

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
July 2017

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** Four people are enrolled in the summer RCRA series which is meeting on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament parish.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 03 families attended the Baptism class in May. The next Baptism preparation class is July 8 at Sacred Heart 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. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is July 8. It will be a picnic/potluck at Jon Steimel's home.

2. **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>

3. **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. **Care-Givers Retreat.** The Spring Care-Givers retreat scheduled for June 3 was cancelled because only three persons were registered.

> Learn more about the Care-Givers Retreat here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/care-givers-retreats>

2. **Summer Forum Series** (formerly Summer at the Cellar). 40 people attended the first Summer Forum program June 27 at COR. Remaining dates and presenters in this year's series are: Mary Ducey, July 10; Dave Cushing, July 17; Dave Cochran, July 25; Teresa Culpepper, August 9.

> Learn more about the Summer Forum Series here:

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

3. **Summer Bible Study.** Dr. Bill Mulcahey will facilitate the annual Summer Bible Study which will meet on Monday evenings in August. The topic for the four-week series is the book of Job. Dr. Mulcahey is retired professor of scripture at Mount Mercy University.

> Learn more about the Summer Bible Series here:

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

D. Administration

1. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for June was 3,092 (daily average: 103; daily range: 52/258).

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

COR at 220 East

Administration:

Coffee shop at COR: We were approached by a local coffee shop owner that would like to do a kiosk-style coffee shop in COR. We are in the initial stages of negotiating a sublease. This has been approved by the landlord. We see this as great potential for COR. More details to come.

Faith Formation-Sponsored Events:

Monthly Offerings:

Catholic Q & A - Thursday, June 1 - 0 people attended

Next up: Thursday, July 6, 7 pm

** After July, 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 - Monday, June 19 Topic: Contraception: What's the Big Deal. - 3 people attended

Next Up: Sunday, July 16 Topic: Medical Ethics

** After July, we will also be reformatting discussion nights. They will 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 - June 16, Million Dollar Baby - 7 people attended (1 hospitality minister served the event and 2 off the street attended)

Next Up: new series will begin in August

One-time Events:

Cedar Valley Chamber Music Open Rehearsal - July 18, 1:30 - 5:30 pm

All are welcome to attend at any point to enjoy some incredible music from this string quartet

Irish Fest - August 4-6

Plans are coming together for Irish Fest. We will have a night of prayer 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.

Ongoing Exhibits:

Art by Jeanie Steffey - June - August

Private Events:

Graduation Open House - Saturday, June 3

Bridal Dinner - Saturday, June 30

Young Adult Ministry:

Get to Know Your Neighbors - We are breaking for the summer months of June and July and 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

- * 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 the next year.

Young Adult Discernment Event - July 27, 7 pm @ COR

All young adults are welcome to join us for refreshments and a casual chat with Fr. Nick March about general discernment of God's call in our lives. This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Vocations of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Night of Prayer - Friday, August 4

Fr. Kevin Earleywine and I are working on resurrecting this event that we did a couple years ago at Queen of Peace. 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.

Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA - We "concluded" RCIA on June 11 and gathered for a potluck on June 14 with team, newly initiated, and families. It was a wonderful time and a great year!

Planning/Visioning Retreat Day II - June 12 @ American Martyrs Retreat House

Dave Cushing and I met for another morning of prayer, reflection, and discussion on a vision for adult faith formation. We hammered out a plan for RCIA that includes the following 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
- Possibly 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. More details to come.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/wcff) 335 subscribers
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) 195 likes
- Facebook - COR - 130 likes

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Hospitality House & COR)
- First Tuesday - June 6 (AFF & COR)
- Busy Catholics Guide to Prayer - June 20 (AFF & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - June 21 (AFF & COR)
- Summer Forum - June 27 (AFF & COR)
- Theology at Lark - June 28 (St. Pat's Young Adult Ministry & Lark Brewing)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - June 28 (AFF & COR)

Networking/Promoting:

- 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 - June 26 (AFF & COR)

In process:

- COR Summer Calendaring
- COR Administration
 - COR Subcommittee
 - COR Networking Friends
 - Publicity - create a meet up group for discussion nights
 - Young Adult Ministry panel meeting
 - COR Hospitality Ministers trainings

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
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Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

1. **Summer Religious Education.** 89 students are registered in the summer RE program June 19-30 at St. Edward School. Catechists for this year's summer RE program are: William Brandle, Caroline Miecznikowski, Bob Miecznikowski, Marjorie Lynch, Anne Graham, Christine Ferrie, Laci Ernst, Mary Ann Demuth, Mary Cushing, and Katrina Charlton. Stacie Mills is the coordinator of summer RE; Dave Cushing is the interim team supervisor.

