

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team March 2015

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. Our catechumen from the fall series attended the Rite of Election with Bishop Jackels Feb. 21. We will begin the Inquiry Period with two new catechumens on March 4.
2. The Rite of Christian Reception which is meeting on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish will conclude on March 15. The Spring RCRA series will begin on March 31 and meet on Tuesday evenings at St. Edward Parish.
3. 7 families attended the Baptism class in February. The next Baptism preparation class is March 9 at St. Edward.

B. Evangelization

1. The next Witness Hour is March 23 at Blessed Sacrament.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. A total of 143 people attended the Winter at the Cellar enrichment series in January and February.
 2. 6 people are enrolled in the "Priest, Prophet, King" lenten video series which is meeting on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.
 3. 3 people are attending the "Bridges to Contemplative Living" faith-sharing group which is meeting on Sunday evenings at Covenant Medical Center.
 4. 14 women and 6 men are enrolled in the prayer and faith-sharing groups which are meeting on Saturday mornings at Sacred Heart.
 5. "Pray All-Ways," our Lenten Enrichment series for adults and young adults begins on March 4 and meets on Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart. The four-week series will explore various kinds of prayer styles and forms.
 6. Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan from Creighton University will be the next speaker in our Catholic Speakers Series. She will discuss the Second Vatican Council's historic Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World on Thursday, March 12, at St. Edward Parish.
 7. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation is scheduled for Sunday, March 22 at St. Edward Parish.
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8. We have signed a contract with Star Destinations for a bus trip to see Pope Francis when he visits Philadelphia in September. We have reserved two coaches which will accommodate 100 people. The trip will leave Waterloo Sept. 24 and return Sept. 28.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. Our Lenten mini-retreat, "A Retreat with Pope Francis," will be held on Sunday, March 15, at American Martyrs Retreat House.
2. Our Lenten Online Retreat "The Way of the Lord" will begin on Sunday, March 15. This year's seven-day online retreat features reflections by the late John Kavanaugh SJ.

E. Social Justice and Interfaith

1. 17 people are registered for the Social Justice Lenten Retreat "Observing Lent in a Time of Permanent War" Feb. 28 at Sacred Heart. The retreat is co-hosted by the Cedar Valley Catholic Social Justice Network, St. Francis Catholic Worker, and the Cedar Falls Mennonite Church's Center for Peace and Justice and will be conducted by Brian Terrell.

F. Administration

1. Total reach on our Facebook page for Feb. 1-26 was 3290 (daily average 127; range 67/337). Daily averages and range for specific features on the Facebook page: Daily Prayer 62 (25/119); Daily Reading 34 (22/61); Daily Examen 30 (15/40); Daily Inspiration 35 (21/65); Trending Today 32 (12/90); Daily Lenten Thought 26 (15/35); Saturday Sabbath 26 (19/42).
2. Details and live links for this report are available online at: waterloocatholics.org/afreport.htm

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegele

Intergenerational Hispanic Teaching Mass - Sunday, March 1, will be our spring intergenerational event. We picked one theme for the year for our intergenerational events and decided to do teaching Masses. In the fall we offered it in English and for this spring it will be in Spanish during the Hispanic 12 pm Mass at Queen of Peace. Msgr. James Miller will teach and preside and will offer confessions in Spanish after. There will also be a meal and fellowship to follow.

YAP (Young Adult People) - YAP was at 220 East in Waterloo on February 19. Discussion topics included living Lent and choosing Catholic godparents for children. The group enjoyed meeting at 220 East and will meet there on March 19. *4 women attended*

Get to Know Your Neighbors - On February 8, we attended the 10 am service with the Unitarian Universalists in Cedar Falls as well as a 45 minute adult formation session following the service. The experience was incredible and sparked awesome conversation about "crossing boundaries," objective truth, relativism, creating a welcoming environment etc. We also recognized that we are witnesses when we visit these other communities and that alone can bear much fruit. Our next event is Sunday, March 8 at Kimball Avenue United Methodist Church. *6 young adults attended*

Monthly Movie Nights with Fr. Bullock - Every 4th Friday of the month there will be a movie night with Fr. Bullock. Our next movie night is *The Quiet Man* on Friday, February 27 at the Law Court Theater at Waterloo Center for the Arts.

