

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
May 2016

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. Two candidates are enrolled in the Spring RCRA series meeting on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish. One more candidate is meeting privately with Dave.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

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

2. 06 families attended the Baptism class in April. The next Baptism preparation class is May 14 at Queen of Peace.

> 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 is May 23 at Queen of Peace Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. The next Singles Mingle is May 14 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 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>

> Read evaluations from Critical Choices Workshops here:

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. We will be offering an online Pentecost Retreat May 7-15. This traditional retreat will be available by email and on Facebook and will offer daily prayers and reflections.
2. 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>

E. Interfaith/Social Justice

1. The parishes will be co-hosts for the annual Holocaust Commemoration May 4 at the Grout Museum.

> Learn more about the commemoration here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/jewish-catholic-relations>

F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for April was 5,690 (daily average:196; daily range:59/1,378).

Team Leader Report
Dave Cushing

1. Through our discussions with Hispanic Ministry at Queen of Peace, we now have a single policy governing preparation requirements for children's sacraments. Both Anglo and Latino children may now be enrolled in preparation for first Reconciliation and first Communion without a previous year of religious education.
2. We initiated a new process for faith formation registration this spring by sitting down with families and identifying all of the faith formation and sacrament preparation needs at one time. We are hoping to avoid the need for multiple registrations for separate programs which has caused a lot of confusion for families.
3. We are taking various steps in our efforts to continue to develop and clarify the working relationship between the parishes and Faith Formation:
 - a) individual Team members have now been assigned to attend parish staff meetings on a regular basis, replacing the process by which Team members rotated from one staff meeting to another.
 - b) we will be meeting in May with the Administrative Assistants in the parishes to discuss concerns and issues they may have and to clarify their role in guiding parishioners to the appropriate Faith Formation Team member.

c) we have initiated a discussion with WPL about how we envision the relationship between Faith Formation and the parishes, particularly the services which parish-based faith formation leaders previously provided to the parish and parish staff.

d) we will be meeting in May with representatives of the parish staffs to coordinate parish and faith formation calendars for the coming school year.

4. We have reviewed Team members' job descriptions and postponed making any recommendations for adjustments until next year.

5. The Team is working currently on calendaring for the coming year

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegele

COR at 220 East

*** Community Events:**

Essential Oils Perfume Class - April 26, 6 pm, leader Jamie Rathjen - 12 people attended

Main Street Waterloo Vender Meeting - April 26 - 5:30 pm, leader Tracey Southall - 40 people attended

Archdiocesan Faith Formation Commission - April 30 - 9-12:15 pm, chairperson Joe Schmall

*** Faith Formation Events:**

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, April 7. - 4 people attended, 1 RCIA Inquirer
Next up: May 5

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock

Song of Bernadette was Friday, April 15. 9 people attended, 2 "off the street," 7 young adults
Next up: *Notorious* on May 20

Discussion Night - Monday, April 18 Topic: Life After Death? - 4 people attended, 1 RCIA inquirer
Next up: Sunday, May 15 Topic: Angels & Demons

Taize Prayer - Sunday, May 15, 6 pm

COR will host First Baptist for Taize Prayer on Sunday, May 15. This will be a perfect opportunity to get our beautiful sacred music out into the community.

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, April 10, attended the 10 am service with the Jehovah Witnesses in Waterloo. We had a lively conversation and discussion at lunch with three of the witnesses. It was a great learning experience. 3 young adults attended.

Next up: Sunday, May 15 - Unity Presbyterian, Waterloo

Sacraments: Masterworks of the Merciful God - 7-part series held on Wednesdays after Easter, 6:30-8 pm at St. Edward. These evenings have been small, but mighty. We have received excellent feedback. Testimonies have been incredibly powerful, presentations have been solid, and small group discussion incredibly fruitful. Our RCIA neophytes have been joining us and have loved it. They enjoy reflecting on the great sacramental mysteries of our faith with parishioners who have been Catholic for much longer. We often

lament that we never see the newly initiated again after Easter. Well they have come back and are more on fire than ever.

Date:	Topic	Testimony	Presenter	Attendance
March 30	Baptism	Theresa Seliger	Mary Pedersen	10
April 6	Confirmation	Ellen Voegele	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	
May 11	Matrimony	Lee & Kelsey Kersting	Dave & Mary Cushing	

Praise & Worship Group - Four young adults from our parishes have formed a young adult group praise and worship group. The group is led by Brett Rauzi and provided music for RE Reconciliation on March 2, and will lead music for the intergenerational family night on April 3. This is an awesome start so far and we are really looking forward to utilizing this important ministry for future young adult ministry and faith formation events.

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

Fr. Bullock will host a dinner for young adults to engage with Catholic speaker and author, Jon Leonetti. So far 6 young adults have RSVP'd.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) 103 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) 185 likes
- Facebook - COR - 98 likes

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Pancake Breakfast - April 3 (SE Parish Life, SE Catholic Order of Forresters, and COR)
- Family Praise and Worship Night - April 3 (WCFF)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - April 20 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - April 27 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

Promoting:

- 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)

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"
- RCIA/RCRA Team Appreciation Dinner - May 31 (AFF)
- COR presence Friday Evenings during FridayLoo & Riverloop Rhythms
- COR Hospitality Minister Trainings
- COR Art Show
- COR - Adam & I band on August 22
- COR Summer planning
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spring Pastoral Leadership Day, April 5
 - Chosen to be on the opening keynote panel to present my "white paper" detailing COR at the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership held in Jacksonville, Florida, May 23-26.
 - Spiritual Direction
-

Children & Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

Religious Education:

- Year ends on May 4th for Wed. RE with a Mass and reception after.
- Year ends on May 15th for Sunday RE.
- We have had two successful registration days for all religious education programming (Summer RE, Summer CORE, and Fall RE & CORE programs). People seemed to appreciate the opportunity to meet faith formation staff face to face and have their questions answered in person. We will have another registration day on June 1st @ St. Ed's church basement.
- We are starting to take stock of materials and catechists needed for Summer RE as registrations come in.

