

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team April 2016

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. Two candidates are enrolled in the Spring RCRA series which started March 29 and is meeting on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-5HDVHJR2/>

2. 21 candidates attended the annual RCIA Retreat on Palm Sunday co-hosted by St. Stephen's Student Center, the Waterloo parishes, and St. Mary Parish in Waverly.

> Read evaluations from the retreat here:

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

3. 05 families attended the Baptism class in March. The next Baptism preparation class is April 11 at St. Edward.

> 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. 40 people attended the March Catholic Witness Hour at Sacred Heart. The next Witness Hour is 27 at St. Patrick Parish.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

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

2. The next Singles Mingle is April 9 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 04 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation March 6 at Blessed Sacrament; 03 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Holy Week March 21 at Sacred Heart. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Sharing Our Faith is scheduled for March 16 at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

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

2. The spring Critical Choices Workshop is scheduled for May 14 at Queen of Peace.

> Learn more about the Critical Choices Workshop here:

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

> Read evaluations from Critical Choices Workshops here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-587ZZK9S/>

3. Read evaluations from the Lenten video series on the Psalms here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-8L6QMFHW/>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. 21 people participated in the Busy Catholic's Online Lenten Retreat March 7-13. 41 people registered to receive our hourly Good Friday meditations by email; 638 people accessed the meditations on Facebook.

> Read evaluations from our online programs here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-MZWW7FHW/>

2. The Grief Committee at St. Patrick Parish is hosting a workshop on "Finding Hope in Grief" April 18 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

E. Interfaith/Social Justice

1. 19 people participated in the Social Justice Lenten Retreat March 12 at Sacred Heart Parish.

> Read evaluations from the retreat here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-BJ3WZK9S/>

2. 20 people attended a Holy Week program on Passover at the Synagogue March 22.

3. The parishes will be co-hosts for the annual Holocaust Commemoration May 4 at the Grout Museum.

> Learn more about the commemoration here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/jewish-catholic-relations>

F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for March 1-30 was 3,864 (daily average: 129; daily range: 55/494). The total reach for Holy Week was 1,404 (daily average: 201; daily range: 132/494). Here are the total reach and averages for Lenten features on Facebook: 40 Days of Lent: 364 (daily average 07); Guide to Holy Week: 390 (daily average 65); Good Friday Meditations: 638 (46).

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegelé

COR at 220 East

*** Community Events:**

Taste of 'Loo - We were open and present at COR during this community event from 5:30 - 9 pm on March 10. - 10 people walked in "off the street" to check out COR

April 26 - 6 pm, Essential Oils Perfume Class, leader Jamie Rathjen

*** Faith Formation Events:**

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, March 3. - 0 people attended

Next up: April 7

Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - Wednesday, March 16. 6 people attended, 4 inactive Catholics

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock

Slumdog Millionaire was Friday, March 18. 10 people attended, 3 "off the street," 5 young adults

Next up: *Song of Bernadette* on April 15

Discussion Night - Sunday, March 20 Topic: Why Pray? - 3 people attended, 1 RCIA inquirer

Next up: Monday, April 18 Topic: Life After Death

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, March 13, attended the 9:30 am Sunday School and 11 am service at St. Mark's Baptist Church, Waterloo. 3 young adults attended.

Next up: Sunday, April 10 - Jehovah Witnesses, Waterloo

Adult Confirmation - 3 young adult candidates were confirmed at St. Pat's and Queen of Peace

Dinner & Risen Movie - Saturday, March 5. This event was created and planned by a young adult and is promoted by young adult ministry. 6 young adults attended.

Sacraments: Masterworks of the Merciful God - 7-part series held on Wednesdays after Easter, 6:30-8 pm at St. Edward. This serves as an opportunity to enter deeper into the great sacramental mysteries of our faith, as well as a time for the newly initiated Catholics to reflect on their experiences of receiving the sacraments.

