

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team

April 2019

## Adult Faith Formation

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

### A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** 2 adults are enrolled in the spring RCRA series which is meeting on Monday evenings at St. Edward.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families attended the March baptism preparation program at Queen of Peace. The next class is April 8 at St. Edward.

> 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.** 36 people attended the Alpha retreat March 30 at Sacred Heart. The Alpha summer series will start June 4 and meet at COR.

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

2. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is April 17 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 March was 6,680 (daily average:215; daily range: 92/515).

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

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **DEW Weekend.** 14 people attended the Discipleship Experience Weekend March 22-24 at American Martyrs Retreat House.

> Read evaluations from the Weekend here: <https://bit.ly/2KcrnaG>

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** 07 people attended the Critical Choices Workshop April 2 at St. Patrick Parish. The next workshop is May 18 at Queen of Peace.

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

3. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** 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>

4. **Community Forum.** "Holy Week for the Grieving" is the theme of the next Community Forum, which will be held on April 16 at COR. The program will discuss the significance of Holy Week for those who are grieving a loss.

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

5. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is April 15 at COR; the topic is "Heaven, Hell and Purgatory".

### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Online Lenten Retreat.** 62 people are participating in this year's online retreat, "30 Days to a Vibrant Spirituality" which began March 7.

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

## E. Interfaith and Social Justice

1. **Know Your Neighbor.** The next Know Your Neighbor program sponsored by the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council is April 7 at Sons of Jacob Synagogue.
2. **Yom HaShoah Commemoration.** The Catholic parishes are co-sponsors of the annual Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration organized by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education at UNI. This year's commemoration is scheduled for April 23 at the Grout Museum. The featured speaker is Dr. Harold Kasimow, author of "Pope Francis and Interreligious Dialogue."  
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/jewish-catholic-relations>
3. **Jail & Prison Ministry.** Catholic Charities will host a training session for former and new volunteers for their Jail & Prison Ministry program on April 13 at MercyOne in Waterloo.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

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## K-12 Religious Education

### Wednesday RE/Sunday RE

- 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.
- The spring "family night" will be a Family Penance Service on April 7. Bulletin announcements were sent to parishes and the info was forwarded to CVCS administrators. RE Families received either postcard, Flocknote message, or paper packet. A "family preparation at home" was prepared and shared as well.
- Sunday RE ended on March 10<sup>th</sup>. We attended the 8:30am Mass as a group at Blessed Sacrament. The students and teachers returned to the classroom after Mass and finished up the remainder of the class time with games/videos/lessons.

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## Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

### First Sacraments

- Textbooks that students have been using in classrooms to prepare for First Communion will be sent home no later than April 12 so parents will have time to review and reinforce with their child.
- First Communion celebrations are scheduled for the two weekends after Easter. In process of contacting all pastors about the celebration in their particular parish. Other Faith Formation Team members will help at some of the celebrations.
  - St. Ed's at 5:15 April 27 & 11:00 on April 28. Rehearsal and Pictures on April 25
  - Queen of Peace at 9 am and Noon on April 28; Rehearsal on April 27; pictures after Masses on the 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Blessed Sacrament at all Masses the weekend of May 4/5; Rehearsal & Pictures the morning of May 4.
  - Sacred Heart at 5:30 May 4 and 10:45 May 5; Rehearsal and Pictures on May 2.

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

- PREP classes for First Communion (26 students in gr. 3-7) are meeting on Wednesday nights at Sacred Heart School. 6:15-7:30 on March 27, April 3, and April 17. Children are strongly encouraged to come to the Family Penance service on April 10 as well. PREP catechists are Mary Cushing, Pat Jackson, and Judy Bullis.

## **Confirmation**

- 63 youth were Confirmed on Saturday, March 30 at Columbus High School with Archbishop Jackels. Two youth were unable to attend and will be Confirmed in their home parish at a later date.
- Will be sending evaluation forms to candidates and meeting with the Confirmation Team for a wrap-up meeting later in April.

