

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team October 2017

Adult Faith Formation Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 04 individuals are enrolled in the RCRA process which meets on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart.

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 03 families attended the Baptism class in September. The next Baptism preparation class is October 9 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/>

B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 90 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour presentation by Deb Lundberg Sept. 25 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is October 14 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Catholic Speakers Series.** 20 people attended Bishop Richard Pates's discussion "On the Care of Our Common Home" September 21.

> Learn more about the Catholic Speakers Series here:

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

2. **The Bible Timeline.** 18 people are enrolled in The Bible Timeline video series which meets on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.

3. **Community Forum.** Rev. Maureen Doherty will discuss how to recognize and deal with hidden or delayed grief on October 4 at COR.

> Learn more about Community Forum presentations here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/community-forum>

4. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to All Saints and All Souls will meet on October 30 at COR.

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

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

5. **First Tuesday.** First Tuesday is a support and enrichment program for married couples which meets monthly at COR. This year's discussions are based on the book "Ten Lessons to Transform Your Marriage" by John Gottman.

> Learn more about First Tuesday here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/first-tuesday-for-married-couples>

6. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The next Critical Choices Workshop is November 8 at Sacred Heart Parish. These workshops help participants understand the importance of Advanced Medical Directives and how to complete directions for advanced medical care in the case of an accident or at the end of life.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Rosary Rally.** The parishes will sponsor a Rosary Rally on October 14 in Lincoln Park to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Blessed Mother's appearances in Fatima. Refreshments will be served following prayer in Scallon Hall at Queen of Peace Parish.

2. **Care-Givers Retreat.** The fall retreat for family care-givers is scheduled for November 11 at Covenant Medical Center. The retreat helps participants recognize and deal with the spiritual challenges of caregiving.

> Learn more about the Care-Givers Retreats here:

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

E. Social Action and Interfaith

1. **“The U-Turn.”** Documentary filmmaker Luis Argueta will debut "The U-Turn," the third in his trilogy of documentary films about immigration, on Thursday, Oct. 12, at UNI. A community presentation of the film is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, at 5:00pm in the Commons at Blessed Maria Assunta Pallotta Middle School.

2. **The Unity Project.** Cedar Valley Interfaith Council is hosting a series of discussions addressing various issues which cause polarization in American society. The discussions are held on Sunday afternoons at Waterloo Center for the Arts.

> Learn more about The Unity Project here:

<https://www.the-unity-project.org/>

E. Administration/Outreach

1. We mailed 240 postcard RCRA invitations to households with a non-Catholic spouse and 700 postcard First Tuesday invitations to couples who have attended Baptism preparation in recent years.

2. I am inserting occasional links to faith formation resources for parents in parish bulletins. The first two were What Should Children Know About Human Sexuality (<http://bit.do/sexuality-guide>); What Parents Should Know About Children's Faith (<http://bit.do/childrens-faith>); the latest is How to Talk to Children About Violence (<https://waterloocatholics.org/children-violence>).

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for September was 3,235 (daily average: 108; daily range: 47/206).

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Wednesday RE began on Sept. 13th. We currently have 91 students registered.
- Sunday RE began on Oct. 1st. We currently had 50 students registered at the start of Sunday RE.
- Parent meetings for Wed. RE were held on Sept. 27th and Oct. 4th (bilingual)
- Parent meeting for Sunday RE will be held on Oct. 15th (bilingual)

YDISCIPLE:

- We currently have about 31 students registered for YDISCIPLE
- We will be “rolling out” 4 YDISCIPLE groups by the end of October.
- We hope to “roll out” more groups in December.
- We have 6/7 facilitator’s in place
- Facilitator training will begin the 2nd week of October

Intergenerational Formation Opportunities:

- Wed. RE had a beginning of the year mass on Sept. 20th. We had a great parent turn out
- At the parent meetings I have been handing out resources on ways to simply live out the faith at home.
- www.formed.org is a Catholic resource website for Catholics of all ages. I have been giving this out to parents and parish staffs. If you would like to sign up all you need is a parish code and an email. Once you go to the link, click on the “register” option on the bottom right hand side of the page. Parish codes below:
 - Blessed Sacrament: QFCYJH
 - St. Edward: 9Q7HGN
 - Sacred Heart: V9JDQC
 - Queen of Peace: T343JR

Spiritual/Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
 - Attended Faith Formation Retreat Day sponsored by Archdiocese.
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Children and Family Catechesis (Grades 2-12 Sacraments)

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Five Parent Meetings were offered Sept. 26-Oct. 1; Twenty parents did not attend one of them, so I’ll be arranging for make-up meetings
- As of Oct. 1, there are 93 second graders preparing for First Sacraments
- Lessons in school and RE classrooms begin first week of October; books go home in early/mid-November for review and reinforcement. It is a home-study program for Summer RE students with all materials provided.

