

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
January 2017

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The winter session of the Rite of Reception for persons who have been baptized, catechized and practicing in another Christian tradition begins on Jan. 15 and will meet on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

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

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 07 families attended the Baptism class in December. The next Baptism preparation class is January 14 at Queen of Peace Parish.

> 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 Witness Hour is January 30 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** Friends in Faith will hold a New Years Eve party on December 31, a Singles Mingle on January 14 at Cedar Falls Family Restaurant, a Singles Potluck January 28 at Blessed Sacrament and a Superbowl Party Feb. 5 at Riverside Conference Center Retreat House.

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 at the Cellar.** I am working on finalizing arrangements for our adult enrichment series previously called Winter at the Cellar in January and February. A new location and name is pending, since we will no longer be able to meet at The Cellar Lounge. Confirmed speakers are David Cochran and Jacob Kohlhaas from Loras and Martin Lohrmann from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. Cochran will discuss the Catholic role in November's election; Kohlhaas and Lohrmann will discuss the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Advent Online Retreat.** 19 people participated in the Advent online retreat.

2. **Advent O Antiphon Reflections.** 41 people participated in the online Advent O Antiphon reflections Dec. 17-23; an additional 194 accessed the reflections posted on Facebook.

3. **Collaboration with CVCS.** The Faith Formation Team collaborated with Cedar Valley Catholic Schools administrators in presenting an inservice for all CVCS staff and a renewal afternoon for Columbus and Blessed Maria Assunta faculty December 9.

> Read evaluations from the inservice here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-N5XJFYQF/>

> Read evaluations from the renewal here:

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

4. **January Mini-Retreat** -- Bill Mulcahey, retired scripture professor from Mount Mercy University, will facilitate our winter mini-retreat on the Gospel of Matthew January 15 at American Martyrs Retreat House. Bill will present an overview of the Gospel, which is the source for most of the Sunday readings during Ordinary Time in 2017.

E. Social Action/Interfaith Relations

1. **Racism Study Circles.** I will be meeting in January with Abraham Funchess, pastor of Jubilee United Methodist Church and executive director of the Waterloo Human Rights Commission, to develop a series of study circles on racism during the coming year.

F. Administration

1. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for December was 5,332 (daily average: 172; daily range:68/433).

Young Adult Ministry/COR at 220 East
Ellen Voegele

COR at 220 East

Administration:

Hospitality Ministers Training A - Rescheduled for January 7, 9 am - 12 pm

Faith Formation-Sponsored Events:

Monthly Offerings:

"Faces of Main Street" Photography Exhibit - October-December

- Many have viewed during events, 17 from the street have walked-in so far

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

Next up: January 5

Discussion Night - Monday, December 19 Topic: The Presence of God in the Midst of Suffering - 0 people attended

Next up - Sunday, January 15 Topic: TBD

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

December Movie: Meet Me in St. Louis - *CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER*

Next Up: January 20, All About Eve

One-time Events:

Art in the City: Wine & Canvas with a Twist - Saturday, December 3

Everyone enjoyed a great night of wine and canvas led by Carrie Schaefer. Check our pictures on the COR facebook page. - 12 people participated (mix of youth, young adults, and adults).

COR Reception of Appreciation with Archbishop Jackels - Tuesday, December 13 - A reception was held for donors and volunteers who have given exceptionally of their time, talent, and treasure to COR in the past year. Appetizers from downtown restaurants were enjoyed by all and the Archbishop did a fabulous job leading a short program and blessing.

Community Events:

Youth Diversity Volunteer Day - Saturday, January 28, 2-4 pm

Cedar Valley Volunteer Center

Young Adult Ministry:

Get to Know Your Neighbors - December 11 - *CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER. Rescheduled for January 8*

Next up - January 8 - Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Waterloo

Meet at COR (220 East 4th St) at **8:30 am**. We will join the Lutherans for their 9 am service and Sunday school. Lunch and conversation will continue after the experience at LJ's.

Art in the City: Wine & Canvas with a Twist - Saturday, December 3

Advent Awakening: Young Adult Small Group - We had a delightful small group that meet each Monday during Advent. Talk has been had about continuing to meet. I am in the process of contacting group members to gauge any interest in facilitating. - *7 young adults participated*

Adult & Young Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA - We changed RCIA to Sunday mornings. Each Sunday we meet at 11 am Mass at St. Edward. Catechumens and team are dismissed after the Intercessions for Breaking Open the Word. Breaking Open the Word focuses on the liturgy and one of the Sunday readings. A topic follows led by staff, priests, or parishioners. Dave and I have again been reflecting on potential different formats for RCIA especially incorporating discussion nights and Q&As at COR.

