* Faith Formation Events:

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, February 4. - *0 people attended*  
Next up: March 3

#### **Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock**

The Pope's Toilet was Friday, February 19. *10 people attended, 1 "off the street," 5 young adults*  
Next up: *Slumdog Millionaire* on March 18

**Discussion Night** - Monday, February 15 Topic: The Problem of Evil Presenter: William Brandle - *4 people attended, 2 off the street one inactive Catholic*  
Next up: Sunday, March 20 Topic: Why Pray?

**New Catholics Small Group** - Lots of scheduling conflicts with this group unfortunately. We will forego this series and intentionally connect those interested with other ministries in the parish.

**Taste of 'Loo** - We will be open and present at COR during this community event from 5:30 - 9 pm on March 10. We are hoping to work with EMBARC to have some Burmese food and find a musician to play.

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - Sunday, February 14, attended the 9:30 am service at Cedar Falls Mennonite Church despite awful weather. *2 young adults attended.*

Next up: Sunday, March 13 - St. Mark's Baptist Church, Waterloo

**Super Bowl Party** - Sunday, February 7, 5-10 pm @ the Brandle's house. *10 children and 20 young adults and adults attended*

**Adult Confirmation** - Sessions began on January 26 and concluded on February 16. We had *3 young adult candidates* that will be confirmed this month.

**Dinner & Risen Movie** - We will gather at 5:45 pm at Hurricane Grill & Wings for food and then attend the 7:40 pm showing of *Risen* at Crossroads on Saturday, March 5. This event was created and planned by a young adult and is promoted by young adult ministry.

**Young Adult Ministry Communications** -

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/cvyoungadults](http://flocknote.com/cvyoungadults)) *101 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](http://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *185 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *95 likes*

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Community Meals - February 5, 12, 19, 26
- Busy Catholics Guide to Lent - February 11 (AFF)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - February 17 (AFF)
- "Drawing a Blank: Young Adult Retreat" - February 20 (Salt & Light Young Adult Ministry in Dubuque)
- Taize Prayer - February 21 (Sacred Heart)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - February 24 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

**Promoting:**

- Lenten Mercy Mission - February 28, 29, March 1 (Queen of Peace)
- Catholic Speaker's Series - March 3 (AFF)
- Community Meals - March 4, 11, 18, 25
- Social Justice Lenten Retreat - March 12 (AFF)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - March 16 (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - March 20 (Sacred Heart)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - March 23 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

**In process:**

- COR Hospitality Minister Trainings
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- Columbus Art Show (COR)

- Praise & Worship group

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Spiritual Direction

**Children & Family Catechesis**

**Kelleryn Rauzi**

*Religious Education:*

- Business as usual this month
- We have opportunities for both Sunday and Wednesday RE students to go to Reconciliation this upcoming month. Wednesday RE students will go on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday RE students have gone on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> or will be going on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We are starting to plan Summer RE and make registration forms
- Summer RE will be held at St. Edward School from June 20<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- No RE March 16<sup>th</sup> as that is the week of spring break
- Our original Wed. night site supervisor had to quit due to a change in her day job. So we are happy to announce that Rosario and Pete Gonzalez have agreed to be joint site supervisors. They are already a great help; particularly with their ability to speak Spanish.

*Intergenerational Opportunities:*

- Ongoing: Fr. Bullock leading a Gospel reflection after Wednesday RE for both parents and students. Kelleryn is still leading prayer after Sunday RE; parents are encouraged to come.
- Lenten RE newsletter and family materials on ideas of how to celebrate Lent as a family were sent home to all RE students.
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> families will be invited to a family praise night at Blessed Sacrament parish. We will provide dinner and then have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament along with praise and worship music. More info to come.
- During Wed. RE we have been offering a book discussion on Rediscovering Jesus by Matthew Kelly. Deacon Dan Rigel has been facilitating the English discussion and has had about 4 women attend each week. Deacon Rigo is facilitating the Spanish discussion and has had between 6-12 people each week.

*CORE:*

- Total count of students this semester is 31 students.
- Count by parishes:  
Blessed Sacrament: 6  
St. Edward: 6  
Queen of Peace: 14  
Sacred Heart: 5
- Due to the snow day we had at the beginning of February we will now be ending CORE on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Totus Tuus:*

- Nothing new to report besides the Archdiocese has gotten to us promotional materials. We are just waiting to finalize some small details before getting those published.

