

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
February 2017

## Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing

### A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The winter session of the Rite of Reception was cancelled; although a number of people expressed an interest, it turned out that the winter series didn't work for them.

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the Baptism class in January. The next Baptism preparation class is February 13 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/>

3. **Adult Confirmation Preparation.** Preparation for Confirmation for adults begins Feb. 6 and meets on Monday evenings for four weeks at St. Edward School. Chris Mitchell will be the catechist for this preparation process for adults who are at least 19 years old, fully catechized, sacramentalized and actively participating in the church.

> Learn more about Adult Confirmation Preparation here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/adult-confirmation>

### B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Witness Hour is January 30 at Sacred Heart. Deacon Dan Rigel will be the speaker. St. Patrick Parish does not wish to host a Witness Hour this year.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** Friends in Faith will hold its singles Superbowl Party Feb. 5 at Riverside Conference Center Retreat House; the February Singles Mingle is Feb. 11 and the February potluck is Feb. 25, both in Putz Hall at Blessed Sacrament.

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. **Winter Forum Series.** 25 people attended Dr. David Cochran's presentation Jan. 26. The Winter Forum Series, formerly called "Winter at the Cellar," has been moved to COR and we are experimenting with food service provided by The Screaming Eagle. Jacob Kohlhaas from Loras and Martin Lohrmann from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque will discuss Catholic-Lutheran relations on Feb. 2; Dr. Charlotte Martin from Mount Mercy will discuss the influence of apocalyptic thought on American society and politics Feb. 9; and Msgr. Lyle Wilgenbusch will discuss what he has learned after 50 years of priesthood Feb. 16.

> Learn more about the Winter Forum Series here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-at-the-cellar>

> Read evaluations from the Winter Forum Series here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-X7PG8X93/>

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The next Critical Choices workshop is February 22 at St. Edward Parish. This workshop examines the purpose and need for advanced medical directives in the event a person needs medical care but is unable to speak for themselves.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>

3. **Busy Catholics Guide to Catholic Living.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent is scheduled for Feb. 17 at Sacred Heart; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Prayer is scheduled for March 8 at St. Edward; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for March 23 at Sacred Heart. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Holy Week is scheduled for April 5 at a location to be determined. These one-hour sessions are designed as an introduction for new Catholics and review for veterans.

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

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

4. **Lenten Faith-Sharing Groups.** The common theme for Lent, chosen by an inter-parish planning group, is "#God Satisfies." Ellen and I will be working with the parishes to form small faith-sharing groups for Lent. These groups will use a Lectio Divina format and focus on the Sunday readings from Cycle A. We will provide directions and study material for the groups. We will also be working to form faith-sharing groups with school staffs where that is desired and, if requested, to help school faculty adapt the theme to classroom activity.

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **January Mini-Retreat** -- 09 people attended the winter mini-retreat facilitated by Bill Mulcahey Jan. 15 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

2. **Online New Year Examen** -- 45 people participated by email in our online New Year Examen Jan. 16-20; an additional 98 people (daily average 20) participated in the Examen on Facebook.

> See evaluations from the Examen here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-CK9CKZV3/>

#### E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **Interfaith Dialog on Economic Inequality.** The parishes are co-hosts with Cedar Falls Mennonite Church and Cedar Valley Unitarian Universalists of an Interfaith Dialog on Economic Inequality Jan. 29 at the Unitarian Universalist Center in Cedar Falls. Dr. Suzanne Zilber will facilitate an interactive discussion of class, class attitudes and biases and how they affect economic inequality in the United States. This is the first of three workshops; the others are scheduled for March 5 and April 2.

#### F. Administration

1. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for January was 4556 (daily average: 147; daily range: 70/294).

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#### **Faith Formation Team Leaders Report**

##### **Dave Cushing**

1. **Team Evaluations.** The Team is reviewing the evaluation forms which we have used in the past and will make some adjustments so that the evaluations include some specifics about each person's job description. We think that having the Team and pastors complete the evaluations would be adequate this year. We are also proposing a wider review every three years, as CVCS does with principals, and include the Commission, parish leaders, and our various publics.

2. We will begin reviewing Team job descriptions this month to determine whether any adjustments are needed to reflect what people are actually doing or would like to be doing. We would bring any significant changes to the Commission for approval.

3. Becky is coordinating our budget planning and will be meeting with each Team members to look at needs in their area for the coming year.

