

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team

December 2014

**Adult Faith
Formation**

Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. The Rite of Christian Initiation has moved and now meets on Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart Parish.
2. The winter session of the Rite of Christian Reception will begin on January 18 and will meet on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish.
3. 5 families attended the Baptism class in October. The next Baptism preparation class is Nov. 8 at Queen of Peace.

B. Evangelization

1. 30 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour Nov. 17 at Sacred Heart Parish; the next Witness Hour is Jan. 26 at St. Patrick Parish.
2. The Singles Group meets Dec. 13 for its annual Christmas Party at Riverside Conference Center in Cedar Falls. The next Singles Potluck will be Dec. 27 at Sacred Heart Parish.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. About 550 people attended the Matthew Kelly seminar "Living Everyday with Passion and Purpose" Nov. 22 at St. Edward Parish.
 2. 45 people registered to receive the daily email messages from the Iowa Bishops' statement "Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics" during the week of Oct. 6-11; an additional 211 (daily average of 30) people read the messages on our Facebook page.
 3. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Advent is scheduled on Monday, Dec. 1, at Sacred Heart Parish.
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4. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 8, at Sacred Heart Parish.

5. During the Advent season I will be posting a daily Advent Suggestion from the U.S. Catholic Conference on the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page.

6. Our guide to formation, enrichment, and spiritual growth opportunities in Advent is available online at: waterloocatholics.org/advent.htm

7. Our Winter at the Cellar enrichment series for adults and young adults will focus on the church's teaching on marriage and family life and the recent extraordinary synod on the family held in Rome. Confirmed speakers are Fr. Jerry Kopacek, Fr. Scott Bullock, and Dr. Jacob Kohlhaas. Dates are pending for the four-week series which will meet at the Cellar Lounge in January and February.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. 12 people attended the fall Care-Givers Retreat Nov. 8 at Covenant Medical Center.

2. Our annual Busy Catholic's Online Advent Retreat will take place Dec. 8-14 and will feature excerpts from Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel."

3. Rodney Bluml from the staff at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha will conduct our Advent Visio Divina Mini-Retreat on Saturday, Dec. 13, at American Martyrs Retreat House.

4. Bill Mulcahey, a professor of scripture and director of campus ministry at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, will facilitate our winter mini-retreat Jan. 25 at American Martyrs Retreat House. The retreat will focus on the Gospel of Mark, which is the source for the Sunday Gospel readings during the coming year.

E. Social Justice and Interfaith

1. About 40 people attended the introduction to Taize prayer co-hosted by the parishes and First Baptist Church on Nov. 30. Starting in January, monthly Taize prayer services will alternate between First Baptist and Sacred Heart churches.

Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Voegele

Cards & Care Packages for College Students & Young Adults - The next round of care packages will be going out on December 1. The theme will be Advent/Christmas/Finals. We are so grateful for the several AWESOME cards, prayers, and decorations from our CVCS & RE students for the care packages. *37 care packages will be mailed*

YAP (Young Adult People) - The third YAP, a social group for women, was on November 20 at Panera in Cedar Falls. There was great conversation about spiritual direction, offering accountability and fraternal correction, marriage & children etc. *5 women attended*

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Every second Sunday of the month young adults are invited to explore other churches and religions in the Cedar Valley to enrich their own lives of faith and to grow in deeper understanding and relationship with our brothers and sisters. The first event was on November 9 at Prairie Lakes in Waterloo. Pastor Jesse Tink from Prairie Lakes and members Josh & Chalee joined us for lunch and discussion. It was beautiful to answer each others questions about our respective faith traditions and reach a level of mutual understanding and respect. *3 young adults attended*

Next up is the 9 am service at Zion Lutheran Church on December 14 with brunch to follow at Village Inn.

Intergenerational Teaching Mass - On November 19, WCFF hosted a Teaching Mass for our fall intergenerational event. This event was highly successful in numbers, representation of ages, parishes, and schools, and level of engagement and enthusiasm of all who attended. Young adults assisted in the choir and lecturing.

Advent Progressive Dinner Retreat - Final plans are coming together for this awesome opportunity on December 5 hosted by the priests of the four Waterloo parishes. One course (appetizers, salad/bread, main course, and dessert) will be offered by each pastor at their parish. Participants will enjoy all of the classic retreat elements - prayer, food, reflections, fellowship, and discussion. We will begin promptly at 5:30 pm at St. Edward and will conclude at 9 pm at Blessed Sacrament. *7 young adults are planning to attend*

Adoration Hour - I am scheduled for a Faith Formation adoration hour from 1-2 am on the 4th Saturday morning of the month and have opened this up to young adults to send me prayer requests or to join me. I dedicate this hour to prayer for our efforts in faith formation, young adult ministry, and prayer requests that I receive. The hope is to eventually fill a weekly hour with a rotating schedule of young adults.

