

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
September 2016

Adult Faith Formation  
Dave Cushing

## A. Initiation

1. **RCIA/RCRA.** An information meeting for individuals interested in joining the Catholic Church will be held on Sept. 15 at Blessed Sacrament School. The Fall RCRA series begins Sept. 22 and will meet in the adult formation room at Blessed Sacrament School. Ellen and I are currently recruiting parish members who are able and willing to serve as parish sponsors or team members in RCIA and RCRA. We will not be collaborating with St. Patrick Parish for adult initiation this year.

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 06 families attended the Baptism class in August. The next Baptism preparation class is Sept. 10 at Sacred Heart.

> 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 July 28 at Blessed Sacrament.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is Sept. 10 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 Sacred Heart.

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. **Summer at the Cellar.** 25 people attended Fr. Scott Bullock's presentation August 11; 02 people participated in the discussion session August 18. Cumulative attendance at this year's summer series was 155.

> Read cumulative evaluations for Summer at the the Cellar here:

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

2. **First Tuesday Marriage Enrichment.** An open house for couples interested in First Tuesday will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at COR. I am in the process now of confirming restaurants which will participate in the First Tuesday "Dinner-for-Two" program during the coming year.

> Learn more about First Tuesday here:

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

3. **Journey Through Mental Illness.** Virginia Pillars, author of "Broken Brain, Fortified Faith—Lessons of Hope Through a Child's Mental Illness," will discuss her family's experience of journeying through her adult daughter's schizophrenia on Sept. 19 at COR.

4. **Bible Timeline Video Series.** This 12-week video program featuring Catholic evangelist Jeff Cavins will begin Sept. 19 and meet on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.

> Learn more about Bible Timeline here:

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

5. **Faithful Citizenship.** In preparation for the fall election, we will be sponsoring three opportunities related to the U.S. bishops' annual election statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship":

-- an online study series, Oct. 3-14 which will feature excerpts from the bishops' statement delivered as daily email messages.

-- a presentation and discussion with Tom Chapman, director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, Oct. 4 at St. Edward Parish.

-- an online novena Oct. 17-25 which will feature prayers and reflections provided by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on the challenges and opportunities facing voters this fall.

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Year of Mercy Pilgrimage.** 21 people participated in the second Year of Mercy pilgrimage August 17.

> Read evaluation results from the pilgrimage here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-MC62ZBKM/>

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

#### E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **Poverty Simulation Experience.** These simulation experiences are conducted by Iowa State University Extension and sponsored by Allen College; they are open to a limited number of participants from the Catholic parishes. The next simulation is Sept. 6 at Allen College.

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. Julie and I are preparing an insert for Catechetical Sunday Sept. 12. Representatives of the Faith Formation Team will make a short presentation about faith formation in the parishes at weekend Masses that weekend or the following weekend.

2. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for August was 4983 (daily average: 161/daily range: 56/627).

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#### **COR at 220 East/Young Adult Ministry Ellen Voegelé**

#### **COR at 220 East**

##### **Administration**

\* A new sign and awnings were put up by August 4. Thanks to Signs and Designs for the fabulous job!

\* COR Subcommittee will meet quarterly this year with a group of Networking Friends being developed to provide input and feedback monthly

\* Hospitality Ministers Trainings - Training A is scheduled for Oct 15 and February 18. Training B is scheduled for Sept 10, Nov 19, and March 18.

##### **Community Events:**

**"Faces of Main Street" by Sicilian photographer, Antonio Scontorino** - The exhibit is finally up and there will be an official "opening" in conjunction with Tour de 'Loo on October 6.

##### **Faith Formation Events:**

##### **Monthly Offerings:**

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, August 4. - *0 people attended*  
Next up: September 1

**Discussion Night** - Monday, August 15 Topic: *Angels & Demons, Part II*, Facilitated by Fr. Jerry Kopacek - *12 people attended, 2 hospitality ministers staffed the event*  
Next up: Sunday, September 18 Topic: *Spiritual but Not Religious, What's the Difference?*

**Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock** - Friday, August 19

August Movie: Rear Window - 8 people attended, 3 "off the street" (not affiliated with the Waterloo Catholic Parishes)

Marketing strategy for this year will be to emphasize that ALL adults are welcome

Next Up: A Beautiful Mind

**One-time Events:**

**Irish Fest at COR - August 5-7**

Irish Fest at COR was very successful. We had a steady stream of visitors the whole weekend (app 10-15 people per shift, 115 total) that enjoyed homemade Irish-themed beverages, the photography exhibit by Antonio Scontorino, board games, and conversation. A lot of great connections were made with several musicians and artists. App 11 people went to confession, 2 of which were from one of the Irish Fest bands, and 250 people attended coffee and donuts after the Irish Fest Mass. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive throughout the weekend. 17 volunteers staffed the weekend, 3 were trained hospitality ministers.