2. **Totus Tuus.** This year's Totus Tuus week is July 24-28 at St. Edward School. The Archdiocese has assigned six catechists to this year's Totus Tuus team in Waterloo. Julie Novotney is the coordinator for the day time program; Annie Zeets is the coordinator for the evening program; Dave Cushing is the interim team supervisor.

3. 55 students are pre-registered for the fall Wednesday and Sunday religious education programs.

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- June 13: Mass and Breakfast at Blessed Sacrament: Arrived to discover there was a funeral that morning, so we just had breakfast. 9 students attended
- June 20: Mass and Breakfast at St. Eds: 9 students attended
- June 27: Mass and Breakfast at Sacred Heart: 3 students attended

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:

- July 11: Mass and breakfast at Blessed Sacrament
- Totus Tuus: July 23-27
- July 31: Summer cookout (location TBD)
- Aug. 15-18: Summer Service Days: This is with St. Pats YM.
- August 7 & 17: YDisciple parent information meetings

Middle School

- June 23: Outdoor movie night - cancelled due to weather
- Visited Summer RE classes to talk about youth ministry and promote serve 'n slide

Coming Up:

- July 12-13: Serve 'n Slide: This is a combined event with Mason City youth ministry. We will be staying at Blessed Sacrament and going to Lost Island. Service locations include: Hospitality House, Catholic Worker, Western Home - still looking for a few more sites. Currently there are 5 students from the Waterloo area registered and 4 from Mason City. St. Pat's is also joining us!

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
- Dave Cushing arranged priest coverage for the week.
- Registrations are coming in and I am creating a spreadsheet for the program.
- Bulletin inserts the weekend of July 1.
- Emailed/text all who did the program last year to remind them to register
- Housing arrangements for team have been made.
- Food arrangements for the team have been made.

Professional Development

- Monthly NCYC webinars (archdiocesan and national)

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments -

- Developed calendar of parent meetings, retreats and celebration dates and locations. Checked with parishes for possible scheduling conflicts. Parish secretaries have recorded dates on their calendar and reserved the spaces needed.
- Parents of 2nd graders in school or RE programs will receive a letter in late August asking them to attend one of the First Reconciliation Parent Meetings to be held Sept. 26, 27, or 28.

Children's Initiation -

- Met with two children from a parish in Britt who were formerly QP parishioners. They wish to make First Communion at QP. The 3rd and 10th grader have attended RE classes in Britt.
- Have organized materials for high school CI classes. I will be doing these with individuals and small groups on an "as needed" basis.
- Will meet in July with three Burmese students (who are entering grades 7 & 9) to prepare them for First Reconciliation and First Communion. These girls recently completed Summer RE. They will celebrate the sacraments at SH sometime this summer.
- Am considering changing the name of C.I. to PREP --Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation. This is for grades 3-8. The new name more closely aligns with the purpose of the program . . . *immediate preparation* for those two sacraments. "Children's Initiation" is a name that is more appropriate for children in grades 3 and higher who have not yet been baptized and would prepare 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.

Confirmation

- Will work in July on editing the Confirmation Handbook. Archdiocesan guidelines for Confirmation prep favor not having strict "requirements" for the preparation program. 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 recommendations for appropriate faith formation experiences prior to the immediate sacrament preparation that is normally done during the junior year of high school. The Confirmation Handbook will address the expectations of the immediate prep program.
- I will attend the parent info meetings for the new high school faith formation program (Y-Disciples) to answer questions about Confirmation.
- 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. In late August we should find out which one we get.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Continuing 2x per month at QP and SH during the summer. No CLOW at St. Ed's during the summer. Still hoping for CLOW start-up at Blessed Sacrament.

Professional Development

- I am reading a book entitled *The Developing Christian* that describes levels of human development and spiritual growth in various age spans.

Other

- Assisted with Summer RE Masses.
 - Prepared and sent materials for June WPL meeting.
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Becky McElroy

Office Manager

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..
- Created spreadsheet for Summer RE.
- Attended first day of Summer RE, made sure all waivers were complete for each student attending, organized all the paperwork, collected payments. We had two families that were not able to pay in full for Summer RE.
- Took the snack volunteers for Summer RE shopping for snacks for the program.
- Organized payments for those that needed to be paid for Summer Re.
- Preparing month end financial reports. Send out individual monthly income statements to team members.
- Created spreadsheet for Father Tom for an estimate of student cost for students in our programs grade K-12th grade.
- Prepared year end approximate financials for Father Tom.
- Mailed out waivers to families that did not send in with registrations for programs.
- Made all copies Stacie needed for Summer RE program.
- Attended pre-registration dates with Dave and Julie. Mailed out reminder cards for all the pre-registrations.
- Prepared final copies of employment letters for next year.