

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
August 2017

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing

August 2017

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 04 people are participating in a summer RCRA series which will conclude August 10. The schedule for the Rite of Reception have been set for the coming year.

> The 2017-18 RCRA schedule is online here:

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

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family attended the Baptism class in July. The next Baptism preparation class is August 14 at St. Edward.

> 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/>

> The 2017-18 schedule for baptism preparation is online here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/baptism-preparation-schedule>

B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 40 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour is July 24 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilbertville.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The group will hold its annual summer picnic August 12 at Dave and Mary Cushing's home.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Bible Study.** The Summer Bible Study will begin August 7 and meet for four weeks on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart. Bill Mulcahey will be facilitating this study of the book of Job.

> Learn more about the Summer Bible Study here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/summer-bible-study>

3. **Summer at the Cellar.** 40 people attended the first Summer Forum program June 27 at COR. 22 people attended Mary Ducey's presentation July 10; 24 people attended Dave Cushing's presentation July 17; 25 people attended Dave Cochran's presentation July 25. The fifth and final program in the series, presented by Teresa Culpepper, is August 9; Teresa will discuss her experience as a mixed-heritage person growing up in the Catholic Church in Waterloo.

> Learn more about Summer at the Cellar here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/summer-at-the-cellar>

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

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

4. **Catholic Speakers Series.** Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines will discuss the challenges of implementing Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical "On the Care of Our Common Home" September 21. Bishop Pates is the U.S. bishops' liaison to the Catholic Climate Alliance.

> Learn more about the Catholic Speakers Series here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/catholics-speakers-series>

5. **What Is Truth? Online Study Series.** Dates are pending for an online discussion series about how Catholics understand and express truth in a society awash with fake-news and described as "post-truth." The series of reflections, written by various Dominican scholars, is presented in collaboration with the Dominican Sisters Conference.

D. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for July 1-31 was 3226 (daily average: 104; daily range: 26/135).

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

COR at 220 East

Administration:

Coffee shop at COR: We are in the final stages of negotiating a sublease with a local coffee shop owner to open a kiosk-style coffee shop at COR. We will continue to update you with more details as they come.

COR Event Planner Internship: Gabrielle Pranger will be wrapping up her internship the last week of July. Gabrielle did amazing work with connecting with the community and we have a lot of events in the works at COR. Please see Gabrielle's report for more information.

Faith Formation-Sponsored Events:

Monthly Offerings:

Catholic Q & A - Thursday, July 6 - 0 people attended

** We will no longer be offering Catholic Q&A. We will reformat this into other different programs such as street evangelization, Ask a Priest, etc.

Discussion Night - Sunday, July 16 Topic: Medical Ethics - 3 people attended

Next Up: Monday, August 21 Topic: Church Community - Why Does it Matter?

** Discussion nights will now be held on the first Thursday of the month in a parish and on the third Monday of the month at COR. We will have a yearly curriculum that will essentially be what we cover in RCIA. RCIA catechumens will attend discussion nights to fulfill the catechetical component of RCIA. These will still be open to all parishioners and the public as well to join in.

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock -

Next Up: August 18, 7 pm August Movie - Passion of Joan of Arc This begins the new "Landmark Directors" series.

Cornerstone Acoustic Praise - August 27, 5-6 pm

This newly formed Catholic band of young adults will be offering acoustic praise and worship nights once a month at COR. All are welcome to join to sing praise to the Lord.

One-time Events:

Cedar Valley Chamber Music Open Rehearsal - July 18 - 6 people attended

This was a quality event and the music was incredible. Turnout unfortunately was small, but we look forward to doing this again and tapping more into the music communities in the schools.

Irish Fest - August 4-6

Plans are coming together for Irish Fest. We will have Light the Night at Queen of Peace, and then have COR open all day Saturday and Sunday. We will offer coffee and donuts on Sunday as well as host Irish-folk musician, Paul Seibert from 11:30 - 12:30. Come out for great music and fellowship at any point during the weekend.

#100dayproject with Kate Brennan Hall - September 9, 7-9pm

Local print artist, Kate Brennan Hall will be displaying her collages from her Instagram #100dayproject as well as hosting a collage-making workshop. Kate's collages will be for sale and the workshop will be free and open to the public. Wine & refreshments will be provided.

Ongoing Exhibits:

Art by Jeanie Steffey, local Waterloo artist - June - August

Young Adult Ministry:

Get to Know Your Neighbors - We are breaking for the summer months of June, July, and August and will begin again in August.