4. Julie, Annie and Kelleryn are investigating options for changes in the high school religious education program and looking at various models from other places in the diocese. We are anticipating at least some interim changes in the CORE program (including a new name that doesn't confuse with COR) for the fall. We will be reporting those plans to the Commission early this spring.

5. We have developed a plan for covering Kelleryn's responsibilities while she is on leave. Julie will be coordinating spring pre-registrations for Summer RE, Summer CORE and Fall RE; I will be supervising Summer RE; William Brandle will serve as coordinator in addition to his role as catechist for Summer CORE. Annie will be coordinating the evening high school activities for Totus Tuus. The only additional costs will be \$500 from this year's RE budget for a person will be coordinating the last few weeks of Wednesday night RE and \$1500 which we will build into next year's budget for a Totus Tuus coordinator. Julie Novotney has agreed to be the Totus Tuus coordinator.

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

**COR at 220 East**

**Administration:**

**Hospitality Ministers Training A** - January 7 - 9 people were trained, a total of 22 hospitality ministers have gone through training A  
**Training B** - February 18, 9 am - 12 pm @ COR

**Faith Formation-Sponsored Events:**

**Monthly Offerings:**

**Catholic Q&A** - Thursday, January 5 - 2 people attended  
Next up: Thursday, February 2, 7 pm

**Discussion Night** - Sunday, January 15 Topic: Contemplation: A Spiritual Path - 0 people attended, 1 hospitality minister came to serve the event  
Next up - Monday, February 20 Topic: TBD

**Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock** - Friday, January 20  
January Movie: All About Eve - 6 people attended, 2 from Meetup group (social networking site), 1 hospitality minister served the event  
Next Up: February 17, The King's Speech

**One-time Events:**

**Winter Forum** - Thursday, January 26 - 2 hospitality ministers signed up to serve the event  
February 2, 9, 16

**Youth Paint Your Own Canvas** - Sunday, January 29, 6 pm - 1 hospitality minister signed up to serve the event

**COR Concerts (save the dates):**

**Mike Mangione & the Kin** - April 22, 8 pm  
**Paul Siebert** - August 6, 11 am

**Community Events:**

**Celebration of Diversity Youth Day** - Saturday, January 28, 2-4 pm  
Cedar Valley Volunteer Center - 2 hospitality ministers signed up to serve the event

**Young Adult Ministry:**

**Get to Know Your Neighbors** - January 8 - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Waterloo, - 2 people attended  
Next up - February 12 - TBD

**Young Adult Small Group on Discernment** - Mondays starting January 23.

Gina Kubik & Emily Theisen have agreed to plan, host, and lead this small group of young adults using the 6 week "Saying Yes" series by Albert Haase. - 7 young adults have been participating

**Archdiocesan Women's Conference** - Saturday, February 4, 8 am - 2:30 pm @ St. Pius X in Cedar Rapids.

**Super Bowl Party** - Sunday, February 5, 5-10 pm @ the Brandle residence.

All young adults invited. We will provide subs and drinks and all are asked to bring a side, snack, or dessert to share. Children are welcome.

**Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:**

**Lenten Small Groups** - Dave and I are coordinating small groups with parishes, religious education programs, and schools. We are developing a resource around the Sunday Gospel readings and Lenten theme that was developed by a metro-committee. Thank you to Anastasia Nicklaus for leading the meeting. The resource will be available for existing and new small groups to use. Group facilitators will recruit most of their small group and we will have general sign-ups in parishes as well.

**RCIA** - Rite of Sending/Rite of Election - March 5

**Young Adult Ministry Communications -**

- Flocknote - ([flocknote.com/wcff](http://flocknote.com/wcff)) 326 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 193 likes
- Facebook - COR - 114 likes

**Networking/Promoted Events:**

- First Tuesday - January 3 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals - January 6, 13, 20, 27 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - January 18 (AFF & COR)
- Taize Prayer - January 22 (AFF & First Baptist)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - January 25 (AFF & COR)
- Catholic Witness Hour - January 30 (AFF & Sacred Heart)

**Networking/Promoting:**

- Community Meals - February 3, 10, 17, 24 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - February 7 (AFF & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - February 15 (AFF & COR)
- February 17 - Busy Catholics Guide to Lent (AFF & SH)
- Family Night - February 19 (Children & Family Catechesis & Blessed Sacrament)
- Taize Prayer - February 19 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - February 22 (AFF & COR)

