

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
September 2018

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** An information meeting for people interested in becoming Catholic will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12. The fall RCRA series begins September 19 and meets on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 04 families participated in Baptism preparation in August. The next Baptism preparation class is Sept. 8 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

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

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWWJSY/>

B. Evangelization

1. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** I met with the core group of singles in August. The group will continue to meet monthly, but we will no longer advertise these as singles events. The group will continue to host singles potlucks as a way of inviting new singles in an effort to invite new singles to assume leadership for this ministry to singles age 35 and older.

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

2. **Alpha for Catholics.** Our first season of Alpha for Catholics begins Sept. 5 and will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at St. Edward parish. The winter season for members of Queen of Peace and Sacred Heart Parishes will begin February 7 and meet on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart. We are finalizing dates for the season at Blessed Sacrament Parish later in the spring or summer.

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

3. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** The next Witness Hour is Sept. 24 at Blessed Sacrament. Harland Robinson will be the speaker.

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

4. **Inactive Catholics.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Sept. 26 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

5. **LGBT Catholics.** The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is October 24 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

6. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for August was 4,872 (daily average: 157; daily range: 62/347).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Forum Series.** 17 people attended the presentation by Tom Chapman August 7; 32 attended the presentation by Jacob Kohlhaas and Martin Lohrmann August 21. Total attendance for this year's summer series was 133.

> Read evaluations from the series: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-GGVBN85RL/>

2. **Sexual Abuse Forum.** About 100 people attended the forum and discussion on sexual abuse in the Catholic Church held on August 30 at St. Edward Parish. Panelists included Fr. Jerry Kopacek, Mary

Pedersen, Dr. Len Froyen and Joan Hoffmann.

> Read a summary of the forum here: <https://www.thewitnessonline.org/>

3. **First Tuesday Marriage Enrichment.** An open house will be held on Sept. 10 at COR for married couples who are interested in re-visioning and re-shaping our monthly marriage enrichment program. This re-visioning is necessary due to the low participation in First Tuesday the past several years.

4. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is Sept. 17 at COR; the topic is "Who Is God?" These discussion sessions are designed for participants in the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.

5. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Life.** The next BCGCL session will explore how to witness to our faith in difficult times. It is scheduled for Sept. 18 at COR.

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

6. **Bible Timeline.** The Bible Timeline video series is scheduled to begin on Monday, Sept. 24, and meet on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/the-bible-timeline>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Parish Mission.** "The Spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul" is the theme of the Waterloo Parish Mission hosted by Blessed Sacrament Parish this fall. Fr. Bill Rhinehart, a Vincentian priest from St. Louis, will preach the mission on the evenings of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 4, 5 and 6.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/waterloo-parish-mission/>

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The first Critical Choices workshop of the year is scheduled for Nov. 7 at Sacred Heart Parish. These workshops explore important personal, spiritual and medical decisions which families face at the time of an emergency or when a loved one is dying.

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

E. Interfaith

1. **Knowing Your Neighbors--Sharing Sacred Seasons.** The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council is hosting this series for local communities of faith to learn about the holy days and traditions of those around us. The first event of this series will be on Sunday, September 9 at 4:00pm at the Islamic Center in Waterloo. It will focus on Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice.

Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing (dbqwc@dbqarch.org)

1. **Team Evaluation.** The Team met twice during August with an evaluation team from the Archdiocese. We had an initial discussion about how faith formation is structured in the Waterloo parishes and the advantages and challenges of the collaborative team model. In the second discussion, we focused on individual formation programs (adults, young adults, youth, etc.) at which time the diocesan team asked various questions about these programs. The Archdiocesan team will now produce a preliminary report for further discussion; following that, the Archdiocesan team will produce a final report which we will share with the pastors, the Commission, and other stakeholders.

2. **Maternity Leave.** The Team has discussed Ellen's plans for maternity leave and her employment following maternity leave. Maternity leave will occur from mid-September to mid-November (approximately Sept. 16-Nov. 19). During that time members of the Team and volunteers arranged by Ellen will cover essential programs and services for young adults and COR. Following her maternity leave, Ellen has requested that her employment be reduced to the equivalent of 30 hours per week and that she have permission to hire a coordinator to cover the remaining 10 hours. This request was endorsed by the Team and approved by the pastors.