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

- Info meeting on Oct. 11 for parents of children in gr. 3-8 from RE programs who need First Sacraments.
- Immediate Preparation classes for Penance/Reconciliation will be held Oct. 18, Oct. 25 and Nov. 8 from 6:15-7:30 pm at Sacred Heart.
- Three PREP catechists are lined up: Gr. 3, Gr. 4-5, and Gr. 6-8

Confirmation

- 85 candidates are enrolled; by parish: BS - 19; QP - 10; SE - 28; SH - 23; St. Pat's - 5. The St. Pat's candidates are Columbus students whose wish to prepare with their classmates. St. Pat's has given the okay for this.
- Confirmation Retreat was Sun., Oct. 1 at Blessed Sacrament. Annie Zeets put together a great Confirmation Team to lead the retreat. Deacon Ray and Deacon Chris & Carrie Evans were on hand to help as well. All but 7 of the Candidates attended, and they will be contacted about doing independent make-up work.
- Enrollment/Welcome Masses at home parishes prior to the retreat were well attended. Fewer than 10 retreat participants did not attend a parish Enrollment Mass.

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 -

- Fr. Luigi has been very helpful at sacrament prep parent meetings - there are 13 Burmese second graders preparing for First Sacraments; 11 Burmese high schoolers in Confirmation prep.
- Have worked to identify Burmese children who attend public school and could participate in RE classes.

**Young Adult/COR @ 220 East
Ellen Kuchera****COR at 220 East:**

- We are still waiting on a primary lease from JSA before we can move forward with a sublease for the coffee shop at COR
- We have hired one intern for Marketing & Communications and are close to hiring an intern for Event Scheduling & Planning. Our Marketing intern will be starting on October 4.
- Hospitality Ministers training has been rescheduled for November 4.
- Discussion Nights occur on the third Monday of the month. This month's topic, Catholic Idol Worshipers: Mary & the Communion of Saints, will be on October 16.
- Movie Nights occur on the third Friday of the month. This month's movie, The General, is on October 20.
- Cornerstone Acoustic Praise will be meeting for the third time on October 22nd from 5-6 pm. All are welcome to sing praise to the Lord.
- COR will again participate Main Street's downtown Halloween on October 28th.

Young Adult Ministry:

- Get to Know Your Neighbors will be on October 8 at South Waterloo Church of the Brethren.
- Two young adult small groups are meeting this fall, one for women and one for men & women.
- September's social was a Ticket to Ride Game Night hosted by Fr. Tom McDermott. October's social will be a Halloween Costume Party hosted by Kelleryn & Brett Rauzi.
- We will prepare & serve a meal at the Catholic Worker on Wednesday, October 4.

RCIA:

- The Rite of Acceptance was held at St. Edward & Blessed Sacrament on September 30-October 1. 2 young women were accepted into the order of the catechumenate.
- Both young women are involved in the young adult small groups.
- Catechetical Sessions – October 5 at Bl. Sac & October 16 at COR

Promoted Events:

- Community Forum: Hidden Grief – October 4 (AFF & COR)
 - Life, Love, & Mercy: Christopher West – October 5 (YAM & St. Pat's)
 - Fatima Prayer Service – October 14 (AFF & Lincoln Park/QP)
 - Busy Catholic's Guide to All Saints & All Souls – October 30 (AFF & COR)
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High School/Middle School Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School:

- Sept. 6th: Youth Night Pizza and Prayer
- Sept. 8th: Helped with CHS 9th grade renewal
- Sept. 10: Movie Night: Gifted
- Sept. 22: Confirmation retreat team meeting
- Sept. 27: Tough Topic Night: Right to Life
- Oct. 1: Confirmation retreat
- Oct. 4: Service Night at Blessed Sacrament
- Oct. 6: CHS 10th grade renewal
- Every Tuesday morning - visit West High

NCYC:

- Chaperone Meeting held Oct. 2nd at BMAP
- Group meetings set for Oct. 23rd & 24th
- Butter Braid fundraiser begins Oct. 6th
- Students will attend masses at their home parishes the 2 weekends before the trip and receive a send off blessing. SH is Oct. 28 at 4pm, Bles Sac is Oct. 29 at 10:30am, SE is Nov. 5 at 11am, still working on QP

Middle School:

- BMAP 6th grade students visited high school youth office
- Attend weekly masses at BMAP
- Oct. 7: Visit middle school religious education classes
- Oct. 22: Game Night
- Nov. 4: Archdiocesan Youth Jam at BMAP

Parish Youth Involvement:

- Recruit volunteers for St. Eds parish lunch
- Recruit volunteers for Blessed Sacrament fall festival

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.
- Completed the Arch report for 2016/2017.
- Update records for RE and tracking financial information/scholarships.