**In process:**

- COR Spring Calendaring
  - Hawkeye Community College Art Exhibit
  - Bands - Adam & I, StarHeart
- COR Administration
  - COR Networking Friends
  - COR Internships
  - Updating COR Promotional Materials
  - Publicity - create a meet up group for discussion nights

**Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:**

- MAC (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) Group - January 6
- Evangelizing Through Small Groups - February 17 @ American Martyrs
- Spiritual Direction

**Children and Family Catechesis**

**Kelleryn Rauzi**

*K-8 Religious Education:*

- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of RE started Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> for Wed. RE and Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> for Sunday RE.
- We are finishing up Saint presentations given by a specific grade each week to all the other students in each RE program and their families. Next, each grade will present a specific type of prayer at the end of each class and lead us in that prayer. To see what we are up to check out our facebook page: Waterloo Catholic Children and Family
- Sunday RE classes are taking turns going to the 8:30am Blessed Sacrament Sunday Masses.
- Mid-year parent survey was sent out; we are now collecting and compiling results.

*CORE:*

- We are started 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of CORE on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- We are currently setting up meetings with other area parishes to see what they are doing on for high school faith formation. After these meetings we hope to have a potential proposal for high school faith formation going forward. More info to come.

*Intergenerational Opportunities:*

- Our next family night will be Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center from 5:30pm-7:30pm; FREE dinner is provided. The focus of the night will be on the pillars of Lent.
- After Wed. and Sunday RE classes parents are invited in to pray with us each week.
- During Wed. RE there will be a Lenten discussion group for any parents interested at Sacred Heart. More info to come!

*Totus Tuus:*

- We have better news regarding missionaries: the Archdiocese has had an influx of applications for missionaries so we are hopeful we will get a team this summer.
- We still do not have a date for Totus Tuus yet, but we hopefully will have a date in mid-February now instead of March.

*Other:*

- I am in the process of preparing many things ahead of time for when I go on maternity leave and writing instructions for whoever will be coordinating some of the programs I direct.

*Professional/Spiritual Development:*

- Monthly spiritual direction
  - Part of a Archdiocesan sponsored Ministry Accountability Cohort (MAC).
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**High School/Middle School Youth Ministry**

**Annie Zeets**

**High School**

- Dec. 29: Christmas Party: Provided dinner, everyone brought a \$3 gift for an exchange game, watched Elf. 31 students attended; 23 CHS, 8 public school (*Community*)
- Jan. 7: Chaperoned Kairos 4<sup>th</sup> Night
- Jan. 8: Stress relief night: Students were heading into finals week so we talked about the things that cause of stress. Ways to avoid stress and how prayer can really help in stressful times. We did a guided meditation that was well received and closed with spontaneous prayer that went on for about 20 minutes. 26 students attended; 20 CHS, 6 public school. (*Community, Prayer, Catechesis*)
- Jan. 15: Bowling at Cadillac Lanes: 9 students attended; 8 public school, 1 CHS (low CHS attendance due to Sadie Hawkins happening that night) (*Community*)
- Jan. 22: Taize Prayer - when we arrived at First Baptist, no one was there after calling the next day was told it had been cancelled. We went to Culvers for food and discussion. 9 students attended: 6 CHS, 3 public school. (*Prayer, Community*)
- Jan. 29: Paint your own canvas art class at COR at 220 East. At time of this report - 9 students are registered. Linda Stamp will be teaching the class. Cost is \$10/person and we will be painting crosses.

**Coming Up**

- Jan. 31: NCYC fundraising meeting at COR at 220 East
- Feb. 5: Movie Night: Miracles from Heaven
- Feb. 19: Faith Formation Family Night
- Feb. 26: Topic Night: Preparing for Lent

**NCYC 2017**

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-20, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- 141 students and 23 adults are registered. We will have 3 buses and will be the largest group in the archdiocese!
- \$100 deposits were due Nov. 15. Payment #2 of \$100 was due Jan. 15. Payment #3 is due March 15th
- Total cost of the trip is \$600.
- Parent fundraising committee will meet Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.
- St. Eds had a parish spaghetti dinner on Jan. 21 that 20 students worked earn money for the trip. Thanks to Corey Vesely for being our chef, Toni Pint-Burke for extending the invitation and special thanks to Tom and Julie Novotney, Michael Fain, Bruce Bockenstedt, and Kathy Rath for their helping hands!

