

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team

February 2019

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. RCRA. Two people are enrolled in the winter RCRA series which meets on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart parish.

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

2. Baptism Preparation. 02 families attended the January baptism preparation program at Blessed Sacrament. The next class is February 11 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-JKRWWJSY/>

B. Evangelization

1. Alpha for Catholics. 30 people are registered for the winter Alpha series which begins February 7 and meets on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.

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

2. Catholic Witness Hour. The next Catholic Witness Hour is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25, at St. Edward Parish. The Witness Hour offers a light supper and witness talk by a local Catholic about how they have experienced God's presence in their life.

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

2. Listening Sessions. The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Feb. 20 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is April 24 at COR.

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

3. Waterloo Catholics on Facebook. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for January was 5,687 (daily average:183; daily range: 111/547).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. Winter Mini-Retreat. 09 people attended the winter mini-retreat facilitated by Dr. Bill Mulcahey January 20 at COR.

2. Winter Forum Series. The January 24 Winter Forum presentation by Stacia McDermott was re-scheduled for Feb. 19 due to winter weather; the January 31 presentation by Dr. Todd Green will be re-scheduled in the Summer Series. The remaining sessions meet on February 6 and 12, weather permitting.

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

3. Critical Choices Workshop. The winter Critical Choices Workshop meets on February 20 at St. Edward parish. The workshop explains the purpose of Advanced Medical Directives and helps participants identify the choices they wish to make or to be made for them in the event that they are unable to speak for themselves.

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

4. Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent is scheduled for March 4; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for March 26. These one-hour discussions examine basic facts about how and why Catholics practice their faith.

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

5. Focus on Faith. The next Focus on Faith session is February 18 at COR; the topic is "Who Needs a Pope?" These discussion sessions are designed for participants in the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

Team Leader Report

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

1. The Team has been meeting to envision the future of religious education for children and families and is in the process of selecting initiatives for the coming year. These initiatives will be presented to pastors and the Faith Formation Commission for feedback and approval.

2. The Team has shared the Archdiocesan Evaluation with Waterloo Pastoral Leaders and the Faith Formation Commission. Team members are meeting with Commission members for more indepth discussion and feedback on the Archdiocese's recommendations. The results of these discussions will be presented to the Commission at its March meeting.

3. The Team is presently engaged in developing the Faith Formation budget for the coming year. It is using a process developed over the past three years and adapted when responsibility for faith formation shifted from the Commission to the pastors. A copy of the budgeting process is attached.

4. The Team continues its conversation with the pastors, the parishes and CVCS about facilities for the coming year. The summer religious education program will be located at Blessed Maria Middle School due to adjustments being made to St. Edward School this summer; the future location of the Faith Formation Office and other faith formation programs is still under consideration.

K-12 Religious Education

Team

Wednesday RE

- FF Team members have divided up Wed. RE responsibilities for the second semester.
- Wednesday night classes were canceled on Jan. 23 and 30 due to winter weather.

Sunday RE

Sunday RE started their weekly classes on 1.20.19. We have had 3 classes so far and will continue with weekly classes finishing on March 10th.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Due to the weather, the schedule for First Communion Info Meetings for parents of 2nd graders had to be adjusted. The last group of parents will meet on Feb. 6.
- The Eucharist Retreat is in early March. Options are Sat., March 2 from 10-Noon; Sun., March 3 from 2-4; or Mon., March 4 from 6-8 pm. Burmese Retreat will be March 10. The child comes with one or both parents.

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 #4 will be held at St. Edward Church Hall on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 12:30-2:30 pm OR Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 6:30-8:30 pm. This class is for Candidates and Sponsors (or parents). Focus will be on the Order of Confirmation and sharing of Faith Stories and service reflections. There will also be opportunity for Candidates and Sponsors to go to Reconciliation.
- Three Candidates were unable to attend Class #3. They were given make-up assignments.
- Agnus Dei will again provide music ministry for the Confirmation Celebration. Have met with Daniel Thole and Pat Wiss for preliminary planning for having the celebration in the Columbus gym.

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. Am distributing leader guides and preparing weekly leaflets for the four parishes.

Other -

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE;
- Jan. 31 MAC (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting was canceled due to weather; will meet instead in mid-February.
- Am sending "catechetical resources" ideas to CVCS administrators at the beginning of each month.
- Helping with Faith Sharing at Columbus twice a month in Feb., March, and April.
- Will be Hospitality Minister for two events at COR in February.
- Am assisting with Alpha at Sacred Heart on Thursday nights beginning Feb. 7.
- Have begun meeting with two Congolese 5th graders at St. Edward School. One will prepare for full initiation, the other will prepare for First Sacraments. Am still trying to reach parents of a 5th grader at Blessed Sacrament School and a 4th grader from BS parish who need First Sacraments. Spoke with a relative of a Congolese 7th grader who needs First Sacraments. The student attends public school. Family will have him participate in Summer RE, and then I will do immediate prep lessons in the summer.