Young Adult Open Forum - Monday, June 26

Young Adults were invited to participate in a discussion about young adult ministry. We enjoyed wine and refreshments and had great discussion that included some of the following focus points:

- * Create a leadership team of young adults that would be responsible for event planning, marketing/communications (helping to get the word out), and being the "face" of young adult ministry in the parishes, as well as workplace liaisons

- * Consider offering both large scale one-time events and smaller regular events held at various times and places. Also consider some parish-based events, events that are geared to reaching out, and events that build people up

- * Allow things to happen organically - find what particular young adults are passionate about already and encourage them to step up to the plate and lead

- * Intentionally reach out to young adults at major life moments - marriage, birth of children, divorce/annulments, new job, moving to the area, etc.

I will take these and work them into my goals for this coming year. I have already been working on workplace liaisons for John Deere and Covenant.

Young Adult Discernment Event - July 27 - 8 young adults attended

This event was co-sponsored by the Office of Vocations of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Fr. Nick March led the event and we had a small but diverse group of young adults attend. It was a good night with great discussion.

Light the Night - Friday, August 4

Queen of Peace will be open during Friday of Irish Fest and we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music, confession/talk to a priest and quiet prayer. Street evangelists will be out and about inviting people off the street to stop in and light a candle for peace. Once there they are welcome to stay for as long or little as they like. All are welcome to come and pray for peace and for our street evangelists that will be out on the streets inviting people in.

Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA - We are proposing changes to the RCIA process this year that will include the following 7 components:

- Creating a prayer journal
- Meeting with a spiritual director
- Attending Mass and doing Breaking Open the Word with a companion
- Completing 12 discussion nights
- Participating in two retreats
- Participating in all rites and celebrations
- Being part of a small group or AFF offering once a month

We are excited for this new model and think it could fit a wide variety of schedules as well as meet people at any point that they inquire during the year.

If you have any feedback or questions, please contact me.

We will have a team meeting to discuss this new model on August 16.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/wcff) 336 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) 196 likes
- Facebook - COR - 131 likes

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - July 7, 14, 21, 28 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Summer Forum - July 10, 17, 25 (AFF & COR)
- First Tuesday - July 11 (AFF & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - July 19 (AFF & COR)

- Catholic Worker Celebration - July 19 (Catholic Worker & Queen of Peace)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - July 26 (AFF & COR)

Networking/Promoting:

- First Tuesday - August 1 (AFF & COR)
- Adult Small Group - August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Juli Rowell & COR)
- Summer Forum - August 9 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals - August 11, 18, 25 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Adult Small Group - August 15, 29 (Cheryl Hannah & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - August 16 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - August 23 (AFF & COR)

In process:

- Young Adult Monthly Social Coordinators
- Young Adult Committee
- COR committee
- COR Networking friends
- COR Internships

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Summer RE seemed to have gone well. There were 89 students registered.
- Mass was held twice during Summer RE as well as adoration and a chance for confessions for all students. Stacie Mills also brought in speakers for vocations and Totus Tuus promotion and serve 'n' slide along with many other fun things.
- I came back from maternity leave in the middle of July. Since coming back I have been recruiting catechists for our Wednesday and Sunday RE programs starting up this fall.
- We are continuing to have registrations for fall programs trickle in. We will be hosting a few other registration sessions in the upcoming months.
- We will be having 4 family nights this upcoming year for all Catholic families that I am in the midst of planning.
- Wed. RE starts on Sept. 13; Sept. 20th will be the opening mass for Wed. RE.
- Sunday RE starts on Oct. 1st; Opening mass TBD.

High School Faith Formation:

- We are in the midst of planning on rolling out YDISCIPLINE faith sharing groups that will replace traditional Wed. CORE classes.
- We will be having informational meetings in August for parents/teens.

Totus Tuus:

- Totus Tuus went well again this year.

- Julie Novotney and Annie Zeets coordinated because I was on maternity leave; thanks Julie and Annie.
- We had 65 students in the day program and between 25-30 in the evening program.

Other:

- I want to give a huge shout out and thank you to the Faith Formation Team who covered the programs I usually run while I was on maternity leave! It gave them a definite larger work load; so thank you!

Spiritual/Professional Development:

- Spiritual direction
- Attending the Faith Formation Leader day sponsored by the Archdiocese in August.

