

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
February 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 03 candidates are participating in the Winter RCRA series meeting on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families completed baptism preparation in January. The next Baptism preparation class is February 12 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

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

3. **Adult Confirmation.** There were no candidates for adult preparation for Confirmation.

B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 26 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour January 29 at Sacred Heart.

> Learn more: waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** Friends in Faith will host a singles Superbowl party February 4 at Riverside Conference Center. The next Singles Mingle is February 10 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

3. **Inactive Catholics.** We have scheduled two discussion sessions for inactive Catholics to coincide with Lenten outreach: Feb. 21 and Feb. 28.

4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for January was 4,264 (daily average: 137; daily range: 56/509).

5. **Waterloo Catholics.org.** I have been updating and reformatting adult formation content on the website; the information on FAQ (<https://waterloocatholics.org/faq>) and How Can We Help?

(<https://waterloocatholics.org/how-can-we-help-you>) has been updated and corrected.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Winter Forum.** 44 people attended the Winter Forum enrichment series January 18 and 25; remaining sessions in the series meet on February 1 and 5, 7:00-8:30pm at COR.

> Find the topics and speakers for this year's series here: waterloocatholics.org/winter-at-the-cellar

2. **Nine Days for Life.** 05 people registered for the email version of the Nine Days for Life prayer novena Jan. 18-26; 203 people (daily average 25) accessed the novena on our Facebook page.

3. **Worldwide Marriage Day.** The parishes will co-host and provide the reception for the Worldwide Marriage Day February 11 at Sacred Heart Parish.

4. **Critical Choices Workshop.** Critical Choices workshops are scheduled for February 21 at St. Edward and March 19 at St. Patrick. These workshops help participants understand the importance of Advance Medical Directives and how to prepare them in agreement with Catholic moral principles.

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

In conjunction with the Critical Choices workshops I have added information to the web about the responsibilities of Health Care Agents (HCA).

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/documents/2018/1/HO-HCA%20Instructions.cwk%20WP.pdf>

5. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** We have scheduled four programs in this series for February and March: Guide to Lent Feb. 15; Guide to Prayer Feb. 20; Guide to Reconciliation Mar. 7; Guide to Holy Week Mar. 22. All will be held at COR.

> Learn more: waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life

6. **First Tuesday Marriage Enrichment.** I am preparing an on-line survey to determine if couples are interested in continuing the First Tuesday marriage enrichment program. Lack of attendance this fall suggests that this is an opportunity which may have exceeded its shelf-life.

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Winter Mini-Retreat.** 04 people attended the Winter mini-retreat facilitated by Dr. Bill Mulcahey January 14 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-mini-retreats>

2. Lenten Faith-Sharing. Ellen and I are working on forming small faith-sharing groups in the parishes for Lent. Groups will be discussing "The Case for Jesus."

E. Social Action and Interfaith

1. **Cedar Valley Interfaith Council.** CVIC is in the process of determining the issues that it wants to focus on this year. The goals will be selected from a list of social justice issues which the various members feel are important to address in an inter-faith effort. The Council is also determining how to distinguish between individual and congregational membership, and how statements from the Council will be attributed in the public media.

F. Administration

1. I am serving on a task force which is studying the future of the Archdiocese's "Impact" program for adults.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/lay-formation-in-the-archdiocese-of-dubuque>

K-12 Religious Education
Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Both Wed. and Sunday RE are back into the “swing of things” after our Christmas break.
- In both sessions; grade levels are signing up to lead prayer during the 2nd semester. Parents/families are invited to join us for prayer each week.
- Our family night was rescheduled from Feb. 18th to Feb. 21st from 5:45-7:15pm @ Blessed Sacrament parish center. This is so we can participate in the meal packaging event Blessed Sacrament is hosting. All are invited to help us feed the hungry!
- Wed. RE has Reconciliation scheduled for Feb. 28th; families are invited to join us. Sunday RE has Reconciliation scheduled throughout the semester.
- I will be scheduling a meeting with Stacie Mills this month to start planning Summer RE.

YDISCIPLE:

- We have 4 groups (2 men and 2 women) off the ground and running smoothly.
- After discussing with WPL (Waterloo Pastoral Leadership), I will be contacting the parishes to give me names of parents/students in their parish that I can reach out to regarding YDISCIPLE and their interest in it.

FORMED:

- FORMED is an online Catholic resource website. It has many different bible studies (including YDISCIPLE), parish programs, movies, Saint stories, podcasts, books, and much much more.
 - To register you just need an email and parish code (codes below):
 - Blessed Sacrament: QFCYJH
 - St. Edward: 9Q7HGN
 - Sacred Heart: V9JDQC
 - Queen of Peace: T343JR
 - I have been working with parishes on the advertisement and “roll out” of FORMED. Different parishes are doing different things for this.
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Grades 2-12 Sacraments
Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Good attendance at the First Communion parent meetings in January. The new Sunday afternoon meeting option was well received. I only had to schedule 4 make-up sessions.
- Eucharist lessons have begun in Catholic School and RE classes and will continue until Holy Week. Then the books go home for review and reinforcement.
- Eucharist Retreat will be held at Sacred Heart Church again (O’Hagan, cafeteria, and church). Dates are Sat., Feb. 24 from 10-Noon, Sun., Feb. 25 from 1:30-3:30, Mon., Feb. 26 from 6:00-8:00.
- Am working with a 20 year-old young woman preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Will also help her prepare for Confirmation.

