

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
October 2019

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCIA/RCRA.** 04 people are enrolled in the fall RCRA series which meets on Thursday evenings at St. Edward Parish. Two individuals are enrolled in RCIA; one is attending the Alpha series at St. Edward; the other is viewing the Alpha series with his Spanish faith-sharing group.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the September baptism preparation program at Sacred Heart. The next class is October 14 at Sacred Heart.

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

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

B. Evangelization

1. **Alpha for Catholics.** 28 people are enrolled in the Alpha fall series meeting on Monday evenings at St. Edward Parish.

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

> See cumulative Alpha evaluation results at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJWHZYCC7/>

2. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for spiritual seekers is October 16 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is October 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 September was 3,480 (daily average: 116; daily range: 68/327).

> Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **The Bible Timeline Series.** 04 people are enrolled in the Bible Timelines series meeting on Monday evenings at COR.

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

2. **Community Forum.** Hal Wohl will discuss the historical background of the current immigration debate at a Community Forum on Wednesday, October 9, at COR. Ken Wernimont will discuss the personal and spiritual challenges of aging at a Community Forum on Wednesday, October 16, at COR.

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

3. **Faithful Companions.** We have begun promoting our Faithful Companions small discernment groups, which will begin meeting as soon as a group of four or five is formed. Ellen and I attended a workshop on spiritual mentoring which will help us in formatting the agenda for the groups and determining the role of the group guides.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/faithful-companions>

4. **Book Discussion.** Faith Formation is promoting an opportunity for parishioners to read and discuss Bishop Robert Barron's book "Letter to a Suffering Church" on the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. Copies of the book are available free; discussion sessions will be offered later in October or early November.

> Read a review of the book here: <http://bit.do/suffering-church-review>

5. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** The Busy Catholic's Guide to All Saints & All Souls is

scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, at COR. This discussion will focus on the history and meaning of the Communion of Saints celebrated on these feast days.

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

6. **Know Your Faith.** The next Know Your Faith session is October 21 at COR; the topic is "Why Read the Bible?"

> Learn More: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Faithful Companions.** This is a new opportunity available this fall for adults and young adults who want to participate in a small group spiritual discernment and growth process. Small groups of four or five individuals will meet monthly with a spiritual guide to pray and discern how God is working in their lives.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/faithful-companions>

2. **Catholic Witness Hour.** 95 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour September 30, at Blessed Sacrament. The next Witness Hour is Monday, November 25, at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

E. Interfaith

1. **Cedar Valley Interfaith Council.** As members of the Interfaith Council, the parishes are promoting a book study of "Colors of Compromise—the Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism" by Jemar Tisby. The discussions take place on Wednesday mornings at Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing

1. **Faith Formation Team.** Paul began work as Associated Director of Children and Family Catechesis September 4. Julie will reduce her work load to 30 hours a week beginning October 1. We will reassess Julie's hours at the end of October to determine if she is able to complete her ministry responsibilities and mentor Paul.

2. **Team Retreat.** The Team's fall retreat is scheduled for October 22. Team members will also be attending the Archdiocesan Pastoral Study Day on October 15.

3. **Faith Formation Insert.** The Team has prepared an insert for parish bulletins which introduces faith formation leaders in both Cedar Valley Catholic Schools and Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation and lists formation opportunities offered by our parishes. It should be in parish bulletins Oct. 5-6.

K-8 Religious Education

Paul Lee/Julie Niemeyer

We welcome Paul Lee as the new Faith Formation Team member. He will be responsible for K-8 religious education programs. Paul came on board on Sept. 4. Julie Niemeyer will assist in getting the programs up and running and then will mentor Paul in his new roles.

Wednesday RE classes are being held at the Sacred Heart school building from 6:15-7:30 pm weekly. Classes began Sept. 11. Approximately 60 students in K-8 are enrolled; new students continued to arrive each week during September. There are five classrooms - Kdg/1st - Rod & Mary Crowe; 2nd - Dee Wilberding; 3rd/4th - Annett Mayer, 5th - Gen Wandro; 7th/8th - Glenda Schmitz. A parent meeting was held on Sept. 18. There will be an Wednesday RE Family Mass on Oct. 2.

Saturday morning classes will be held at Blessed Sacrament school from 9-Noon on the 1st Saturday of the month Oct. 5 through May 2. Currently there are approximately 25 students enrolled. Classrooms will be Kdg/1st, 2nd, 3rd-4th-5th, and 6th-7th-8th. The parent meeting will be held Oct. 5. On November 2 the Saturday RE classes will join in an All-Souls Day Blessed Sacrament parish Mass.

