

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
March 2020

Adult Faith Formation

Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org

A. Initiation

1. **RCIA/RCRA.** 03 candidates are participating in the Winter RCRA series meeting on Sunday mornings at Sacred Heart. An information meeting for anyone interested in joining the church will be held on March 23. The spring RCRA series will begin March 30 and will meet on Monday evenings at St. Edward Parish.
> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>
2. **Baptism Preparation.** 06 households participated in the February baptism preparation. The next class is March 14 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-JKRWVJSY/>

B. Evangelization

1. **Alpha for Catholics.** 20 people are participating in the winter Alpha series meeting on Wednesday evenings at Blessed Sacrament. 10 people are participating in the series meeting on Thursday evenings 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 Inactive Catholics is March 18.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>
3. **Waterloo Catholics.org.** A page was added to our website explaining common Lenten customs and devotions.
> See the page at: <https://waterloocatholics.org/lenten-customs>
4. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in February was 2,692 (daily average: 93; daily range: 130/39).
> Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Winter Forum.** A total of 20 people participated in three Winter Forum programs this year.
2. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** 12 people attended the discussion January 13 at Friendship Village; 11 attended the discussion March 2 at Friendship Village. A Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4; A Busy Catholic's Guide to Holy Week is scheduled for April 1. Both will take place at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>
3. **Know Your Faith.** The next Know Your Faith session is Monday, March 16 at COR.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>
4. **Catholic Speakers Series.** Sr. Katarina Schuth OSF will be the presenter for the Catholic Speakers Series presentation on April 14. Sr. Katarina is an internationally recognized expert on seminary formation; she will address the sexual abuse crisis in the church and the church's response. This is a cooperative effort with Loras College, where she will be speaking the following evening.
> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-speakers-series>
5. **Critical Choices Workshop.** The next Critical Choices Workshops are scheduled for April 29 at St.

Patrick Parish and May 16 at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

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

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Catholic Witness Hour.** 70 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Feb. 24 at St. Edward. The next Witness Hour is Monday, April 27 at Queen of Peace.

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

2. **Online Lenten Retreat.** This year's online Lenten retreat is scheduled for March 16-22. It will feature daily reflections on the Beatitudes by Pope Francis.

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

3. **Christian Experience Weekend.** The local CEW weekend is scheduled for March 27-29 at Riverside Conference Center in Cedar Falls.

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

4. **Labyrinth Prayer.** St. Luke Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls will host a public opportunity for Labyrinth Prayer April 2,3 and 4.

> Learn more: <http://bit.do/labyrinth-prayer>

5. **Good Friday Meditations.** Our annual online meditations for Good Friday will take place from 7:00am to 8:00pm on April 10. The hourly meditations are based on the pope's Good Friday Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome.

6. **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

- Will have a transition of leadership at Queen of Peace with the departure of Pete and Rosario;
- Met with Anastasia regarding recruiting new leaders for St. Edwards

Wednesday RE/ Saturday RE

- Working with catechists team to develop 2020/2021 schedule for RE
- Last Wednesday RE class is March 11 with Mass at 6:30 PM at Sacred Heart (ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)

Summertime RE/ Enrichment

- Summer RE will be the weeks of June 15 and June 22 at BMAP, beginning to secure teachers for this session, location to be secured soon
- Totus Tuus dates should be known soon

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

- Eucharist Retreats for 2nd graders and parent(s) were held at Sacred Heart church Feb. 29, March 1, March 2. March 8 Retreat for Burmese families (with Fr. Paul's help).
- Children at St. Edward School and Wed. RE will finish classroom lessons before Spring break and will take their books home to keep for review and reinforcement with parents. Saturday RE students finish lessons on April 4 and take books home.

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

- PREP classes for First Communion will be on Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:30 March 25, April 1, and April 8. Classes will be held in the Sacred Heart school building. 27 students from gr. 3-8 will participate.
- 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. Have also scheduled lessons for a BMAP 7th grader and public school 7th grader. Dates for those celebrations TBD.

Other -

- Helping as a table leader for QP/SH Alpha on Thursday evenings.