Date:	Topic	Testimony	Presenter	Attendance
March 30	Baptism	Theresa Seliger	Mary Pedersen	10
April 6	Confirmation	Ellen Voegelé?	Diane Flaherty	
April 13	Eucharist	TBD	Anastasia Nicklaus	
April 20	Reconciliation	TBD	Fr. Scott Bullock	
April 27	Anointing of the Sick	TBD	Nancy Rigel	
May 4	Holy Orders	Aaron Junge (video)	Fr. Jerry Kopacek	
May 11	Matrimony	TBD	Dave & Mary Cushing	

Praise & Worship Group – Four young adults from our parishes have formed a young adult group praise and worship group. The group is led by Brett Rauzi and provided music for RE Reconciliation on March 2, and will lead music for the intergenerational family night on April 3. This is an awesome start so far and we are really looking forward to utilizing this important ministry for future young adult ministry and faith formation events.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *102 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults ([facebook.com/cvyoungadults](https://www.facebook.com/cvyoungadults)) *185 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *97 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - March 4, 11, 18, 25
- Catholic Speaker's Series - March 3 (AFF)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - March 16 (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - March 20 (Sacred Heart)
- Agnus Dei - March 20 (Cedar Valley Catholic Parishes)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - March 23 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

Promoting:

- Community Meals - April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- Taize Prayer - April 17 (Sacred Heart)
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - April 20 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - April 27 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

In process:

- COR Hospitality Minister Trainings
- COR - Adam & I band on August 22\
- COR Summer planning
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- Columbus Art Show (COR)

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Submitted a "white paper" detailing COR for the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership panel presentation to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, May 23-26. Asked by Echo program to submit a paper.
- Spiritual Direction

Children & Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

Religious Education:

- Business as usual
- In March we taught the required safe environment classes to both Sunday and Wednesday RE.
- We are holding registration sessions for families that need to be registered for any of the following:
 - Summer RE
 - Summer CORE
 - Fall RE (both Sunday and Wed.)
 - Fall CORE

These registration sessions will be on April 13th from 6:15pm-7:30pm at Sacred Heart Church basement and April 17th from 8:15am-10:15am at the Blessed Sacrament school cafeteria. We will do make up registration sessions as necessary. We are doing this in order to be able to meet the families in our program (many parents just drop their child off at the door so we rarely see them) and to also ensure that the forms are filled out correctly and questions families may have are answered. Both sessions will have Spanish registration available.

- Wed. RE is going to be going a week longer because of a snow day. Because of this we will have our end of the year mass on May 4th at Sacred Heart Church.
- Sunday RE will still end on May 15th.

Intergenerational Opportunities:

- Ongoing: Fr. Bullock leads prayer at the end of class. We read the gospel in English and Spanish and then Father does a brief reflection on the gospel. On Sundays Kelleryn leads end of class prayer; all parents are invited to end of class prayer.
- RE Easter newsletter was sent home in both English and Spanish. This newsletter had facts about Easter, RE reminders, and ways to celebrate Easter as a family the whole 50 days of the Easter season.
- April 3rd: 5-6:30pm at Blessed Sacrament Parish we are having a family night. We have invited all RE and Catholic School families to this event. This family night will have a FREE meal served from 5-5:30pm and then we will have praise and worship music in the church along with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Bullock will be giving a brief talk beforehand as well.
- During Lent at Wed. RE we having been offering both an English and Spanish book study for parents of RE students on the book *Rediscovering Jesus*. Deacon Dan Rigel has been leading the English study and has had about 4 women regularly attend. Deacon Rigo has been leading the Spanish study and has between 6-10 people attend. Through this book study Deacon Rigo has identified a few couples who desire to have their marriage "blessed" (convalidated) in the Catholic Church. Without this book study, who knows if these couples would have been identified. Thanks Deacon Rigo and Holy Spirit!

CORE:

- Business as usual
- CORE will be ending April 6th due to a snow day

Totus Tuus:

- Currently am waiting on the Archdiocese to send us the promotional materials. Once we receive those, promotion in the parishes, schools, and RE will start.

Spiritual/Professional Growth:

- Spiritual direction monthly

Annie Zeets

High School Youth Ministry

High School

Mar. 4: Dinner and Movie Night: Had dinner at Noodles and Company. Watched "Hairspray" at the youth office. 17 students attended

Mar. 6: Topic Night: Lent, How's It Going: Talked about how the students were doing with the Lenten goals. Had a short prayer service based on the spiritual works of mercy. *15 students attended*

Mar. 9, 23, 30: CORE

Mar. 9, 23, 30: Bible Study: *5-10 kids regularly attend*

Mar. 20: Agnus Dei at St. Edward: *0 students attended (CHS has musical rehearsal this evening until 9pm)*

Mar. 25: Youth Ministry planned and led Stations of the Cross at St. Edward. The traditional station was read, then there was a reflection from the viewpoint of a child (read by student) and from the viewpoint of an adult. *14 students and 5 adults (including myself) were the presenters.* Thank you to Kelleryn and Brett Rauzi, Dave Cushing and Deacon Ray Larsen for being the adult leaders.

