

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
December 2017

## Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: [dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

### A. Initiation

1. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the Baptism class in November. The next Baptism preparation class is December 11 at St. Edward.

> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

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

### B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 35 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Nov. 27 at St. Edward Parish. The next Witness Hour is January 29 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more: [waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour](http://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour)

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle and Christmas party is Dec. 9 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

3. **WaterlooCatholics.org.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for November was 4,365 (daily average: 136; daily range: 83/320).

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Community Forum.** 18 people attended the Community Forum on human trafficking Nov. 6 at COR.

> Learn more: [waterloocatholics.org/community-forum](http://waterloocatholics.org/community-forum)

2. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** 05 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent Nov. 30; the Busy Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for Dec. 14. These programs take place at COR.

> Learn more: [waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life](http://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life)

3. **Winter Forum.** I am beginning to work on topics and speakers for this year's Winter Forum series in January and February. Jacob Kohlhaas and Martin Lohrmann, two popular presenters in the last Winter and Summer forums, have agreed to discuss "What if the church had listened to Luther?".

> Learn more: [waterloocatholics.org/winter-at-the-cellar](http://waterloocatholics.org/winter-at-the-cellar)

### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Care-Givers Retreat.** The fall retreat for family care-givers was cancelled.

2. **Advent Retreat.** An Advent Retreat for adults and young adults will be held on Dec. 2 at American Martyrs Retreat House. The retreat will focus on the four weekly Advent themes in the Waterloo parishes and will include an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

3. **Advent Online Retreat.** Our annual online Advent Retreat will take place the week of Dec. 11-17. The retreat includes daily scripture readings, prayers and reflections taken from the booklet "In the Light of Hope" published by Creative Communications for the Parish.

4. **CEW/DEW.** Registration are now being made for the Christian Experience Weekend Feb. 2-4 and the Disciples Experience Weekend April 27-29; both weekends will be held at American Martyrs Retreat House.

### E. Social Action and Interfaith

1. **Homeless Memorial Day.** The Social Action Network and Hospitality House will co-host a prayer service for National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on Dec. 21. This annual event remembers homeless people who have died during the past year.

> Learn more: <http://nationalhomeless.org/about-us/projects/memorial-day/>

---

## **K-12 Religious Education**

### **Kelleryn Rauzi**

#### **K-8 Religious Education:**

- Wed. RE had Reconciliation for grades 3-8 on Nov. 15th; we had 5 priests attend. We invited parents to join us as well.
- Wed. RE continues to do presentations, by grade, on the different parts of Mass. Parents are invited for these presentations which take place the last ten minutes of class.
- Sunday RE is doing Reconciliation in shifts. The first weekend in December grades 5/6 and 7/8 will be going to Reconciliation. 3/4 grade already went in November.
- Sunday RE grades are starting to take turns leading prayer at the end of class. Parents are invited to attend this prayer time.

#### **YDISCIPLE:**

- We have 4 groups (2 men and 2 women) off the ground and running smoothly.
- We are looking to start up more groups after the new year.
- So far we have only received positive feedback about the groups.

#### **FORMED:**

- FORMED is an online Catholic resource website. It has many different bible studies (including YDISCIPLE), parish programs, movies, Saint stories, podcasts, books, and much much more.
- To register you just need an email and parish code (codes below):
  - Blessed Sacrament: QFCYJH
  - St. Edward: 9Q7HGN
  - Sacred Heart: V9JDQC
  - Queen of Peace: T343JR
- I have been working with parishes on the advertisement and “roll out” of FORMED. Different parishes are doing different things for this.

#### **INTERGENERATIONAL:**

- Our first Family Night of the year was on Nov. 19th. We had a “Saints” movie night with FREE dinner provided by Rod and Mary Crowe. We invited all Catholic families (RE and Catholic Schools). We had about 60 people attend.
  - Our next Family Night will be on Dec. 20th; 7pm @ Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Frank Runyeon (TV Star known for starring across Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*) will be doing a one-man Christmas play *3 ½ Stories of Christmas*. Here is the description:  
“Children and adults will be delighted as all the parts of the Christmas story are tied together for the first time: From the light of Creation, to the manger in Bethlehem, from the origin of St. Nicholas, to the secret of the Christmas Angel himself.” This is for ALL ages and is FREE.
- 

## **Gr. 2-12 Sacraments**

### **Julie Niemeyer**

#### **First Sacraments**

- 32 second graders attended the optional Reconciliation Retreat held on Nov. 18. At least one parent and some other siblings also attended, for a total of about 75. A coaching model was used.
- First Reconciliations were held Nov. 29 -6:30 pm @ SE; Dec. 2 - 10 am @ QP.
- Parents of second graders have received information and important dates for the First Communion preparation & celebrations. (Parent meeting in January)

#### **PREP (Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation for gr. 3-8)**

- 15 of the 33 students involved PREP classes celebrated First Reconciliation - on Nov. 15 at the Wednesday RE Penance service; 10 celebrated at Queen of Peace on Dec. 2; 8 are from families working with Deacon Rigoberto to prepare for Baptism.

