

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
July 2019

Adult Faith Formation

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A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** I am continuing to meet weekly with two adults who are preparing for initiation.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>
2. **Baptism Preparation.** 03 families attended the June baptism preparation program at Queen of Peace. The next class is July 13 at Queen of Peace.
> 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.** 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 July 17 at COR. The next listening session for gay and lesbian Catholics is July 24 at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>
3. **College-Bound Catholics.** Postcards are available in the church entrances for parents who want to contact the Catholic Ministry center at the college or university their son or daughter is attending this fall.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/college-bound-catholics>
4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for June was 4,177(daily average: 139; daily range: 93/270).
> Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Forum Series.** This year's Summer Forum Series began June 27 with a presentation by Dr. Charlotte Wells. 20 people attended the first session. Fr. Jerry Kopacek's presentation is July 10; Dr. Bryan Cross's presentation is July 17; Bishop Zincola's presentation is July 22. Fr. Bob Beck and Dr. Dave Cochran's presentations are in August.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/summer-forum>
2. **Catholic Heritage Tour.** The 2019 Heritage Tour is August 6; the tour will visit southwestern Wisconsin to learn more about the pioneer Catholic missionary Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-heritage-2019>
3. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is July 15 at COR; the topic is "The Ten Commandments--Love Your Neighbor."

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Catholic Witness Hour.** The next Catholic Witness Hour is Monday, July 29, at Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilbertville. The speaker is Mary Beth Koch.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

E. Interfaith and Social Justice

1. **Lights for Liberty Vigil.** Various local organizations, including the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council, will co-host a candlelight vigil to express concern about the abuse of migrant children detained at the southern border on Friday, July 12.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:
<https://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-board>

K-12 Religious Education Team

Summer RE

- Summer RE was held June 17th thru June 28th. We had 103 students.
 - The classes were held at BMAP. CVCS welcomed us and they were very helpful with our needs for the program. The facility was very welcoming.
 - We had most teachers return from last year and we included a high school program that was taught by Becky Keeling. We had 9 high school students register.
 - We celebrated Mass on both of the Thursdays of Summer RE and Reconciliation was held the 2nd week of RE.
 - Very positive feedback from families about the program and that their kids were excited to come back this summer and loved the two weeks.
 - We also used an online registration/payment process and we got a very positive response for that.
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Gr. 2-12 Sacraments Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Calendar dates for parent meetings and celebrations have been confirmed with parishes and added to Team calendar.
- Will contact parishes in late July for names and addresses of registered children of second grade age.
- Will process and place orders for student and family sacrament prep materials.

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

- Will work with two high school students (Congolese and Hispanic) in July to prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Both completed Summer RE. Also will work with a Burmese 3rd grader in the same situation.

Confirmation

- Annie Zeets will coordinate the Confirmation preparation program and celebration in 2019-20. Worked in June to organize resources and prepare electronic files to pass along to Annie.

Children's Liturgy of the Word CLOW during the summer: Once a month at Blessed Sacrament, twice a month at Queen of Peace, 3x per month at Sacred Heart. None at St. Ed's. I continue to prepare the leaflets for those Sundays.

Other -

- Working on updates to Waterloo Catholics website - those related to sacramental prep for children.
 - Assisting with Summer RE and FF Office move as needed.
 - Exploring calendar options for school-year RE program
 - Serving as Hospitality Minister at COR events
 - Assisting with the "school transition" committee at Sacred Heart to secure space and furniture for school year RE.
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Ellen Kuchera
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COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - Planning an art exhibit opening for Khadga Tamang, on July 12 at 7 pm at COR. Khadga is a refugee from Nepal and graduated from Hawkeye Community College this spring. His art depicts some of his struggles as well as various things that get in the way between children and the family, namely technology.
 - Continuing planning and volunteer recruitment for Irish Fest from August 2-4.
 - Learning website and facebook systems and updating them regularly
 - Continuing to make COR an inviting and welcoming space
 - Painting and touching up wall space
 - Installing a gallery hanging system for artwork
 - Taking inventory and maintaining kitchenette space
- June's movie night, "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" was on June 21 and focused on the deadly sin of gluttony. We will break from the movie nights during July and August and resume during September.
- June's discussion night was "Love God: The Ten Commandments" on June 17. July's discussion night is "Love Neighbor: The Ten Commandments" on July 15.
- Our 3rd Annual Golf Outing was held on Sunday, June 9, at 2 pm at Jesup Golf and Country Club. This was our most successful outing yet and we look forward to continuing to grow in the future.
- Alpha at COR continues every Tuesday night from 5:30 - 7:15 pm through August 13. We are off to a great start so far. The retreat day will be on July 20.
- The Summer Forum Series started June 26th and will continue for five additional nights through the summer.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open tea/Scripture reflection continues on July 8 & 22.
- Young Adult Summer Forum Night will be on July 17. Dr. Bryan Cross from the philosophy department at Mt. Mercy University will be presenting on the philosophical challenges of our time in relation to faith and reason.
- Light the Night - plans are coming together. The next planning meeting will be on July 10. We are looking forward to this beautiful night of prayer and evangelization on August 2 at Queen of Peace.
- Witness to Love - will begin meeting with parishes individually this summer to determine how each parish would like to implement it if they so choose.
- Behold Your Child - hoping to meet with others in the area that have been trained this summer to determine implementation in the Waterloo parishes.

CHILDREN & FAMILY CATECHESIS:

- Team contact for Totus Tuus. Working with coordinators, William & Renae Brandle, to run Totus Tuus July 14-19.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

- June 5: "Testify" Meeting
- June 13: "Testify" Meeting
- June 14: "Testify" meeting with pastors at CVCS
- June 14: HS end of the year picnic
- June 19 & June 28 visited summer Re classes

Coming Up

- July 7-12: Catholic Heart service trip to Kansas City
- July 31: Possible serve 'n slide for middle school

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.

Testify Goals:

- Increase youth involvement in their parish
- Increase youth attendance at mass
- Make mass more engaging for youth
- Encourage youth to step into parish leadership roles
- Increase awareness of the ministry offerings in each parish
- Create a mutual sense of investment between youth and adults in their parish
- Show that youth are ready and willing to step up when called upon
- Challenge Testify youth to become faith mentors for younger students
- Create relationships between youth and their pastors
- Create a culture of evangelization among the youth of the parishes

NCYC 2019

- As of this report, 199 have registered, this number includes 40 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 August.
- Monthly Archdiocesan NCYC webinars
- Received \$450 grant from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry for Hispanic youth to attend NCYC 2019

Other

- Helping FF Team cover responsibilities for K-12 RE
- Facilitator for MAC group
- Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning
- Working on plans for the confirmation program and submitted our 6 proposed dates to the archdiocese

Business 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 Summer RE.
- Packed and moved the office to our new space in the old library at Blessed Sacrament.