

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team January 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** An information meeting for individuals interested in joining the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Reception will be held January 7 at Sacred Heart Parish. The RCRA Winter Series begins January 14 and meets on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 04 families completed baptism preparation in December. The next Baptism preparation class is January 13 at Queen of Peace.

> 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.** This four-week preparation program for Catholics, age 19 years or older, who wish to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation begins January 15 and meets on Monday evenings at St. Edward Parish. Candidates must be baptized, catechized and actively participating in the spiritual and sacramental life of the Church.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/adult-confirmation>

B. Evangelization

1. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Witness Hour is January 29 at Sacred Heart.

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

2. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is January 13 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

3. **LGBT Catholics.** We have amended the schedule for discussions with gay and lesbian Catholics to four quarterly sessions which will meet on the fourth Wednesday evening of January, April, July and October. The discussions for families of LGBT Catholics will meet on the fifth Wednesday evening of May and August. We will continue to promote opportunities for private appointments for LGBT Catholics who wish to discuss their relationship to the Catholic Church.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/information-for-gay-lesbian-catholics>

4. **WaterlooCatholics.org.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for December was 3,592 (daily average: 116; daily range: 71/193).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** 01 attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation Dec. 14 at COR.

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

2. **Winter Forum.** The Winter Forum enrichment series (formerly Winter at the Cellar) meets on January 18, 25, 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

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. **Nine Days for Life.** I will offer the U.S. bishops' Nine Days for Life prayer novena Jan. 18-26 both by email and on Facebook. This "digital pilgrimage" of prayer and action highlights a different intention each day provides reflections, bonus information, and suggested actions.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Advent Retreat.** 25 people attended the Advent Retreat Dec. 2 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

2. **O-Antiphon Reflections.** 06 people participated by email in the O-Antiphon Reflections December 17-23; another 487 accessed the reflections on our Facebook page (daily average: 61).

3. **Winter Mini-Retreat.** Dr. Bill Mulcahey, professor emeritus of scripture and director of campus ministry at Mount Mercy University, will explore the theme of the Kingdom of God in Mark's Gospel at our annual Winter Mini-Retreat January 14 at COR. , Mark's Gospel is the one from which many of the Sunday readings are taken during the coming year.

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

4. **Community Forum.** The parishes will host a Community Forum discussion for individuals who have or are having a difficult time returning to church after the death of a loved one January 22 at COR.

5. **CEW/DEW.** Registration are now being made for the Christian Experience Weekend Feb. 2-4 and the Disciples Experience Weekend April 27-29; both weekends will be held at American Martyrs Retreat House.

E. Social Action and Interfaith

1. **Homeless Memorial Day.** 25 people attended the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day prayer service Dec. 21.

K-12 Religious Education

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Sunday RE attended 8:30am Blessed Sacrament mass on Dec. 17th as a group.
- Both Sunday RE and Wed. RE had breaks over Christmas.
- Sunday RE will start up again on Jan. 7th
- Wed. RE will start up again on Jan. 10th

YDISCIPLE:

- We have 4 groups (2 men and 2 women) off the ground and running smoothly.
- We are looking to start up more groups after the new year.
- So far we have only received positive feedback about the groups.

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.
- I sent out Christmas promotional materials to parishes for FORMED. The idea is they can hand these out at Christmas masses where there are a lot of people.

INTERGENERATIONAL:

- We had our 2nd Family night of the year on Dec. 20th @ Sacred Heart Church. Frank Runyeon came and performed *3 ½ Stories of Christmas*.
- We had a rough estimate of about 300 people come to this event.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Texts and parent materials for First Eucharist have been ordered and received
- Info meetings for parents of 2nd graders about First Communion will be held Jan. 7 - 3 pm @ SH O’Hagan Hall; Jan. 8 & 9 - 6:30 pm @ SE parish hall; Jan. 10 - 6:30 pm @ SH O’Hagan Hall. Reminder postcards were mailed Dec. 27; email/text reminders will follow.
- Will hold info meeting for Burmese parents on Jan. 14 @ 4:00 pm.

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

- Four classes for First Communion begin after Spring Break.

