

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
January 2016

Adult Faith Formation
Dave Cushing

A. Initiation

1. An information meeting for people interested in joining the Church will be held on Jan. 10 at Queen of Peace Parish.

2. The winter RCRA series begins on January 17 and will meet on Sunday mornings at Queen of Peace Parish. Six people have expressed an interest in participating in the winter series.

> Learn more about RCRA here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/rcra>

> Read cumulative evaluations from RCRA here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-5HDVHJR2/>

3. 9 families attended the Baptism class in December. The next Baptism preparation class is Jan. 9 at Queen of Peace Parish.

> Learn more about baptism preparation here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/baptizing-infants-and-children>

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JKRWVJSY/>

B. Evangelization

1. The next Catholic Witness Hour is scheduled for Jan. 25, but we do not have a hosting parish as of this writing.

> Learn more about the Witness Hour here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

2. The next Friends in Faith Singles Mingle is Jan. 9 at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant.

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. 6 people attended the Busy Catholic's Guide to Reconciliation Dec. 13 at Blessed Sacrament Parish. The Busy Catholic's Guide to Lent will be Feb. 4 at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about our Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living Series here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>

2. Final dates are pending for our 2016 Winter at the Cellar series which will be held in January and February. Charlotte Wells from UNI will discuss the history of Jubilee Years in both the Jewish and Christian traditions; Dr. David Cochran will discuss what Catholic values and principles might contribute to current public discourse; Dr. Jacob Kohlhaas will discuss the need for a Catholic theology of parenting. I am still looking for a presenter who can address the current public attitude toward Muslim refugees against the background of historical American opposition to Catholic, Jewish and Asian immigrants.

> Learn more about our Cellar enrichment programs here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/winter-at-the-cellar>

3. The next Critical Choices Workshop is scheduled for Feb. 24 at St. Edward Parish.

> Learn more about Critical Choices Workshops here:

<http://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>

4. Tom Schoellen will facilitate a video/discussion series on the Psalms during Lent.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. 36 people participated in the online Advent Retreat Dec. 7-13.

2. Total reach for the daily Advent Suggestions on the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page was 345 (a daily average of 14).

3. We will offer a nine-day personal novena, "Practicing Mercy" Jan. 18-26 which will be delivered daily by email to participants. The novena will include a scripture reading, short reflection and prayer for each day.

4. Bill Mulcahey, a retired scripture professor from Mount Mercy University, will facilitate the Lenten Mini-Retreat Feb. 14 at American Martyrs Retreat House. Bill will present an overview of the Gospel of Luke, with an emphasis on Luke's passion narrative.

5. Queen of Peace Parish will host a city-wide Lenten Mercy Mission Feb. 28-Mar. 1. The mission will be conducted by Fr. Dennis Koopman OFM.

6. Ellen and I are tentatively planning four pilgrimages to the Cathedral in Dubuque during the Year of Mercy. They would originate in each of the four parishes, but be open to anyone who wishes to participate.

E. Interfaith/Social Justice

1. The parishes will sponsor a bus to the Midwest March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 16 in Des Moines.

> Learn more about the Midwest March for Life here:

<http://www.iowartl.org/midwest-march-for-life/>

> Register for the bus trip here:

<https://waterloocatholics.wufoo.com/forms/march-for-life-bus-trip/>

F. Administration

1. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in December was 3,878 (the daily average was 125; the daily range was 54/271). Daily averages for various features on the webpage was as follows: Daily Prayer 41; Daily Reading 22; Daily Examen 40; Saints Feasts 135; Saturday Sabbath 39; Sunday Readings 28; Sunday Gospel Commentary 45; Trending Today 206; Advent Suggestions 14.

Young Adult Ministry
Ellen Voegele

COR at 220 East

Social Media:

We are on facebook! If you are reading this, please like our page and invite everyone you know in the Cedar Valley, any age, Catholic or not, to also like our page. Small way you can evangelize right here. We need your help to spread the word! Search "COR at 220 East" or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/COR-at-220-East-1024758740897176/>

Faith Formation Events:

Catholic Q&A - Thursday, December 3. - *0 people attended*

Next up: Thursday, January 7

Monthly Movie Night with Fr. Bullock

- Star Wars rescheduled was Friday, December 11. *18 people attended, 13 "off the street", 1 RCIA inquirer*
- It's a Wonderful Life was Friday, December 18. *7 people attended, 1 RCIA inquirer*