*Spiritual/Professional Development:*

- Spiritual Direction
  - Just finished Dayton Course: Intro to Catechetics
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**Annie Zeets**

**High School Youth Ministry**

Feb. 7th: Topic Night: Relationships: Spent time in prayer then talked about different types of relationships including friendships, siblings/parents and romantic. 26 students attended

Feb. 10, 17, 24: Bible Study: On average 8-12 students attend each week

Feb. 17, 24: CORE Feb. 21: Taize Prayer at Sacred Heart: 1 student attended service. 4 more joined us at Culvers after

**Coming Up:**

Mar. 4: Dinner and Movie Night

Mar. 6: Living Last Supper presentation at St. Edwards

Mar. 6: Topic Night: Lent, How's It Going

Mar. 9, 23, 30: CORE Mar. 9, 23, 30: Bible Study

Mar. 13: Bowling at Maple Lanes

Mar. 20: Agnus Dei at St. Edward

Mar. 25: Youth Ministry will be leading the Good Friday Stations of the Cross service at St. Edward

**Attended:**

State Speech competition at West High

CHS speech & drama showcase

CHS band/choir concert

**In Process:**

Kelleryn and I will be making a trip to St. Cecilia Parish in Ames to observe their high school religious education program. (Trip last month was postponed due to weather) Summer Scheduling: Currently planning and promoting ND Vision (Notre Dame), Steubenville Conference (Rochester) and a local summer service experience (In town at AMRH). Spent a night of CORE talking and generating interest in summer experiences with the public school students.

**Middle School**

Feb. 19: Movie Night: Watched "Inside Out". Had a great discussion after about emotions and why all of them are important. Ended the evening with spontaneous prayer. 24 students attended

**Coming Up:**

Mar. 16: Spring Break "Break". Pizza and game night to take a break from Spring Break

Mar. 19: Service morning (rescheduled from February) Cookie making for CV Hospice

**In Process:**

Planning is underway with WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministry) to host middle school Serve 'n Slide on June 15-16. Students will do a day of service, spend the night at location TBD, then head to Lost Island on Day 2. Planning for the April 9th 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. DJ Bill Lage (mainstage performer at NCYC

2015) will be our presenter. The theme is "#ComeAndBe". Cost is \$29 per student/adult. Parents are encouraged to attend with their kids.

**Attended:**

Chaperone for BMAP 7th & 8th grade band competition in Waverly.

**Professional Development:** Taking free online MOOC (massively open online course) through the National Association of Catholic Youth Ministry Leaders (NACYML - of which I am a member). The focus is on Pope Francis' decree for the Jubilee of Mercy exploring the theme of "Being a Church of Mercy" for families, for youth and for all.

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**Children and Family Catechesis**

**Julie Niemeyer**

**First Communion -**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders attended a 2-hour Eucharist Retreat on Feb. 20, 21, or 22. At least one parent/adult accompanied each child. All retreats were held at Sacred Heart Church because it has three distinct spaces (church, O'Hagan, and cafeteria) conducive to hosting the three stations through which participants rotated.
- A parent letter about rehearsals and a photo order form will be sent in mid-March.
- Again, the schedule for the parish-based celebrations is:
  - 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 @ 8:30 & 10:30; Rehearsal & photos April 30 @ 9 a.m.

**Confirmation**

- Class Session #3 for Candidates and Sponsors was held on Feb. 24 or Feb. 28. All but five candidates attended. Make-up work has been planned for them.
- Students have turned in assignments (Faith Story paper, Service Hours list & reflection, Confirmation Name & reflection).
- The metro Confirmation celebration will be on Friday, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Columbus High gym. Archbishop Jackels will be the celebrant; Loras College Choir will lead the music. I am working with the Confirmation Team on the planning and coordinating with James Larsen for gym set-up.
- Letters with more details about the Confirmation celebration will be mailed to candidates and sponsors the week of March 8

**Children's Initiation**

- First Reconciliation for C.I. students who are already baptized will be on March 2.
- Parents of C.I. students are choosing when to have their child celebrate First Communion.
- There are 5 C.I. students needing baptism (3 from S.E. and 2 from B.S.). Families are to contact pastors to arrange dates and times.
- I am working individually with a high school junior who has been baptized, but needs Reconciliation or Eucharist.

## **Burmese Sacraments**

- Providing written parent materials translated into Burmese is either not possible or not feasible because some parents cannot read. To support Burmese parents in helping their children prepare for First Communion, I will hold an additional "mini-retreat" for them during spring break.
- Completed sessions with a Burmese high school student needing sacraments. She has now received Reconciliation and Eucharist and will be confirmed on April 1.

**Other** - Working with Kellryn to design a registration form and process for 2016-17. The plan is to have registrations done *by family* so we get information about the faith formation & sacrament needs for everyone in the family. We plan to have a team of staff members & volunteers to complete the forms with families - this spring and a

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## **Office Manager**

**Becky McElroy**

### Invoice Mailing

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

### Budget

- Individual meetings with Team Members to work on their budgets for 2016-2017. Working on the budget and put numbers together for next Commission meeting.

### Survey Monkey

- Inputting surveys from Programs for Dave.

### Lease for Copier

- Phone calls/emails with Access discussion lease, increase in lease that was added to the monthly bill. Trying to get the buy-out of the lease dollar amount.
- Meeting with Access Systems on the possibility of getting a different machine for the office.

### 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.