**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-8 RE;
- Helped with preparations for the April 10 Family Penance
- Will attend MAC (Ministry Affiliated Cohort) meeting on April 11.
- Will attend an Archdiocesan Grandparents Advisory Committee meeting on April 10.
- 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 through April 11.
- Meeting with two Congolese 5<sup>th</sup> graders at St. Edward School who are preparing for sacraments. One will be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil at St. Edward parish.

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## **Ellen Kuchera**

### **COR & Young Adult Ministry**

**dbqwcya@dbqarch.org**

## **COR AT 220 EAST:**

- We have hired a part-time Coordinator of Evangelization to help out at COR. Cindy Taft started on March 26 and will be working 16 hours a week. Her primary responsibilities include event planning and marketing and communications for COR as well as help with RCIA in the future.
- The March movie night, "A Walk to Remember" was on March 15 and focused on the vibrant virtue of chastity. April's movie night will be on April 12 and we will be watching "Amadeus." The focus will be on the deadly sin of envy.
- We had a great March discussion night on "Catholic Idol Worshipers?: Mary & the Saints" on March 18. April's discussion night will be on the "The Last Things: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory" on April 15.
- Plans are in the works for our 3rd Annual Golf Outing. It will be held on Sunday, June 9, at 2 pm at Jesup Golf and Country Club. Mark your calendars now and start forming a team!
- We are also starting to brainstorm plans for Irish Fest as COR will be within the bounds of the festival this year.

## **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.
- Started meeting one-on-one with a young adult for a Lenten retreat. It's going well and I am hoping this will get one-on-one mentorship started.
- Open tea/Scripture reflection continued on March 11 and 25 and is scheduled for April 8 and 22.
- The Delivered: Lenten Mom's Retreat coordinated on the Tuesdays during Lent has been going extremely well. A great group of young moms have been participating and enjoying the time for spiritual renewal.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- We have created 5 testimony videos for each of the weekly Lenten themes. They are absolutely excellent. Thank you to Scott Rottinghaus, Beth Haile, Maggie England, Brett Rauzi, and Anastasia Nicklaus for giving testimonies. We also greatly appreciate Ann Schmitz for her time and enthusiasm in filming, editing, and producing the videos for us.
- Alpha at COR has been calendared to be on Tuesdays from 5:30 - 7:15 pm beginning June 4. We are now working on recruiting a team.
- Coordinating the Family Penance Service on April 10 with the Faith Formation Team. The service will be at Sacred Heart at 6:30 pm. All families are welcome

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#### HS/MS Youth Ministry

##### Annie Zeets

- March 2-3: NCYC bake sales at Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart
- March 3: NCYC spaghetti dinner at St. Edwards, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
- March 5: CHS faith sharing
- March 5: Bake sale (leftovers from the weekend sales) at CHS
- March 8: NCYC webinar
- March 13: CHS junior retreat
- March 17: NCYC meeting with Hispanic families at Queen of Peace
- March 17: High School Movie Night: "Mary Poppins Returns"
- March 25: Catholic Heart Workcamp group meeting
- March 27: NCYC group meeting
- March 30: Confirmation
- March 31: NCYC group meeting

#### Coming Up:

- April 3: NCYC group meeting
- April 5-8: TEC in Calmar - member of the team. Giving witness talk on discipleship
- April 10: First meeting of the youth ministry student advisory committee
- April 13-14: Middle School Lock-In at Blessed Sacrament (rescheduled from February)
- April 16: BMAP 6th grade retreat
- April 19: Stations of the Cross at St. Eds

#### NCYC 2019

- As of this report, 196 have registered, this number includes 41 adult chaperones:
- Trip is Nov, 21-24, 2019 in Indianapolis
- Cost is \$650/person (youth and adults)
- 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

#### Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE
- Helping at SH first communion celebration
- 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
- Member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council - met in CF on March 16

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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.
- Accounts payable.
- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE.
- Mailing for lent for all RE families.
- Working on the budget for 2018-2019.
- Working with a company (WeShare) to start an online registration process and online payments. Would like to start this with Summer RE families.
- Contacting Catechists for Summer RE program at BMAP. Toured the BMAP building to determine rooms to use for summer RE.
- Worked with FORM to get our subscription changed to one WCFF subscription. I will be the administrator for FORMED and then we will have the WCFF Team on FORMED as leaders as well as Representatives from each Parish.