

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
May 2020

The Faith Formation Team is following recommendations from the Archdiocese and from health authorities regarding cancellation of public meetings and social distancing. As a result, most on-site faith formation programs have been cancelled or postponed. At the same time, the Team is working on providing online resources and support for our various faith formation audiences.

Adult Faith Formation Report

May 2020

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

A. Initiation

1. **RCIA/RCRA.** The spring series was cancelled due to the pandemic. If possible, we will offer a summer series.

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

2. **Baptism Preparation.** 02 families participated in the April baptism preparation online. The next class is May 9 and will be held online.

> 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. **Alpha for Catholics.** The Alpha series at Sacred Heart and Blessed Sacrament were postponed due to the pandemic; we will be collaborating with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in offering an online summer Alpha series which will begin June 2 and meet on Tuesday evenings.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/alpha>

> See cumulative Alpha evaluation results at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-PJWHZYCC7/>

2. **Listening Sessions.** Listening sessions for inactive Catholics and spiritual seekers will be held online for the foreseeable future. The next session for inactive Catholics is Wednesday, May 20.

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

3. **Waterloo Catholics on Facebook.** Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in April was 3,450 (daily average: 115; daily range: 260/65).

> Read cumulative evaluations of Waterloo Catholics on Facebook here: <https://bit.ly/2TSw211>

C. Adult Formation and Enrichment

1. **Busy Catholic's Guide to Catholic Living.** 02 people participated in an online discussion of Catholic prayer April 18. The next online discussion of how Catholics read the Bible is scheduled for May 25.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/busy-catholics-guide-to-catholic-life>

2. **Critical Choices Workshop.** There were no participants for the April 29 Critical Choices Workshop; the next workshop will be offered online on May 16.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/critical-choices-workshops>

3. **Bridges to Contemplative Living.** This eight-part book discussion begins May 6 and will be held online on Wednesday evenings.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/bridges>

4. **Know Your Faith.** The next Know Your Faith session is Monday, May 18. It will be held online and

will discuss the church as a community.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/know-your-faith>

D. Spiritual Growth

1. **Holy Week and Good Friday Meditations.** 53 people participated in the Holy Week meditations offered by email; 52 people participated in the Good Friday meditations offered by email.

2. **Online Conversations.** 51 people have participated in our online conversations about the spiritual challenges of living during a pandemic. The conversations are scheduled on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

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

3. **Pentecost Novena.** A nine-day novena leading up to the feast of Pentecost will be offered by email May 22-30.

4. **Spiritual Resources.** The following resources have been posted online to aid people during the pandemic:

> Mass Prayers: bit.ly/mass-prayers

> Stations of the Cross: bit.ly/stations-to-cross:

> How to Make an Act of Spiritual Communion: <http://bit.do/spiritual-communion>

> How to Make a Spiritual Confession: <http://bit.do/spiritual-confession>

> Prayer for the Dead in the Absence of a Public Service: bit.ly/pray-for-the-dead

See a complete calendar of opportunities for adults at:

<https://waterloocatholics.org/bulletin-board>

K-8 Religious Education

Paul Lee

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Made the weekly bulletins available online via our website, the parishes websites, and through our volunteer catechists
- Beginning to record a video reflection on the Sunday's Gospel, similar to what would have been done during a CLOW session

Wednesday RE/ Saturday RE

- Saturday RE was cancelled
- Offered a virtual May Crowning of Mary (over 300 watched)
- Plan to transition the 6th-8th grade kids into the LifeTeen/EDGE program beginning in September

Summertime RE/ Enrichment

- Sent a survey out to a number of stakeholders regarding our summertime offerings, will have results back by May 11.
- Totus Tuus has been cancelled by the Archdiocese
- In conversation with other DREs in the area in regards to a possible collaboration on a summertime event.

Early Childhood Formation

- Beginning to explore ways to reach out to families of kids aged birth through 5 to provide some religious education

Family Formation

- Will be attending the upcoming virtual Baptism prep course
 - Have made some phone calls to families to see how they are doing
 - Hosting a virtual church scavenger hunt with images of all 4 churches
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Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments - 2nd grade

- Still in “holding pattern” as to when and how First Communions will happen. