



MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team

October 2014

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

Live links online at waterloocatholics.org/afreport.htm

A. Initiation

1. Four people are enrolled in the fall Rite of Christian Reception which began on Thursday, Sept. 25 (6:30-8:00p) and will be meeting at Blessed Sacrament.
2. As of this date, two people are enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation which begins on Wednesday, Oct. 1 (6:30-8:00p) and will be meeting at St. Edward Parish.
3. 4 families attended the Baptism class in September. The next Baptism preparation class is Oct. 13 at Blessed Sacrament.

B. Evangelization

1. 60 people attended the first Catholic Witness Hour of the year was Monday, Sept. 29 at St. Edward Parish; the next Witness Hour is Nov. 24 at Sacred Heart. Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilbertville has joined as a host parish and will host the Witness Hour next July.
2. The Singles Group meets Oct. 11 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant. The singles have a variety of other activities scheduled for the fall.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. We have reached the half-way point in registrations for the Matthew Kelly event Nov. 22 at St. Edward Parish. Over 300 people are now registered. Members of the coordinating committee will be passing out flyers at weekend Masses during October.
2. Nine people are enrolled in the Bible Timeline video series which meets on Monday evenings at Sacred Heart.
3. I will be providing daily email messages from the Iowa Bishops' statement "Faithful Citizenship for Iowa Catholics" during the week of Oct. 6-11.
4. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Sharing Your Faith is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18, at St. Edward.
5. The first regular meeting of First Tuesday meets on Oct. 7 at Covenant Medical Center. We will be using chapters from Gary Chapman's book "Things I Wish I Had Known Before We Got Married" for this year's discussions.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare will continue to co-sponsor our Care-Givers Retreats this year. We are finalizing the schedule for a retreat in November and April.
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E. Social Justice and Interfaith

1. The Catholic Social Justice Network and Waterloo Catholic Worker will co-host a presentation by two representatives of Colombian flower workers on Oct. 24 at Queen of Peace Parish. The Hispanic community will serve a free supper at 6:00p; the presentation and discussion will follow.
2. The parishes and First Baptist Church in Waterloo will co-host an introduction to Taize Prayer on Sunday, Oct. 26 at First Baptist Church in Waterloo.

Young Adult Ministry Ellen Voegele

Cards & Care Packages for College Students & Young Adults – The first round of cards & care packages will be mailed on October 1. The theme was Halloween/All Saints Day. Pre-K & 5th grade students from Blessed Sacrament school wrote notes for the care packages and 2nd grade students from St. Edward School made Halloween decorations. They are AWESOME and we appreciate these students and teachers helping us out! Care packages also include an invite for students to connect with us on Flocknote and Facebook. *30 care packages will be mailed*

Men's Flag Football League – Games have started and are being played on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons. There are four teams that play against each other. Games will continue until October 25. *40 men attend*

Christ Our Life – Several young adults attended Christ Our Life in Des Moines on September 20-21. We hosted a lunch at Buzzard Billy's to help young adults continue to meet each other and to "break open" the conference. *At least 11 young adults attended the conference/6 attended the lunch*

E-team (Evangelization Team) - I have hand-picked a group of young adults that represent a variety of small communities of young adults to be part of an "evangelization team." This team acts as extensions of the young adult ministry office to reach out to young adults. I periodically electronically send them **easy, quick, and short** tasks or formation tips to help me connect with and engage the communities of young adults here. The tasks include inviting their friends to like our Facebook page, liking and commenting of posts so that they show up more in people's news feeds, handing out business cards to young adults that they see at Mass, etc. Formation tips include Sherry Weddell's five thresholds of conversion, quotes, and self-reflection questions on evangelization. *9 young adults are on the team*

YAP (Young Adult People) –YAP was just started by Jamie Rathjen & Renae Brandle and is a social group of women that gets together monthly to form a community and discuss different topics including tips and tricks about things each has tried that have been successful, whether it be in their faith lives, diets, medicine cabinets, etc. One could say it is Pinterest, but in person! The first YAP was on September 25 at Cup of

