

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
October 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. One is a candidate for reception; the other is a baptized Catholic who is renewing her association with the faith community.

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 05 families attended the Baptism class in September; in addition I meet separately with another family to prepare them for baptism. The next Baptism preparation class is October 10 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.** 65 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour is July 28 at Blessed Sacrament. The next 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 October 8 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. **First Tuesday Marriage Enrichment.** 03 couples attended the open house for First Tuesday. The regular monthly discussions begin Oct. 4.

> Learn more about First Tuesday here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/first-tuesday-for-married-couples>

3. **Journey Through Mental Illness.** 17 people attended the presentation by Virginia Pillars Sept. 19 at COR.

4. **Bible Timeline Video Series.** 04 people are enrolled in 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.** 34 people are registered for the online study of the bishops' election guide, "Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship" which takes place Oct. 3-14. Tom Chapman, director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, will facilitate a discussion of the U.S. bishops' election guide, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," Oct. 3 at St. Edward Parish. Our online study of the document begins Oct. 3 and continues with daily email messages through Oct. 14. We will sponsor an online novena Oct. 17-25 which features prayers and reflections provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the challenges and opportunities facing voters this fall.

6. **Busy Catholics Guide.** I am planning two Busy Catholic's Guide programs for October: one on the Mass Oct. 12 and one on the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls Oct. 24. Locations are pending.

> 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.** A metro-wide celebration marking the closing of the Year of Mercy will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, at Sacred Heart Parish. The afternoon event will feature music and readings chosen and performed by Agnus Dei Music Ministry.

E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **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.

2. **Discipleship Weekend Experience.** The parishes will sponsor a DEW weekend on Catholic Social Teaching April 28-30 at Prairiewoods Spirituality Center in Hiawatha.

F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for September was 4,729 (daily average: 158; daily range: 69/500). Here are monthly totals and daily averages for various features on the Facebook page: Daily Prayer 1239 (43); Daily Reading 1179 (38); Daily Examen 958 (42); Saturday Sabbath 313 (78); Sunday's Word 346 (87); liturgical features 925 (41); Trending Today 4009 (211).

COR @220 East/Young Adult Ministry Ellen Voegele

COR at 220 East

Administration:

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

We will have our second Training A for COR volunteers. Training B was scheduled on September 10 and cancelled due to participant conflicts. The first Training B will be November 19 and offered to both groups that went through training A. Kelsey Kersting is helping facilitate the trainings.

Community Events:

Private Party - October 8, 4-8 pm

Flu Shot Clinic - October 29, 10 am (EMBARC)

Faith Formation Events:

Monthly Offerings:

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, September 1. - *0 people attended*

Next up: October 6

Discussion Night - Sunday, September 18 Topic: Spiritual but Not Religious, What's the Difference? - *0 people attended*

Next up - Monday, October 17 Topic: Faith & Politics

* Though attendance is inconsistent at these Q&As and Discussion nights, Dave and I both feel that we really need to keep going with them to continue to elevate the welcoming and hospitable qualities and perceptions of the Church. We are also continuing to integrate these into the overall RCIA process. In addition, as people become more and more familiar with COR, we do believe attendance will increase. We have also discussed marketing strategies and renaming these programs to broaden the audience.

Taize Prayer - Sunday, September 18 - *10 people attended, one walk-in*

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock - Friday, September 16

September Movie: *A beautiful mind* - *5 people attended*

Next Up: October 21, *Casablanca*

One-time Events:

"Faces of Main Street" Photography Open House- The exhibit is officially "opening" in conjunction with Tour de 'Loo on October 6. We will serve beer and wine, have appetizers and live music by Patrick Daugherty. Stop by anytime from 5:30-9 pm and enjoy.

Young Adult Ministry:

Summer Cookout - Tuesday, August 30, 6:30 pm - Thank you to Fr. Tom McDermott for hosting and helping to promote the event! - *16 young adults attended, 10 were young adults that had not yet attended events.*

Get to Know Your Neighbors - September 11 @ Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Waterloo - *4 young adults attended*

Next up - October 9 cancelled and rescheduled for Oct 23 Year of Mercy Pilgrimage including Latin Mass at the Basilica in Dyersville

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

Schedule is still being finalized but we will attend Latin Mass at noon at the Basilica in Dyersville, hopefully visit New Melleray Monastery, and end at the Cathedral to go through the Door of Mercy and attend confession. Dinner and discussion will follow in Dubuque. So far 4 young adults have registered and we are open to take more. Rosie Guerrero, faith formation leader at St. Pat's is extending the invite to St. Pat's young adults as well.