Next up: *The Kid Brother* on January 15

Catholicism 101 - Monday, December 21. Topic: What is Truth? Presenter: Fr. Scott Bullock

Next up: Sunday, January 17 Topic: The Sacred in Everyday Presenter: Annie Zeets

Caroling & Cookies - December 19, 5-9 pm. An amazing of evening with piano by Joseph Knappen, Agnus Dei caroled at local restaurants and bars and handed out invite cards, many hung out at COR for Christmas refreshments and board games. The crowd was diverse in age range and included children and young adults - *approximately 40 people attended, 5 "off the street"*

Get to Know Your Neighbors - Sunday, December 13, attended the 12 pm Chanukah party at Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Waterloo. *2 young adults attended.*

Next up: Sunday, January 10 - Trinity Episcopal in Waterloo.

Adult Confirmation - Bulletin announcements and publicity for adult confirmation as gone out. Sessions will be January 12 - February 2.

Young Adult Ministry Communications -

- Flocknote - (flocknote.com/cvyoungadults) *97 subscribers*
- Facebook - Young Adults (facebook.com/cvyoungadults) *179 likes*
- Facebook - COR - *70 likes*

Networking/Promoted Events:

- Community Meals - December 4, 11, 18
- Listening Session for Inactive Catholics - December 16 (AFF)
- Discussion for Gay & Lesbian Catholics - December 23 (AFF)
- Epic: Journey through Church History - September 13 - May (AFF)

Promoting:

- Advent Morning Prayer - November 30 - December 23 (AFF)

In process:

- COR preview & public open house
- COR Hospitality Minister Trainings
- Small Group Facilitator Trainings
- Columbus Art Show (COR)
- Praise & Worship group

Spiritual Growth & Professional Development:

- Spiritual Direction
 - WCFE Team Retreat on Mercy (Dec 4)
 - Preparing to teach a Young Adult Ministry 2 credit course at Notre Dame, January -27
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Children & Family Catechesis

Kelleryn Rauzi

Religious Education:

- 1st semester of Religious Education ended Dec. 16th for Wed. Night and Dec. 20th for Sunday RE
- Progress reports will be mailed home as soon as translation for Spanish speaking families is finished.
- Intergenerational Family Night was Dec. 16th
 - We had almost 200 people attend
 - We had families from all Religious Education programs (Sunday, Wednesday, and Summer) which was wonderful for all to get together.
 - At the great suggestion of a parent we fed the families pizza at the beginning of the night.
 - Families put together ornaments that signified God's mercy, made Christmas cards as a work of mercy for the area nursing homes, learned about St. Nicholas and had a

visit from him (Fr. Stecher). The stations were led by various catechists and team members

-We ended with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Fr. Bullock with a Scripture reading and brief reflection (translated by Deacon Rigo).

- I am continuing to learn how to work flocknote (a communication specifically designed for churches) in hopes to have it up and running sometime next semester for RE. Ellen already uses it with great success for Young Adult Ministry. Our hope is this tool will allow us to better communicate with parents and alleviate confusion especially with the Hispanic community.

Intergenerational Faith Formation Opportunities:

- Religious Education Family Night Dec. 16th
- Ongoing: Gospel reading and reflection led by Fr. Bullock on Wednesday evenings. Parents are encouraged to join us for this.
- Ongoing: Prayer led by Kelleryn at the end of every Sunday Religious Ed. session. Parents are encouraged to attend.
- December Family Newsletter went home with students. Included tips on how to celebrate Advent as a family, letter from Fr. Bullock regarding Advent, etc.

Totus Tuus:

- The Archdiocese recently informed me that we got our first option for Totus Tuus dates. So I am happy to inform everyone our dates for Totus Tuus of Summer 2016 will be the week of July 17th.
- Location TBD

CORE:

- CORE Registration mailings were sent at the beginning of December
- 2nd Semester CORE will begin Jan. 13th

Spiritual/Professional Growth:

- Spiritual Direction
- Mentoring with Ellen Voegele
- Enrolling in the Dayton Online Course: Introduction to Catechetics

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

Dec. 1, 15: Faith Sharing at CHS

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 22, 30: Bible study continues. We focus on the readings for the day. The numbers for this are growing and I am happy to report that several students who attended NCYC are now joining us. *On average, 8-12 students attend each week.*

Dec. 13: Several students attended Mary Poppins at the Oster Regent in CF. We went to Old Chicago for dinner after the show.

