

Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation Commission
2016-2017 Goals and Strategies

1) Continue to develop and grow in the Waterloo Faith Formation Commission's ability to guide and promote effective faith formation in all ten areas of catechesis.

A. Current Efforts

1. Facilitate effective communication, accountability and understanding between the WCFFC and Pastoral Councils.
2. Advocate and explain to the parishes the wisdom of a collaborative vision for faith formation which expresses the faith community's awareness and sensitivity to the changing needs and conditions of adults and families in the Church today.
3. Support faith formation by attending and promoting faith formation opportunities.
4. Invite the Faith Formation Administration Team to review their job descriptions and make recommendations to WCFFC regarding future administrative roles and staffing configuration.
5. Remain open to participation by St. Patrick Parish in collaborative faith formation.

B. Short-Range Development

1. Clarify the relationship, roles and mutual expectations between the Faith Formation Administrative Team, the Faith Formation Commission and the pastors.
2. Assist the Faith Formation Team in identifying resources and addressing the specific formation needs of the individual parishes.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Develop a more intentional process to identify, recruit, and prepare potential Commission members.
2. Evaluate the process by which the Commission recruits, nurtures and supports faith formation leaders.

D. Long-Range Development

1. Explore ways to improve communication and coordination between the Faith Formation Commission and the Cedar Valley Catholic Schools Board.
2. Explore and address the need for new or renovated parish facilities which are accessible and appropriate for adult and young adult formation.

2) Continue to place emphasis on life-long faith formation and evangelization for adults and young adults.

A. Current Efforts

1. Promote and coordinate a consistent message about the parishes' commitment to life-long faith formation which expresses the faith community's awareness and sensitivity to the changing needs and conditions of adults and families in the Church today.
 - social and public media
 - monthly reports
 - annual meeting with Pastoral Councils
 - participation in WPL.
2. Plan and format faith formation, enrichment and spiritual growth opportunities based on stages of faith and thresholds of conversion using various formats and venues.
 - RCIA, RCRA
 - preparation for Adult Confirmation
 - Cellar programs

- Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living
- online prayer and retreat opportunities
- Get to Know Your Neighbor's monthly church visits
- Taize Prayer
- Small faith-sharing groups and bible studies
- New Catholics Small Groups
- "Big Church" events - conferences, pilgrimages, Midwest March for Life, etc.
- 3. Use COR at 220 East as a venue for evangelization and outreach to the unchurched and inactive Catholics.
 - Catholic 101 and Catholic Q&A programs
 - Discussion opportunities for inactive Catholics and gay Catholics
 - small faith-sharing groups, film discussions, etc.
 - engagement with the community through programs, receptions, concerts, etc.
- 4. Plan and implement opportunities connected to the Year of Mercy
 - weekly Mercy Challenge
 - pilgrimage trips to Dubuque
 - Lenten Mercy Mission

B. Short-Range Development

1. Discern with pastors and pastoral leaders how the Faith Formation Team can assist parishes in addressing unique or specific formation needs in individual parishes.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Discern with pastors and pastoral leaders opportunities for a shared renewal experiences for adults and young adults (such as Christ Renews His Parish, CEW, etc.)
2. Discern with pastors and pastoral leaders causes of and means for addressing inactive and alienated Catholics.
3. Develop opportunities to create a wider awareness of how Sunday worship can foster continued spiritual growth and a deepening faith appropriate among adult and young adult lifestyles.

D. Long Range Development

1. Explore and address the need for new or renovated parish facilities which are accessible and appropriate for adult and young adult formation.

3) Provide religious education opportunities for children and families which address the changing needs of families.

A. Current Efforts

1. Provide a wide range of options for children and youth not enrolled in a Catholic school.
 - Wednesday RE, Sunday RE, Summer RE
 - Wednesday CORE, Summer CORE
 - home study
2. Provide a wide range of options for children and youth preparing to celebrate sacraments
 - immediate preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation
 - Children's Initiation
3. Provide religious education and formation opportunities for parents connected to their children's celebration of the sacraments
 - parent preparation and participation in children's sacraments (Baptism, Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation)
4. Advocate for education and formation opportunities which express the parishes' sensitivity to the changing needs and conditions of adults and families in the Church today.

B. Short Range Development

1. Implement Totus Tuus in summer of 2016
2. Explore the need for an expanded Children's Initiation
3. Explore new opportunities and options for religious education of children and youth, including intergenerational formation, home catechesis, catechesis for families with special needs, revisions in CORE.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Develop and implement programs which affirm and support parents in their roles as "First Heralds of Faith" and reflect the shared responsibility of parents and parish for the faith formation of children.
2. Evaluate opportunities for sacrament preparation to insure that they reflect the shared responsibility of parents and parish for the faith formation of children, and consider new opportunities such as the coaching model and expanded Children's Initiation.
3. Discern with pastors and pastoral leaders causes of and ways of addressing families who are not able or do not choose to participate in the religious formation and education of their children.

