

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
November 2016

Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

## A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** Two people are enrolled in the fall RCRA series which is meeting on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament. Both are candidates for reception at St. Edward. In addition I am meeting privately with another individual who is also a candidate for reception at Sacred Heart.

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the Baptism class in October, as well as another couple who were preparing to be Godparents. The next Baptism preparation class is November 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. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Catholic Witness Hour is Nov. 28 at St. Edward.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is November 12 at Cedar Falls Family Restaurant. Singles who are active in Friends in Faith will receive a coupon good for a \$2 discount on the fall festival dinner at St. Edward this month.

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. **Bible Timeline Video Series.** 05 people are now attending the 12-week video series which meets on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more about Bible Timeline here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/the-bible-timeline>

5. **Faithful Citizenship.** 35 people participated in the online study of the bishops' election guide, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" Oct. 3-14. 08 people attended the discussion of Faithful Citizenship with Tom Chapman, director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, Oct. 3. 50 people are participating in the seven-day online Faithful Citizenship Novena which continues through Nov. 4.

6. **Busy Catholics Guide.** 01 person attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to the Mass Oct. 12; 03 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to All Saints and All Souls Oct. 24. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent will be held on Nov. 29; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation will be held on Dec. 8

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

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

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Year of Mercy.** Over 300 people attended the metro-wide celebration marking the closing of the Year of Mercy Oct. 30, at Sacred Heart.

2. **Advent Faith Sharing.** Ellen and I will offer adults and young adults an opportunity to participate in small faith-sharing groups during Advent. We will be using a resource called "Advent Awakening" from Renew International which focuses on the lectionary readings from the Sundays in Advent.

3. **Advent Online Retreat.** I will be offering an on-line Advent Retreat Dec. 6-13. I am still negotiating with publishers for reprint rights.

4. **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.

#### E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **Racism Study Group.** 25 people are pre-registered for a five-week study and discussion of Jim Wallis's book "Racism—America's Original Sin" which will meet on Tuesday evenings at St. Stephen Student Center in Cedar Falls. The parishes are co-sponsors with UNI, the Peace and Justice Center of the Cedar Valley, Waterloo Human Rights Commission and the Project for the Beloved Community, Inc.

2. **Interfaith Prayer Service.** The Catholic parishes will be co-sponsors with the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council of an inter-faith prayer service for elected officials on Nov. 13, the Sunday after the election.

#### F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for October was 4,447 (daily average: 148; daily range: 57/322).

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

**COR at 220 East**

**Administration:**

**Hospitality Ministers Training A** - October 22, 9 am - 12 pm

We had to cancel this training due to last minute drop-outs. Many have expressed interested in this ministry so we will keep trying. Hospitality Ministers have already really taken COR to the next level.

**COR Open Hours** - I am starting to incorporate hospitality ministers into normal business hours during the week. For now I am focusing on the times in which I will not be present due to meetings off-site. The EMBARC organization continues to work out of COR Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5 pm, so hospitality ministers will not be in the building by themselves. The hospitality minister serves to welcome anyone who walks in, invite them to view the art exhibit (if applicable), engage in conversation, etc.

**Faith Formation Events:**

**Monthly Offerings:**

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

- Many have viewed during events, 11 from the street have walked-in so far

**Starting November 1:** Lunch Hour at COR, 11:30 - 1 pm

All are welcome to stop by anytime, bring your own lunch, hang out, enjoy some music by local musicians, and check out the photography exhibit. Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of the week at least through November.

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, October 6. - 0 people attended

Next up: November 3

**Discussion Night** - Monday, October 17 Topic: Faith & Politics - 5 people attended

Next up - Sunday, November 20 Topic: Naked vs Nude: The difference between porn & nudity in art

**Taize Prayer** - Sunday, November 20

**Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock** - Friday, October 21

October Movie: Casablanca - 12 people attended

Next Up: November 18, Marty

**One-time Events:**

**"Faces of Main Street" Photography Open House** - The exhibit officially opened in conjunction with Tour de 'Loo on October 6. We served beer and wine and appetizers. Our musician was sick last minute, but thanks to Carmen Lappe & Michael McAndrew for stepping in last minute to play background music on piano. - app 130

*people walked in from the street, most were doing the Tour. 2 hospitality ministers and 2 hospitality servants volunteered.*

**"The Joy of Being an Angel" Discussion Night - Monday, October 10**

Collaborated with Mary Pedersen to host an impromptu discussion with speaker Terri Baldwin who was in town for another workshop. Terri is the Director of Evangelization in the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. She was fabulous. - 10 people attended

**Trick-or-Treat: Downtown is Neat - Saturday, October 29, 10 am - 12 pm.** - app 450 children with their families walked in. Many sat down for a break and helped us make our pumpkin wall for Halloween. 1 hospitality minister and 1 hospitality servant volunteered.