Dec. 19: We joined forces with the Hospitality House for a service project. We collected hats, mittens and scarves which we bundled to look like Christmas gifts. We then tied the gift bags to

trees in Lincoln Park and on E. 4th Street. I drove back downtown about 3 hours after we were done and all the bags had been taken. *6 students (3 high school, 3 middle school) helped with this cool project.*

Dec. 20: Advent week 4: Prayer and reflection on preparing our hearts for Jesus. I used the Advent Companion from Life Teen as a guide. *18 students attended.*

Dec. 27: Christmas party: We watched a movie, had pizza and appetizers from the OP, talked about our Christmas traditions and did a small gift exchange. *21 students attended, including 5 public school students.*

Coming Up:

Jan. 5: Faith sharing at CHS

Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27: Bible study

Jan. 10: Stress Relief Night

Jan. 13: 2nd semester CORE begins

Jan. 21-24: CHS Kairos retreat (I am on the adult team)

Jan. 26: NCYC adult chaperone appreciate dinner in Independence (hosted by Archdiocese)

Jan. 31: Tough Topics

Middle School

Dec. 20: Service afternoon: Made tie blankets for Hospitality House: *6 students attended*

Dec. 30: Girls Night: I had many girls say they were coming, but did not show up. 5 middle school girls came, along with 3 high school helpers. We decided to go bowling. The girls had a great time.

Coming Up:

Jan. 16: Mass, pizza and game night at Blessed Sacrament

Jan. 30: Service morning

Feb. 19: Movie Night

Feb. 27: Service morning

I am planning to make some visits to the middle school RE classrooms this semester. Will coordinate dates with Kellern.

Children and Family Catechesis

Julie Niemeyer

First Reconciliation

- Celebrations held on Dec. 2 and Dec. 6. Thank you to St. Edward and Queen of Peace parishes for hosting and to the priests who helped. There were seven priests on Wednesday evening and six on Sunday. At least 40% of the adults in attendance went to individual confession as well.
- Of the 99 second graders who participated in the preparation process, 93 attended one of the celebrations. Four students were unable to attend and will receive the sacrament at their home parishes on a date arranged by the parent. Parents of two students decided their child wasn't ready, and will wait until next year.

- Parents were invited to complete a survey about the preparation process and celebration. Results will be analyzed after the first of the year.

First Eucharist

- Letters have been sent/mailed to parents reminding them to attend an information meeting in January. Options are: Jan. 10 after noon Mass at Queen of Peace (Spanish), Jan. 11 and Jan 12 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Edward Parish Hall, Jan 17 after 10:45 Mass at Sacred Heart in Burmese.

Children's Initiation

- WCFF's Children's Initiation program has as its focus the immediate preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist . . . and Baptism if needed . . . for students in grades 3-8.
- 23 students in grades 3-8 have been identified from school/RE lists and/or inquiries. Letters have been mailed to those families. Sent bulletin announcements to the 4 parishes and newsletters articles to the CVCS elementary and middle school principals.
- An information session for parent and student will be held Wed., Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m.
- Six C.I. Wednesday evening classes are scheduled for Jan. 13 through Feb. 24. These will be held at Sacred Heart School from 6:15-7:45. CVCS teachers Mary Cushing and Becky Keeling will be the catechists.
- First Reconciliation for CI students will be on Wednesday, March 3.

Confirmation

- Confirmandi will attend class session #2 on either Jan. 20 or Jan. 24.
- Plans are in the works to have the Loras choir provide music for the April 1 Confirmation celebration liturgy.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- There continues to be a struggle getting volunteers to be CLOW leaders and helpers at some parishes. We may need to cut back to twice a month at more parishes. (It is already 2x a month at Sacred Heart and Queen of Peace.)

Office Manager

Becky McElroy

220 East Mailing

- Mailed out invitation cards for COR at 220 East Preview Receptions in January.

On-line Registrations

- Looking at a couple of companies on setting up on-line registrations/payments.

PDS

- Putting the yearly budget on to PDS.
- Getting information put into PDS on participants of our programs. Inputting information form prior years along with current year.

Issues with the Internet/Printing/Fax

- Issues with Internet not working for almost a week. Some of the time we were not able to have two people on at one time. This issue seems to have been resolved. Problems continue

with the printer being able to receive print jobs from our computers because of the firewall that was put in. Hoping this issue has been resolved.

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.