D. Long-Range Development

1. Explore with pastors and pastoral leaders how marriage preparation could impact the ability of parents to fulfill their role as "First Heralds of Faith"
2. Explore with pastors and pastoral leaders the potential for coordinated or shared marriage preparation program in the parishes.

4) Maintain and expand opportunities for faith formation for middle school and high school youth.

A. Current Efforts:

1. Plan and promote youth events to the parishes and CVCS schools.
This is done through social media, email communication, school newsletters, bulletin announcements and the faith formation website, monthly reports, attending school events and talking to students, and attending WPL and parish staff meetings
2. Offer a variety of experiences for youth to be more engaged in their faith.
 - Sunday night high school youth ministry
 - Youth ministry component to CORE program
 - Several middle school offerings each month, one of which is service based
 - High school bible study
 - NCYC, service trips, archdiocesan conferences, retreat opportunities
 - CORE, summer CORE, Totus Tuus

B. Short Term Development

1. Work with pastors and parish staff to understand more fully the vision of how they see youth ministry working in their parish communities.
2. Work to find new ways of engaging public school students in parish life and youth events.
3. Visit 6-8 grade RE classrooms
4. Look into visiting public high schools
5. Recruit and develop a young adult/adult team of volunteers to work with youth.
6. Look for more service experiences within our local community, as well as different types of service trips.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Research ways to get parents engaged in the faith lives of teens.
2. Family service experiences, family retreats, youth ministry parent nights.
3. Intergeneration nights
4. Develop a peer ministry program that encourages youth to become evangelists and more involved

in parish life.

5. Y Disciple

6. Combined middle school and high school events several times each year

D. Long Range Development

1. Find ways to expand the involvement of Hispanic and Burmese youth in all areas of faith formation
2. Set regular times to meet with Hispanic and Burmese liasons to create a vision of how to engage other cultures in faith formation.
3. Research ways to restructure and redevelop that CORE program
4. Visit other parishes who use programs such as Lifeteen

5) Ensure that Catholics grow in their ability to act in response to social, political, and economic needs.

A. Current Efforts

1. Sponsor social justice speakers and retreats
2. Sponsor Cedar Valley Catholic Social Action E-Network which provides access to and promotes learning and action opportunities
 - annual Iowa Social Action Conference
 - March for Life
 - educational efforts of the Iowa Catholic Conference
 - joint JustMatters programs with local churches
3. Incorporate social justice issues and principles in social media such as “Trending Today” on Waterloo Catholics facebook page and in Cellar enrichment programs

B. Short-Range Development

1. Assess how well Catholic Social Teaching is integrated into faith formation opportunities at every level.
2. Cooperate with local churches in sponsoring JustFaith and other formation program for adults and young adults.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Explore with parish social justice committees and Catholic Charities the opportunity for coordinating local social action and education similar to what has been developed in Cedar Rapids.

D. Long-Range Development

1. Develop and promote opportunities for immersion experiences for adults, young adults and/or families.

6) Encourage parish leaders, pastoral councils, and parishioners to recognize the central role which liturgy plays in the formation and education of the Catholic community.

A. Current Efforts

B. Short-Term Development

1. Explore with pastors and pastoral leaders the interdependent relationship between effective liturgy and effective faith formation and evangelization.

C. Intermediate Development

1. Discern with pastors and pastoral leaders how the Faith Formation Team can assist parishes in responding to the need for more diverse, engaging and spiritually satisfying liturgies and fuller participation.

D. Long-Term Development

1. Collaborate with pastors and pastoral leaders in developing and implementing opportunities which

will enhance appreciation for, and participation in, the liturgy through such means as exchanging pastors and music groups, coordinating weekly themes and homilies, retreats and spiritual renewal experiences, “bridge” or para-liturgical experiences.

7) Expand the use of communication technology in the promotion and delivery of faith formation.

A. Current Efforts

1. Waterloo Catholics website (volunteer maintenance)
2. Facebook Pages
 - adult formation
 - young adult
 - youth ministry
 - COR
3. Email messaging
 - adult formation
4. FlockNotes Email/Text messaging
 - Flock Notes/young adult formation
 - youth ministry
5. Online spiritual development opportunities for adults and young adults

B. Short-Term Development

1. Flock Notes Email/Text messaging for Religious Education
2. Develop reliable family data base (PDF)
3. Develop online registration and payment capability
4. Develop online support for home-schooling

C. Intermediate Development

1. Develop online support for families with special needs
2. Envision online learning opportunities for adults and young adults
3. Envision role/job description for communications technology staff person

D. Long-Term Development

1. Initiate online learning opportunities for adults and young adults
2. Recruit and hire communications technology staff person

Goals Approved 12.08.2015.

Strategies 2-6 Approved. 01.12.2016.

Strategy 7 Approved 02.09.2016

Strategy 1 Approved 04.12.2016

This document is available online at
<http://waterloocatholics.org/catechetical-plan>