**Christmas Decorating, Saturday, November 26, 1-4 pm** - We will be decorating COR for Christmas while Winter Wonderloo & the Holiday Fudge Walk are going on downtown. We will probably offer fudge to visitors that stop in and of course the photography exhibit will be open for viewing. All are welcome to stop in.

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

**Young Adult Ministry:**

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - October 23 Year of Mercy Pilgrimage

Next up - November 13 Interfaith Prayer Service for our Leaders - Meet at COR at 2:40 pm. We will walk to the YWCA to join people of all faiths for the Interfaith Prayer Service at 3 pm. Refreshments and discussion will follow the prayer service.

**Year of Mercy Pilgrimage** - Sunday, October 23, 10:15 am - 8:30 pm

This was one of the most fruitful events in a long time. 4 people attended, but all four people had an extremely rich and spiritually-charged experience. Schedule worked out great. We attended Latin Mass at noon at the Basilica, enjoyed prayer with the monks at New Melleray Monastery as well as some quiet reflection time, toured the Cathedral and walked through the Door of Mercy, and experienced the gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We closed the day with an awesome dinner and discussion at Catfish Charlie's. The day also included car reflections on mercy, a rosary for the year of mercy, and the prayers for the pope's intentions. Evaluations were filled out online and were extremely positive. If interested in viewing the evaluation, please contact me.

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

There will be an additional \$5 off registration (\$30) for all Young Adults if they 1) like our facebook page ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) and 2) register by November 18.

**Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:**

**RCIA** - We have begun the catechumenate faith-sharing group at Blessed Sacrament and we currently have 2 catechumens and 4 team members. We celebrated the Rite of Acceptance and had Breaking Open the Word on Sunday, October 16 at St. Edward for both catechumens. Breaking Open the Word will happen at St. Edward approximately once a month.

**Year of Mercy Closing Celebration** - October 30, 2 pm @ Sacred Heart

The Holy Spirit really moved and brought this event together. Agnus Dei did a phenomenal job leading the congregation deeper into the heart of God's mercy. Thanks to Dave Cushing for writing and

compiling the articles for the Witness & Courier, Sacred Heart for hosting, Sacred Heart Parish Life for planning and running the reception, and all of the parishes for encouraging parishioners to attend the event. - *app 350 people attended*

**Young Adult Ministry Communications -**

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/wcff](http://flocknote.com/wcff)) *317 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *194 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *108 likes*

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Faithful Citizenship Tom Chapman Discussion - Oct 3 (AFF & St. Ed's)
- Faithful Citizenship Email Reflections - Oct 3-15 (AFF)
- First Tuesday - October 4 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals - October 7, 14, 21, 28 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Taize Prayer - Sunday, October 16, 6 pm (First Baptist & AFF)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - October 19 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - October 26 (AFF & COR)

**Promoting:**

- Community Meals - November 4, 11, 18, (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - November 1 (AFF & COR)
- Family Night - November 6 (C&F Catechesis & BS)
- Taize Prayer - November 20, 6 pm (SH & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - November 16 (AFF & 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 (AFF & COR)

**In process:**

- COR Calendaring 2016-17
- COR Networking Friends
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- YA Praise and Worship & Adoration nights

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- Fall Pastoral Leadership Study Day - October 18
- FFAT Retreat - October 28
- Spiritual Direction

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**Children and Family Catechesis**

**Kelleryn Rauzi**

*K-8 Religious Education:*

- As of Nov. 2nd we have 83 students enrolled for K-8 Wed. RE.
- Sunday RE began Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and we have 45 students enrolled
- We have been continuing to utilize the communication tool call Flocknote with great success for our Religious Ed. Programs. It has alleviated a lot of confusion and is great to send short messages in both English and Spanish.
- Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> we will have Reconciliation for Wed. RE students in grades 3-8. Fr. Stecher will be presiding; parents will be invited.

- During classes in December the Sunday program will have the opportunity to go to Reconciliation; parents will be invited.
- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> we will be having our first Family Night of the year. Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation invites ALL families to a Family Night!  
*FREE DINNER PROVIDED! 5:30-7:30pm @ Blessed Sacrament Parish Center.*

*Topic:* Fr. Robert Gross will be giving a talk titled "Jesus: Teacher? Friend? Lord?" (Spanish speaking parents will have a talk given to them by Deacon Rigo and Martha Real on the same topic)

Children (Grades K-12) will be separated from adults during the talk for their own classroom experience with fun activities, etc. under the same topic. (For Spanish speaking families, Deacon Rigo and Martha will be talking along the same topic).