220 East - Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation is renting 220 East, a building on 4th street in the heart of downtown Waterloo for two months to use for Lenten programming. We are praying about if it fits in our mission to rent the space long term. KCRG picked up the story on Ash Wednesday and feedback thus far has been very positive. It is definitely a fun environment for adult small groups to gather.

Lenten Small Groups - Four small faith sharing groups for young adults have started to meet the first week of Lent.

Open to all Young Adults (18-39)

- 1) Scripture: Connection to the Cross, Year B Sunday Readings - Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm @ 220 East
Facilitator: Jenna Adams (Sacred Heart) *7 young adults have committed to this group*
 - 2) Theology of the Body - Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm @ 220 East
Facilitator: Lauren Schmitt (Sacred Heart) *4 young adults have committed to this group*
 - 3) The Temperament God Gave You - Mondays, 8-9 pm @ 220 East
Facilitator: Kelsey Kaufman (St. Patrick) *5 young adults have committed to this group*
 - 4) Family Matters: Mission to Love - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm @ S Edward
Facilitator: Mike & Misty Holmes (St. Edward) *10 young adults (couples) have committed to this group*
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Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - We continue to work on building subscribers to Flocknote. (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *73 young adults have subscribed*
- Facebook - (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) *111 young adults have liked the page.*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Winter at the Cellar - Feb 2 & 9 (AFF)
- Taize Prayer - February 22 (AFF & First Baptist)
- Joshua Winters - St. Stephen the Witness Campus Ministry - meet monthly to discuss Evangelical Catholic's approach as well as to streamline the process of graduates moving into young adult ministry from campus ministry.

Promoting:

- Social Justice Lenten Retreat - February 28 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Lenten Enrichment for Adults & Adult Small Group Opportunities (AFF)
- Hispanic Teaching Mass (WCFF)
- Holy Hour for Vocations (DIOCORE)
- Taize Prayer - March 22 (AFF & Sacred Heart)
- Catholic Witness Hour - March 23 (AFF & Blessed Sacrament)

In process:

- Catholicism 101 - scheduled April 12 @ 220 East
- Adoration Hour
- Evangelical Catholic
- Parent Faithtext subscription
- Men's Bible Study - will target the men who played flag football
- Community Meal at the Catholic Worker
- Theology Boot Camp

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
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Religious Education
Wednesday Evening RE

Currently at:

165 registered children, 113 families

Parish specific (based on family registration)

St. Edward 16 families, Blessed Sacrament 19 families

Sacred Heart 12 families, QOP 66 families (Anglo 11
Spanish 55)

Catechists: 15

Sunday RE

As noted in February report, the original projection date for mailing surveys to non-registered families was delayed due to PDS inability to produce this specific data at the time. Becky McElroy reported the problem and we are currently able to obtain data necessary for mailing. Mailing will go out first week of March.

Survey notice placed in Faith Formation Newsletters Jan & March, emailed to each RE family in Jan., followed by distribution of paper copies.

Currently: Total Surveys completed: 27

General response to Sunday RE option: favorable

Catechist Formation:

Weekly Catechist Formation focused on Family, developed by the Archdioceses Faith Formation Sessions developed by the Office of Family Life.

Protection of Children

I will be completing the Annual Protection of God's Children Count Form for the Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation. Faith Formation leaders must demonstrate completion of yearly standards and directives set forth by the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This includes 5 News Notes distributed to parents and class time allowed for children in grades k-9 to participate in a pre-determined lesson on the protection of children.

DIOCORE In-service:

Wednesday March 4th Holy Hour for Vocations with Archbishop Jackels and Fr. Schatz. Ralph Davis, a seminarian assigned to Blessed Sacrament will be a featured speaker. He will speak to his lived experience of discernment.

March 4th St. Edward Church 6:30 -7:30pm Open to all!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

CLOW continues at all parishes. There is no change at this time.

Blessed Sacrament weekly 10:30 Sunday Mass avg. 10 children.

QOP 2nd & 4th Sunday Noon Mass Spanish average 55 children

St. Ed's 1 Sunday 9:00am 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday 11:00 Mass avg. 15

Sacred Heart 2nd & 4th Sunday 10:45 Mass average 15 children

Continue with the administrative duties such as ordering, creating the children's leaflets which I distribute to all parishes. I have subbed once this month.