**Adam & I Concert - Monday, August 22**

An evening with Nashville-based indie-folk duo, Adam & Andrea Melia. Complimentary beer & wine were offered and donations were accepted. This was a great "first" music event at COR. Adam & Andrea were absolutely amazing to work with, incredible artists, and such witnesses in the most gentle way, especially in their love for each other. I spoke with them a little bit afterward and will probably try to book them some time next summer again because they really are the model of evangelization we are looking for. A band like them, coupled with hospitality ministers engaging with and encountering the people is the ideal vision of COR at work. - 39 people attended, 3 volunteers & 3 trained hospitality ministers staffed the event.

**Young Adult Ministry:**

**Summer Cookout - Tuesday, August 30, 7 pm**

Fr. Tom McDermott has graciously offered to host a summer cookout for all young adults at the Blessed Sacrament Rectory. We will have food, beer, and yard games.

**Get to Know Your Neighbors - break during August**

Next up: September 11 @ Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Waterloo with discussion to follow at Beck's Taproom Grill on University Ave.

Met with Axel Hoogland, who coordinates the church visits to plan a schedule for the next 4-5 months. On the list are Latin Mass at the Basilica in Dyersville, Bethany Bible Church, Missouri Synod Lutherans, Quakers, and Congregationalists.

**Christ Our Life - Adult conference in Des Moines - two days of encountering Jesus in the sacraments, incredible liturgy and music, and world-renowned Catholic speakers. I will pull together car reflections & discussion starters, carpooling, and lodging options if we have a group of young adults interested in attending.**

**Young Adult Faith Sharing Group** - Mondays, 5:30-6:30 pm @ COR

This coed faith sharing group meets weekly beginning on August 29 to reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings. Jenna Feeney is the facilitator.

**Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:**

**Adult Confirmation** - Monday, August 1, 8, 15, 22 - we were unable to coordinate schedules with the people interested in Adult Confirmation so we cancelled the August Confirmation faith sharing group. We are trying to get the group together in the fall, otherwise, February when our next group is scheduled to meet.

**RCIA** - Team dinner meeting will be September 14 at COR. Rite of Acceptance will be October 1-2 in local parishes. Catechumenate faith sharing group will begin meeting on Wednesday, October 5.

**Young Adult Ministry Communications -**

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/wcff](http://flocknote.com/wcff)) 165 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 192 likes
- Facebook - COR - 104 likes

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- Pokemon Go Outreach - August 3, August 10, August 17 (Sacred Heart)
- Retail Window Displays Presentation - August 11 (Main Street Cedar Falls)
- Community Meals - August 12, 19, 26 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - August 17 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - August 24 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Family Members of Gay & Lesbian Catholics - August 31 (AFF & COR)
- Year of Mercy Pilgrimage - August 17 (AFF)
- Catechist Inservice - August 29 (WCFF - Children & Family Catechesis)

**Promoting:**

- Community Meals - September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (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)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - September 28 (AFF & COR)
- Retreat & Conference Opportunities for Young Adults - see [waterloocatholics.org/retreats](http://waterloocatholics.org/retreats) for details

**In process:**

- Year of Mercy Pilgrimage/Get to Know Your Neighbors - Oct 2016
- 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"
- COR Calendaring 2016-17
- COR Networking Friends
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- YA Praise and Worship & Adoration nights

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- FFL & CSA Day - August 9 (Archdiocese of Dubuque)
- Spiritual Direction

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**Children and Family Catechesis**  
**Kelleryn Rauzi**

*K-8 Religious Education:*

- We have all the catechists we need for Wed. RE. We are still looking for 3 catechists for Sunday RE.
- Wed. RE starts on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday RE starts on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- We are still taking registrations for all Religious Education programs. We had two registration nights in August where parents could come and sign up their children and ask any questions they had.
- We will have a beginning of the year Mass for Wed. RE on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.

*CORE:*

- We have all needed catechists for CORE.
- CORE starts on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Intergenerational Opportunities:*

- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> Wed. RE Mass: parents/families will be encouraged and invited to attend with their child(ren).
- This year we are having 4 Family Nights throughout the year. K-8 kids/families will be expected to attend.
- At the end of both Wed. and Sunday RE, we will have a program wide prayer with families invited to join us each night.
- Julie Niemeyer and I are working on starting a facebook page with resources for parents.

*Totus Tuus:*

- We have already put down our deposit and put in our preferred dates for Totus Tuus next year.
- Due to the success of the Totus Tuus program this year, we are requesting 2 Totus Tuus teams for next year in order to accommodate a bigger program.

