

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
September 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 in the Faith Formation Center at Blessed Sacrament. An information meeting is scheduled for September 12 for anyone who is interested in joining the Catholic church. We have mailed over 200 postcards to households with known non-Catholic spouses, inviting them to the information meeting.

> The 2019-20 schedule for RCRA is online at

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

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 family attended the July baptism preparation program at St. Edward. The next class is September 14 at Sacred Heart Parish.

> 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 16 and will meet on Monday evenings at St. Edward Parish. Ruth Muller is the lay director; Dave and Kathy Martin will coordinate meals.

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

> See cumulative Alpha evaluation results at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJWHZYCC7/>

2. **Post-Alpha.** 08 people attended the Post-Alpha meeting on August 20.

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

3. **Listening Sessions.** The schedule for Listening Sessions has been adjusted so that listening sessions for inactive Catholics will meet on the third Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November; listening sessions for spiritual seekers will meet on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December. 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 4,225 (daily average: 137; daily range: 70/291).

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

### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Forum Series.** 22 people attended Fr. Bob Beck's presentation August 7; 26 people attended Dr. Dave Cochran's presentation August 14. Total attendance for this year's Summer Forum Series was 158.

2. **Community Forum.** Hal Wohl will discuss the historical effort to prevent Jewish and Catholic immigrants from entering the United States at a Community Forum on Wednesday, October 9. Ken Wernimont will discuss the personal and spiritual challenges of aging at a Community Forum on Wednesday, October 16, at COR.

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

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 16 and meet on Monday evenings at COR.

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

4. **Know Your Faith.** The next Know Your Faith session is September 16 at COR; the topic is Faith and the Meaning of Life.

> Learn More: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>

#### 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. Pat Colwell will be the speaker.

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

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

#### E. Administration

1. **Franciscan University Catechetical Institute.** Ellen and I recently attended the Archdiocesan workshop on Franciscan University's "Franciscan at Home" online catechetical program for adults. This program appears to be more systematic, catechetical and user-friendly than FORMED. We hope to integrate the on-demand opportunities available through the Institute with adult and young adult formation opportunities available in the parishes.

2. **Mentoring Workshop.** Ellen and I will be attending a workshop on spiritual mentoring sponsored by the Archdiocese later this month. We are hoping what we learn there will help us in launching the "Faithful Companions" spiritual discernment groups.

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

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### Team Leader Report

#### Dave Cushing

1. **Pastors' Representative.** In July Fr. Anthony Kruse, the pastor at Blessed Sacrament, replaced Fr. Scott Bullock as the Pastors' Representative to the Faith Formation Team and Faith Formation Commission.

2. **Faith Formation Team.** The pastors have hired Paul Lee to serve as the Associate Director of Children and Family Catechesis, the position which was formerly held by Kelleryn Rauzi. Paul will begin working September 4; his office will be in the Faith Formation Center at Blessed Sacrament. Julie will serve as Paul's mentor for the next several months. Paul's bio is attached below.

3. **Faith Formation Office.** Over the summer the Faith Formation office moved into a new location in the Blessed Sacrament Early Childhood Center (formerly Blessed Sacrament School). The office is now located in the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Thanks to the generosity of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools and the parish, we now have space for both the Business Manager and the Associate Director of Children and Family Catechesis as well as space for adult and young adult formation and Faith Formation Commission meetings in what we will call the "Faith Formation Center." The address remains the same: 600 Stephan Ave. 50701.

4. **Religious Education Classes.** Thanks to the consideration of Sacred Heart Parish, provisions have been made for our Wednesday evening religious education classes in the former Sacred Heart School building.

Paul Lee is a native of St. Louis who graduated with BA degrees in nonprofit management and public administration from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. He has also earned a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance and an Advanced Safety Certificate from the National Safety Council. He has applied his professional abilities in numerous positions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. He has served as District Scout Executive and Camp Director for the Boy Scouts of America, and Assistant Campus Executive Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance at the University of Northern Iowa. He has been self-employed as a fundraising consultant and event planner, has volunteered as a faith formation catechist. He currently serves as the State Deputy and Chief Executive Officer for the Knights of Columbus in Iowa, as a member of the Human Life and Dignity Committee for the Iowa Catholic Conference, and on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America, the Black Hawk County Gaming Association, and Hartman Reserve Nature Center. Paul and his wife Amanda are the parents of three children and are members of St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center in Cedar Falls where they have been active on the Pastoral Council, Liturgy, Stewardship, and Fellowship committees.