Vacation Bible School

Parent Core Team will meet Thursday March 5th 6:30pm. This body will be the decision making team for VBS. Projected dates for VBS July 13th - 17th.

Religion Curriculum

Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation programs k-8 will adopt a new religion curriculum series Fall 2015. "Be My Disciples" published by RCL Benzinger.

George Barrett, a RCL representative, will meet with me on Wed. Feb. 25th to review the curriculum alignment to the newly released Arch religion curriculum standards. I am attending the Archdioceses Religion Curriculum Meeting on March 9th.

CVCS

To continue the effort of supporting the CVCS schools grades k-8, it was decided I would create and provide supplies for a Lenten Reconciliation Service. Each school would hold responsibility for the logistics and leading the service on the scheduled day.

Professional Development

DIOCORE book "Redeeming Administration"

Excel Class registered 3/10 & 3/12

James Fowler "Stages of Faith" book

High School Youth
Ministry/Middle School Youth
Ministry/CORE
Annie Zeets

High School

Feb. 4th: Bible Study

Feb. 8th: Battle of the Sexes. Guys vs. Girls in this battle of knowledge and skill. 24 students participated - 12 guys, 12 girls. The GUYS won the battle and will be treated to a guys night out sometime after Lent!

Feb. 15th: Youth Night: What is love? This was for upperclassmen only. 15 students attended. We talked a lot about love being a verb and how we put love into action, especially during the season of lent. Students talked about the things they like about themselves and how we need to love ourselves before we can give that love to others. We also talked about God's love for us and how we can grow more in that relationship.

Feb. 22nd: Youth Night: Lent: Becoming better disciples. Students gathered to set some goals for Lent. We talked about how we can be "Lenten" people all the time. Students also planned and led a short prayer service.

Coming Up:

March 1: Lenten service night at Blessed Sacrament:

March 4: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 11: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 14: Karaoke party @ 220 East

March 15: Movie Night

March 22: Taize prayer at Sacred Heart

March 24: WAYM

March 25: Bible Study, CORE & Upperclassmen Faith Sharing

March 29: Agnus Dei performance at Sacred Heart

Middle School

Feb. 16th: The first meeting of the middle school parent advisory committee was held in the youth office at Columbus. We talked about the vision of youth ministry and how we can get the middle school students fired up again about youth ministry. 7 parents attended and there was at last one from each parish. The group is committed to helping plan and lead youth ministry activities and will meet quarterly.

Coming Up:

March 7: Movie Night

March 17: St. Patrick's Day Mini-Retreat

CORE

Feb. 4: Fr. Ambrosy came and did a teaching mass with the CORE students in the chapel at CHS. Students then had to opportunity to go to reconciliation. Thank you to Fr. Bullock for coming and hearing confessions along with Fr. Ambrosy. Thank you to catechist Brenton Kuchera for organizing this evening for the students.

Feb. 11: CORE students were given the opportunity to attend the Hunger Outreach event at Blessed Sacrament. 10 CORE students attended (the others were required to attend their regular classes at CHS). Students really enjoyed the evening.

During Lent, students will be planning and leading Stations of the Cross during their classes.

Our last night of the class for this school year is March 25th.

NCYC: National Catholic Youth Conference

The trip is now full. 73 students and 12 adults are registered for a total of 85! I am working on the "stockholder" fundraising program and hope to have it ready to present to pastors the first week of March. NCYC "boot camp" classes for students attending the conference will begin in April.

Professional Development

I am participating in a series of NCYC webinars offered by the Archdiocese. The webinars are designed for group leaders to get information about the trip, find new fundraising ideas, learn how to make this trip more than a trip and to ask questions. These webinars happen the second Friday of each month.

Burmese Ministry
Pam Johnston

Burmese Ministry

There will be 6 Burmese children in 2nd grade celebrating First Communion on April 19th.

There are 3 students in grades 3, 5, & 6 who attend public schools who will be celebrating First Communion - this date has not yet been determined.

I am working with 3 students in Sacred Heart School in grades 4 & 5 who will celebrate First Reconciliation at the school communal penance service on March 26th. The date for their First Communion has yet to be determined.

There are 3 young adult Burmese participating in RCIA classes on Sundays following 10:45Mass. All three are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.