Joe in Cedar Falls. The conversation was deep and fruitful and centered on a wide variety of topics including the Christ Our Life conference, the sacrament of confession, birth control and Creighton fertility methods, birthing stories, how to discuss faith with Protestant friends that are genuinely try to “save” us etc. *4 women attended*

40 Days for Life – we are sponsoring a young adult hour of prayer on Mondays from 5-6 pm from September 29 – October 27 at Planned Parenthood in Cedar Falls for the 40 Days for Life Campaign. Come join us!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS –

- Flocknote – We continue to work on building subscribers to Flocknote (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults), a communications tool that allows each person to update their own contact information and to choose what information they want to receive and how.
- 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 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.
- Business Cards – I ordered and received business cards for young adult ministry for pastors and parish staffs to hand out to young adults that they meet with. These cards direct young adults to connect with us on Facebook and Flocknote.

IN PROCESS:

- Advent Retreat – mini-Advent retreat with our priests of the four Waterloo parishes that will feature all of the retreat classics - prayer, reflection, discussion, food, and fellowship.
- Men’s Bible Study
- Service at the Catholic Worker

**Children & Family
Catechesis**
Cathy Mills

- Currently 145 total children enrolled in the Wed. RE program.
 - 60 children from Hispanic-- adult non-English speaking households
 - I will be evaluating the compiled RE databases from the previous programs to determine households who may not have made the transition to the metro Wed. program. Alternative programming will be offered.
 - We will determine a “per parish” of enrolled
 - Oct 15th is Family Night / Taize Prayer
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- Oct. 22 DIACORE Catechist In-service
 - “Leading 21st Century Disciples to Jesus” Kevin Feyen / Joanne Pohland from the Archdioceses of Dubuque.

INTERGENERATIONAL

- FFAT determined 2 “Teaching Masses” as our Focus this year.
- Dates are Wed. Nov.19th hosted at St. Eds and March 1st Noon Mass QOP.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

- QOP 2nd & 4th Sunday Noon Mass beginning Oct 5th. 12 bilingual leaders
- Bl Sac weekly at Sunday 10:30 Mass beginning Oct. 5th
- SH 2nd & 4th Sunday 10:45 on going - St. Ed’s 1st & 3rd 9:00 Mass began Sunday Sept. 28th

CVCS PREK – 8TH

- I met with St. Eds & SH teachers to engage in conversation regarding relationships between Faith Formation and CVCS schools. I will be connecting with the BlsSac teachers the first week of October. Several teachers mentioned ideas for areas of support. FFAT will be discussing the approach.

PROGRAMMING

- Currently exploring two programs to discuss for the Metro area.
 - *Totus Tuus* program serves children grs. 1 – 6 & 7-12 in a weeklong class during the summer. The program is led by trained teams.
 - Parishes support the program by providing volunteers, housing, and hospitality/food.
 - FFAT in discussion
- Catechesis of the Good Shepard serves children age 3-12 in a “Montessori” format of learning. I have met with one trained leader in the Metro area who currently runs a small program for her family. I am beginning conversation with the key contacts in Des Moines. FFAT in discussion regarding this program.

PARISH LIBRARIES

- I met with Ellen Voegele regarding the St Ed’s parish library. I am attempting to connect with the high school volunteer that currently coordinates this area.
- Nancy Rigel and I discussed the history of the SH Parish Library and how SH would like to see it utilized.
- I will visit each site 2x a month and sustain what currently exists and approach growth opportunities where I can.