Encounter Steubenville Young Adult Conference - November 12, Milwaukee, WI

Must have 5 register by October 12 to continue with planning for group lodging and traveling.

Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA - RCIA/RCRA team dinner meeting was September 14 at COR. We have invited those who were newly initiated last year to be a part of the teams. We can adjust roles for the comfort level of each person. The catechumenate faith-sharing group will begin meeting on Wednesday, October 5 at Blessed Sacrament. Right now we have 3 catechumens.

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

Working with Dave Berns and Agnus Dei Ministry on this closing event. Save the Dates and bulletin announcements have gone out. Flyers will go up in the next couple weeks and programs are being created. A reception will follow in the gathering space.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/wcff) *302 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *195 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *107 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - September 2, 9, 16, 23, 29 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - September 13 (AFF & COR)
- Taize Prayer - Sunday, September 18, 6 pm (SH & COR)
- A Family Journey Through Mental Illness - September 19 (AFF & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - September 21 (AFF & COR)
- Christ Our Life Conference - September 24-25 (Des Moines)
- Catholic Witness Hour - September 26 (AFF & Blessed Sacrament)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - September 28 (AFF & COR)

Promoting:

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

- Archdiocesan Christian Initiation Committee - September 16
- Christ Our Life Conference - September 24
- Spiritual Direction

Children & Family Catechesis**Kelleryn Rauzi***K-8 Religious Education:*

- As of Sept. 28th we have 81 students enrolled for K-8 Wed. RE. Late arrivals are still showing up and probably will through the month of October.
- Sunday RE begins Oct. 2nd. As of Sept. 28th we have 42 students enrolled, with more expected to arrive late through the next month.
- We had to cancel the 7/8th grade Sunday RE class due to only two students enrolling. I will be giving parents a variety of options (moving to Wed. RE/Summer RE, or homeschooling) in order to make sure their child received faith formation.
- We have been utilizing 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.

CORE:

- As of Sept. 28th we have 28 students enrolled in Wed. CORE with more trickling in each week.

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. Our first event is Nov. 6th, keep a look out for 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.
- Newsletters will be going home for K-8 program in English and Spanish with updates on RE, tidbits on upcoming events, and some activities families can do together to celebrate the faith.

Outreach to Disconnected Families:

- I am in the process of comparing K-12 rosters in all of our programming from 2015-2016 to this year's rosters in order to figure out which families did not come back. A mailing will be going out to all those families who did not enroll their child in some sort of faith formation this year sometime in October.
- The purpose of this mailing is 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.
- More info to come as this process unfolds.

Spiritual/Professional Development:

- Monthly spiritual direction
-

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

Sunday Night Youth Group:

- Sunda Sunday was held August 28th. Great kick off for the year. (Community Life)
21 students attended. 3 public school
 Sept. 9: Helped with Columbus freshman day of renewal
- Sept. 11: Topic Night: Seeking God. Spent some time talking about where we see God in our daily lives. Discussion led to the terror attacks of 9/11. Prayed for those who are still seeking His presence and those affected by the 9/11 attacks. *15 students attended. 2 public school (Catechisis, Prayer)*
- Sept. 18: Taize Prayer at COR. *3 students attended. 2 public school (Prayer)*
- Sept. 25: Movie Night. We watched the first Harry Potter movie and relaxed after a long homecoming weekend for many students. Thanks to Alyssa Hellman for providing ice cream, Adriane Cole for the pumpkin pie and Jennifer Weber for the full sheet cake from the SH fall festival. *32 students attended. 5 public school (Community Life)*

Coming Up:

- Oct. 2: Confirmation retreat
- Oct. 9: Tough topics with Fr. Tom
- Oct. 16: Taize Prayer
- Oct. 23: Praying the rosary
- Oct. 30: Year of Mercy closing

CORE: High school religious education

- Class Nights: Sept. 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16
- Classes spend 30 minutes of their class time in the youth ministry office every other week to learn more about youth ministry and do some fun activities
- After-CORE: I keep the youth office open each week from 8pm-9pm for CORE students to come socialize. It is a great way to get to know the students. (Community)

Confirmation Retreat

- Youth ministry is planning and leading the metro retreat on Oct. 2. A team of high school seniors and college students will be leading the day that will include; icebreakers, witness talks, small group discussions and large group activities. Lunch will be provided. Students have been asked to attend mass at their home parish that morning and will sign the book of enrollment at that time.