Sacramental Preparation
Dave Cushing/Pam Johnston

Sacramental Preparation

Dave and I have finalized plans for the First Communion retreats on March 2, 7, & 8th. Parents and children will participate in several activities: a tour of the church, receiving communion under both forms, creating a ceramic keepsake Blessing Cup, watching a DVD called "Grandma's Bread" with discussion, and a Bread & Juice Ceremony at which time they will receive books called "The Blessing Cup". This book contains family rituals/meal prayers that are used with the Blessing Cups that they are making.

Parents have sign up for the date & Mass time at which their child will celebrate First Communion. Dave and I will assist or lead the rehearsals for these Masses. We have engaged Cole photography to take group and individual photos at each parish.

We will send the names of the children celebrating First Communion to each parish so that they can include this in their parish bulletins and/or publish it on their parish website.

Children's Initiation

Students participating in his program will celebrate First Reconciliation at the religious ed Lenten communal penance service on March 11th.

After discussing celebration possibilities with Deacon Rigoberto Real at Queen of Peace, we have decided to celebrate First Communion with the 29 Latino students in grades 3-8 on Sunday, April 26th at the 12:00noon Mass.

Confirmation
Annie Zeets

Confirmation Update:

RETREAT

The retreat was Saturday, Jan. 31st. Catholic musician and speaker John Angotti was with us for the day. He gave several talks that included lots of singing. CHS sophomore Olivia Armstrong gave a powerful witness talk about God's presence in her life. Olivia has cerebral palsy and walks with the assistance of crutches. She believes God put us here to make an impact. She challenged the juniors to figure out how they will make their impact. Her goal is to talk across the stage at graduation without her crutches. The student leadership team gave a talk about the importance of prayer in their lives. We had a lovely opening prayer service based on the Emmaus story that used the team and Angotti. The team did a skit called "Light of the World" based on the 7 deadly sins. It was a lead in to the examination of conscience for reconciliation. Thank you to the 4 pastors and Msgr. Simington and Msgr. Steimel for coming and listening to confessions. We did an activity called "Cross the Line" where students were presented with statements like "cross the line if you have ever felt judged by your friends" If they felt the statement applied to them, they took a step forward. It's a great activity where students may find out stuff about each other they never knew. It also shows that we are rarely alone. Others have felt the same way about things. We ended the day with another great prayer service that talked about letting go of the things binding us. This was led by the team with the help of John Angotti.

TEAM

There were 36 students on the retreat team.

18 seniors and 18 college students.

There were 5 public school seniors and 13 CHS seniors.

Colleges represented: UNI, ISU, Loras, Hawkeye, Mt. Mercy

RETREAT EVALUATIONS

82 students completed the retreat evaluation

They were asked to rate the following:

Group Leaders, Food, Witness Talks, John Angotti, Other Activities.

5 being excellent, 4, very good, 3 good, 2 ok, 1 didn't like.

The response was very positive!

All 5's for Angotti - even a few 6's and one 10.

The food was probably the lowest rated - but that is a matter of preference. Still mostly 5's, some 4's and a few 3's.

The talks were also rated high - most commented on the power of Olivia's talk. All 5's and 4's.

Group Leaders were also highly rated. We had one group where the leaders were not the strongest (we knew this going in) but the candidates still said they tried and had some nice things to say about them and gave them 3's. All other groups got 5's and 4's. Other activities were also rated fairly high. Other activities includes ice breakers, skits, anything else that gets the kids up and moving. Mostly 5's and 4's - a few 3's in there but not all kids like those big group game activities. It pushes them out of their comfort zone (which is kind of the point!)

Students were also asked if they would be interested in helping with the retreat next year. 47 students responded yes! They were asked to provide their email addresses and cell phone numbers so I can contact them for next year.

CONFIRMATION MASS

Despite the nasty weather, confirmation 2015 happened and things went well.

Archbishop Jackels arrived in town on Saturday, so he was in favor of going forward with the mass.

Several candidates had proxy's step in for their sponsors who could not be there.

The Archbishop gave a wonderful homily, telling students that confirmation was like getting a faith "booster shot". That they already have the gifts of the Holy Spirit in them, now it's time to use them.

John Angotti provided mass music. I am thankful for his gift of song that adds so much to our celebration.

Thank you to all who stayed to help tear down chairs and clean up, especially my husband and kids.
