

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team

March 2019

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The RCRA Winter series meeting on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart concludes March 10. The RCRA Spring series begins April 1. An information meeting is scheduled for March 25.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>
2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family attended the February baptism preparation program at Sacred Heart. The next class is March 9 at Queen of Peace Parish.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>
> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWWJSY/>
3. **Adult Confirmation.** Two young adults completed preparation for Confirmation during February. They will be confirmed March 24 at Queen of Peace.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/adult-confirmation>

B. Evangelization

1. **Alpha for Catholics.** 36 people are participating in the winter Alpha series on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>
2. **Catholic Witness Hour.** 45 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Feb. 25 at St. Edward.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>
3. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is March 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. **Outreach to Congolese Members.** We have translated information about faith formation and sacrament preparation into French for use with parents in the Congolese community.
4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for February was 4,327 (daily average:155; daily range: 111/365).

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Winter Forum Series.** All of this year's Winter Forum Series programs were cancelled due to the weather.
2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The winter Critical Choices Workshop February 20 was cancelled because of the weather. The next Critical Choices Workshop is April 2 at St. Patrick Parish.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>
3. **Lenten Video Series.** "Presence--the Mystery of the Eucharist" is a video series from FORMED which will be facilitated by Deacon Dan Rigel on Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart starting March 13.
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; the Busy Catholic's Guide to Holy Week is scheduled for April 15. 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. **DEW Weekend.** The Discipleship Experience Weekend is scheduled for March 22-24 at American Martyrs Retreat House.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/dew>

6. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is March 18 at COR; the topic is "Who Needs a Pope. the RCIA but are open to all adults and young adults.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Online Lenten Retreat.** "30 Days to a Vibrant Spirituality" is the theme of our online Lenten retreat. This 30-day retreat is adapted from a book by Fr. David Knight. The retreat begins March 7.

> Learn more: waterloocatholics.org/online-lenten-retreat

2. **CEW Weekend.** The Christian Experience Weekend is scheduled for March 15-17 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

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

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

K-12 Religious Education Team

Wednesday/Sunday RE

- FF Team members have divided up Wed. RE responsibilities for the second semester.
- Wednesday night classes were canceled due to weather on Jan. 23, Jan. 30, and Feb. 6. Classes met on Feb. 6, but were canceled again on Feb. 13! We've added a class to the calendar -- it will be on Wednesday, March 13.
- Sunday RE was canceled on Feb. 24 due to weather. That class will not be made up. Due to the 2nd semester calendar change from twice a month to every week. The last class for Sunday RE will be March 10.
- Family Packets for Lent were prepared and paper copies sent home. Packets include activity ideas, a Lenten calendar, and a family reflection guide for each Sunday's gospels. A digital version will be posted on the Waterloo Catholics website, and the link will be sent to Summer RE families and CVCS administrators.
- Will be working in March on plans for the April 10 Family Penance Service and publicizing the event.

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- The two-hour Eucharist Retreat for 2nd graders was held Sat., March 2 from 10-Noon; Sun., March 3 from 2-4; and Mon., March 4 from 6-8 pm. Burmese Retreat will be March 10 from 3-4:30 with Fr. Luigi assisting. The child comes with one or both parents. 2nd grade teachers/catechists, some FF Team members, Pam Johnston, and some Confirmation candidates assist with the retreats.
- First Communion celebrations are scheduled for the two weekends after Easter -- St. Ed's and Queen of Peace on April 27/28; Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart on May 4/5.

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

- PREP classes for First Communion will be on Wednesday nights at Sacred Heart School. 6:15-7:30 on March 27, April 3, and April 17.

Confirmation

- The Sunday, Feb. 24 Class #4 was canceled due to weather. The Wednesday, Feb. 27 class was held as planned. A make-up session will be Sunday, March 10 from 12:30-2:30. Location was changed to Sacred Heart for the March 10 class because I'll be having the Burmese Eucharist Retreat at Sacred Heart at 3:00 on the 10th. We decided to offer an opportunity for Candidates and Sponsors to go to Reconciliation during Class #4. This was well-received.

- Prepared “prayer partner cards” for each parish that invite parishioners to pray for their candidates. Also made posters with group photos of the candidates for each parish.
- Will work this month with the Columbus staff, the Confirmation Team, and Agnus Dei to finalize plans for the Confirmation celebration -- March 30 at 1:00 pm at Columbus High. Will be preparing the worship aid and certificates.