- Mandatory meetings will be held March 6th & 7th (choose one date). We will be filling out all the paperwork required for the trip. One parent will be asked to attend to sign papers.

### **Middle School**

- Jan. 14: Mass, dinner and discussion at Blessed Sacrament. Attended 4:30pm mass, then went downstairs for pizza and discussion on friendship. Thanks to Fr. Tom for joining us and to Carrie Evans for being my other adult. 11 students attended. (*Community, Prayer, Catechesis*)
- Jan. 26: 8<sup>th</sup> grade visit day to CHS: 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from BMAP and St. Pats were part of a day that included learning more about Columbus. Thank you to Mr. Ferrie for including youth ministry in the rotation of the day. I was able to meet every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student and talk to them about high school youth ministry.
- Jan. 28: Mass, dinner and discussion at Queen of Peace. At the time this report was written, the event had not happened. Topic will be "Discovering our Gifts"

### **Coming Up**

- Feb. 10: Movie Night at Blessed Maria: "The Secret Life of Pets"
- Feb. 26: Retreat at St. Eds: "Preparing for Lent"

### **Professional Development**

- NCYC webinar hosted by Archdiocese. I was a presenter on how to take a large group to NCYC
- Youth Ministry Access Webinar: "Deepening the Faith of Young People"
- Archdiocesan Digital Open House on social justice and respect life issues

## **Children and Family Catechesis**

**Julie Niemeyer**

### **First Sacraments -**

- First Communion Parent Meetings were offered Jan. 23 & 24 at 6:30 p.m. (in English) and Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. (bi-lingual). A daytime meeting was held on Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. Fr. Luigi assisted in a meeting for Burmese parents at 4 p.m. on Jan. 29. Still with all these options, 24 of 88 parents did not attend a meeting. Make-up sessions will be pursued.
- Lessons in *God's Gift of Eucharist* text begin the week of Feb. 5 for those in Catholic School and Sun/Wed RE programs. Summer RE students do the lessons at home.
- 2-hour Eucharist Retreats for the second grader and parent(s) will be held the morning of Sat., Feb. 25, the afternoon of Sun., Feb. 26, and the evening of Mon., Feb. 27.

### **Children's Initiation**

- Helped a middle school and high school student prepare for Reconciliation; have 4 older students who will prepare for First Eucharist in Feb. or March.
- Wednesday night C.I. classes for grades 3-8 will begin after Spring Break and will meet for four weeks to prepare for Eucharist.

### **Confirmation**



- Class session #2 was held on Sun., Jan. 8 and Wed., Jan. 11 at Queen of Peace Scallon Hall. Nine of 88 candidates did not attend, but met with me later in the month to discuss an at-home assignment they were given.
- Candidate group photos were delivered to parishes. Prayer cards were provided for those wishing to pray for a particular candidate.
- Confirmation Class #3 (for Candidates only) will be 6:30-8:30 on Wed., Feb. 8 or Noon - 2 on Sun., Feb. 12. These will be held at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall. Topic will be the Creed and "what makes us Catholic".

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

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH; weekly CLOW at St. Ed's.
- Still need to do new advertising & recruitment for CLOW leaders at Blessed Sacrament.

### **Professional Development**

- Jan. 10 regional MAC (Ministry-Affiliated-Cohort) meeting with area Faith Formation Leaders was canceled due to bad weather. We'll meet again in February.
- Participated in monthly "Digital Open House" with Archdiocesan Faith Formation Staff.
- Took Hospitality Minister training at CORE on Jan. 7.

### **Other**

- Am working with Dave Cushing to coordinate the Feb. 19 Family Night that will be held at Blessed Sacrament parish center & school from 5:30-7:30. The night will help families prepare for meaningful observance of Lent.
- Helped Sacred Heart School staff and students with their Catholic Schools Week Masses (in the absence of a principal there). Offered help with other prayer/liturgy experiences if needed.
- Have been asked to coordinate RE registration this spring.

### **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..
- Invoiced for CORE, Sunday and Wednesday RE.
- Preparing month end financial reports for Commission and Team. Send out individual monthly income statements to team members.
- Started working on next year's budget, meetings with staff to look at the budget for next year.
- Worked on Baptism packet copying and folding project for Dave.