All Catholic families are invited, but for Wed. and Sunday RE families, attendance is expected and will be taken.

\*All children must be accompanied by an adult

#### *CORE:*

- As of Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> we have 28 students in CORE
- We are meeting with Kevin Feyen, Director of Adolescent Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. We are meeting with him to see what the Archdiocese envisions for high school faith formation and to see different options for programming, curriculum, etc.

#### *Intergenerational Opportunities:*

- We have a new facebook page dedicated to helping parents of children in grades K-12 pass on the Catholic faith to their children. Check us out and "like" us at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/>
- We have 4 scheduled Family Nights this year where all K-8 Sunday and Wed. RE programs are expected to attend. High School parents and students, Summer RE parents and students, and Catholic/Homeschooling parents and students will be invited to attend. FREE dinner will be served at all events. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> will be our second family night. It will be an Advent themed retreat for families. More info to come!
- 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/>.
- Newsletters will be going home for K-8 program in English and Spanish, hopefully in November, with updates on RE, tidbits on upcoming events, and some activities families can do together to celebrate the faith.

#### *Outreach to Disconnected Families:*

- We sent about 120 families who are not in Catholic schools or on our RE Rosters. We made up this list by comparing the non-returning CVCS list to our RE rosters along with comparing last year's RE roster to this year. While we didn't hit everyone, we definitely sent a mailing to a significant amount of families.
- The purpose of this mailing was to invite families to contact me regarding religious education opportunities for their child(ren) and to let them know it's not too late to still sign up. Dave Cushing

created a survey for those parents who choose not to sign their child for faith formation to see why they have not signed up.

- We have only received feedback from one person so far. This person had felt excluded in the Catholic schools because they were not Catholic. They unfortunately had to pull their child out b/c of financial issues. Both Dave Cushing and I responded to her addressing some of the things she brought to the table. It was very enlightening to hear her thoughts.

*Spiritual/Professional Development:*

- Monthly spiritual direction
- Went to Pastoral Leadership Study day on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Archdiocese.

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**High School/Middle School Youth Ministry**  
**Annie Zeets**

**Youth Ministry**

**High School**

- Oct. 2: Confirmation retreat at Blessed Sacrament. Many thanks to my team of high school seniors and college students for their help: Kira Le, Corey Mack, Adriane Cole, Daniel Novotney, Alyssa Hellman, Marifer Gutierrez, Grace Surma, Lucas Benda, Adam Funk, Dan Noonan-Day, Jake Nemmers, DiDi Van and Noel Mills. The day was filled with icebreakers, small groups, 2 witness talks, food and fun. (Community, Prayer, Catechesis)
- Oct. 9: Tough topics with Fr. Tom: Students submitted topics they wanted to discuss to me ahead of time. Topics included the election, pets in heaven, divorce, gay marriage and more. It was a good night of conversation and I think both the students and Fr. Tom enjoyed the time. (Prayer, Catechesis) *11 students attended. 4 from public school*
- Oct. 17: NCYC 2017 information meeting: Parents and students were invited to hear about NCYC 2017: *46 students attended with their parents*
- Oct. 23: Ways to Pray: Spent some time in prayer as a group. We also had a fabulous discussion about the importance of prayer in a teenagers life. (Community Life, Prayer) *13 students attended. 5 from public school*
- Oct. 30: Year of Mercy closing

**Coming Up**

- Nov. 6: Faith formation family night at Blessed Sacrament
- Nov. 13: Service project (TBD)
- Nov. 20: Bowling at Cadillac
- Nov. 27: Youth room holiday decorating party

**CORE: High School RE**

- Classes Oct. 5, 12, 26; Nov. 2, 9
- Students rotate each week coming down to the youth room. Both classes had a night where we talked about NCYC. We did a night on prayer. Last week we played catholic Pictionary
- The last night of class, all students will be with me for the entire 90 minutes. The plan is to run a mini retreat with icebreakers, a witness talk and prayer

**NCYC 2017**

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-20, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- As of this report, 36 students and 9 adults have turned in their deposits. I estimate will have 75-90 people on the trip.

- \$100 deposits are due Nov. 15
- Total cost of the trip is \$600. Fundraising will be discussed once deposits are in. 2 parents have stepped up to be the fundraising captains for the trip
- Will be speaking to the parishes about ways to get parishioners involved; prayer, fundraisers, etc.

