

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
August 2019

## Adult Faith Formation

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

### A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** The fall RCRA series begins on September 19 and will meet on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament. An information meeting is scheduled for September 12 for anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic church. Meanwhile, I am continuing to meet with two adults who are preparing privately for initiation.

> The 2019-20 schedule for RCRA is online at

<https://waterloocatholics.org/rcra-schedule>

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family attended the July baptism preparation program at Queen of Peace. The next class is August 12 at St. Edward.

> The 2019-20 schedule for baptism preparation classes is online at

<https://waterloocatholics.org/baptism-preparation-schedule>

> 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 fall series is scheduled to start September 5 and will meet at St. Edward Parish.

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

2. **Post-Alpha.** Maggie England, Ellen and I will be meeting with individuals who have participated in Alpha during the past year on August 20. Our goal is to discuss opportunities for their continued spiritual growth as a follow-up to Alpha.

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

3. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is September 18 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 July was 4,954 (daily average: 160; daily range: 91/324).

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

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Forum Series.** 25 people attended Fr. Kopacek's presentation July 10; 55 people attended Bishop Zincola's presentation July 22. The summer series continues with Fr. Bob Beck's presentation August 7 and and Dr. Dave Cochran's presentation August 14.

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

2. **Catholic Heritage Tour.** 12 people participated in the 2019 Heritage Tour August 6.

3. **The Bible Timeline Series.** The Bible Timeline--The Story of Salvation series is a 12-week video series which examines the main themes of the Old and New Testament. It will begin September 17 and meet on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.

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

4. **Catholic Readers Book Club.** The book club will meet on Monday, August 28; after that it will resume meeting on the first Monday evening of the month.

> The schedule and list of books for this year's book club series is online at:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-readers-book-club>

5. **Focus on Faith.** The next Focus on Faith session is August 19 at COR.

#### 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.** The next Catholic Witness Hour is Monday, September 30, at Blessed Sacrament.

> The 2019-20 schedule for the Catholic Witness Hour is online at:

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

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

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## Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

### First Sacraments

- Updated pages related to children/youth sacraments on Waterloo Catholics website
- Contacted 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.
- Have revised letters that will be mailed to parents of second graders in late-August about Parent Info meetings that will be held Sept. 22, 24, and 25.

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

- Worked with one high school student in July to prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Waiting to hear back from another about times for the individual lessons. Both these students completed Summer RE in June.
- Set up the 2019-20 PREP calendar for parent meetings and classes. Will be checking Summer RE and school-year RE registrations for potential PREP students.

### Confirmation

- Annie Zeets will coordinate the Confirmation preparation program and celebration in 2019-20. I organized the materials used in past years and gave them 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. Have ordered Leader Guides for the coming year. Will contact leaders at Blessed Sacrament and St. Ed's about resuming weekly CLOW sometime in mid-September.

### Other -

- If we aren't able to hire another FF Team member by the start of the school year, I will continue to work full-time (rather than going to .75 FTE) and will coordinate the Wednesday RE program. Have been working on planning for Wednesday RE, checking in with catechists, revising lesson schedules, ordering support materials.
- Sent bulletin announcements and Mass announcements to parishes about registration for school-year RE. Prepared and sent postcards to families who were in RE last year. Becky McElroy has posted the on-line registration link for Wednesday and Saturday. Will offer an "in person" registration opportunity in each parish after a Mass on either Aug. 11 or Aug. 18.
- Serving as Hospitality Minister at COR events

- Assisting with the “school transition” committee at Sacred Heart; have secured space and furniture for school year RE.