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Catholic Worker Playground Clean-Up - November 2 (St. Edward Social Concerns)
- Flag Football Dinner - November 6 (WCFF)
- Columbus 5K "Team Up Against Hunger" - November 15 (CHS)
- Catholic Witness Hour - November 17 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Matthew Kelly - November 22 (AFF & St. Edward)
- Don't Know Much About Advent - November 24 (AFF & St. Pat's)

Promoting:

- Intro to Taize Prayer - November 30 (AFF & First Baptist Church)
- Don't Know Much About Advent - December 1 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Don't Know Much About Reconciliation - December 8 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Advent Mini-Retreat - December 13 (AFF)

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - We continue to work on building subscribers to Flocknote. I have organized and created new lists for day-of reminders, weekly updates, and a monthly newsletter so people can receive updates however often they would like. (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *37 young adults have subscribed*
 - Webpage - We have put off creating a "young adult ministry" section on waterloocatholics.org because we are in the process of getting a new website for faith formation very soon.
 - Facebook - our facebook page (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) is up and
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running. We post daily on a variety of topics including upcoming events, prayers, discernment, saints of the day, Catholic pages to "like" etc., feedback to help in programming etc. If you are on facebook, please invite all young adults (age 18-39) you know to like our page. *70 young adults have liked the page*

- Adoration Sign-Up - waiting to hear back from Fr. Colter to get an online sign-up process for the adoration chapel at Columbus. An easier process will be much more likely to engage young adults.

In process:

- College Students - "Home for the Holidays" event
- Monthly Movies with Fr. Bullock - starting in January every 4th Friday of the month there will be a movie night with Fr. Bullock.
- Adoration Hour
- Parent Faithtext subscription
- Men's Bible Study - will target the men who played flag football
- Community Meal at the Catholic Worker

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- October 28 - FFL & CSA Renewal Day
- November 13 - Lead Like Jesus Workshop
- Spiritual Direction

Children & Family Catechesis **Wednesday Evening Religious Education**

Cathy Mills

- Julie Hussey the Coordinator of Religious Education Wed. has accepted a full-time

associate position at St. Edward's School. We are very grateful for the time and

dedication Julie gave us and we wish her well.

- Since October 7th I have assumed responsibility of our Wed. Evening RE Program

as well as CLOW for Blessed Sacrament & QOP. This is a 20 hour a week commitment.

- Currently 168 children enrolled / 68 from Hispanic Households

- Parish rosters of registered RE children were emailed to the parish secretaries.

- Letters of invite were mailed to parish households that have children who

are not served in the CVCS system or the RE programs for faith formation.

- One third of the RE Anglo families attended our Intergenerational Teaching Mass
- Wed. RE program will host weekly Advent Prayer Services at closing each week.

Intergenerational

- Teaching Mass Wed. Nov 19th St. Edward's Church
- FFAT hosted the Anglo Teaching Mass led by Fr. Bullock.
- Estimated 200 participants
- There were a variety of Mass participants that spanned Parish / school/ Re
- Celebrating Mass as Family Books distributed **Catechist Formation**
- Each Catechist received a copy of *The Magnificent Advent Companion*. This pocket-sized Companion follows a practical, page-a-day format featuring original meditations on the Gospel reading of each day. Catechists can reflect together during the Wed. night prayer session prior to RE class.
- I am creating a series of 8 Spiritual Formation Sessions for Catechists based on the book by Diane Hardick and Marie Ellen Kuhel, OSU. These will be emailed to Catechists along with the weekly RE update bulletins. The Wed. night prayer session will be devoted to discussion and reflection.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Blessed Sacrament weekly at Sunday 10:30 Mass on going
- QOP 2nd & 4th Sunday Noon Mass/looking to start weekly after January
- SH 2nd & 4th Sunday 10:45 on going /looking to start weekly after January.
- St. Ed's Sunday 1st & 3rd 9:00 2nd & 4th 11:00 am

CVCS Pre - K -8th

- Continue to dialogue with teachers regarding new religion textbooks as the RE programs will be utilizing same series 2015-16

Professional Development

- Attended all day conference in Des Moines "Wired Differently" keys to working with students with Acting Out or Acting in Disorders. Promoted by the
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Archdioceses for Faith Formation leaders.