Promoted:

Living Last Supper presentation at St. Eds

Witness Talk at SH: Youth Ministry student and bible study leader Noel Mills was the speaker

Intergenerational Family Night at Blessed Sacrament

Pancake Breakfast at St. Eds benefitting COR

Coming Up:

April 1: Confirmation Mass at CHS

April 4: Chaperone for State Speech at UNI

April 6: Sr. Helen Prejean at UNI

April 10: Mass and Pizza with Fr. Bullock at St. Eds

April 10: Senior movie night: "Spotlight"

April 17: Taize Prayer at SH

April 24: Veteran's Event

In Process:

Summer Scheduling: Currently planning and promoting:

ND Vision (Notre Dame) *4 students are interested.*

Steubenville Conference (Rochester) *7-8 students are interested.* We may be joining with St. Pat's youth ministry and going together.

Summer service experience (In town at AMRH) *LOTS of interest in this - again, may be a joint effort with St. Pat's youth ministry.*

Other:

I had several individual meetings with students during Spring Break. One needed some spiritual guidance. Another wants to help plan the summer service experience. One needed someone to talk with about their college options. And one just needed someone tell them they were going to be ok. I only share this information this month as there are times that youth ministry isn't about events and activities. I spend many hours each month walking with these kids who need a kind adult to listen and help guide them. I feel lucky to have these moments with the students because these are the times I feel like I am really leading them to Christ by my presence.

Middle School

Mar. 8: Visited BMAP religion classes

Mar. 9: Visited middle school religious education classes.

Mar. 16: Spring Break "Break": We gathered for a night a food and fun which included a very "spirited" game of Heads Up. 19 students attended

Attended

BMAP Stations of the Cross presentation on Holy Thursday

Coming Up:

April 9th: Archdiocesan Middle School Youth Jam. At the time of this report, 125 students from the diocese were registered, 30 from Waterloo! Numbers keep growing. It should be a great event! Thanks to all the parents from the youth ministry who have donated Gatorade and to those volunteering to help chaperone the day. Special thanks to Vanessa Gomez for promoting this at Queen of Peace and getting several Hispanic students registered!

April 23: Service Morning: Location TBD

In Process:

Planning is underway with WAYM (Waterloo Area Youth Ministry) to host middle school Serve 'n Slide on June 15-16. Students will do a day of service, spend the night at location TBD, then head to Lost Island on Day 2.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Communion -

- Plans are underway for First Communion! Children have completed their study in classrooms* and have taken the books home for review with parents. (*It has been a home-study program for Summer RE students.)
- Again, the schedule for the parish-based celebrations is:
 - SH - April 9 @ 5:30, April 10 @ 10:45; Rehearsal & photos April 7 @ 6 p.m.
 - SE - April 17 @ 11 a.m.; Rehearsal & photos April 14 @ 5:30 p.m.
 - QP - April 24 @ 9 a.m. & Noon; Rehearsal April 23 @ 10:00 & 10:45; photos after Masses on the 24th
 - BS - April 30 @ 4:30; May 1 @ 8:30 & 10:30; Rehearsal & photos April 30 @ 9 a.m.

Confirmation

- The Confirmation liturgy was celebrated at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 1 at Columbus with Archbishop Jackels presiding. The Loras Choir was on hand to provide music. I thank James Larsen and Columbus staff for their help with use of that facility.
- 76 young people were confirmed. This included 3 from St. Patrick parish and 2 young adults from Queen of Peace who had gone through the adult confirmation classes in June but hadn't been confirmed yet.

Children's Initiation

- Baptisms were arranged for the 5 C.I. students needing baptism (3 from S.E. and 2 from B.S.). Three of these students were fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.)

Burmese Sacraments

- Parent/child session for Burmese second graders was held on March 16. Fr. Luigi assisted with translation for the families. Each child had an opportunity to review two lessons in their text with parents. Hopefully this "coaching" helped parents understand how to do the same thing at home.

Other - Working with Kellryn summer 2016 and 2016-17 registration. Registrations will be done *by family* so we get information about the faith formation & sacrament needs for everyone in the family. A team of staff members & volunteers will complete the forms with families - this spring. The hope is to get most of registrations done this spring, but another opportunity will be given in late August or early September. This will help us plan programming for next year.

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

Invoice Mailing

- Mailed out invoices to those that have not paid the fees for CORE and Confirmation.

Budget

- Created a budget sheet, met with Father Tom to discuss. Continue working on the budget for next year.

Survey Monkey

- Inputting surveys from Programs for Dave.

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.