There is an increase in the number of families requesting materials for a home-school option for their children's religious education. Dave Cushing has been assisting the families so far, but Paul will take over those duties. There are currently 5 families who are home-schooling their children for RE.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Still tracking down all the enrollment forms, but it looks like there will be right around 100 2nd graders celebrating First Sacraments this year! (There were 88 last year.) I will include the exact count the parish & program breakdown in my November report.
- We are using the Blessed program from Dynamic Catholic this year. It includes a workbook for use in school or RE classrooms* and a Leader's Guide and DVD for use at home. Students will take their workbooks home before Thanksgiving to keep. *Summer RE parents use the entire kit at home.
- Parent Info Meetings were held Sunday, Sept. 22 at Queen of Peace (1:30 in Spanish, 3:30 in English), Tuesday, Sept. 23 at Blessed Sacrament Putz Hall (6:30 in English), Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (6:30 in English), and Sept. 29 at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (4:00 in Burmese). Parents of 19 children did not attend an info meeting. I will be contacting them to arrange for make-up sessions.
- First Reconciliation celebrations will be Wed., Dec. 4 at St. Edward Church (6:30 pm) and Sat., Dec. 7 at Blessed Sacrament Church (10 am)

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

- Will check Summer RE and school-year RE registrations for potential PREP students. Also will check with CVCS administrators. A parent info meeting is schedule for Oct. 16. PREP classes for First Reconciliation will be on Wednesday nights Nov. 6, 13, and 20. These students will celebrate the sacrament on Dec. 4 or Dec. 7.
- Will be working with three 2nd graders and a 3rd grader who haven't been baptized yet
- Have met with an unbaptized 7th grader and her guardian about preparing for full initiation during this school year.

Children's Liturgy of the Word CLOW at St. Ed's 9 am Mass will be weekly October through April. CLOW is held two or three times a month at Blessed Sacrament at the 10:30 Mass. Continuing twice a month at QP at the Noon Mass and three times a month at the SH 10:45 Mass. Paul Lee will take over responsibility for coordinating CLOW.

Other -

- Since Paul Lee has been hired as a full-time Faith Formation Team member. I will reduce my hours to part-time- 30 hrs/week in October as I mentor Paul and help with K-8 RE, and 20 hrs/week starting in November.
- Will attend Archdiocesan Pastoral Leadership Study Day on October 15 and the Faith Formation Team retreat the following week.
- Will attend a MAC (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting during October.

COR & Young Adult Ministry

dbqwcya@dbqarch.org

COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - Scheduled an interview for Khadga Tamang concerning his art exhibit with Courier reporter, Kristin Guess, for September 6 th . Article was on the front page of September 8 th's Sunday edition.

- Attended Main Street Waterloo training session on “Google My Business” on September 17th.
- UNI musical Cabaret show “Anything You Can Do, I Can Do . . . ?” presented on September 21 st . Great turnout and a wonderful performance.
- Researched free event advertisement locations. Advertised the UNI Cabaret show on KWWL, Waterloo Community Television, WCF Courier and Cedar Valley 365. Also hung posters for the event in local stores, restaurant facilities and other locations.
- Continuing to pursue marketing opportunities including better use of parish bulletin announcements, ads/articles in the Courier, Cedar Valley business magazines, event websites etc.
- In the process of contacting the area high schools to let them know our space is available for various performances: music groups such as Jazz Band or small ensembles, vocal performances and also theatrical presentations as well.
- October 25 th we will close Khadga Tamang’s powerful and moving exhibit. The following week we will be hanging some restored Iowa photographs from the Fortepan Iowa exhibit from UNI. This exhibit will have an official opening on November 8 th . The exhibit will be up until Feb. 7th .
- A Hospitality Ministers training is set for October 19.
- September’s Know Your Faith discussion night was “Who is God” on September 16. October’s discussion night will be “Why Read the Bible?” on October 21.
- The Bible Timeline small group study is being held at COR on Monday evenings at began September 16.
- We kicked off movie nights again with “Tender Mercies” on September 20. October’s movie night will be The Searchers at 7 pm on October 25.
- Waterloo Catholic Youth Ministry will again be decorating COR and passing out candy for the downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat from 10 am - 12 pm on October 26.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open tea/Scripture reflection continues on September October 14 & 28.
- Coffee on the House - October 20, 2 - 3:30 pm. Young adults that are new to the area, starting college, or looking to get more involved in their parishes are invited to join for a drink or snack on us at Sidecar downtown.
- Fearless, Faithful, Feminine - ACCW/Archdiocese of Dubuque Women’s Retreat on October 26 at St. Mary’s in Waverly. All young adult women are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Witness to Love - participated in an excellent training on September 20 in Reinbeck and looking to pilot this marriage preparation program potentially at St. Edward and Queen of Peace parishes this year.
- One-on-one mentoring - participated in an excellent training on September 28 and learned valuable skills to apply to faithful companion spiritual direction groups and one-on-one mentoring with adults.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha
 - Working with Maggie England at Blessed Sacrament to nail down details for winter Alpha.
 - Planning the Alpha Retreat with St. Edward to be held on November 2 at COR.
 - Faithful Companions - working with Dave to plan and run small spiritual direction groups.
 - RCIA - we have three potential catechumens for RCIA and are working on connecting with them and creating individualized preparation plans.
-

