

# MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team  
August 2018

**Adult Faith Formation  
Team Leader  
Dave Cushing: dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org**

## A. Initiation

1. **RCRA.** An information meeting for people interested in becoming Catholic will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12. The fall RCRA series begins September 19 and meets on Thursday evenings at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

> The RCRA schedule for 2018-19 is here: <https://waterloocatholics.org/rcra-schedule>

> Learn more: <http://waterloocatholics.org/rcia-rcra>

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 01 family participated in Baptism preparation in July. The next Baptism preparation class is August 13 at St. Edward.

> The baptism preparation schedule for 2018-19 is here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/baptism-preparation-schedule>

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

> Read cumulative evaluations from Baptism preparation here:

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

## B. Evangelization

1. **Friends in Faith Singles Ministry.** The next Singles Picnic is August 11 at Dave Cushing's home.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/friends-in-faith>

2. **Catholic Evangelization Outreach.** 32 people attended the Catholic Witness Hour July 23 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Gilbertville. The next Witness Hour is Oct. 3 at Blessed Sacrament; Harland Robinson will be the speaker.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/catholic-witness-hour>

3. **Inactive Catholics.** The next listening session for inactive and alienated Catholics is Oct. 17 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

4. **LGBT Catholics.** The next listening session for family members of gay and lesbian Catholics is August 29 at COR.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/listening-sessions>

5. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page for July was 3,701 (daily average: 119; daily range: 69/193). I am currently conducting an online survey to collect readers opinions about the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page.

#### C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Summer Forum Series.** Attendance at the July Forum programs was 19 for Mary Ducey; 22 for the presentation by Jacob Kohlhaas and Stacia McDonald; and 11 for Kevin Feyen's young adult presentation; total attendance to date is 84. The last two programs in the series are: Tom Chapman August 7 and Jacob Kohlhaas and Martin Lohrmann August 21.

> The list of topics and presenters for the series is available here:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/summer-forum-series>

> Read evaluations from the series: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-GGVBN85RL/>

2. **Faith for Everyone.** 07 people attended the discussion on prayer July 16 at COR. These discussions are part of the RCIA catechesis component and are open to the public.

#### D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Catholic Heritage Tour.** 18 people participated in the Catholic Heritage Tour in July.

> Read evaluations from the tour at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-9NFL585RL/>

2. **Caregivers Ministry.** We sponsored an information table at a Caregivers program July 17 at the Western Home in Cedar Falls. Deb Lundgren volunteered to staff the table, which included information about our Caregivers Retreats and other resources for family caregivers. Deb and I will be meeting to discuss new formats and models for the retreats; I am also hoping to find a new co-sponsor.

Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/care-givers-retreats>

### **Team Leader Report: Dave Cushing**

#### A. Team

We learned on July 30 that Ruth Fleming declined our offer to serve on the Faith Formation Team as Associate Director of Children and Family catechesis.

We had been in negotiations with Ruth since she announced on July 18, after a day and a half on the job, that she was unable to do the work required because her physical health. Apparently what we did not know previously is that she suffers from neuropathy caused by diabetes which severely limits her mobility, especially in the evening.

We traded numerous emails and finally met with Ruth in person last on July 26 in an effort to make accommodations for her limited mobility and concerns about working in multiple buildings and on various floors. In the end, she learned that her husband was unwilling to move closer to Waterloo.

At this point, the Team is exploring options for moving forward. For the time being, our main focus will be on getting fall RE up and running with or without a director.

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### **K-12 Religious Education**

#### **Dave Cushing**

1. 83 students were enrolled in the Summer Religious Education program.

2. 80 students were enrolled in the Totus Tuus: 60 in the daytime sessions; 20 in the evening sessions.

3. In the absence of an Associate Director for Religious Education, the Faith Formation Team is assuming responsibilities for planning and implementing the fall religious education programs. Religious education opportunities for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade not enrolled in a Catholic school will be held on Wednesday evenings at Sacred Heart School starting Sept. 19 and on Sunday mornings at Blessed Sacrament School starting Oct. 7. The catechist inservice will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

4. Registration for fall religious education programs will be held on the following dates:

--Monday, August 20, 5:30-7:00pm at Sacred Heart School (use the Fifth Street entrance);

--Sunday, August 26, 1:00-2:00pm in the church basement at Queen of Peace Parish (use the Third Street entrance);

--Any Weekday between 8:00am and 3:30pm at the Faith Formation Office in Blessed Sacrament School.

Registration is also available by phone or mail.

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## **Gr. 2-12 Sacraments**

**Julie Niemeyer**

### **First Sacraments**

- Have sent parishes and CVCS requests for names and addresses of children of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade age. Will mail letters (or send home with Catholic school children) the last week of August. Parent info meetings for First Reconciliation will be Sept. 23-26.
- Updated First Reconciliation/First Communion info page on the Waterloo Catholics website.

### **PREP (Penance/Reconciliation & Eucharist Preparation for gr. 3-8) & Children's Initiation**

Will be preparing list of possible PREP students (those in grades 3-8 who need sacraments) using Summer and school-year registration info. Will mail info letters in mid-September and have a parent meeting in mid-October.