Advent Family Night: Kelleryn and I coordinated the family night for December. Annie Zeets and youth coordinated the pizza dinner that was picnic-style in the gym. We set up 10 different prayer stations for families to experience. Parents led the station with their families. Families did an incredible job of working on the stations together, learning new prayer forms, and maintaining a peaceful and prayerful environment through the evening. Over 30 catechists, youth, and team members helped direct stations. - *App 160 people attended*

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/wcff) *326 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *195 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *110 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Advent Morning Prayer - Every M, W, and F from Nov 28 - Dec 23 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals - December 2, 9, 16 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - December 6 (AFF & COR)
- Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation - December 8 (AFF & Blessed Sacrament)
- CVCS Professional Development Day - December 9 (CVCS & FFAT)
- Family Night - December 14 (C&F Catechesis & BS)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - December 21 (AFF & COR)
- Homeless Memorial Day - December 21 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - December 28 (AFF & COR)

Networking/Promoting:

- Community Meals - January 6, 13, 20, 27 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - January 3 (AFF & 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)

In process:

- COR Spring Calendaring
 - Hawkeye Community College Art Exhibit
 - Bands - Mike Mangione & the Union, Adam & I, StarHeart, Paul Siebert
- COR Administration
 - COR Networking Friends

- COR Internships
- Updating COR Promotional Materials
- Publicity - create a meet up group for discussion nights

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- FFAT Retreat - December 2 @ American Martyrs
- Archdiocesan Faith Formation Commission - December 3, ZOOM Online Meeting
- Spiritual Direction

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- On Dec. 14th we had our family night. Here is the description of it below:
Awaken Your Heart: An Advent Prayer Experience for Families -Wednesday, December 14 - 6 - 7:30 pm @ Sacred Heart School

Take a break from the busyness of this season and join other Waterloo Catholic families for a meal and prayer. We will start with pizza in the gym, picnic-style (bring your own blanket) and continue with family prayer stations. Several stations will be set up with different forms of prayer. Pray the familiar favorites or learn new ways to pray with your family. All are invited and child care will be offered for children under age 5. Attendance will be taken for Wednesday & Sunday RE families. Please use the 5th street entrance of the school.

- We had 158 people attend the family night.
- St. Nick visited Wed. RE on Dec. 6th where he passed out candy and prayer cards and gave us his blessing. Thanks to Fr. Stecher for being St. Nick! To see pics from St. Nick's visit check out: <https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/>
- Sunday RE 3/4th grade class got to go to confession on Dec. 4th. 5/6th grade will go in January.
- Sunday RE classes were cancelled on Dec. 18th due to the extreme cold. We will be making up this class in May.
- Mid-year parent survey will be sent out in January along with student progress reports.

CORE

- We met with Kevin Feyen, Director of Adolescent Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, in November and looked at ways we can improve high school faith formation.
- We are now researching what other parishes are utilizing for high school faith formation and weighing options of different programs. More info to come.
- The second semester of CORE will start on Jan. 4th.

Intergenerational Opportunities:

- 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. To see pictures from our presentations go to <https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/>
- [Our next family night will be Feb. 19th. More info to come!](#)

- [Pictures from our last family night will be on this facebook page soon: https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/.](https://www.facebook.com/waterloocatholicfamilies/)

Totus Tuus:

- Heard from the Archdiocese they will not be able to confirm the date (along with all other parish dates) for Totus Tuus until March or April.
- This is due to their difficulty in finding college age students to be on Totus Tuus teams. If you know of a faith filled college student, please encourage them to check out dedicating their summer to this awesome program. It is a paid position. Contact Kelleryn Rauzi, if you know of anyone who might be interested in working Totus Tuus for the Archdiocese. kellerynrauziwff@gmail.com

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- Dec. 4: Advent prayer and reflection: 14 students attended (*Catechesis, Prayer*)
- Dec. 6, 20: Faith sharing at CHS (*Catechesis, Prayer*)
- Dec. 11: Advent prayer and reflection: 12 students attended (*Catechesis, Prayer*)
- Dec. 14: Faith formation family night: Organized the food for this event. Recruited some high school students to help serve and clean up. (*Community, Service*)
- Dec. 18: Advent Prayer - canceled due to extreme weather

