

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
January 2019

## Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: [dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

### A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The winter RCRA series begins January 13 and meets on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart parish. An information meeting for people interested in joining the church will be held on Sunday, January 6, at Sacred Heart.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family attended the December baptism preparation program at St. Edward. The next class is January 12 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. **Community Forum.** 04 people attended the Community Forum on holiday grief Dec. 17 at COR.

2. **Alpha for Catholics.** The Alpha series for Queen of Peace and Sacred Heart members will begin February 7 and meet on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

3. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Jan. 16 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is January 23 at COR.

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

4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for December was 5,651 (daily average:182; daily range: 106/561). Total reach for the O-Antiphons Advent series on Facebook was 446 (daily average: 64).

5. **Waterloo Catholics Online.** The following pages were added to the Waterloo Catholics website during December:

a) Online Advent resources

> <https://waterloocatholics.org/advent-resources>

b) Holiday Sadness and Grief resources

> <https://waterloocatholics.org/holiday-sadness>

c) Protecting Your Child From Sexual Abuse parent guide

> <https://waterloocatholics.org/protecting-your-child>

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is January 21 at COR; the topic is "Why Belong to the Church?" These discussion sessions are designed for participants in the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.

2. **Winter Mini-Retreat.** Dr. Bill Mulcahey will conduct the winter mini-retreat on the Gospel of St. Luke, the source of many of the Sunday readings in Ordinary Time during 2019. The retreat is scheduled for January 20 at COR.

3. **Winter Forum Series.** The Winter Forum enrichment series for adults and young adults begins

January 24 and meets on January 31, February 6 and February 12. Fr. Jerry Kopacek, Stacia McDermott from Loras, Dr. Todd Green from Luther College, and Dr. Charlotte Wells from UNI are presenters.

> See the Forum schedule and topics here: <https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-forum>

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Online Advent Retreat.** 36 people participated in this year's Online Advent Retreat Dec. 10-16.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-board>

---

#### Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. We are advertising for a part-time Evangelization Coordinator who would work about 16 hours a week and be primarily responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising events at COR. This position will complement Ellen's current part-time position and would report to her.

2. The Team is currently reviewing the fall evaluation conducted by the Archdiocesan staff.

3. The Team began discussing future options for children's faith formation and religious education. At our December Team retreat we identified a) important things we know about children's religious education, b) things we don't know, c) and possible things we could do in the future to improve children's religious education in the parishes. This discussion and our discussions with the pastors will help determine whether we need to make changes in the job description for the Associate Director of Children's and Family Catechesis, the position which Kelleryn occupied.

5. Team will meet with Tom Novotney, CEO of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, to discuss Faith Formation's needs regarding space and facilities for offices and programs in the reconfigured CVCS buildings this summer and next year.

---

### **K-12 Religious Education**

#### **Team**

##### Wednesday RE

- Classes resume January 9 and continue every Wednesday through February. No class the first three weeks of March, then resume March 27 through May 1.
- FF Team members have divided up Wed. RE responsibilities for the second semester.

##### Family Night

- Was held Wednesday, Dec. 19 from 6:00-7:30 in the Sacred Heart School gym. Families visited stations to learn about the characters in a Nativity creche. Many thanks to Mary and Rod Crowe for their creative planning!
- There were 89 participants from 30 families at Family Night. Included were 4 families from Sunday RE, one from Summer, and one from CVCS. Helping at the event were all FF Team members, 7 catechists, two Confirmation candidates, and Pete and Rosario.

##### Sunday RE

Sunday RE will start again on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be changing the start time from 8:15am to 8:30am. We will go weekly and finish on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Becky McElroy is the Sunday morning Site Supervisor.

---

## **Gr. 2-12 Sacraments**

### **Julie Niemeyer**

#### First Sacraments

- First Communion Info Meetings for parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be held Sunday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 pm and Monday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 pm in Blessed Sacrament Parish Center or on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 pm at in Sacred Heart church basement (in English and Spanish). Parent meeting for Burmese parents (with Fr. Luigi assisting) will be at 3:30 on Sunday, Jan. 27 at Sacred Heart.
- Text materials and parent guides from Loyola Press are being ordered for CVCS and school-year RE students; Lessons begin in February. Blessed program kits from Dynamic Catholic are being ordered for Summer RE families.

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

- PREP classes for First Communion begin in March - after Spring Break.

#### Confirmation

- Class #3 will be held at Blessed Sacrament Putz Hall on Sunday, Jan. 13 from 12:30-2:30 pm OR Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Topic will be Creed/What Makes Us Catholic.
- Five candidates were not able to attend Class #2; they were given make-up assignments.

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word

- CLOW meets weekly at the 9:00 Mass at St. Ed's and at the 10:30 Mass at Blessed Sacrament. CLOW continues 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH.
- Will hold a training for CLOW leaders at Blessed Sacrament after the 10:30 Mass on January 6.
- Am distributing leader guides and preparing weekly leaflets for the four parishes.

#### Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE;
- Attended MAC group (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting Dec. 13; next MAC is Jan. 31
- Will join the newly organized Archdiocesan "Grandparent Advisory Committee"; first meeting is Jan. 4.
- Am sending "catechetical resources" ideas to CVCS administrators at the beginning of each month.
- In January will begin to meet with two Congolese 5<sup>th</sup> graders at St. Edward School. One will prepare for full initiation, the other will prepare for First Sacraments. Am in process of contacting parents of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Blessed Sacrament School and a 4<sup>th</sup> grader from BS parish who need sacraments.