#### **Book Club**

- We will have our first book club meeting on Nov. 11
- Currently, there are 6 students who have expressed interest in joining

#### **Promoting**

- CHS canned food drive events (many of which are on Sunday nights in November)
- FF family night
- CHS, West High, CF fall plays (all are the weekend of Nov. 11-12)

#### **Middle School**

- Nov. 12: Rake 'n Run service project with Sacred Heart
- Nov. 19: Archdiocesan Youth Jam at Columbus and Blessed Maria: *At the time of this report, 17 students from the Waterloo parishes are registered.*
- Dec. 10: Game Night at the youth office
- Dec. 16: Caroling

#### **Blessed Maria renewal days**

- I will be meeting with the Blessed Maria 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to help them generate ideas for their day of renewal.

### **Children and Family Catechesis**

**Julie Niemeyer**

#### **First Sacraments -**

- 79 Second graders are preparing for First Reconciliation.
  - By parish: BS - 16; QP - 15; SE - 31; SH - 17
  - By program: CVCS - 47; RE - 32 (Summer - 7; Sun - 7; Wed - 16; Home - 2)
- Optional Reconciliation Retreat offered Sat., Nov. 19 10 a.m. - Noon at SH church
- First Reconciliation celebrations will be Wed., Nov. 30 - 6:30 pm @ Blessed Sacrament Church OR Sat., Dec. 3 - 10:00 am @ Sacred Heart Church
- Doing individualized classes with a special needs student from Queen of Peace who would have difficulty with a regular classroom setting. Am providing materials for the family to use with the child at home as well.

#### **Children's Initiation**

- 37 students in gr. 3-8 school and RE programs were invited to participate in Children's Initiation classes; 28 attended the first class, 3 more may still be coming; others didn't respond after several attempts. There will be 3 classes to prepare students in gr. 3-8 for Reconciliation. They are held at Sacred Heart Church basement Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9 from 6:15-7:45. Catechists are Mary Cushing, Judy Bullis, and Julie Niemeyer. Celebration of First Reconciliation will be at the RE Penance Service on Nov. 16. CI students who have 2<sup>nd</sup> grade siblings may opt for the Nov. 30 or Dec. 3 celebration. 4 CI students also need Baptism, so First Reconciliation will be celebrated at a later date.
- I meet with 5 Sacred Heart School third graders for Reconciliation lessons at during three of their religion class times. Four of the students are Burmese who would not have transportation to Wednesday evening CI classes. I will also be meeting with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at St. Ed's in this way.



- Individualized classes continue for students from Blessed Sacrament School (gr. 3 & 5) and BMAP/Columbus (gr. 7 & 10) who desire Baptism. Lessons focus on foundational concepts about the Creed, and Sacraments. Will coordinate with their pastors about when to celebrate sacraments.
- Have also begun meeting with 3 high school students from Queen of Peace who need Reconciliation and Eucharist. We don't have a formalized CI program for them. They meet with me after school and/or on days when they have no school. Preparing for Reconciliation now; for Eucharist in late winter/early spring.

#### **Confirmation**

- Now have 83 Candidates enrolled: BS - 14, SE - 35, SH - 15, QP - 16, St. Pat's - 3. By school: Columbus - 48; West - 19, East -9, CF - 6, Dunkerton - 1
- Cole Photography took group photos (by parish) at the Retreat. Hope that the posters will be displayed in churches some time in November.
- I will contact parishes about asking parishioners to be "prayer partners" for Confirmation candidates. Candidate names and info will be provided for this.
- Confirmation Sponsors are asked to attend Class Session #1 (on Nov. 9 or 13) that will be held at St. Ed's. Letters were mailed to Sponsors in mid-October.

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

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH.
- Weekly CLOW will begin at St. Ed's on Oct. 30 with a new crew of volunteer leaders; had training for those leaders on Oct. 17.

#### **Office Manager**

**Becky McElroy**

#### **Staff/Office**

- Support staff with ongoing needs.
- Daily office duties.
- Working on cleaning out file cabinets and the office.
- Prepared monthly budget report for each staff person for quarter.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.

#### **Time Sheets/Labor Law**

- Meetings on new Labor Law and having a procedure in place for time sheets. Getting letters done for all hourly paid employees and going over the information with the employees. Providing a usable time sheet for all employees.

#### **Mailing**

- Mailed out letters to families that are not in RE this year that were in RE last year and families that are no longer attending CVCS.

#### **PDS**

- Worked on a problem with PDS and being able to close out the month of September. System error was picking up a charge from last January even though the system had balanced every month. Because of this it took longer to be able to get the month end, quarterly financial reports done.

#### Meetings

- Attended the Pastoral Leadership Day on October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Team Retreat at American Martyrs on October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended team meetings, purchased treats for the meetings, prepared the agenda, and provided the minutes for the meetings.