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;
- Helped prepare materials for a Lenten family packet for RE families
- Attended MAC (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) on Feb. 14. Next meeting is April 11.
- Am sending “catechetical resources” ideas to CVCS administrators at the beginning of each month.
- Helping with Faith Sharing at Columbus twice a month.
- Am assisting with Alpha at Sacred Heart on Thursday nights beginning Feb. 7.
- Meeting with two Congolese 5th graders at St. Edward School who are preparing for sacraments.

Ellen Kuchera

COR & Young Adult Ministry

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COR AT 220 EAST:

- In the process of hiring a part-time coordinator of evangelization to help out at COR.
- February movie night was on the 15th. We watched “A Streetcar Named Desire” with a conversation focus on the deadly sin of lust. March movie night, “A Walk to Remember” will be on March 15 and will focus on the vibrant virtue of chastity.
- February’s discussion night was “Who Needs a Pope: Church Structure and Hierarchy” and was on February 18. The March discussion night, “Catholic Idol Worshipers?: Mary & the Saints” will be on March 18.
- We had a great “Coffee & the Classics” night at COR on February 13. Thanks to Fr. Scott Bullock, Maria Pranger, Jamie Rathjen, and Dave Cushing for agreeing to be table leaders. Guests read selections from classical literature on love and enjoyed coffee & cheesecake. Evaluations of the evening have been extremely positive. We will look to do another similar event in the summer or fall.

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.
- The February social was Coffee & Classics on February 13. A March social is still being determined due to some rescheduling around Lenten programming.
- Open tea/Scripture reflection was held on February 11 & 25 and will continue on March 11 and 25.
- Delivered: Lenten Mom’s Retreat - Lexi Shatek is coordinating a Lenten Mom’s Retreat on the Tuesdays during Lent, held at St. Edward from 9:15 - 10:45 am. It will comprise of Lectio Divina and adoration and confession. Child care will be provided.

- Will offer a one-on-one Lenten retreat opportunity for young adults. Participants will read selections and then be paired with a partner to get together on a weekly basis to discuss the selections.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Behold Your Child - attended training on February 28 in Dubuque. Hope to meet with Maggie England at Blessed Sacrament who also has been trained to determine some next steps.
- Alpha at Sacred Heart (hosted by Sacred Heart & Queen of Peace) and Alpha at Blessed Sacrament are off to great starts. Working on calendaring and forming a team for Alpha at COR this summer.

HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

***** Most of February was cancelled due to weather - all events have been rescheduled and will happen in March or April*****

High School

- Feb 6: Catholic Heart meeting - cancelled due to weather
- Feb. 17: Tough Topic Night - cancelled due to weather

Coming Up

- March 5: faith sharing at Columbus
- March 10: Tough Topic Night

Middle School

- Feb 15: Girls Night In - cancelled due to weather
- Feb 23-24: Annual lock-in at Blessed Sacrament - cancelled due to weather

Coming Up

- March 23: Girls Night
- April 13-14: Lock-In

YDisciple/HS faith formation

- 9/10 grade men's group met Feb. 27. Next meeting is March 27
- 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, 193 have registered, this number includes 41 adult chaperones:
- Trip is Nov, 21-24, 2019 in Indianapolis
- Cost is \$650/person (youth and adults)
- Fundraising events have happened in all four parishes. Bakes sales at QP, BS and SH. Spaghetti dinner at SE put on by the Knights of Columbus.
- 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.
- 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

Catholic Heart Workcamp 2019

- 13 youth and 3 adults have registered for the trip
- Trip dates are July 7-12, 2019 in Kansas City

- Cost is \$500/person and we will be renting 2 or 3 vans for the trip
- Trip meeting set for March 11 after being canceled 4 times because of weather

Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE
- Helped at First Communion retreat at SH
- Facilitator for MAC group
- Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning
- Member of confirmation team as a representative of SH parish
- Speaker for the Catholic Daughters March gathering
- Have been asked to be on the team and give a witness talk 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:](https://www.dbqarch.org/offices/adolescent-faith-formation/programs-services/tec-teens-encounter-christ/more%20information%20on%20TEC,%20click%20the%20link:)

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.
- Accounts payable.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Site Supervisor Sunday RE.
- Working on the budget for 2018-2019.