

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
May 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The spring RCRA series which began on April 2 is now meeting on Wednesday evenings at St. Edward Parish.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** There were no families at baptism preparation in April. The next Baptism preparation class is May 12 at Queen of Peace parish.

> 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.** We are continuing to advertising for adults interested in being confirmed this spring until we have a sufficient number of people for the preparation program. To date, we have two people.

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

B. Evangelization

1. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Mingle is May 12 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant. The existing group has asked if they can go there own way and we could start a new group.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/friends-in-faith>

2. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The May Catholic Witness Hour is scheduled for Monday, May 21, at Queen of Peace Parish.

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

3. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for April was 5,490 (daily average: 183; daily range: 1,322/57).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Discipleship Experience Weekend.** 10 people participated in the DEW weekend April 27-29 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

2. **Community Forum.** A Community Forum on mental illness with author Virginia Pillars is scheduled for May 10; a Forum on grief with Maureen Doherty is scheduled for May 22. Both will be held at COR.

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

3. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The spring Critical Choices Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, at Queen of Peace Parish.

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

4. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to the Mass is scheduled for Monday, May 14, at COR.

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

5. **Summer Bible Series.** I am in the process of scheduling the annual Summer Bible Series. Dr. Bill Mulcahey will facilitate a four-week study of the Book of Psalms in June, July or August.

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Pentecost Novena.** We will sponsor an online Pentecost Novena May 11-19. Participants will receive a daily email message with a prayer and reflection. Pentecost novenas were a common feature of Catholic devotional life for many centuries.

2. **Information for Suicide Survivors.** I have added information and resources for suicide survivors to our webpage. This information is intended to help those who have experienced the suicide of a loved one cope with the personal and spiritual challenges which accompany suicide.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/suicide>

E. Social Action and Interfaith

1. **Homeless Presentation.** 25 people attended the presentation of the documentary film "Same Kind of Different As Me" on Sunday, April 8, at COR.

2. **Holocaust Memorial.** About 75 people attended the annual Yom HaShoah commemoration of the holocaust on Wednesday, April 11, at the Hearst Center in Cedar Falls.

3. **Social Justice Calendar.** I am in the process of reviving the Social Justice Calendar listing opportunities for people interested in social justice. Kathy Stevens from Queen of Peace parish has volunteered to prepare information for the calendar, which will be emailed to those who request it and posted on WaterlooCatholics.

> See the calendar here: <https://waterloocatholics.org/calendar-1>

K-12 Religious Education

Kelleryn Rauzi

K-8 Religious Education:

- Family night, on April 18, was unfortunately cancelled due to the snowstorm. I sent home the New Testament books we were going to get out to each family. I also sent home instructions on how to pray with scripture as a family. Both resources were available in english and spanish.
- We finish Wednesday RE on May 9th with our end of year mass.
- We will finish Sunday RE on May 6th (we went to mass together at Blessed Sacrament on April 29th)
- Stacie Mills is continuing to recruit catechists for Summer RE.
- Parents will be given an opportunity to give their thoughts on religious education via a survey that will be emailed/mailed home to them.
- Registration dates for Summer RE and 18-19 religious education:

- May 6th; during (bilingual) Sunday RE (Blessed Sacrament School)
- May 16th; 6pm (bilingual) @ St. Ed's church basement
- June 3rd; Hispanic Registration after the noon mass @ Queen of Peace
- For those who do not need an "in person" registration, we also will have the registration paperwork available @ waterloocatholics.org. These can be printed, filled out, and mailed or emailed into the faith formation office.
- Calendaring for the 18-19 Religious education year has been completed.

YDISCIPLE:

- We have 4 groups (2 men and 2 women) off the ground and running smoothly.
- I will be planning on some parent meetings of current 8th graders to talk about how YDISCIPLE can help their children in their faith journey in high school. This meeting will happen on May 2nd, 6:30pm Sacred Heart School gym. I will be also emailing info home to parents who cannot make the meeting.
- From the parent meetings/emails, I hope to compile a list of potential 8th graders and mentors who are interested in forming YDISCIPLE groups for my successor.

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 had a phone conference with a rep from FORMED on how to utilize FORMED in our parishes better.

TOTUS TUUS:

- Since I will be leaving my position at the end of June, we have hired coordinator's to help run Totus Tuus in July. They are: William and Renae Brandle
- I will be doing most of the prep work; William and Renae will take over in July.
- Totus Tuus will be held at St. Edward Catholic School from July 22-27th.
- Grades 7-12 will be held in the evenings from 7-9:15pm Sunday-Thurs. Night
- Grades 1-6 will be held during the day from 9am-2:30pm
- Registration forms will be sent to schools to send home to families. They will also be going home to religious education families.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Finishing up with First Communions. Last celebration is at Sacred Heart - rehearsal on May 3, celebration on May 5/6. (133 children from the four parishes have celebrated First Communion this spring - - 95 2nd graders; 38 from gr. 3-9)
- Will finalize parish records info spreadsheets for Eucharist and Confirmation and send on to parish secretaries by mid-May.
- Parents were asked to complete evaluation survey about Eucharist Prep. Will analyze results in May.