- *PREP students are in regular RE classes again. Four classes for First Communion begin after Spring Break.*

**Children's Initiation** - *Will begin working with six children and youth in grades 2-9 from various parishes and programs who haven't been baptized. Need to decide on best times and locations for the sessions. Goal will be for initiation at Easter Vigil if the children/youth are ready.*

**Confirmation** - *Class #2 to be held at Queen of Peace on Sun., Dec. 3 (10:00-11:45) or Wed., Dec. 6 (6:30-8:15)*

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** - *In progress weekly at St. Ed's, twice monthly at QP, and three times a month at SH.*

**Burmese Liaison** -

- *Held separate Confirmation Class for the 12 Burmese candidates and their sponsors (and/or parents) on Nov. 12. Fr. Luigi assisted.*
  - *Also held separate Reconciliation Retreat for the 12 Burmese second graders and their parents on Nov. 19. Again, Fr. Luigi assisted. Ellen Kuchera's December Report (COR & Young Adult ministry)*
- 

### **COR & Young Adult Ministry**

**Ellen Kuchera**

**319-349-6710, [dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org)**

#### **COR AT 220 EAST:**

- A meeting has been scheduled in early December to revisit the idea of a coffee shop at COR.
- Marketing Internship - Ben has been working on a new website, posting COR on Main Street Waterloo's website, Eventactive, and other various event websites. Due to this, we have had several rental inquiries recently.
- Event Planning Internship - Ben has been working on connecting with art and music departments in the schools, managing some rental requests, and brainstorming ideas for future events.
- 7 new Hospitality Ministers were trained on Saturday, November 4.
- NCYC Watch Party on November 16 was a success despite NCYC live-streaming issues.
- Movie Night, Spellbound, is on December 15. Last month, 3 members from the Meetup group attended. The Meetup group has been a great way to reach our target audience of people not in the pews.
- This month's discussion night topic, What is Truth?, will be on December 18, and will be led by Fr. Scott Bullock.
- Guiding Star Cedar Valley hosted a panel discussion on fertility awareness, breast feeding, and saving sex on November 28th at COR. Approximately 25 people attended

#### **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:**

- November's Social was "Enjoy Waterloo" day. It included adoration, the holiday arts festival at the Center for the Arts, a visit to the Veteran's museum, a brewery tour at Single Speed, and dinner at Cibo Street Food Bar. December's Social will be Bowling at Cadillac on December 17.

#### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**

- The Advent Voices Retreat will be held at American Martyrs Retreat House for the Waterloo Parishes on December 2nd from 1-8 pm. All are invited. Speakers are Maria Pranger, Joanne Roche, Fr. Kevin Earleywine, and Lexi Shatek.
- We are in the beginning stages of exploring Alpha. Dave & I will be speaking with a couple of parishes in Cedar Rapids that run this program.

#### **RCIA:**

- Catechetical Sessions – December 7 at Bl. Sac & December 18 at COR

---

**Youth Ministry**  
**Annie Zeets**

**High School**

- Nov. 5: NCYC send off masses at St. Eds and Queen of Peace
- Nov. 13: Trade item work day
- Nov. 16-19: NCYC 2017
  - Wonderful trip filled with lots of laughs and memorable moments. 141 youth - all well behaved and ready to spend time with Christ. Many, many, many thanks to the adult chaperones who said YES to the call to serve the youth of our parishes by chaperoning this trip: Barb Cannon, Carrie Evans, Chris Evans, Kathryn Fain, Kris Frush, Samantha Graff, Lori Harms, Brenda Harrison, Kathy Joblinske, Jennifer Kneeland, James Larsen, Ray Larsen, Cary Meier, Stacie Mills, Tom Novotney, Jade Pint, Bob Pranger, Kathy Rath, Melissa Schoer, Sean Schott, Susie Sigwarth, Rebecca Swanson, Cindy Weber and Pat Wiss
- Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Dinner and Prayer
- Nov. 29: Youth room Christmas decorating

**Coming Up**

- Dec. 3 & 10: Advent Prayer (using metro theme to guide our time together)
- Dec. 6: NCYC dinner hosted by St. Edward Parish
- Dec. 29: Christmas Party

**Ongoing:**

- I have been serving on the adult leadership team for planning for the Kairos retreats at CHS. (Kairos is a retreat for juniors at CHS that happens each year) I will be going on the January retreat with CHS (Jan. 4-7)
- Weekly visits to West High to just be around the kids and constant invitation to youth ministry.
- I have been tracking my time and have discovered that I spend roughly 10 hours each week meeting with students who need to talk about life/faith/family, etc.
- I am part of the confirmation team this year. Being present helps me get to know the juniors in a new way and I feel my presence is important.

**Middle School**

- Nov. 4: Youth Jam at BMAP
- Nov. 21: Attended 6th grade play at BMAP

**Coming Up**

- Dec. 30: Movie Night

**Ongoing**

- Working to develop a high school leadership team that would help plan and lead (with adult supervision) middle school youth nights second semester. We are hoping to meet during Christmas break to plan the remainder of the year.

---

**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.
- Preparing financial reports for Commission and Team.
- Worked on PDS and setting up the system for 2017/2018 financial year.
- Update records for RE and tracking financial information/scholarships.