

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
February 2020

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

PARTICIPATION

1. **January Baptism Preparation:** 02 households.
> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWWJSY/>
2. **Winter Mini-Retreat:** 08
3. **Discussion of "Letter to a Suffering Church":** 02
4. **Community Forum/LGBTQ Family Concerns:** 12.
5. **Winter Forum/1:** 11.
6. **Nine Days for Life Novena:** 27 participants on email; and average of 32 on Facebook.
7. **Winter RCRA:** 03 candidates.

COMING OPPORTUNITIES

A. Initiation

1. **RCIA/RCRA.** The winter RCRA series began January 12 and is meeting on Sunday mornings in O'Hagen Hall at Sacred Heart.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>
2. **Baptism Preparation.** The next class is February 10 at Sacred Heart.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

B. Evangelization

1. **Alpha for Catholics.** The winter Alpha series begin February 5 at Blessed Sacrament and February 6 at Sacred Heart.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>
> See cumulative Alpha evaluation results at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJWHZYCC7/>
2. **Listening Sessions.** The next listening session for Spiritual Seekers is February 13.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>
4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in December was 3,756 (daily average: 121; daily range: 277/90).
> Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Winter Forum.** Jacob Kohlhaas from Loras will discuss how the church's understanding of parenthood has evolved in recent years on Tuesday, February 4; Martha Reneike from UNI will discuss the phenomenon of scapegoating and how it is used in social and civil relationships today on Wednesday, February 12.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/winter-forum>
2. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** A Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25 at COR.
3. **Know Your Faith.** The next Know Your Faith session is Monday, February 17 at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>
4. **Lenten Enrichment.** Ellen and I are planning to offer three opportunities for Lenten enrichment:

Bishop Barron's four-part video series on the Eucharist; a five-week discussion of contemplative living called "Bridges to Contemplative Living for Lent"; and three discussion sessions on spiritual direction which are a kind of introduction to Faithful Companions. I also hope to develop a Lenten online retreat based on Pope Francis's catechesis on the Beatitudes.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Catholic Witness Hour.** The next Witness Hour is Monday, February 24 at St. Edward. The presenters will be Dave and Kathy Berns.

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

2. **Spiritual Growth.** A discussion for adults and young adults interested in exploring opportunities for growing in their faith, their relationship to Jesus, or their relationship to the church during Lent is scheduled for February 17 at COR.

3. **Faithful Companions.** Ellen and I are continuing to work on this new opportunity 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>

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

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

K-8 Religious Education

Paul Lee

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Continue to provide weekly reflection on the Sunday's reading at all four parishes
- 1 new volunteer CLOTW leader for Blessed Sacrament parish

Wednesday RE/ Saturday RE

- Wednesday RE continues at Sacred Heart with strong attendance
- Saturday RE is full with energetic young people
- Have begun to work on new ideas and scheduling for 2020/2021 academic year, trying to find more time to incorporate all liturgical seasons and space for more family activities during the year

Summertime RE/ Enrichment

- Summer RE will be the weeks of June 15 and June 22, location to be secured soon
- Totus Tuus dates should be known sometime during February

Early Childhood Formation

- Beginning to explore ways to reach out to families of kids aged birth through 5 to provide some religious education
-

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments

- Good attendance at First Communion info meetings for parents of 2nd graders in mid-January. There were only 10 parents needing a make-up session (6 Anglos and 4 Burmese)
- First Communion lessons using Blessed program are in progress in school and RE classes.
- The two-hour Eucharist Retreats will be held Feb. 29 (morning), March 1 (afternoon) and March 2 (evening).

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

- A parent info meeting about First Communion will be held Feb. 19. First Communion PREP classes will be held on the three Wednesday nights after Spring Break.

- Have begun working with a Congolese CHS 9th grader who recently moved to US and desires sacraments. Goal will be full initiation at Easter Vigil. Trying to schedule lessons for a BMAP 7th grader as well.

Other -

- Attended metro Lent planning sessions and shared info with pastors of QP and SH
- Attended Archdiocesan Women's Conference on Jan. 25
- Am helping as a table leader for QP/SH Alpha on Thursday evenings Feb.6-Apr.23

COR & Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Kuchera

dbqwcya@dbqarch.org

COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - Met with Tatiana Jackson on January 8th to discuss details about her solo art exhibition opening reception on Friday, February 14th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The reception will include live music, wine and Russian hors d'oeuvres. The exhibit is entitled, "God Is Love." We will hang the paintings the week of Feb. 10th and the exhibit will remain up until the end of May. She will be making posters for me to hang around Waterloo and Cedar Falls.
 - Took down the Christmas decorations on January 13th
 - Met with Ellen, Scott Shaffer and Maria DiValentin on January 14th to begin discussion and planning for the upcoming 2020 Golf Fundraiser to be held in June. Will begin contacting past players and sponsors as soon as a location, date and time for the golf outing has been set.
 - Met with Paul Lee on January 22nd to discuss setting up a television in the front window of COR with a loop video of upcoming events and the monthly calendar. Will pursue this and try and get it setup in the next few weeks.
 - On Wednesday, January 22nd met with Kenneth Hall, a UNI art professor, about a possible art exhibition in Dec. 2020. Will stay in contact with him as we get closer to the end of the year.
 - Brought in a highchair and put a diaper changing table in the restroom to make COR more family friendly for future events and facility rentals.
 - On January 25th, we had our first monthly tea and craft session centered around "The Twelve Days of Christmas & the True Ways My Love Gifts Us." Dawn Pegis will be presenting these monthly Saturday morning sessions.
 - Hung up posters for Feb. 14th Art Opening and the Tea and Craft sessions.
 - Continue to make contacts for future COR events.
- January's Know Your Faith discussion night was "Sacraments: encountering God" on January 20. February's discussion night will be "Intro to Spiritual Direction" on February 17.
- Movie Nights as they've been are being postponed until the fall. We may do a few special movie nights in the meantime. More info to come.
- We had two private events at COR in January - "Preserve Cedar Valley Trails" will held their quarterly meeting on January 16. Cedar Valley Bicycle Collective also held a meeting on January 27.
- Adult Faith Formation will be hosting several events at COR during February including a "What's Your Plan for Lent" night discussing with each participant what might be the next step of growth in faith for them during Lent, a Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent, the Winter Forum Series will continue, and a Listening Session for Spiritual Seekers.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Young Adult Super Bowl party was on February 2. A great time was had by all!
- Advent tea/prayer on continues on February 10 & 24.