---

**Ellen Kuchera**  
**COR & Young Adult Ministry**  
**dbqwcya@dbqarch.org**

#### COR AT 220 EAST:

- In the process of hiring a part-time coordinator of evangelization to help out at COR.
- Coffee Shop - still has not opened. We are discerning how to proceed and how much more time to give the owner.
- Movie Night this month is on December 21 with a showing of Treasure of the Sierra Madre and a focus on the deadly sin of greed. January movie is Millions and will show on the 18th with a focus on the virtue of generosity.

- Discussion night on Prayer, was on December 17. January's discussion is "Why Be Part of the Church?" on the 21st.
- The Winter Forum series will again be held at COR. See Adult Faith Formation Report for details.

#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Our emphasis in young adult ministry this year will be shifting the focus to connecting couples going through Marriage & Baptism prep with the young adult community and with their parishes. I am working on plans of how this will look, including info packets, one-on-one meetings, mentor couples, etc.
- January Social will be joining up with Cedar Valley Scrabble at Second State Brewing in Cedar Falls at 7 pm. The underlying themes for our socials will be #getoffyourbutt #getoffyourphone #facetofaceinteraction. We will provide opportunities for authentic face-to-face conversation with people in the community, peers, and spiritual mentors.
- Open tea/Scripture reflection will begin again January 14 and will be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 5:15 pm at Ellen's house. .

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Behold Your Child - this ministry provides support for couples who have experienced infant loss through miscarriage or stillbirth. James & Christy Justice are potential coordinators. I plan to attend a training offered by the Archdiocese in Dubuque on January 29.
- Alpha - beginning stages of planning for Alpha at COR this summer.

### **HS/MS Youth Ministry**

**Annie Zeets**

#### **High School**

- Nov. 28: Catholic Heart meeting
- Dec. 16: Advent prayer
- Dec. 23: Advent prayer
- Dec. 28: Christmas party

#### Coming Up

- Jan. 6: Topic Night; New Year, New Me; making faith part of your New Year resolutions
- Jan. 13: Movie Night
- Jan. 19-22: CHS Kairos. I am on the adult team for the retreat. Will be giving a talk "Obstacles to God's Friendship"
- Jan. 27: Topic Night: Do Adam and Eve have bellybuttons (and other tough questions about the Catholic faith"

#### **Middle School**

- Dec, 11: BMAP after school club
- Dec. 16: Service Sunday
- Dec. 30: Movie Night

#### Coming Up

- Jan. 26: Movie Night
- Will be an adult leader for small group faith sharing at BMAP beginning second semester

#### **YDisciple/HS faith formation**

- 9/10 grade men's group had their third meeting on Dec. 12. Leaders are Jeff Lappe and Danny Zeets. The group will meet again in January
- Still working on calling, emailing families with students in high school to recruit

- Have recruited one new female leader for a women's group if we get one started
- Working on offering another public meeting about the program
- Looking at offering something in addition to YDisciple for HS youth seeking something besides a small group faith sharing program.

### **NCYC 2019**

- As of this report, 187 have registered, this number includes 41 adult chaperones: Breakdown by parish: 44 from Blessed Sacrament  
24 from Sacred Heart, 13 from Queen of Peace, 86 from St. Edward, 18 from St. Pats, 2 non-Catholic.
- Trip is Nov, 21-24, 2019 in Indianapolis
- Cost is \$650/person (youth and adults)
- Fundraising will begin in February and I will need all the parishes to help us raise funds for youth who will struggle with the cost of the trip
- Financial assistance applications through the archdiocese are now available and students who qualify have begun the application process
- Working to set 4 dates to offer the same meeting to the group in March and April to start paperwork, trade item planning and roommate selection.
- Will offer a series of training meetings for adult chaperones beginning in April.
- Monthly Archdiocesan NCYC webinars

### **Catholic Heart Workcamp 2019**

- Registration is underway for CHWC 2019
- At the time of the report, 13 youth and 2 adults have registered for the trip and I was able to add 2 additional spots so we can take a few more if interested
- Trip dates are July 7-13, 2019 in Kansas City
- Cost is between \$450-\$600 depending on what we decide for transportation
- Fundraising will begin after the first of the year and I will need all the parishes to help us raise funds for youth who will struggle with the cost of the trip

### **Other**

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE;
- Monthly MAC meetings - have been asked to be our group facilitator, Next meeting is January 11 in Waukon
- Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
- Appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as the deanery Youth Ministry representative
- Will be visiting some smaller parishes in the diocese who have not taken kids to NCYC before to help them get a group going
- Member of confirmation team as a representative of SH parish

### **National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM)**

- I was one of nine YM leaders from the archdiocese to attend NCCYM in Tampa Dec. 6-9. Theme was: "Unlock"
- Heard some of the best keynote speakers in all my years in ministry. Attended breakout sessions on youth ministry as total family ministry, using the psalms as the focus of your ministry program, self care for youth ministers and reimagining confirmation
- For conference notes prepared archdiocesan attendees, click here:  
<https://www.dbqarch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NCCYM-Group-Notes-121718-KF.pdf>

**Service student**

- Lucas Kahler continues to help me Tuesday-Friday during 8th hour. He has been instrumental in planning and leading the youth ministry involvement with the BMAP after school club. He has also helped me sort all the NCYC paperwork and does a great job keeping the youth ministry room clean and tidy. His service will be completed for the semester on January 8th and I will really miss his help!
- 

**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 mailing for Sunday and Wednesday RE that Dave prepared.
- Helped with Family Night on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Continue to help FF Team cover responsibilities for K-8 RE.
- Attended the team retreat on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Preparing the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report. Looking ahead to preparing to work on the Budget for 2018/2019.