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

NCYC 2019: Nov. 21-24: Indianapolis

- 200 are registered! 161 youth and 39 adult chaperones
- Archdiocesan chaperone training will take place in Waterloo on Oct. 7 and Oct. 20. We are always happy to host these meetings.
- Sacred Heart Knights are hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Oct. 26th
- Group meetings will be held: 22, 23, 28 & Nov. 4. All going on the trip are required to attend ONE of these meetings
- Will be contacting parishes about having send off masses the weekend before we leave

Confirmation:

- Confirmation celebration date: Sunday, March 29th at 2:30pm at Columbus High School. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful metro sacramental celebration.
- Bulk mailing went out to juniors from all parishes about the information meetings. Will follow up with those who did not attend meetings. Information was gathered from each parish and Columbus High School regarding students who are listed as juniors. Database was created from this information.
- Met with Fr. Luigi regarding Burmese candidates and with Deacon Rigoberto about Hispanic candidates.
- Information meetings will be held: Oct. 6th at Sacred Heart (Burmese), Oct. 9th at St. Eds and Oct. 13th at Queen of Peace (one in Spanish and one in English)
- Class dates are:
Nov. 3 & 6 @Queen of Peace
Jan, 5 & 8 @Sacred Heart
Mar. 8 & 11 @Blessed Sacrament
- Enrollment masses:
Blessed Sacrament: Oct. 26: 4:30pm
Sacred Heart: Oct. 27: 10:45am
St. Eds: Oct. 27: 11:00am
Queen of Peace: Oct. 27: 9:00am (english) & Noon (Spanish)
- Team members include: Ray Larsen, Chris & Carrie Evans, Maureen Beckman, Vanessa Gomez, Brad Kneeland.
- Working on recruiting college students from UNI to be small group leaders for class sessions.

Life Teen:

- Faith formation has purchased a year long subscription to "Life Teen" The goal is to use the program and resources this year for youth nights and retreats while we work to build a team of adults from the parishes to launch "Life Teen" fall of 2021.
- If you know any great adults in your parishes that are passionate about working with youth in grades 6-12, please have them contact me about becoming part of our Life Teen "Core Team"
- Check out the Life Teen website for a glimpse at all the program has to offer: <https://lifeteen.com/>

Testify

Mission Statement: Testify is an inter-parish youth coalition that invites people of all ages to engage their faith with enthusiasm and energy, praising His name through music, liturgy and ministry.

- Met with Blessed Sacrament liturgy committee on Sept. 3rd to discuss how Testify fits into their parish.
- Met with St. Eds and Testify will do mass there on Nov. 30 - we felt it was important to do a mass the weekend after NCYC to keep the fire going after the trip.
- Met with St. Eds pastoral council to talk about our mission
- Anastasia Nicklaus will be joining us once a month to do some catechesis on liturgy with the group.
- Testify will be doing music for the Wednesday night RE opening mass on Oct. 2
- First Testify parish mass is set for Oct. 26th at 4:30pm at Blessed Sacrament
- Testify will be at St. Eds on Nov. 30 at 5:15pm mass - this is the weekend after NCYC so we are hoping the NCYC youth will attend.

- Helping with downtown Halloween event at COR on Oct. 26.

Middle School

- Gen visited with all middle school students at Blessed Maria on Sept. 6 and 11
- Gen is also teaching 5-6 grade religious education on Wednesday nights
- Sept. 22 - first youth ministry event happened at Blessed Maria, Taco Night was a great success. About 20 youth and 15 parents attended. Gen introduced herself and gave a witness talk about her personal faith journey. She had sign up sheets for parent volunteers and served up some awesome walking tacos!
- Oct. 10: "The Tonight Show" game night with special guest Fr. Kruse at BMAP
- Oct. 27: Pumpkin carving - location TBD.

Other

- Facilitator for MAC group - next meeting is Oct. 15 in Waterloo
- Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning
- Appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as youth ministry representative - met on Sept. 21 in Waterloo
- TEC - Teen Encounter Christ - will be happening in Waterloo March 14-16 at Blessed Maria. I have been asked to be the director of the retreat that is for juniors and seniors from all over the archdiocese. I am working on building a team from other youth ministers in the area. The music team will be a group of college students under the direction of Daniel Novotney. I am also on the archdiocesan TEC council which meets monthly. Next meeting is Oct. 21 in Manchester.
- Will attend COR hospitality minister training to hopefully become more engaged with adults from all the parishes.

Becky McElroy
Business 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.
- Accounts payable.
- Online registration process and online payments for Wednesday/Saturday RE for this fall.
- Continued to put away and organize FF office after move to new space at Blessed Sacrament School.