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

- Four classes for First Communion begin after Spring Break.

Confirmation

- Class #3 was held at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall on Jan. 17 and 21. Have sent make-up assignments and will meet with nine candidates who couldn't attend Class #3.
- Class #4 will be for Candidates and Sponsors on March 4 or 7 at Blessed Sacrament. An info letter will be mailed to Sponsors in early February.
- Am in process of preparing photo posters of candidates for parishes. Will also prepare prayer cards asking parishioners to pray for candidates.
- Agnus Dei will lead the music for the celebration Mass -- April 7 @ 1:00 pm at Columbus Catholic High School.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - In progress weekly at St. Ed's, twice monthly at QP, and three times a month at SH. CLOW at St. Ed's has changed location from the church hall to St. Mary's room.

Burmese Liaison -

- William Simo translated for the First Communion meeting for the Burmese parents.
- When Fr. Luigi returns I'll ask for his help and schedule a separate Confirmation Class #4 for sponsors and twelve Burmese candidates and a separate Eucharist retreat for the twelve Burmese second graders and parents.

Other -

- Participated in Arch. "Digital Open House" on Jan. 9; MAC meeting on Jan. 23.
- Attended Archdiocesan Women's Conference on Jan. 27.

COR & Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Kuchera
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COR AT 220 EAST:

- Move-in has begun and the plan is still for Cottonwood Canyon to open by March 1.
- I am meeting with Scott & Maria DiValentin, the coordinators for the COR Golf Outing this year, this week to finalize a date and begin initial planning.
- Movie Night, His Girl Friday, is on February 16.
- This month's discussion night topic, Love Neighbor: The Ten Commandments, will be on February 19.
- Listening Sessions for Inactive Catholics will be held on February 21 & 28.
- COR Hospitality Ministers Training is scheduled for February 24

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- January's social was a game night. We had a diverse group of parishioners attend from all four parishes and all ages represented. February's social will be a Super Bowl party.
- Working with St. Ed's staff to target young adults to invite to the March social hosted by Fr. Bullock.
- The young adult women's retreat is being planned for April.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Lenten Small Groups - Dave and I have been working with the parishes to coordinate small groups for Lent. The groups will use the book, *The Case for Jesus*, by Dr. Brant Pitre. Currently we have 11 small groups open to participants with an additional 4 groups that are using the resource.
- Alpha - Dave & I met with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hiawatha, to explore how they utilize the program, Alpha, in their parish. Plans to move forward with doing Alpha in our parishes has been approved.

RCIA:

- Catechetical Sessions – February 1 at Bl. Sac & February 19 at COR
 - Two catechumens will experience the Rite of Sending (February 11) and the Rite of Election (February 17) this month.
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Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

- Jan. 4-7: Adult leader for CHS Kairos retreat
- Jan. 21: Movie Night: Cheaper by the Dozen
- Jan. 28: NCYC chaperone appreciation dinner in Independence with guest speaker Emily Wilson (NCYC 2017 emcee)
- NCYC 2019 registration will begin in October!

Coming Up

- Feb. 6: CHS faith Sharing
- Feb. 11: Topic Night: Human Sexuality: Fr. Tom will be joining us for this guided discussion on this very relevant topic for teens
- Feb. 18 & 21: Lenten Series: We will be using the book “Glorious Wounds” from Lifeteen. The book focuses on Christ’s call to prayer, patience and to enter more deeply into the mysteries of His cross — how we answer that call. Told through the lens of the people present at the Crucifixion, the book uses Ignatian imaginative prayer to draw teens more deeply into the Lenten season and further reflect on the beauty of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. This is a nice follow up to NCYC - as the conference theme was “Called”

Summer 2018 Trips

- Catholic Heart Workcamp: June 17-23. Louisville, Kentucky
Cost is \$600/person. Space is limited to 10 youth currently in grades 9-11:
Currently have 6 students registered
Chaperones are myself, Chris Evans and Fr. Tom
- Steubenville Youth Conference: July 13-15. Rochester, Minnesota
Cost is \$315/person. Looking into partnering with Iowa Falls YM.
Space is limited to 20 students
Mailing went out 2 weeks ago. Will be visiting CHS classrooms and sending info to YDisciple leaders this week

Other

- I am part of the confirmation team and have helped at several of the classes with check-in and leading small group discussions

Middle School

- Jan. 13-14: Lock-In at Blessed Sacrament: 36 area youth attended, as well as 3 youth from Queen of Saints cluster in Norway. We played board games, bingo, had a dance party, watched a movie and ended by attending 8:30am mass. A group of high school kids helped lead the games portion of the night. Thanks to adult chaperones: Chris and Carrie Evans, Jeff Mastin, Sarah Smith, Jodi Klein, Brian Zeets and Julie Graff. Special thanks to 7th grade student Ella Smith for coming to me with the idea of a lock and her help in planning and recruiting youth.
- Jan. 16: faith sharing at BMAP (I am leading a small group of 8th grade students)

Coming Up

- Feb. 6 & 20: Faith sharing at BMAP
- Feb. 25: Lent retreat - location TBD

Ongoing

- Promotion of YDisciple groups
- Monthly MAC meetings

- Monthly Archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
 - In discussion with Waterloo Schools administration about holding prayer group/book club meetings at East and West High before school twice a month. Goal is to start after Spring Break.
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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.
- Preparing financial reports for Commission and Team.
- Individual meetings with team members for 2018-2019 budget.
- Update records for RE and tracking financial information/scholarships.