### **Confirmation**

- Am sending requests to parishes and CVCS for names and addresses of youth who are high school juniors. Information letters will be mailed to candidates and parents in mid-August. Info meetings for candidates and parents will be held Sept. 12 & 16.
- Haven't yet heard from the Archbishop's office about the Confirmation date for Waterloo parishes.
- Have researched and ordered additional resource materials for the immediate preparation classes. Also have been collecting ideas for how to support sponsors and parents in their roles.
- Updated High School Confirmation page of the Waterloo Catholics website.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** - Through August it continues as weekly at BS, 2x per month at QP; 3x per month at SH; none at SE. I will continue to make the weekly leaflets and offer support to parish CLOW leaders until the new hire has a chance to be acclimated. Have ordered Leader materials for the 2018-19 school year.

### **Other -**

- Helped with check-in at Totus Tuus for three days.
- Am assisting Sacred Heart parish with creating their weekly bulletin . . . until they find a secretary to take over.

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**Ellen Kuchera**

**COR & Young Adult Ministry**

[dbqwcya@dbqarch.org](mailto:dbqwcya@dbqarch.org)

COR AT 220 EAST:

- Movie Night, The Gold Rush, was on July 20. We will break for August and resume movie nights on September 21.
- Discussion night on Prayer, was on July 16 and was led by Dave Cushing. It was excellent discussion. Next up August 20. Topic: Faith & the Meaning of Life
- COR Art Committee - This committee has met several times now and membership and commitment is being established. The committee does plan to have a local artists exhibit at Irish Fest this year.

- The Summer Forum series through July has been great success including our first young adult summer forum series night. The series continues on August 7 and 21.
- Irish Fest schedule at COR is as follows:
  - Friday, August 3 - Open Hours, 6-10 pm
    - *Enjoy board games, local art, conversation, and refreshments*
  - Saturday, August 4 - Open Hours, 9 am - 7 pm
  - Sunday, August 5
    - Coffee & Donuts, 11 am - 1 pm
    - Music by Zach Hagen, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
    - Open Hours, 1 - 3 pm

#### YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Light the Night at Queen of Peace will be on Friday, August 3. We have a dozens of volunteers involved and are looking forward to a beautiful and spirit-filled night. We have an amazing team that has put in countless hours to make this night truly beautiful. All are welcome to stop by anytime between 6:30 and 10:30 pm for prayer, music, adoration, and reconciliation.
- Open Tea will be on August 13 & 27 from 5:15-6:15 pm.
- Our Enjoy Waterloo August Social will be Picnic at the Arboretum on August 18. Families are welcome! Free lunch with be provided.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha - we have several people from Queen of Peace that are interested in being on the team to run Alpha. We are still recruiting volunteers from Sacred Heart. We will hold volunteer trainings for St. Edward on August 8 and 22. I am meeting with Maggie England to discuss Alpha at Blessed Sacrament on Monday, August 6.

#### OTHER

- Maternity leave plans are in progress.

### **HS/MS Youth Ministry**

#### **Annie Zeets**

#### **Summer 2018 Trips**

- **Steubenville Youth Conference:** July 13-15. Rochester, Minnesota  
Our first experience with a Steubenville conference was a very positive one. We heard many great speakers that included; Steve Angrisano, Cooper Ray, Sarah Swafford and Brian Greenfield. Praise and worship band Sonar was also a big hit with the youth. Steubenville is a very traditional catholic conference with daily mass, daily adoration that included a powerful adoration experience on Saturday night. There is also a large focus on vocation discernment as part of the conference. Thanks to Jeff Lumpa and Abby Swanson for chaperoning this trip with me.

#### **High School**

- Hosted the Totus Tuus mission team for dinner along with the FF team at my home the night they arrived
- Helped with day one of Totus Tuus registration

#### **Coming Up**

- August 26: Back to school pizza party at the youth office
- Sept. 12: YM prepares and hosts Catholic Daughter's dinner at St. Edward. Catholic Heart youth will take the lead on this service project
- Plans to gather a group of HS youth and parents to discuss YM plans the 18-19 school year. Will meet the 2nd week of August

#### **Middle School**

- Sept. 9: Back to school pizza party at the youth office
- Plans to gather a group of MS youth and parents to discuss YM plans the 18-19 school year. Will meet the 2nd week of August
- Part of Archdiocesan MS Youth Jam team which will happen in Waterloo on Oct. 20.

**Other**

- Monthly MAC meetings
  - Monthly archdiocesan Youth Ministry advisory committee meetings
  - Working on retreat for next year, much like a Kairos retreat, for high school students attending public school. This will be joint effort with several youth ministers in the diocese.
  - Newly appointed member of Archdiocesan Pastoral Council as the deanery Youth Ministry representative
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**Office Manager****Becky McElroy****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.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.
- Preparing financial reports for Commission and Team.
- Preparing/taking registrations for Fall RE.
- Looking at setting up a system to use for on-line registrations for programs.
- Attended meetings regarding hiring of replacement for Children and Family Catechesis.