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.
- January Movie Night was cancelled due to weather. February movie is A Streetcar Named Desire and will show on the 15th with a focus on the deadly sin of lust.
- Discussion night on Why Be Part of the Church, was on January 21. February's discussion is "Who Needs a Pope: Church Structure and Hierarchy" and is on February 18.
- The first two Winter Forum programs were cancelled due to weather. Hopefully we will have better luck with those scheduled on February 6, 12, and 19.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Marriage & Baptism prep - reviewing "Witness to Love" marriage prep program and exploring how it might be able to be incorporated into parish marriage prep programs here.
- Beginning planning to launch a one-on-one mentorship program for young adults. Looking into different trainings to attend as well as meeting with people in the area that have had experience with this type of ministry.
- January Social was joining the Cedar Valley Scrabble Meetup group and February's social will be Coffee & the Classics at COR. Thanks to Fr. Scott Bullock, Maria Pranger, Jamie Rathjen, and

Dave Cushing for agreeing to be table leaders at this event. Guests will join a table discussion with our spiritual leaders on selections from classical literature on love. Coffee & cheesecake will be provided.

- Open tea/Scripture reflection was held on January 14 and 28. It is off to a great start again!
- Thank you to William & Renae Brandle who again hosted a family-friendly Super Bowl party for young adults this year on February 3. A great time was had by all.
- Meeting with Lexi Shatek for initial planning for a mom's retreat during Lent.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Behold Your Child - the training on January 29 was cancelled due to weather. I hope to attend the next training on February 21.
- Alpha - working with Dave Cushing and Maggie England to get Alpha going at Sacred Heart/Queen of Peace and at Blessed Sacrament this month. Also beginning stages of planning for Alpha at COR this summ

HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

High School

- 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" Cancelled due to weather

Coming Up

- Feb. 6: Catholic Heart meeting - rescheduled twice because of weather
- Feb. 17: Tough Topic Night

Middle School

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

Coming Up

- Feb. 15: Girls Night In
- Feb 23-24: Annual lock-in at Blessed Sacrament

YDisciple/HS faith formation

- 9/10 grade men's group was scheduled to meet on Jan. 30 but had to cancel because of weather, Leaders will work on setting a February date.
- Faith formation is currently exploring options for our religious education programs, including what we offer for high school youth.

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)

- Trip meetings will be held the following dates and locations: March 27 at Blessed Maria, March 31 at St. Eds, April 3 at Blessed Maria. Parents and students are required to attend one of these meetings to fill out paperwork and make their April trip payment.
- Fundraising will begin in late February and I will need all the parishes to help us raise funds for youth who will struggle with the cost of the trip
- Queen of Peace youth had a bake sale and raised about \$400. It was on a bad weather weekend. Will do another one soon. Thanks to Vanessa Gomez for organizing
- Financial assistance applications through the archdiocese are now available and students who qualify have begun the application process. Applications are due to the arch by April 1st.
- Will offer a series of training meetings for adult chaperones beginning in April.
- Monthly Archdiocesan NCYC webinars
- I believe I have “pressured” Fr. Kruse into coming with us to NCYC!

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2019

- Registration is underway for CHWC 2019
- At the time of the report, 13 youth and 3 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
- Planning March 6 RE catechist inservice
- Facilitator for MAC group
- Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning
- Member of confirmation team as a representative of SH parish
- Have been asked to be on the team for TEC 579 (Teens Encounter Christ) in Calmar. Dates are April 6-8. The goal is to host a TEC retreat in Waterloo next year. To learn more about TEC, click the link. <https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/adolescent-faith-formation/programs-services/tec-teens-encounter-christ/more information on TEC, click the link:>

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.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Coordinator of Sunday RE.
- Working on the budget for 2018-2019.

Procedure for Yearly Budget for Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation:

1. In February Becky McElroy, Business Manager for WCFF, meets with each team member individually to review their budget from the previous year. Prior to the individual meetings each team member will receive a copy of their Income Statement from the prior year for them to review and bring any questions they have to the meeting. At the individual meetings Becky will also have a copy of the General Ledger from the prior year which will be reviewed. Becky and the team member will go thru the line items on the individual budgets and review what was spent during the year and what is projected to be spent in the next year.
2. Once each of the team members have had their individual meetings, Becky will put the budget on a spreadsheet. The preliminary review of the budget will be looked at/discussed at the next team meeting in February. After the team has reviewed the budget and approved, Becky reports the tentative budget total to pastors and finance along with expected parish subsidies according to the latest formula. This will be completed by the Commission meeting in March.
3. After review by the WCFF Finance Committee/Pastors any questions are given back to the Faith Formation Team to review. The team will make any adjustments if they are needed. The Pastors may adjust the parish subsidy formula after their review of the budget. This process should be completed by the end of March so that the final WCFF budget can be given to the parishes