

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
September 2017

Adult Faith Formation Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 04 candidates completed their preparation for Reception; 3 were from Blessed Sacrament Parish and 1 was from St. Edward. An information meeting for people interested in joining the church will be held on Sept. 14 at COR. The Fall RCRA series will begin on Sept. 21 and meet on Thursday evenings in the rectory classroom at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

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

> The 2017-18 schedule for RCRA is online here:

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 03 families attended the Baptism class in August. The next Baptism preparation class is September 9 at Sacred Heart.

> 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/>

> The 2017-18 schedule for baptism preparation is online here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/baptism-preparation-schedule>

B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Catholic Witness Hour is Sept. 25 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

> The 2017-18 schedule for the Catholic Witness Hour is online here:

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is Sept. 9 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Bible Study.** 18 people participated in the Summer Bible Study which met on Monday evenings during August.

> Learn more about the Summer Bible Study here:

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

2. **Summer Forum Series.** 22 people attended the Summer Forum Series presentation by Teresa Culpepper August 9. Total participation for the Summer Forum Series was 133.

> Read cumulative evaluations for Summer at the the Cellar here:

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

3. **Catholic Speakers Series.** Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines will discuss the challenges of implementing Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical "On the Care of Our Common Home" September 21. Bishop Pates is the U.S. bishops' liaison to the Catholic Climate Alliance.

> Learn more about the Catholic Speakers Series here:

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

4. **Busy Catholic's Guide to the Bible.** This program in our Busy Catholics series will meet on Sept. 19 at COR. The discussion will cover how Catholics understand Scripture, how Catholics use scripture for prayer and worship, and how to choose a Catholic bible.

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

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

5. **First Tuesday.** An open house for married couples interested in learning more about First Tuesday will be held on Tuesday, September 12, at COR.

> 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.

> The 2017-18 schedule for Critical Choices Workshops is online here:

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

D. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for August was 2,882 (daily average: 96; daily range:136/69).

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

COR at 220 East

Administration:

Coffee shop at COR: We are in the final stages of negotiating a sublease with a local coffee shop owner to open a kiosk-style coffee shop at COR. The process has been held up because we are waiting on a primary lease from JSA.

COR Internships: Working with UNI to secure interns for the fall & spring in marketing and in event planning

Hospitality Ministers Training: Saturday, September 9, 9 am – 12 pm

Faith Formation-Sponsored Events:

Monthly Offerings:

Discussion Night – Monday, August 21 Topic: Church Community: Why Does it Matter? - *0 people attended*

Next Up: Monday, September 18 Topic: Who Needs a Pope? Church Structure & Hierarchy

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock – August 18

August Movie – Passion of Joan of Arc – *8 people attended* Next Up: Friday, September 15

September Movie: Sullivan's Travels

Cornerstone Acoustic Praise – August 27 – *9 people participated, 3 off the street*

Next up: Sunday, September 24, 5 pm

One-time Events:

Irish Fest – August 4-6

Once again, Irish Fest was a great event at COR. It was a wonderful weekend of encounter and presence to the people and visitors of Waterloo. We are also planning a meeting in the next couple weeks to evaluate and plan our overall evangelization strategy for next year.

* Light the Night at Queen of Peace – *150? people attended, 35 volunteers helped with the event*

* COR Open Hours – *app. 75 people walked through COR, 9 volunteers helped*

* Coffee & Donuts – *app. 250 people attended*

Musician - Paul Siebert

#100dayproject with Kate Brennan Hall – September 9, 7-9pm

Local print artist, Kate Brennan Hall will be displaying her collages from her Instagram #100dayproject as well as hosting a collage-making workshop. Kate's collages will be for sale and the workshop will be free and open to the public. Wine & refreshments will be provided.

Ongoing Exhibits: see waterloocatholics.org for background

Art by Jeanie Steffey, local Waterloo artist

Clock Wall

Young Adult Ministry:

Get to Know Your Neighbors – Sunday, September 10 – Hope City Church, Waterloo

Small Groups – two small groups for young adults are forming this fall – one for women and one for men & women.

Women's group – facilitator Kelsey Kersting, meets Thursday evenings, *Blessed is She* curriculum

Coed group – facilitator Gina Kubik, meets Tuesday evenings, *Oremus* study on prayer

Beauty Alive – September 19, 6:30 pm at St. Pat's

Encouraging young adult women to attend this workshop put on by the Archdiocese

Young Adult Socials – This year I would like to host a young adult social once a month. I am currently recruiting 12 social coordinators to take on one month. I would like for four of them to be the priests of our parishes. Fr. Tom has agreed to host the social for September.