Children’s Initiation - Have begun working with a 9th grader from CHS/BS parish with goal of full initiation at Easter Vigil. Tried to contact two families of other children/youth who need sacraments, but are still waiting for parent replies.

Confirmation

- Class #3 to be held at Sacred Heart O’Hagan Hall on Wed., Jan. 17 @ 6:30 pm or Sun., Jan. 21 @ 12:30 pm.
- Have asked Agnus Dei to lead the music for the celebration. They are very interested; I’m just waiting for final decision.

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 will change location from the church hall to St. Mary’s room. Am in the process of moving supplies and communicating the plans for that.

Burmese Liaison -

- Fr. Luigi will be gone for much of January and February. Another member of the Burmese community is helping translate for the Jan. 14 First Communion parent meeting. I will ask Fr. Luigi to help with a Burmese Eucharist Retreat and the Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate class session in March.
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Ellen Kuchera
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COR AT 220 EAST:

- We are making progress with the coffee shop. Randolph Bryan from Cottonwood Canyon plans to open a kiosk-style coffee shop in COR by March 1. Move-in will begin in January.
- Marketing Internship - Ben has been working on a website as well as promoting January events
- Event Planning Internship - Ben has been working with Joseph Knaapen, a local artist and musician, on planning "Lumen E Tenebrae," a series of events for January including art exhibit by Jack Moga opening Jan 10, an additional movie night on Jan 5, a game night on Jan 23, and possibly some music concerts.
- Movie Night, Stagecoach, is on January 19.
- This month's discussion night topic, Love God: The Ten Commandments, will be on January 15.
- Listening Sessions - Inactive Catholics will continue every month. Discussion night for LGBT Catholics will happen quarterly, and discussion night for friends and family of LGBT Catholics will happen twice a year. As always, these can meet by request as well.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- January's social will be the game night at COR on January 23. February's social will be a Super Bowl party. March's social will be dinner and a short film, hosted by Fr. Scott Bullock.
- Archdiocesan Women's Conference - January 27
- I am on a committee led by Mary Pedersen, Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Archdiocese, to help plan a young adult women's retreat.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- The Advent Voices Retreat was a beautiful day with app. 23 retreatants and 10 team members. Thanks to all of our speakers and musicians and American Martyrs for hosting.
- Alpha - Dave & I are meeting this week with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hiawatha, to explore how they utilize the program, Alpha, in their parish.

RCIA:

- Catechetical Sessions – January 4 at Bl. Sac & January 15 at COR
- Individual meetings with catechumens will happen during the month of January

Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

High School

- Dec. 3 & 10: Advent Prayer: We focused on making prayer a priority during Advent. Challenged youth to "unplug" for 15 minutes each day and be silent. Many said this was a highly difficult task and were not able to follow through proving how dependent young people are on technology
- Dec, 5 & 19: Faith sharing at CHS
- Dec. 6: NCYC dinner hosted by St. Edward Parish
- Dec. 9: Newsboys Concert at McElroy. 8 youth attended. It was really fun and a little throwback to NCYC
- Dec. 20: Faith Formation family night
- Dec. 29: Christmas Party: 32 students attended. Dinner provided, decorated cookies and played board games

Coming Up

- CHS Kairos retreat Jan. 4-7. I am one of the adult leaders
- Jan. 17: Topic Night
- Jan. 21: Mass and lunch (location TBD)

- Jan 27: Archdiocesan Women's Conference

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
Chaperones are myself, Chris Evans and Fr. Tom
- Steubenville Youth Conference: July 13-15. Rochester, Minnesota
Cost is \$315/person.
- Fundraising efforts for both trips will begin late January/early February

Middle School

- Dec. 30: Movie Night
- Jan. 13-14: Lock-In at Blessed Sacrament
- Helping Blessed Maria get small group faith sharing started twice a month

Ongoing

- Promotion of YDisciple groups
- Monthly MAC meetings
- Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings

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/Julie.
- Preparing financial reports for Commission and Team.
- Helped with Family Night on December 20th.
- Update records for RE and tracking financial information/scholarships.