- USCCB Leadership Institute Webinar "Family"

- Attended *Leading Like Jesus* Nov 13th Blessed Sacrament

**High School Youth
Ministry**
Annie Zeets

Nov. 2nd: 29 students and 5 adult chaperones attended the Archdiocesan Youth Rally in Waterloo. Jesse Manibusan and Spork provided entertainment and mass was celebrated with Archbishop Jackals.

Nov. 3rd: NCYC 2015 informational meeting was held at Columbus. 32 student attended with a parent or guardian. Deposits of \$110 are due December 1st. Fundraising options will be discussed after the holidays with parent volunteers taking the lead on fundraising efforts. Total cost of the trip is \$550. NCYC is Nov. 19-22, 2015 in Indianapolis.

Nov. 4th: Faith sharing at Columbus

Nov. 5th: Bible Study and CORE

Nov. 9th 12th: Confirmation sessions at Queen of Peace. Thank you to Fr. Ambrosy, Fr. Stecher and Fr. Bullock for coming to talk with the students and answer questions the students had prepared at the previous class. Students really enjoyed hearing from the pastors. Class began with a nice guided meditation led by Jenna Adams. Deacon Larsen spent some time talking with the students about the importance and the gift that the Eucharist is to Catholics. For your information, 85 students are preparing for confirmation. Our metro retreat is Saturday, Jan. 31st and the metro confirmation liturgy with Archbishop Jackals is Sunday, Feb. 1st at 2pm at Columbus.

Nov. 16th: I took 7 students to lunch and to see the CHS fall play. Many youth group students were in the play!

Nov. 18th: Faith sharing at CHS

Nov. 18th: WAYM meeting at St. Pats

Nov. 19th: Metro intergenerational "teaching mass" at St. Edward.

Nov. 20th-23rd: I was privileged to be part of the Kairos team for Columbus. The retreat was a wonderful experience and a great way for me

to get to know that group of students.

Ongoing:

I have a Columbus senior, Andy Koch, who is working with me this semester doing service 8th hour each day. He has been a HUGE help getting the youth ministry program up and running. Andy is always ready to help with keeping the youth office clean, getting confirmation class materials ready for me or stapling hundreds of packets of NCYC materials together. He has been a joy for me to work with and I am blessed to have his help.

Coming Up:

Nov. 30th: Youth Night: 6:30-8pm: Advent prayer and reflections at the youth office.

Dec. 1st: NCYC deposits due

Dec. 2nd: Faith sharing at CHS

Dec. 10th and 14th: Confirmation sessions at Queen of Peace.

Dec. 17th: Bible study and CORE

Dec. 19th: Confirmation retreat team meeting

Dec. 21st: Youth Group Christmas Party

Dec. 29th: Confirmation retreat team meeting

Professional Development:

Nov. 13th: Attended "Lead Like Jesus" workshop

Dec. 4th-7th: Attending the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) in San Antonio

**Middle School Youth
Ministry**

Jenny Schmitz

- November 1 - 9 Kids and I attended the Arch-Diocesan Youth Rally in Waverly.
- November 15 - Planned a Topic Night on Thanksgiving - Event cancelled due to no one signing up.

Next Event

- December 6 - St. Nicholas Night & Advent Prayer

Continuing Education

- January 12-18 finishing Spiritual Mentorship program in Kansas City, KS
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Monthly Report - High School CORE

- Finishing First Semester - only three classes left: December 3, 10 & 17.
- Second Semester registration will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Burmese Ministry **Burmese Faith Formation**

Pam Johnston

1. There will be six 2nd grade children from SH School celebrating First Reconciliation on December 6th.
Esther Lazum will be calling these families to remind them of the celebration and to answer any questions.
2. In addition, there will be three public school Burmese children in grades 3-6 celebrating First Reconciliation on December 6th.
William Semo will be calling these families.
3. John Lazum and I have scheduled a new RCUA session for two young Burmese adults wanting to join the Church or to complete sacramental preparation.

Professional Development

1. I attended the Archdiocesan Staff Study Day in October.
2. I attended the metro "Lead Like Jesus" workshop in November.
3. I am a member of a book club that is reading and discussing "Eager to Love: the Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi".

Sacramental Preparation **Sacramental Preparation**

Dave Cushing & Pam
Johnston

1. The three metro celebrations of First Reconciliation are scheduled for Dec. 2, 6, & 7.
 2. We have determined most of the dates for First Communion 3 metro retreats and 4 rehearsals in each parish. The retreats will each include creating blessing cups for each child, practicing receiving communion, making bread, church tour, and a Bread & Juice Ceremony.
 3. Rosario has translated a letter to First Reconciliation Latino families this month.
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4. Rosario has helped make several phone calls to Latino families about sacramental prep questions or issues.
 5. Rosario also provided a translation of the worship aid for First Reconciliation.
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