September Social – Ticket to Ride Game Night, Saturday, September 30, 6:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament

Adult Faith Formation:

RCIA – We had a team meeting to discuss the new RCIA model on August 16. Overall the model was well received and concerns were addressed. Currently we have two women who have started the process. I am working on creating a guide for Breaking Open the Word companions and another for Spiritual Mentors. I also am going to try to recruit a few more team members for this year as a few have retired or have current medical issues.

Young Adult Ministry Communications –

- Flocknote – (flocknote.com/wcff) *367 subscribers*
- Facebook – Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *199 likes*
- Facebook – COR – *138 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- First Tuesday – August 1 (AFF & COR)
- Adult Small Group – August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Juli Rowell & COR)
- Summer Forum – August 9 (AFF & COR)
- Community Meals – August 11, 18, 25 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Adult Small Group – August 15, 29 (Cheryl Hannah & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics – August 16 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics – August 23 (AFF & COR)

Networking/Promoting:

- Community Meals – September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Hospitality House & COR)
- Adult Small Group – September 7, 14, 21, 28 (Juli Rowell & COR)
- First Tuesday – September 12 (AFF & COR)
- Adult Small Group – September 12, 26 (Cheryl Hannah & COR)
- Busy Catholic's Guide to the Bible – September 19 (AFF & COR)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics – September 20 (AFF & COR)
- Catholic Speaker Series – September 21 (AFF & COR)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics – September 27 (AFF & COR)

In process:

- Young Adult Committee
- COR committee
- COR Networking friends
- COR Internships

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
- TA for Pastoral Theology Masters course at Notre Dame

Children and Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Wednesday Religious Education begins Sept. 13th.
- We will have a beginning of the year mass for Wed. RE on Sept. 20th. Fr. Tom will be presiding
- Aug. 30th we had our Wed. RE catechist inservice. Sunday RE Catechist inservice TBD.
- We are still in need of a 6th grade catechist for Wed. RE and a 2nd grade catechist for Sunday RE (as of Aug. 28th)
- The focus of this year will be "Encountering Jesus at Mass". This is to hopefully help families understand the purpose of going to mass and how it relates to our every day lives.
- Registrations are still coming in for both programs; we have sent out reminders in the bulletins, emails, and via flocknote. Deacon Rigo has been taking registrations from the Hispanic community.

YDISCIPLINE (9-12 Grade):

- We had three parent meetings (2 Anglo, one for the Hispanics) to promote YDISCIPLINE in August. The two Anglo ones were well attended; we will probably have another Hispanic meeting in the future b/c of lack of attendance at the first one.
- Currently we have 29 students signed up for YDISCIPLINE. It is a mix of public, Catholic, and homeschooled families.
- We have 4 adult mentors committed to facilitating these groups so far.
- We hope to have the initial groups up and running by October.
- The Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation website is now updated to reflect the changes in high school programming.

Intergenerational:

- We will be inviting all families to participate in the beginning of the year RE Mass.
- I am in the midst of planning the 4 family nights this year that we will invite all Catholic families to attend.
-

Spiritual/Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
 - Attended Faith Formation Leader's Day hosted by the Archdiocese on Aug. 10th.
-

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

- Aug. 10: Senior farewell breakfast at Panera: 14 students attended
- Aug. 27: High School kick off/pizza party: 34 students attended including one new student who from a home school family and four 9th grade students.
- Aug. 30: Visited West High School in the morning (before the first bell) to chat youth and promote YM. Will do this two times a month.

Coming Up

- Sept. 6: Topic Night: Finding peace in an unpeaceful world
- Sept. 8: CHS freshman renewal
- Sept. 10: Movie Night: "Gifted"
- Sept. 20: Topic Night: Faith filled friendships
- Oct. 1: Confirmation retreat

YDisciple

- Aug. 7 & 17: Parent information meetings: from these meetings, 4 groups are already being formed
- Helping Kellern recruit adult mentors
- Helping recruit students to form discipleship groups
- Will promote to CHS students and NCYC participants

NCYC 2017

- NCYC 2017 is Nov. 16-19, 2017 in Indianapolis.
- *139 students and 25 adults are registered.* We will have 3 buses and will be the largest group in the archdiocese – TWICE as large as the next largest group!
- **FUN FACTS:**
119 CHS students
20 public school (14.39%)
Blessed Sacrament: 21
Sacred Heart: 20
Queen of Peace: 10
St. Edward: 68