Annie Zeets

- **Sept. 7th:** Bowling at Cadillac. 17 kids bowled for 2 hours. Thanks to Cadillac Lanes for the great rate of \$6/bowler!
- **Sept. 14th:** Confirmation and CORE meeting with Hispanic families at Queen of Peace. Many thanks to our Hispanic Minister, Rosario, for her help with this meeting and for taking care of translating all our registration materials. She is amazing!
- **Sept. 21st & 24th:** Confirmation information meeting for juniors and their parents. The meeting consisted of gathering registrations, consent forms and the confirmation fee. Students received their handbooks and learned more about the new metro confirmation program. All sessions will be held at Queen of Peace. Each will be offered at two different times, Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. Students only need to attend ONE meeting time per session.
- **Sept. 21st:** Tough Topic night: 32 students attended this wonderful evening of discussion around a campfire at CHS. Students submitted topics ahead of time for me to prescreen. Topics were thrown in a jar and drawn out for discussion. We managed to discuss 3 topics, gossip, the crisis in the Middle East and dating/relationships. The students really opened up and shared and listened to one another. They were also very interested in what the YouCat had to say about issues.
- **Sept. 27th:** Service Saturday: 7 students went to the Hospitality House to do yard work and deep clean the house. Thank you to volunteers at the house for providing lunch for our group.

ONGOING:

- **SWAG:** Saved With Amazing Grace scripture study group meets each Wednesday at 5:30. We discuss the readings for the upcoming weekend and discuss them. This is a student led group. At the end of each week, students are given a challenge. Example: find 5 minutes each day this week to empty your mind and pray.

COMING UP:

- **Oct. 1st:** CORE begins. Youth Ministry will spend 30 minutes with each grade level of students on Wednesday evenings.
 - **Oct. 5th & 8th:** Confirmation Class #1.
 - **Oct. 5th:** Movie Night: "God's Not Dead"
 - **Oct. 12th:** Topic Night: "Who Am I"
 - **Oct. 19th:** Game Night
 - **Oct. 25th:** Service Saturday
 - **Oct. 25th:** Tenth Avenue North concert at the Gallagher Bluedorn. \$20 gets you a ticket and preshow pizza. Hoping to set up a meet and greet with the band.
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- **Nov. 2nd**: Archdiocesan Youth Rally!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- I will be attending one of the FFL/CSA days of renewal (not sure which date yet)
 - I will be attending the Pastoral Study Day on Oct. 24th
 - I will be attending the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers (NCCYM) in San Antonio in December.
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Middle School Youth Ministry
Jenny Schmitz

YOUTH NIGHTS

- September 10th: Held a Meet and Greet Ice Cream Social. 12 Kids attended.
- September 26th: Held a Movie Night: “Over the Hedge”, with a discussion on what really matters in life afterwards. 20 kids attended.

UP COMING

- October 4th: Topic Night: Mary and the Rosary at Blessed Sacrament Parish Center
- October 17th – Haunted Hayride.
- November 1st – Middle School Youth Rally, St. Mary’s in Waverly, 5:00-8:0 PM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Attended the Christ Our Life Conference in Des Moines, IA on September 20th-21st.
 - I will be attending one of the FFL/CSA days of renewal (not sure which one yet)
 - I will be attending the Pastoral Study Day on October 24th.
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Burmese Ministry
Pam Johnston

- I am currently working with three young adult Burmese couples preparing for marriage.
 - I will be setting class dates/times with Julie Niemeyer and the 2nd grade teacher to prepare Burmese children for First Reconciliation. Classes will begin the week of Oct. 6th.
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Sacramental Preparation
Dave Cushing &
Pam Johnston

- We have met with all the 1st & 2nd grade Catholic school teachers to share information regarding sacramental preparation and the joint policy of CVCS & the Waterloo Faith Formation Commission for sacraments.
 - Information Meetings for parents whose children will be preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this fall were held on Sept. 28 at Queen of Peace Parish and on Sept. 29 and 30 at Blessed Sacrament.
 - Celebration of First Reconciliation is scheduled for Dec. 2 at St. Edward, Dec.
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6 at Sacred Heart and Dec. 7 at Blessed Sacrament.

- Meetings for parents of children in first grade will be held on Oct. 7 at St. Edward and Oct. 8 at Sacred Heart.
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