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## **K-8 Religious Education**

### **Julie Niemeyer**

- 104 children and youth participated in Summer RE that was held last two weeks of June at Blessed Maria Middle School. Of these, 96 were in K-8 and 8 in high school. Parents, catechists, and Team members were happy with having it at BMAP.
- Wednesday RE classes to be held at the Sacred Heart school building from 6:15-7:30 pm weekly begin Sept. 11. Saturday morning classes will held at Blessed Sacrament school from 9-Noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month Oct. 5 through May 2.
- Registrations continue to come in. Currently have 28 registered for Wednesday night and 24 for Saturday. Many of those are new families. Will contact families whose children participated in RE last year. (Several of last year's Sunday RE families attended Summer RE.)
- We welcome Paul Lee as the new Faith Formation Team member. He will be responsible for K-8 religious education programs. Paul came on board on Sept. 4. Julie Niemeyer will assist in getting the programs up and running and then will mentor Paul in his new roles.
- Wednesday night catechists will be: K/1<sup>st</sup> - Rod and Mary Crowe, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Dee Wilberding, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> - Annette Mayer, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> - Gen Wandro, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> - Glenda Schmitz. Catechist and Family Handbooks have been updated, the calendar has been revised and suggested lesson schedules have been prepared for catechists. Catechist inservice will be Sept. 4. Five classrooms in the Sacred Heart school building have been dedicated for RE classes. There are also two small office spaces and a FF resource room in the old convent area of the building.
- Planning and catechist recruitment for the Saturday morning RE program is underway. It will feature a more activity-based format, and there will be take-home materials to encourage family engagement in the weeks between RE classes.

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## **Gr. 2-12 Sacraments**

### **Julie Niemeyer**

#### **First Sacraments**

- Used lists from CVCS and parishes to identify families with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Prepared info letters and enrollment forms for First Sacraments. Mailed 74 letters and sent 60 home with students at St. Edward School.
- Met with the three St. Edward 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers to go over plans for sacrament prep. Last year they previewed the *Blessed* curriculum from Dynamic Catholic. The program was also piloted by Summer RE parents last year. Feedback from both teachers and parents was very positive, so we'll be using that program this year.
- Prepared order for *Blessed* kits for school and RE students. Students use text in the classroom and then take home 3 weeks before the celebration. Parents receive the Leader's Guide (with text pages included) and a DVD with sessions for each lesson. Summer RE parents receive the entire kit.

- Ordered support materials for families including *My Reconciliation & Prayer Book* from the Sadlier Sacrament Program, *Celebrating Sundays for Catholic Families*, and "My 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation" poster.
- Parent Info Meetings will be held Sunday, Sept. 22 at Queen of Peace (1:30 in Spanish, 3:30 in English), Tuesday, Sept. 23 at Blessed Sacrament Putz Hall (6:30 in English), Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (6:30 in English), and Sept. 29 at Sacred Heart O'Hagan Hall (4:00 in Burmese).

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

- Worked with high school student from QP in July to prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist. Worked with a high school student from SE in August. Both these students completed Summer RE in June. Both have celebrated First Reconciliation and are planning their First Communion with their parishes.
- Will be checking Summer RE and school-year RE registrations for potential PREP students. Also will check with CVCS administrators. Parents will receive a letter in late September inviting them to an Oct. 16 parent info meeting. PREP classes for First Reconciliation begin in November.

### **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 will be held twice a month at Blessed Sacrament until more leaders can be recruited. Continuing twice a month at QP and three times a month at SH. Have prepared weekly leaflets for these parishes through October. CLOW will become the responsibility of the new full time FF Team member. I will assist him in contacting past CLOW leaders from St. Ed's and setting up an initial meeting/training session. Goal will be to begin CLOW at St. Ed's by October or sooner.

### **Other -**

- Worked on getting things ready for Wednesday RE -- lining up catechists, preparing rooms and materials at SHS, updating handbooks and calendars, preparing roster spreadsheet, sending bulletin announcements and coordinating registration events at each parish.
- Created roster spreadsheet for Summer RE using paper registration forms.
- A new FF Team member to direct religious education was recently hired. He will be full-time. I will spend some time helping to get RE programs launched and mentoring him for the next month or two, then I will be going to half-time.
- Sent bulletin announcements and Mass announcements to parishes about registration for school-year RE. Prepared list of families to contact who were in RE last year.
- Assisted with the "school transition" committee at Sacred Heart, secured space and furniture for school year RE, networked with the building tenants.
- Attended Faith Formation Leaders Day in Waverly on Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

[dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org)

### **COR AT 220 EAST:**

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
  - Khadga Tamang art exhibit - up through October. Closing scheduled on October 25.
  - "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do..." - UNI theater department cabaret musical on September 21, 7 pm
  - Lining up art exhibits for the fall and winter
  - Irish Fest at COR - went well. All enjoyed live painting by Greg Hargreaves, live music by Elliott Kuchera and Scott & Holly, and coffee and donuts on Sunday.
  - Pursuing marketing opportunities including better use of parish bulletin announcements, ads/articles in the Courier, Cedar Valley business magazines, event websites etc.