3. **Office Facilities.** This fall the Team will be discussing our needs for office space in the parishes. This is in preparation for a discussion later this fall with Cedar Valley Catholic Schools about changes that will result from their plans for building consolidation and the possibility that they would want to use the current Faith Formation office at Blessed Sacrament School.

K-12 Religious Education

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. **Religious Education.** In the absence of an Associate Director for Religious Education, members of the Faith Formation Team have assumed responsibilities for planning and implementing the fall religious education programs.

--The Wednesday evening program will begin Sept. 19 and meet weekly on at Sacred Heart School;

--the Sunday morning program will begin Oct. 7 and meet twice a month at Blessed Sacrament School.

--Catechist inservice is scheduled for Sept. 5.

-- Parent meetings are scheduled for Oct. 3 for Wednesday RE, and Oct. 21 for Sunday RE.

We will be contacting families who did not re-enroll in Cedar Valley Catholic Schools this fall as soon as we receive that information from CVCS. During the fall we will be making a concerted effort to contact parish families whose children are not enrolled in either a Catholic school or our religious education programs. Also during the fall we will be evaluating the present Sunday morning program and looking at other alternatives for the Sunday morning schedule.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Used lists of 2nd grade - aged students received from parishes and CVCS to send around 140 info letters to parents about First Sacraments.
- Parent info meetings for First Reconciliation will be at St. Edwards parish hall on Sunday, Sept. 23 @ 3:30 and Monday, Sept. 24 @ 6:30 OR at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 26 @ 6:30. There will be both English and Spanish meetings on the 26th. The Parent Meeting for Burmese will be on Sept. 30 with Fr. Luigi assisting.

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

- Will be preparing list of possible PREP students (those in grades 3-8 who need sacraments) using Summer and school-year registration info. Will mail info letters in late-September and have a parent meeting in mid-October.

Confirmation

- Used lists from parishes and CVCS for names and addresses of youth who are the age of high school juniors. Around 150 information letters were mailed to parents in mid-August. Info meetings for candidates and parents will be held at Queen of Peace Scallon Hall Wednesday, Sept. 12 @ 6:30pm & Sunday, Sept. 16 at 3:00 pm.
- The Waterloo Parishes' Confirmation celebration will be Saturday, March 30 @ 1:00 pm.
- Confirmation Team met on Aug. 28 to discuss plans for the year. Team members are: Deacon Ray Larsen (St. Ed's), Deacon Chris & Carrie Evans (Blessed Sacrament), Vanessa Gomez (Queen of Peace) and Annie Zeets (Sacred Heart).
- Have researched and ordered additional resource materials for candidates, parents, and sponsors.
- Enrollment Masses in parishes will be on October 7: Blessed Sacrament @ 10:30; Sacred Heart @ 10:45; St. Ed's at 11:00, and Queen of Peace at 9:00 and Noon. Candidates will sign a book to

signify the start of their journey toward Confirmation and sit together during Mass. There will be recognition of them in the Prayers of the Faithful and a blessing sometime during the Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word - I will continue to coordinate this ministry until we have a new K-12 RE Director on board. CLOW continues as weekly at BS, 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH. I need to get in contact with the St. Ed's CLOW leaders. We hopefully can start up there by late September.

Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave.
- Attended Advent Planning meeting at St. Ed's; will help communicate any metro-wide planning to the FF Team and other parishes.
- Am assisting Sacred Heart parish with creating their weekly bulletin. Plan to train their new secretary to take over in late September.
- Will be the facilitator for a MAC group (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) of seven faith formation leaders. Our first meeting will be Sept. 27.

Ellen Kuchera
COR & Young Adult Ministry
dbqwcy@dbqarch.org

COR AT 220 EAST:

- Movie Nights will resume on September 14 with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, beginning a 15 movie cycle on the 7 Deadly Sins and 7 Vibrant Virtues.
- Discussion night on Faith & the Meaning of Life, was on August 20. Next up is September 17 led by Fr. Scott Bullock. Topic: Who is God?
- COR Art Committee - showcased 4 local artists at Irish Fest this year including Andrea Berns, Darcy Birch, Rachel Smith, and Jeanie Steffey.
- The Summer Forum series wrapped up on August 7 and 21 with a closing discussion on August 28.
- Irish Fest schedule at COR went well despite the rough weather on Sunday. We still had coffee & donuts and live music though numbers were much smaller this year due to the cancellation of the Mass.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Light the Night at Queen of Peace on Friday, August 3 was a huge success. We had an excellent planning team, a ton of volunteers, and many visitors to the church. There was a team appreciation/debriefing on August 21 with a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for the future.
- Enjoy Waterloo August Social was a picnic at the Arboretum and was enjoyed by several young families. The day was hot, but a good time was had by all.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha - A team from Queen of Peace & Sacred Heart has formed. Volunteer training was held at St. Edward on August 22. Blessed Sacrament has started planning and is discerning whether to hold Alpha in the Spring or Summer of 2019.