*Professional/Personal Growth:*

- Monthly Spiritual Direction

Went to the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Leader's Day in August

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**High School/Middle School Youth Ministry**  
**Annie Zeets**  
**High School**  
August 8: Senior farewell lunch.  
August 25: First day of school

**Coming Up:**

August 28: Sundaes Sunday

Sept. 11: Topic Night: Seeking God

Sept. 14, 21, 28: CORE

Sept. 18: Taize Prayer at COR, followed by discussion and ice cream at Freddy's

**Middle School**

July 26-27: Serve 'n Slide. We joined up with Waverly and Mason City for this overnight event. We did a day of service in several locations including; American Martyrs, St. Vincent, Waterloo faith formation office, Waterloo Community Playhouse, Waverly community garden and Bartels Nursing Home. We spent the night at St. Mary's in Waverly then went to Lost Island. It was a great event and the kids really enjoyed meeting students from other parishes.

**Coming Up:**

Sept. 10: Kick off retreat at Sacred Heart

Sept. 17: Movie night at Columbus

Oct. 8: Topic Night: Ways to Pray at Queen of Peace

**Totus Tuus:**

I was involved with Totus Tuus during the evening session for grades 7-12. The students really seemed to enjoy the week.

**Professional Development:**

Attended Aug. 9 FFL & CSA

Looking into once again attending NCCYM: National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry. This year it is in San Jose, CA in December.

**In process:**

Planning and registration has begun for the 2017 service learning mission trip to Guatemala. At present time 7 students have expressed interest. Deposits will be due by Sept. 25.

Planning for NCYC 2017 is also underway. Deposits will be due at the end of November. Informational meetings will be scheduled in October.

Several high school students have expressed an interest in forming a catholic readers book club. I am in the process of researching reading material. We will have an information meeting sometime the second week of September.

Archdiocesan Youth Jam for middle school. We had such a successful go with this last April that we are doing it again in November! Once again, I have been asked to be the point person for this diocesan project. Youth Jam is set for Nov. 19 at Columbus.

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## Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

### First Sacraments -

- Mailing lists for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are being compiled from CVCS and RE rosters. An intro letter about the prep process for "first sacraments" - First Reconciliation and First Eucharist - will go home with Catholic school students and be mailed to RE students on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>. It will include an invitation to the Parent Information meeting and an enrollment form to complete.
- Parent Information Meetings be held Sun., Sept. 24 (Burmese), Mon., Sept. 26/Tues., Sept. 27 (English) - St. Ed's Parish Hall, Wed., Sept. 28 (Spanish) at SH O'Hagan Hall.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers have received calendar dates for sacrament preparation and celebrations. Have sent to Kelleryn similar info to give to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade catechists. I will meet with teachers and catechists before prep lessons begin.

### Children's Initiation

- Bulletin announcements in August explained this program for immediate preparation for sacraments for students in grades 3-8. It encouraged those interested to get the students enrolled in RE classes.
- We will have a fall session of C.I. to prepare for Reconciliation. Parent Info meeting will be Oct. 12, CI lessons will be Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and Nov. 9; First Reconciliation for C.I. will be Wed., Nov. 16 during the RE Penance Service. Parents could also opt for going to the First Reconciliation celebrations for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (Nov. 30 / Dec. 3).

### Confirmation

- Waterloo Metro Confirmation celebration will be Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m.
- Information from parishes, CORE rosters, and CVCS was used to identify high school juniors to invite to Confirmation Prep. 83 letters were mailed Aug. 22, Confirmation Parent/Candidate info meeting will be Sept. 11 & 14.
- Met with Confirmation Team members - Deacon Ray Larsen and Vanessa Gomez - to discuss plans for the year. (Chris/Carrie Evans could not attend.) Changes for this year include: Class sessions rotate among parishes, 4 two-hour classes instead of 3 90-minute classes and 1 optional class; Sponsors identified earlier in the process and attend first and fourth classes.
- Annie Zeets is the Confirmation Retreat for Oct. 2 at Blessed Sacrament parish center Noon - 5 p.m. Candidates will be asked to attend Mass - and sign the Book of the Elect - in their parish right before the retreat. (QP candidates will sign the book on Oct. 9 instead.) Group photos (by parish) will be taken at the retreat and used for posters to display in parishes. Am working on plans to invite parishioners to pray for candidates (prayer partners).
- Will have two special needs youth in Confirmation this year. Have spoken with the parents and am meeting the young people. Modifications will be made as needed.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Only one CLOW leader from St. Ed's and Blessed Sacrament has agreed to continue this year. No response from bulletin announcements or FB page (SE). Am open to ideas and/or a list of names to recruit from.
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**Office Manager**  
**Becky McElroy**

PDS

- Working on how to keep information updated in PDS from the Parishes, for the best way for Faith Formation to be able to have current updated information. So that we can utilize that information when reaching out to Parish members for our programs.
- Continue to work on providing information from PDS in the best form for the Team so they are able to easily read and have access to their budgets.

Registration

- Taking registration payments for Fall/Winter programs.
- Reimbursed Totus Tuus participants for overpayments of t-shirts.
- Mailing out invoices to Summer RE and CORE participants that have not paid for the programs.

Year End Arch Report

- Prepared the year end Arch Report for Faith Formation.

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.