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- June 27: Mass and Breakfast at Sacred Heart: 3 students attended
- July 5: Ice Cream Social at Hospitality House: 9 students attended
- July 27: Kairos planning meeting

NCYC Update

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-20, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- 141 students and 25 adults are registered. We will have 3 buses and will be the largest group in the archdiocese - our group is 10% of the diocesan group!
- Pancake breakfast set for July 30 at St. Eds
- Fundraising Update
 - April 17: Chick-Fil-A (\$124)
 - April 23: Pancake Breakfast at St. Eds (\$700)
 - May 1: Panera Bread (still waiting on total)
 - May 6: Clean-up at Sunrise Petting Zoo (\$200)
 - May 11: Panda Express (\$60)
 - May 14: Pancake breakfast at Blessed Sacrament (\$900)
- Private Donations:
 - Sacred Heart first fruits: (\$800)
 - Private donations: (\$1450)
 - TBD: Bake sale at Queen of Peace
 - Payment #5 is due July 15th

Coming Up:

- Aug. 15-18: Summer Service Days: This is with St. Pats YM.
- August 7 & 17: YDisciple parent information meetings
- Back to School party - date TBD
- College kids send off - date TBD

Middle School

- July 12-13: Serve 'n Slide: This is a combined event with Mason City & St. Pat's CF youth ministry. We stayed at Blessed Sacrament and went to Lost Island. Service locations included: Black Hawk Children's Theater, Bickford Cottage, EMBARC summer program for Burmese at Sacred Heart, St.

Edward parish library, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Covenant Medical Center. Students were placed in "teams" with an adult leader. Each team had 2 service experiences. We ended our service day with a lesson on the 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We got up, attended weekday mass at BS then hit the road to Lost Island. 14 Waterloo youth attended. 7 St. Pats youth and 10 from the Mason City area.

Totus Tuus:

- July 23-28 at St. Eds
- I am program coordinator for the evening program for grades 7-12 which runs Sunday night - Thursday night that week
- The 7-12 grade program had 29 youth attend.
- They had adoration and reconciliation one evening
- Focus was the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- Thanks to evening helpers Carrie and Chris Evans and Julie Novotney. Special thanks to Anastasia Nicklaus for all her help with liturgy and adoration.

Professional Development

- Monthly NCYC webinars (archdiocesan and national)

Other

I took a few weeks off in July for family vacation. I am currently working on plans for the youth ministry program for the year. At the time of this report, I am still working with Totus Tuus so I have not had extra time to get things on paper. Schedule through December will be ready by next month.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments -

- Preparing letter for parents of 2nd graders in school or RE programs about sacrament preparation programs. It will be mailed in late August. The First Reconciliation Parent Meetings to be held Sept. 26, 27, or 28.

Children's Initiation/P.R.E.P. -

- Worked in early July with three Burmese students (who are entering grades 7 & 9) and two Hispanic students (entering gr. 6 & 9) to prepare them for First Reconciliation and First Communion. All completed Summer RE in June. They will celebrate the sacraments at SH and QP on July 30.
- Will change the name of C.I. to PREP --Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation. This is for children/youth grades 3-12 who are baptized. The new name more closely aligns with the purpose of the program . . . *immediate preparation* for those two sacraments.
- "Children's Initiation" (C.I.) will be used as the name of the program for children in grades 3 and higher who have not yet been baptized. It will prepare them for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation - preferably at the Easter Vigil in their parish. The number of children who fall into this category is smaller, and I've worked with them separately using materials appropriate to either the gr. 3-6 level or gr. 7-12. I hope to include some of the Rites during the preparation process.

Confirmation

- Have worked on editing the Confirmation Handbook which addresses the immediate preparation for the sacrament.

- Archdiocesan guidelines for Confirmation prep favor not having strict "requirements". . . like the two years of prior high school theology. The Archbishop feels that sacrament is a gift that should not be the "reward" for jumping through a series of hoops. However, we still will have *strong recommendations* or expectations for appropriate faith formation experiences prior to the immediate sacrament preparation that is normally done during the junior year of high school.
- I will attend the parent info meetings for the new high school faith formation program (Y-Disciples) to answer questions about Confirmation and encourage participation.
- Potential candidates will be identified in late July/early August from parish lists, school/RE rosters, etc. Letters will be mailed to parents & candidates in mid August. Parent/Candidate info meetings will be held Sept. 10 and Sept. 13 at St. Ed's.
- Submitted to the Archbishop's office, six choices of Confirmation celebration dates. We should find out which one we get in mid- to late-August.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH during the summer. Will contact CLOW leaders at St. Ed's to determine a September start-up time. Still hoping for CLOW start-up at Blessed Sacrament.

Professional Development

- Reading a book entitled *The Developing Christian* that describes levels of moral and spiritual development in various age spans.

Other

- Will prepare and send materials for August 24 WPL meeting.
- Helping as Hospitality Minister on occasion.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

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.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave/Julie.
- Preparing month end financial reports for Commission and Team. Send out individual monthly income statements to team members.
- Organized all registrations coming into office, sent the welcome letters out to the families as registrations are received, answered calls about registrations, deposits.
- Helped with Totus Tuus.