NCYC 2017

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-20, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- As of this report, 141 students and 23 adults have turned in their deposits - trip is full and there is a waiting list. We will have 3 buses and will be the largest group in the archdiocese!
- \$100 deposits were due Nov. 15. Payment #2 of \$100 is due Jan. 15.
- Total cost of the trip is \$600.
- Parent fundraising committee will meet the second week of January to start making fundraising plans.
- Will be speaking to the parishes about ways to get parishioners involved; prayer, fundraisers, etc.
- St. Eds is having a parish spaghetti dinner on Jan. 21 that NCYC students will work to earn money for the trip

CORE

- Classes begin January 4 and meet for 9 weeks. Each grade will spend 30 minutes with me each week

Coming Up

- Dec. 29: Christmas Party
- Jan. 8: Stress Relief Night before finals
- Jan. 15: Bowling at Maple Lanes (Columbus has Sadie Hawkins this evening)
- Jan. 21: Family Meal at St. Eds - NCYC fundraiser
- Jan. 29: Topic Night: Helping friends in crisis

Other

- I have been meeting separately each week with 3 students who are struggling with a variety of things from stress at home, to school, to a crisis of faith.
- I have been going to West High a few mornings each week before school to just chat with students are remind them that youth ministry is happening and open to all high school students. Not much fruit from this yet, but it's been nice to at least talk with the youth so they at least get to know me a little bit. I am hoping to get into East High after the first of the year.

Middle School

- Dec. 10: Movie Night: Watched "Elf", had treats and ended with a nice open sharing prayer activity. 18 students attended. Thanks to Chris Evans for helping chaperone this evening. (*Community, Prayer*)
- Dec. 16: caroling at community meal was canceled as meal was canceled due to extreme cold. 11 students were signed up to go.
- Dec. 19: BMAP Advent prayer service. I was asked by Mr. Novotney to plan and lead the final prayer service at the outdoor wreath in front of school. The focus was on Mary and how she answered the call by serving and praising God. Several high school students came to help lead music and play bells and drums. (*Prayer, Community*)
- Attend weekly mass at Blessed Maria

Coming Up

- Jan. 14: Mass, dinner and discussion at Blessed Sacrament. We will attend 4:30pm mass as a group and then go to Putz Hall for dinner and discussion. Topic: Friendship
 - Jan. 28: Mass, dinner and discussion at Queen of Peace: Attend 4:00pm mass and go downstairs for dinner and discussion. Topic: Discovering our gifts
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Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments -

- First Reconciliation celebrations were held Wed., Nov. 30 - 6:30 pm @ Blessed Sacrament Church and Sat., Dec. 3 - 10:00 am @ Sacred Heart Church. Twenty-nine parents completed the evaluation survey. Responses were positive.
- Info about First Communion prep and important dates were given to parents with the First Reconciliation certificates. Evening parent meetings are offered Jan. 23 & 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Blessed Sacrament parish center (in English); Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (bi-lingual). A daytime meeting will be held on Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Faith Formation room. Parent meeting for Burmese will be on Sun., Jan. 29. Reminder notes and e-mails will be sent in the week of Jan. 8.

Children's Initiation

- Have begun working with one high school student from Queen of Peace who needs Reconciliation. In February will work with this and two other QP high school students to prepare for First Eucharist.

Confirmation

- Class session #2 (for Candidates only) will be Sun., Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. OR Wed., Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Both will be held at Queen of Peace Scallon Hall. Topic will be Sacraments of Initiation. Confirmation Team will meet week of Dec. 26 for planning.
- Still waiting for Cole Photography to finish Candidate group photos for parishes. Was hoping to have them delivered before Christmas. I've seen the design; they'll be really nice!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH; weekly CLOW at St. Ed's.
- Will work with Karla Bray at Blessed Sacrament to do new advertising & recruitment for CLOW leaders there.

Professional Development

- Helped facilitate CVCS faculty professional development on Dec. 9.

- Attending monthly regional MAC (Ministry-Affiliated-Cohort) meetings with area Faith Formation Leaders. Next meeting Jan. 10.
 - Participating in monthly "Digital Open House" with Archdiocesan Faith Formation Staff.
 - Will take Hospitality Minister training at CORE on Jan. 7.
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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 and Julie.
- Attended staff retreat day on December 2nd @ American Martyrs Retreat House.
- Helped Ellen prepare for Intergenerational Family Night which was held on December 14th.
- Invoiced for 1st Reconciliation/1st Communion, Confirmation, and CORE. Working on invoicing for Sunday and Wednesday RE.
- Preparing month end financial reports for Commission and Team. Send out individual monthly income statements to team members.