COR & Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Kuchera

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COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - "Sync," the UNI Fortepan Iowa photography exhibit that had been up since November closed the beginning of February.
 - Our new exhibit, "God is Love," by Tatiana Jackson opened on Friday, February 14th. The reception included live music (string trio from UNI), wine, and Russian hors d'oeuvres. The exhibit will remain up until the end of May. COR is excited to have received significant commission made off of paintings sold the evening of the reception. She is also selling poster copies of her "Guardian Angel" painting for \$25. All proceeds are going to local Fire Departments.
 - Arranged for a *Witness* article for Tatiana Jackson's art exhibit. The article was in the Feb. 24th paper along with an online edition. There was also an article in the *Courier* on February 11th (print & online) as well as the February 18th edition of the *Pulse* paper.
 - Beginning plans are being made for a possible wine & canvas sometime around Easter with Tatiana.
 - Have begun planning for the upcoming 2020 Golf Fundraiser which will be held on June 7th at the Jesup Golf and Country Club with a 2:00 PM start. Will begin contacting past players and sponsors in the next couple of weeks, along with potential new players, hole sponsors, and raffle donors.
 - Will be setting up a television in the front window of COR with a video loop of upcoming events and the monthly calendar. Hope to get this up and running early March.
 - On Feb. 22nd, we had our second monthly tea and craft session centered around "The Twelve Days of Christmas and the True Ways My Love Gifts Us." Dawn Pegis presented fun information and helped attendees make "A Partridge in a Pear Tree" Christmas ornament.
- February's Know Your Faith discussion night was "Intro to Spiritual Direction" on February 17. March's will be on Monday the 16th. Topic: Discernment of Spirits.
- We had one private event at COR in February - "Preserve Cedar Valley Trails" held their meeting on February 20.
- Adult Faith Formation will be hosting a couple of events at COR during March including a Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation and a Listening Session for Former & Inactive Catholics.
- The basement is being currently renovated at COR. Phase 1 is in process - the subfloor is being torn out. Stay tuned for more info to come.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open tea/prayer continues on March 9 & 23
- Facebook - renewed emphasis on reviving our young adult facebook page with more consistent posts.
- Witness to Love Marriage Formation
 - Continue implementing at QP

- Putting together showcase mentor couple profiles (2 couples have committed so far!)
- Working with Fr. Pierre on developing a plan for the theology meeting nights.
- Had first marriage prep coordinator meeting (includes Prepare/Enrich marriage inventory review) with QP engaged couple & their mentors on Feb 2. Couple meets with their mentors for the bulk of the remainder of their prep.
- Next marriage prep coordinator meeting with another QP engaged couple and their mentors will be on March 5.
- Held initial meeting with Fr. Stecher at SH and will schedule follow-up soon
- Continue implementing at St. Edward - will be checking in with staff to see where we are at in the process. Met with Anastasia Nicklaus to review the marriage rite for catechumens, non-Christians, and civil marriages.
- Partaking in further Prepare/Enrich training through Witness to Love
- Ordered & reviewing Civil Marriage Initiative

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha
 - I am planning/facilitating the join Alpha Retreat for Blessed Sacrament & Sacred Heart/Queen of Peace Alphas on March 21. It will be held at Hartman Reserve Nature Preserve in Cedar Falls.
- Faithful Companions - Dave and I are finalizing intro sessions and are beginning to convene groups.
- RCIA - our two catechumens have been attending Alpha at Blessed Sacrament. They celebrated the Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election on February 22 and February 29. We will gather at least three additional times during Lent for a focus on prayer and some immediate preparation on the sacraments of initiation. The scrutinies will be celebrated on March 15, 22, & 29. A Holy Week Retreat is being planned on Saturday April 4. Initiation will be at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11.
- Spiritual Direction 101 Series - this three-part series will be on March 7, 28, and April 4 from 9:30 - 10:30 am at Blessed Sacrament. It will examine various dimensions of spiritual direction: what it is, the importance of holy listening, and the ability to discern movements of the heart.
- On a subcommittee of WPL to plan a Metro mission for spring of 2021.

HS/MS Youth Ministry
Annie Zeets

Confirmation:

- Confirmation Class #3 is set for Mar. 4 and 8 at Blessed Sacrament. *(date change to accommodate a few scheduling issues)* 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 with Archbishop Michael Jackals.
- Outsourcing confirmation certificates to Copyworks in Cedar Falls
- Testify will be doing the mass music
- Met with Pat Wiss to discuss use of CHS mass supplies and set up.

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.

- Feb. 15: music at 5:15pm mass at St. Eds

- Feb. 26: rehearsal
- March 11: Music at final RE mass at Sacred Heart
- March 25: rehearsal
- Testify will be providing the music for the metro confirmation mass
- Testify will be providing music for graduation mass at CHS in May
- We have been asked to provide “entertainment” for the Sacred Heart women’s brunch in May. Still deciding if this will work as it is the day after prom for CHS, West and East which means we could lose many of our high school students.

High School

- 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.
- 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 NCCYC.
- 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.
- Mar. 1: Lent prayer and discussion
- Mar. 8: Lent prayer and discussion
- Mar. 25: Teen Adoration at St. Eds from 7pm-8pm. ALL are welcome to join us for prayer.
- A group of girls approached me about a book/prayer club as something they could do during Lent. We will begin this group on March 3. We are using the book “I Choose the Sky” a scriptural devotional for women by Emily Wilson. Emily was a presenter at NCCYC and the girls really enjoyed her workshop.

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Middle School

Feb. 16: Catholic Escape Room at Blessed Sacrament

Mar. 1: Lent activity night at CHS

Mar. 27: Lock-In at Blessed Sacrament

Other:

- Part of archdiocesan planning team who is partnering with the Archdiocese of Davenport for a joint middle school youth event in October at Mt. Mercy. Meeting on March 19th at Mt. Mercy to walk the space and begin planning promotion of event.
 - 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.
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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.
- Completing final draft of 20-21 Budget.