PREP (Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation for gr. 3-8) & Children's Initiation

- Will follow up with 9th grader who was fully initiated at Easter Vigil and now needs Reconciliation.

Confirmation

- Wrap-up Confirmation Team meeting on May 10

- Evaluation survey was sent to Candidates. Team will review at wrap-up meeting

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Met with someone from Blessed Sacrament who has found CLOW leaders; will schedule a training with the group. They plan to begin soon and continue through the summer. CLOW at St. Ed's on May 6 and 20; none again until mid- to late- August. Will continue through the summer at QP (2x per month) and SH (3x per month)

Other -

- April MAC meeting was postponed due to snow!! Will meet May 8.
- Completed 2018-19 calendaring for sacraments, parent meetings, retreats, etc.
- Part of Search Committee for finding Kelleryn's replacement

COR & Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Kuchera

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COR AT 220 EAST:

- We are meeting with Jessica Rucker, the new director of Main Street Waterloo on May 3 to discuss opportunities of collaboration with downtown Waterloo.
- Cottonwood Canyon will hopefully be opening this month.
- Planning continues for the COR Golf Outing - June 3, tee times begin at 1:30 pm, and the outing will be held at Red Carpet Golf Course. Cost is \$55/individual, \$200/team, \$275/sponsor & team play. Registration is online cor220east.com/special-events.
- We will have a board game night on May 2.
- An Essential Oils Workshop led by Lisa Strei will be on May 9.
- COR will again welcome Virginia Pillars to discuss "A Faith-Filled Response to Mental Illness" on May 10 at 6:30 pm. We will follow with a poetry reading at 7:45 pm.
- Movie Night, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, is on May 18.
- This month's discussion night topic, Bibles Basics, will be on May 21.
- 1 private event and 3 business meetings are happening at COR during May.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open Tea will be on May 14 & 28 from 5:15-6:15 pm.
- Our May Social will be a Day in Decorah on May 5.
- The young adult women's retreat on April 28 was a great success.
- Planning for Light the Night at Queen of Peace on August 3 has begun.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha - Dave & I are wrapping up presentations at pastoral councils and will move forward with working with St. Ed's and other parish staffs to plan Alpha for the 2018-19 year. We are hoping St. Ed's will host in the fall, Sacred Heart/Queen of Peace in the winter/spring in English & Spanish, and Blessed Sacrament and COR in the summer.

RCIA:

- We will have a Sacraments Retreat on Sunday, May 6 from 10:30 – 4 pm. We will continue to reflect on experiences of the sacraments as well as look at some of the other sacraments, with a particular focus on Reconciliation and preparing to receive the sacrament

HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

- April 3 & 17: Faith sharing at CHS
- April 4: Catholic Heart Meeting
- April 7: Confirmation mass at CHS
- April 8: Movie night
- April 14: Summer trip fundraising meal at Blessed Sacrament: Over \$900 was raised

- April 15: Topic Night: Forgiveness

Coming Up

- May 6: Senior Night: Keeping the faith in college
- May 20: CHS graduation
- May 30: Pie making night at Blessed Sacrament
- June 1: West graduation
- June 2 & 3: Pie sales weekend

Summer 2018 Trips

- **Catholic Heart Workcamp:** June 17-22. Louisville, Kentucky
Cost is \$600/person; all inclusive.
9 students registered
Chaperones are myself, Rebecca Swanson, Chris Evans and Fr. Tom
Pie sale set for late May.
- **Steubenville Youth Conference:** July 13-15. Rochester, Minnesota
Cost is \$315/person.
Currently have 6 students registered and 3 adults.

Middle School

- April 3 & 17: faith sharing at BMAP
- April 13: 6th grade retreat
- April 25 & 26: BMAP play

Coming Up:

- May 1 & 15: Faith sharing at BMAP
- May 11: Game night
- May 24: BMAP 8th grade celebration mass

Other

- Monthly MAC meetings
 - Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
 - Attending Archdiocesan FFL retreat on May 3-4 in Strawberry Point
 - Team member for Archdiocesan Middle School Youth Jam scheduled for Oct. 20, 2018
 - Working on retreat for next year, much like a Kairos retreat, for high school students attending public school. This will be joint effort with several youth ministers in the diocese.
 - Attended Youth Mental Health First Aid training workshop on April 28. The 8 hour training was very well done. I am now a Youth Mental Health First Aid responder. Certification is good for 3 years.
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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.
- Preparing financial reports for Commission and Team.
- Helping with RE registrations in April and May.
- Update records for RE and tracking financial information/scholarships.
- Set up Square Reader so that we can take credit card payments.
- Looking at setting up a system to use for on-line registrations for programs.