Intergenerational Opportunities:

- Ongoing: Fr. Bullock leads prayer at the end of class. We read the gospel in English and Spanish and then Father does a brief reflection on the gospel. On Sundays Kelleryn leads end of class prayer; all parents are invited to end of class prayer.
- The Summer RE newsletter was sent home the last week in April/1st week in May. This newsletter included information on our new summer program, Totus Tuus, and also gave ideas on how to keep faith in family life during the summer.
- On April 3rd we had a family night event with free dinner, praise and worship music, along with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We had between 15-20 people show up. While the crowd was small, it was a great event and we hope to plan more like it in the future.
- The Mass on May 4th is open to the whole family to join in with their children who are in religious education

CORE:

- CORE ended on April 6
- We are now planning and organizing Summer CORE

Totus Tuus:

- I have been working on a plan for promotion in parishes and schools for Totus Tuus along with designing a bulletin insert for parish bulletins
- Still waiting on the rest of the promotional materials from the Archdiocese, once I am in possession of these we will open registration.

Professional/Spiritual Growth:

- Monthly Spiritual Direction
 - Attended Pastoral Leadership Study Day in April
-

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

April 1: Confirmation Mass at CHS

April 4: Chaperone for State Speech at UNI

April 6: Sr. Helen Prejean at UNI: *17 students attended*

April 13 & 20: Bible Study: *7-10 students regularly attend*

April 10: Mass and Pizza with Fr. Bullock at St. Eds: Had a great conversation with Fr. Bullock on a variety of things from how he prepares for a homily to his upcoming surgery. *10 students attended*

April 10: Senior movie night: "Spotlight": Watched the movie, then had a discussion on the movie and the issues dealt with in the movie. Lots of questions. Great discussion. *16 students attended*

Promoted:

April 24: CHS Veteran's Event

April 29-May 1: CHS musical

May 4: Holocaust Memorial Event

Coming Up:

May 9: Lawn Chair Wars

May 11, 18, 25: Bible Study

May 13-14: Archdiocesan Youth Minister Retreat

May 15: Taize Prayer

May 20: Senior Lunch

May 22: CHS graduation

June 2: East High graduation

June 3: West High graduation

Professional Development:

April 5: Archdiocesan Staff Study Day

In Process:

Summer Scheduling: Currently planning and promoting:

Steubenville Conference (Rochester) 7-8 students are interested. We may be joining with St. Pat's youth ministry and going together.

Summer service experience (In town at AMRH) LOTS of interest in this - again, may be a joint effort with St. Pat's youth ministry.

Middle School

April 9th: Youth Jam: Waterloo had 33 students attend this exciting day! Thanks to the adults and young adults who helped make the day so successful; Chris and Carrie Evans, Vanessa Gomez, Deacon Ray Larsen, Brian Zeets, Danny Zeets and Drew Crisman. The diocese has asked if I would consider planning and leading a similar event for middle school students again this fall.

April 23: Service Morning at Blessed Sacrament: Students gathered to make cookies for the CV Hospice House. We talked about the mission of Hospice and prayed that our efforts would bring some comfort to those spending time at the house with their loved ones. *7 students and one parent attended*

Coming Up:

May 15: Movie Night

May 27: Game Night

In Process:

July 26-27: Serve 'n Slide: Joint event with Waverly youth ministry.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Communion -

- First Eucharist Celebrations for 2nd graders and Children's Initiation (Gr. 3-8)
 - SH - April 9 @ 5:30, April 10 @ 10:45 29 total
 - SE - April 17 @ 11 a.m. 38 total
 - QP - April 24 @ 9 a.m. & Noon 36 total
 - BS - April 30 @ 4:30; May 1 @ 8:30 & 10:30 27 total
- Parents have been asked to complete an evaluation survey about the preparation process for First Communion. Those results will be tallied and analyzed in mid-May.

Confirmation

- Wrap-up session for newly confirmed will be offered on May 4. Besides taking time to reflect on the Confirmation experience, information will be given about opportunities for involvement in parish ministries/committee work. This info will also be forwarded to newly-confirmed who do not attend this class session.
- All newly-confirmed will be invited to complete an on-line survey about the Confirmation preparation and the celebration. Results will be tallied and analyzed in late May.
- Many thanks to this year's Confirmation Team - Deacon Ray Larsen, Carrie & Chris Evans, Vanessa Gomez, Danny Zeets and Drew Crisman.

Burmese Sacraments

- Working with Fr. Luigi to identify Burmese children in grades 2-12 who need sacraments. We will gather information after the noon Burmese Mass at Sacred Heart on May 1.
- Fr. Luigi will help to explain summer religious education offerings for Burmese children who do not attend Catholic school. He will do this from the pulpit and/or with Mass announcements on May 1 & 8. Registration for Summer RE will be done with Burmese families after the 10:45 Mass on May 15.
- Will assist with distributing information to Burmese families about Totus Tuus.

Other

- Working on compiling First Communion and Confirmation info for parish offices to enter in their sacrament records.
- Compiled a chart that outlines when and how sacrament preparation (Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation) happens at various age levels. Contact info for persons who coordinate preparation for the various sacraments is also included. The chart will be distributed and explained to

those people who may field questions about sacrament prep – parish secretaries, pastoral associates, pastors, school secretaries and principals.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

Invoice Mailing

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

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.

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.