OTHER

- Maternity leave plans:

- Open Tea - cancelled this fall due to maternity leave. Participants are encouraged to do Alpha at St. Edward. We will resume with tea & Scripture in Advent.
 - September Social - Bonfire on September 22, hosted by Josh & Kathryn Van Besien
 - October Social - Halloween Party on October 27 hosted by Brett & Kelleryn Rauzi
 - RCIA - Dave Cushing will meet with potential candidates, hold needed Rites of Acceptance, and discussion nights will be held at COR and lead by Fr. Scott Bullock, Chris Evans, and Julie Niemeyer for September, October, and November.
 - Movie Nights - Anastasia Nicklaus, Becky Hargreaves, Mark & Brenda Knutson are all helping with hospitality ministry.
 - Private Events at COR - Julie Niemeyer, Dave Cushing, Tracey Bennett, and Becky McElroy are helping to cover private events in September, October, & November
 - Alpha - Brett Rauzi & Dave are running at St. Edward. Dave will continue to work on planning with Queen of Peace/Sacred Heart & Blessed Sacrament
 - Downtown Halloween at COR - Annie Zeets & Waterloo Catholic Youth Ministry have agreed to run this event. Over 400 families typically participate, so thank you Annie!
 - Upon returning from maternity leave, I will reduce my hours to 30/week and we plan to hire a part time coordinator to take on some responsibilities primarily with COR and RCIA.
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HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- Aug. 12: Graduated senior farewell dinner at my home
- Aug. 22: Senior leadership team meeting
- Aug. 31: CHS freshman day of renewal. Helped lead small group and gave a talk about youth ministry and how it helps grow faith in high school

Coming Up:

- Sept. 9: Back to school pizza and prayer
- Sept. 16: Topic night: How faith can help you get through the stress of high school
- Sept. 30: Topic night: Finding joy in a difficult world

Middle School

- Sept. 4: Blessed Maria after school club. Spent 90 minutes with students doing ice breaker games and talking about adding prayer into their daily lives
- Sept. 5: Visited 6th grade religion classes at BMAP

Coming Up:

- Sept. 16: BMAP after school club: Topic: stepping out of the boat and becoming a disciple
- Sept. 23: Pizza and game night at the youth office

YDisciple

- Contacted current group leaders to see if they were still going to continue
- One men's and one women's group will continue: Leaders are Jeff Lappe and Danny Zeets for the men. Anastasia Nicklaus and Shannon Byerle for the women.
- Will be adding 6 freshman to Jeff and Danny's group who lost 4 and were left with 2 or 3
- Contacted Deacon Real to discuss roll out within Hispanic community
- Contacted all families who attended a spring meeting.
- Working on calling, emailing families with students in high school to recruit
- Bulletin announcements sent asking for adult leaders

Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE; helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave
 - Monthly MAC meetings
 - Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
 - Newly appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as the deanery Youth Ministry representative
 - Lead team member for archdiocesan middle school "Youth Jam" happening at Blessed Maria on Oct. 20
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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.
- Taking care of accounts payable.
- Worked on several mailings for Fall RE including one with registration information and one with information for those that have registered on the first day of RE class.
- Will be responsible for getting subs for RE classes and taking phone calls from parents.
- Building spreadsheets for Sunday and Wednesday RE Registrations. Making sure all registration paperwork is complete.
- Helped with registrations for Fall RE at Sacred Heart and Queen of Peace.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Helping cover some of Ellen's duties during her maternity leave. Will be checking emails for Ellen, taking calls.
- Completing all paperwork for Catechists and getting information out to all staff for the Safe Environment Training that needs to be completed.
- Attend the Catechist meeting and the first few nights of Wednesday night RE.
- Will be the Coordinator of Sunday RE at Blessed Sacrament which starts Oct. 7th.
- Attended the meetings with the Arch for the evaluation of WCFE.
- Planned and arranged Parish office staff for a luncheon on Sept. 5th at COR.