NCYC 2017

- Planning for NCYC 2017 is underway. Trip dates are Nov. 16-19 in Indianapolis
- Information Meeting is set for Monday, Oct. 17 in the commons at CHS
- Trip cost is tentatively set at \$600. (Six payments of \$100; deposits due Nov. 15) Fundraising will be discussed at the info meeting. Diocesan scholarships are also available.

Book Club

- I am in the process of starting a book club for high school students. So far 5 girls have expressed an interest. The goal is to meet sometime the first week or two of October to talk about ordering books and meeting times. The first book will be: I Am Malala; The girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban

Middle School

- Sept. 10: Kick off retreat at Sacred Heart that focused on who God calls us to be. We spent some time in prayer, journaling, eating lots of junk food and doing a service project: we made "blessing bags" for the hospitality house filled with snacks, toothbrushes, Kleenex and hand wipes. Students decorated brown lunch sacks with scripture verses and quotes before filling them. We ended our time together by attending 4pm mass. *18 students attended. 2 public school (Prayer, Service, Catechesis)*
- Sept. 17: Movie night: We watched Big Hero 6 and talked about courage and loss. *17 students attended. 3 public school (Community, Prayer)*

Coming Up:

- Oct. 8: Ways to Pray at Queen of Peace
- Oct. 23: Parent/Child activity at St. Eds
- Nov. 12: Rake 'n Run service project
- Nov. 19: Youth Jam

Youth Jam

- I have once again been asked to take the lead role in the archdiocesan middle school Youth Jam. It will be held at Columbus on Nov. 19. Catholic speaker Greg Wasinski will be the keynote/entertainment for the event which will include mass with Fr. Aaron Junge. Last spring this event brought together 200 middle schoolers from all over the diocese and we are hoping for 250 this time around.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments -

- Parent info meetings for First Reconciliation held Sept. 25(Burmese), Sept. 26 & 27 (English), Sept. 28 (Spanish). Have more than 20 parents who did not attend; am contacting them to schedule make-up

sessions so that all parents will have the materials need to assist with their child's preparation at home. Next month's report will include numbers participating from each parish.

- Student texts for Reconciliation have been distributed to school and RE teachers. They've also received suggested timelines for lessons. Summer RE students are using the text at home.

Children's Initiation

- This is for children in grades 3-8. Letters went home at end of September/beginning of October to families who indicated on school or RE registration forms that their child needed Baptism and/or Reconciliation and/or Eucharist. Parent Info meeting will be Wed., Oct. 12. Class sessions for immediate preparation for Reconciliation will be Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9 at Sacred Heart church basement 6:15-7:45. First Reconciliation for CI students will be at the RE Reconciliation service scheduled for Nov. 16. (Those children who have not yet been baptized will celebrate First Reconciliation at a later date.)
- I've been meeting separately with two siblings from Blessed Sacrament School (gr. 3 & 5) and two siblings from BMAP/Columbus (gr. 7 & 10) who desire Baptism. Lessons focus on foundational concepts that will help them understand their school religion classes better. Will coordinate with their pastors about when to celebrate sacraments.

Confirmation

- 78 Candidates are enrolled: BS - 14, SE - 35, SH - 14, QP - 15.
- Confirmation Retreat - Sun., Oct. 2 Noon - 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center.
- Candidates attended Mass in home parish prior to retreat; signed an "Enrollment Book" and were acknowledged by the parish community.
- Cole Photography will take group photos (by parish) at the Retreat and create posters that can be displayed in churches.
- Parishes can ask 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. 8 or 13) that will be held at St. Ed's.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Occurring 2x per month at QP and SH.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

Invoice Mailing

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

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.