- Continuing to make COR an inviting and welcoming space
  - Painted and touched up back bathroom
  - Looking into better projector options for main floor
  - Options for a hospitality space in the main room
- August's discussion night was "Faith and the Meaning of Life" on August 19. September's discussion night on September 16th will be "Who is God?"
- Alpha at COR wrapped up on August 13 and an optional after-Alpha gathering was held on August 20. Participants gathered to discuss their experiences going through Alpha and what more they might need or be looking for next.
- The Summer Forum Series wrapped up on August 14 with Dr. David Cochran presenting on "The State of American Politics Today."
- The Bible Timeline small group study will be held at COR on Monday evenings beginning September 16 from 6-8 pm.
- Movie Nights will resume on the third Friday of the month with "Tender Mercies" kicking us off on September 20. 7 pm, all are welcome!
- Recruiting Hospitality Ministers to be trained on October 19.

#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Light the Night - Friday, August 2. - Once again was a huge success and such an amazing night of prayer and evangelization. Thanks to the nearly 70 volunteers for pulling this night off!
- Light from Light - this follow-up event from Light the Night was on August 27 at COR and was a beautiful experience of Taize prayer. Thanks to Anastasia Nicklaus for co-leading and pulling together musicians.
- Open tea/Scripture reflection continues on September 9 & 23.
- Coffee on the House - September 22, 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Young adults that are new to the area, starting college, or looking to get more involved in their parishes are invited to join for a drink or snack on us at Sidecar downtown anytime between 2:30 - 4:30 pm.
- Witness to Love - will participate in a training on September 20 in Reinbeck.
- One-on-one mentoring - will participate in a training on September 28 offered by the Archdiocese at St. Edward

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Working with Dave Cushing and St. Edward to train leadership and run the fall Alpha.
- Faithful Companions - working with Dave to plan and run small spiritual direction groups.
- RCIA - we have three potential catechumens for RCIA and are working on connecting with them and creating individualized preparation plans.

#### **HS/MS Youth Ministry Annie Zeets**

Good News! We have hired a part time youth ministry assistant whose main focus will be middle school. Gen Wandro is a junior communications student at UNI. She is from Charles City where her mom is the director of faith formation. Gen will bring a great energy to the youth ministry program and already has a plan for the entire year of middle school ministry and she is using Lifeteen's middle school program "Edge" as her guide.

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

- 200 are registered! 160 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:**

- Confirmation celebration date: Sunday, March 29th at 2:30pm at Columbus High School. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful metro sacramental celebration.
- 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
- Meeting with Kevin Keyen from the archdiocese to discuss confirmation planning.
- Gathered lists of juniors from the parishes and CHS. Mailing goes out September 9th

#### **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.

- Testify had their debut performance at the CVCS back to school jamboree on August 28th. Approximately 30 kids came to sing in the choir, plus a percussionist, keyboard player and one on the ukelele.
- Lots of great feedback from people including the archbishop on the group.
- Meeting with Blessed Sacrament liturgy committee on Sept. 3rd to discuss how Testify fits into their parish.
- Met with St. Eds and Testify will do mass there on Nov. 30 - we felt it was important to do a mass the weekend after NCYC to keep the fire going after the trip.
- Meetings will be set with Sacred Heart and Queen of Peace in September
- **Thanks to the Knights of Columbus from St. Eds and Sacred Heart for sponsoring our group t-shirts!**

#### **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

#### **High School**

- Youth group begins Sunday, Sept. 22: We will be attending the middle school YM kick off at BMAP to show our support and to help serve walking tacos
- Sept. 29: YM planning meeting. Meet with youth to make plans for the year.

#### **Middle School**

- Sept. 22 Taco Night: Youth and their parents are invited to BMAP for taco night. They can meet Gen, hear her faith story, talk about the year and have some food.

#### **Other**

- Facilitator for MAC group
  - Continuing to advise other youth ministers on NCYC planning
  - Appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as youth ministry representative.
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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.
- Online registration process and online payments for Wednesday/Saturday RE for this fall.
- Mailed out information for Fall RE to students not returning to CVCS this fall from the list provided by CVCS.
- Continued to put away and organize FF office after move to new space at Blessed Sacrament School.