- St. Pats: 18
- Non-Catholic: 1
- Moved away but coming back for trip; 1
- 91 girls/48 guys
- 3 CVCS staff; Pat Wiss, James Larsen, Tom Novotney
- 2 Deacons; Ray Larsen, Chris Evans
- 1 grandmother, 1 doctor, 3 young adults who attended when they were in high school, 5 public school parents
- 16 new chaperones
- 9 returning chaperones
- Trip meetings: Oct. 23-24
- NCYC opening night live-stream watch party will take place at COR on Nov. 16th

Middle School

- Scheduling class visits with 6th grade teachers at Blessed Maria
- Scheduling class visit with RE classes in late Sept/early Oct
- Peer Ministry: A group of high students have expressed an interest in helping plan and lead middle school youth ministry this year. We will be meeting in the next few weeks to make plans.

Professional Development

- Monthly NCYC webinars
- Quarterly MAC meetings (I am the group facilitator)
- I have been asked to be part of an archdiocesan youth ministry advisory council. We will begin meeting after NCYC.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments –

- Aug. 31 - Sent letters about First Sacraments to parents. Info gathered from parish PDS identified by birthdate those children that might be 2nd graders. Mailed 114 letters; sent 44 home through school with CVCS second graders; 11 Burmese 2nd graders did not receive a letter - will contact by phone.
- Parent Info meetings scheduled for Sept. 26 & 28 at 6:30 pm - Blessed Sacrament Parish Center; Sept. 27 at 10 am and 6:30 pm - Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (6:30 meeting will be offered in Spanish) Will arrange make-up sessions for those parents who do not attend.

Children's Initiation/P.R.E.P. -

- Reminder - the "C.I." name has been changed to PREP --Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation. This is for children/youth grades 3-8 who are baptized. The new name more closely aligns with the purpose of the program . . . *immediate preparation* for those two sacraments. Students will be identified via school and RE rosters. Info meeting for parents will be held Oct. 11.
- "Children's Initiation" (C.I.) will be used as the name of the program for children in grades 3 and higher who have not yet been baptized. It will prepare them for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation - preferably at the Easter Vigil in their parish.

Confirmation

- The Waterloo pastors approved a policy for Confirmation that removes the "requirement" for two years of high school theology (in Catholic school or religious education) prior to the immediate preparation program for Confirmation. This is in line with Archdiocesan guidelines that came out in 2015. We will continue to encourage parents to have their child participate in on-going faith formation either at Columbus or through Y Disciples.
- Confirmation Team met on Aug. 28. Team members for 2017-18: Deacon Ray Larsen (St. Ed's), Chris and Carrie Evans (BS), Vanessa Gomez (QP), Annie Zeets (SH)
- Mailed letters of invitation to 81 juniors from Waterloo parishes and their parents. Parent/Candidate info meetings will be held Sept. 10 (4-5:30 pm) and Sept. 13 (6-8:30 pm) at St. Ed's.
- Am editing the Confirmation Handbook which addresses the immediate preparation for the sacrament. These will be given at the parent meeting.
- Archbishop's office has notified us that the Waterloo metro Confirmation will be Sat., April 7 at 1:00 pm at Columbus High.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Meeting w/ St. Ed's CLOW leaders on Sept. 6. Hope to resume CLOW there on Sept. 17 and continue weekly at the 9:00 Mass. QP continues to have CLOW on 2nd and 4th Sunday at Noon Mass. SH offers CLOW at the 10:45 Mass on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.

Burmese Liaison -

- Enlisted help from Fr. Luigi to meet with parents having children who attend public school. Registered 13 students for the Wed. RE program and identified 4 public school juniors for Confirmation.
- Will hold separate sacrament prep meetings for Burmese (with Fr. Luigi's help) - Confirmation on Sept. 17; First Sacraments on Sept. 27.

Professional Development

- Attended Faith Formation Leaders day at BMAP on Aug. 8. Also attended "New and Nearly New" FFL day at the office in Dubuque on Aug. 22; will act as a "companion" to a new FFL from Holy Spirit cluster in Dubuque.
- Will remain in same Ministry Affiliated Cohort (MAC) group as last year. This year I will be the facilitator and serve on an "advisory committee" to the Archdiocese's FF office.
- Will be reading *My Life with the Saints* that was given to all FFL leaders and Catholic School administrators this year. Also reading *Living as Missionary Disciples* from USCCB.

Other

- Prepared and sent materials for August 24 WPL meeting; will do same for Sept. 28 meeting.
- Helped as Hospitality Minister at COR during Irish Fest and for Summer Forum on Aug. 16.

Prepared "Faith Formation News" bulletin insert for

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.
- Organized all records for the year and filed.