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**Ellen Kuchera**  
**COR & Young Adult Ministry**  
[dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org)

**COR AT 220 EAST:**

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
  - Art exhibit opening for Khadga Tamang, on July 12 - went well, extremely powerful exhibit. Exhibit will be up through the end of September
  - Working with UNI theater department on a play reading at COR in September
  - Lining up art exhibits for the fall and winter
  - Irish Fest at COR, August 3-4. Open from 9-6 pm on Saturday and 9-4 pm on Sunday. Greg Hargreaves will be painting live from 1-4 pm each day and will have some of his art displayed as well, Elliott Kuchera will play ocarina at 1 pm on Saturday, and two additional musicians will play during coffee and donuts on Sunday at 11 am.
  - Learning website and facebook systems and updating them regularly
  - Continuing to make COR an inviting and welcoming space
    - Painted and touched up wall space
    - Installed a gallery hanging system for artwork
    - Cleaned upstairs carpet
- July’s discussion night was “Love Neighbor: The Ten Commandments” on July 15. August’s discussion night is on August 19th and the topic will be “Faith & the Meaning of Life.”
- Alpha at COR will be wrapping up on August 13. The retreat day was on July 20. It has been a great Alpha session so far! We will have an optional after-Alpha gathering on August 20. This will be an opportunity for participants to discuss one-on-one or in a group their experiences going through Alpha and what more they might need or be looking for next.
- The Summer Forum Series will wrap up on August 14.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:**

- Open tea/Scripture reflection continues on August 12 & 26.
- One of our young adult women’s group will be transitioning leadership from Kelsey Kersting to Renae Brandle. I will be working with Renae to secure resources and materials for the group going forward.
- Young Adult Summer Forum Night was on July 17 with Dr. Bryan Cross. Turn-out was low, but still a great discussion and we look forward to having Dr. Cross back in the future.
- Light the Night - Friday, August 2. Nearly 70 volunteers have come together to pull this amazing night of prayer and evangelization off. Please join us anytime from 6:30 - 10:30 pm for adoration, confession, prayer, and music. Pray for our street evangelists that will be inviting the people of Waterloo and Irish Fest attendees into the church for prayer for peace.
- Light from Light - Tuesday, August 27 - this follow-up event from Light the Night will be at COR and will be an experience of Taize Prayer from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join us!
- 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.

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:**

- Working with Dave Cushing and St. Edward to identify and train leadership for the fall Alpha series in lieu of the absence of a pastoral associate.

**CHILDREN & FAMILY CATECHESIS:**

- Totus Tuus ran from July 14-19 and was a great success. The team was fabulous and children and youth alike loved it. Thanks to William & Renae Brandle for coordinating the effort and all of our priests for their help!
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## **HS/MS Youth Ministry**

### **Annie Zeets**

#### **Catholic Heart 2019:** July 7-12; Kansas City

- 13 youth and 4 adults went on the trip. Thank you to Chris Evans, Russ Van Daele and Ryan Graff for being wonderful adult chaperones.
- Youth served on work teams that included home repairs for low income people in KC, Overland Park and Lenexa. Working at a thrift store run by Catholic Charities. Building homes for Habitat for Humanity. Working with young people in summer reading programs.
- The week included adoration, reconciliation, daily mass and lots of wonderful music from the Mikey Needleman Band.

#### **NCYC 2019:** Nov. 21-24: Indianapolis

- 199 are registered! 159 youth and 40 adult chaperones
- In the process of making sure adults complete the new safe environment training
- T-shirt designs coming from CHS student Dany Gutierrez
- Archdiocese chaperone training will take place in Waterloo on Oct. 7 and Oct. 20
- Final payment is due Sept. 1st
- Invoices will be sent out this week to those who are behind on their payment plan
- Will be contacting parishes about having send off masses the weekend before we leave

#### **Confirmation:**

- Will be taking over the confirmation program this fall.
- Working to establish a team of adults from each parish to help with the program
- Researching "Purpose" the new confirmation program launched by Life Teen
- Gathered lists of juniors from the parishes and CHS. Will be doing a mailing by August 20th with information about the first meeting dates
- Submitted our 6 date requests for the celebration to the archdiocese. Hoping to hear our date sometime in the next few weeks

#### **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.

- Group meeting set for July 30th at BMAP: goal is get a calendar set, make list of students to contact, list of student talents (instruments, vocal, lectors, etc.) and to start choosing music
- Working to set meetings at each parish. Meeting date is set with St. Eds. Contact has been made with the other parishes.

#### **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

**Other**

- Facilitator for MAC group
- Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning

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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.
- Started online registration process and online payments for Wednesday/Saturday RE for this fall.
- Mailings for Fall Religious Education Classes.
- Continued to put away and organize FF office after move to new space at Blessed Sacrament School.