- Witness to Love Marriage Formation
 - Continue implementing at QP
 - Held initial meeting with Fr. Stecher at SH and will schedule follow-up soon
 - Met again with St. Edward. Witness to Love will be launched February 15-16 at Masses and couples getting married November 2020 and beyond will begin the process.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha
 - Blessed Sacrament & Sacred Heart are both running Alpha starting February 5 & 6. There will be a joint retreat held on March 21. I am also facilitating Team Training for Sacred Heart on February 6.
- Faithful Companions - Dave and I are finalizing intro sessions and are beginning to convene groups. Renae Brandle's group will begin with the first intro session on February 5.
- RCIA - the Rite of Acceptance was on January 4 at 5:15 pm at St. Edward for one catechumen. Catechumens and potential catechumens will also be plugged into Alpha. The Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election will be February 22 and February 29.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

Confirmation:

- Confirmation Class #3 is set for Mar. 8 and 11 at Blessed Sacrament. Sponsors are asked to attend the class with the candidates. We will guide a discussion between them in hopes they learn more about each other and their faith
- Team members include: Deacon Ray Larsen, Deacon Chris & Carrie Evans, Maureen Beckman, Vanessa Gomez, Betsy Smith, Deacon Brad Kneeland.
- 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.
- Have 2 students who are doing confirmation prep as an at home study. One candidate has special needs so Dave Cushing helped find some materials they could use at home. I am meeting with them every 6 weeks to check in. Another student just decided they wanted to be confirmed but their social anxiety doesn't allow them to be with the large group. I worked hard to prepare home school materials using the Matthew Kelly "Decision Point" program and all the activities we have done at our group classes. Took a lot of time preparing those materials, but I believe this will be a good home school option for families in the future.

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.

- Jan. 18: provided music, lector, gift bearers, greeters at 4:30pm mass at Blessed Sacrament
- Jan. 22: rehearsal at Queen of Peace was canceled due to weather
- Jan 26: provided music at 9am mass at Queen of Peace (our first mass at QP)
- Feb. 12: rehearsal at CHS
- Feb. 15: music at 5:15pm mass at St. Eds
- Testify will be providing the music for the metro confirmation mass
- Testify will be providing music for graduation mass at CHS in May

High School

- Jan. 12: St. Eds invited the NCYC teens to be present at coffee and donuts to share their trip experience with parishioners
- Jan. 15: NCYC meet up. A night to check in with each other and talk about how we keep NCYC alive in our lives
- Jan. 29: Tough Topic Night with Fr. Kruse. We gathered to talk about things on the minds of today's teens. Topics included immigration, pets going to heaven, LGBTQ, forgiveness, abortion. It was a night of good and respectful discussion. Thanks to Fr. Kruse for coming and talking with the kids.
- Feb. 2: Topic Night: Dealing with Pressure. Discussion night on dealing with the pressure of being a teenager and how our faith can help. Teens found some great bible verses that they can refer to when they are stressed and feeling overwhelmed.

Coming Up

- Feb. 9: Youth Night: Praying through coloring. Coloring can help us focus and clear our minds and can help us pray.
- Feb. 19: Teen adoration. This idea came from a group of students at NCYC.
- Working with St. Vincent dePaul on upcoming fundraiser "Fools Fashion Show" on April 1st. I have recruited students to be models and emcees. Will wear fashions throughout the decades - things that could be purchased in thrift stores. Working with Gynis Worthington on the event planning and execution of event. Meeting with costumers at UNI to talk fashion and get a fashion history lesson. The event will be held at Slumberland in CF. Cost is \$10/person at the door with all proceeds going to St. Vincent dePaul.

|

Middle School

- Jan. 19: Service project: students made tie blankets for local shelters

Coming up:

Feb. 16: Catholic Escape Room at Blessed Sacrament

Mar. 1: Lent activity night at CHS

Mar. 27: Lock-In at Blessed Sacrament

Other:

- Attended faith formation team retreat on Jan. 10
 - NFCYM webinar: "What about the teens who never come?"
 - Facilitator for MAC group
 - Director for TEC retreat happening in Waterloo March 14-16 at BMAP
 - Helped plan and host archdiocesan youth ministry leaders work day at BMAP on January 26 with speaker Katie Prejean McGrady
 - Part of archdiocesan planning team who is partnering with the Archdiocese of Davenport for a joint middle school youth event this fall.
 - Gen and I continue to meet weekly to plan and pray and check in. She is doing a really great job of connecting with kids. We will be spending more time the next few months making plans for the fall as we move towards the "Lifeteen" model of ministry with "Edge" being the middle school component of the program. We will also meet with Paul Lee to see how this all works with religious education classes.
-

Becky McElroy
Business Manager

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.
- Meeting individually with team members to work on budget for 20/21, Preparing budget to present the first draft at the Commission meeting on Feb. 11th.
- Invoicing for fees due for Religious Ed for this year which have not been paid in full.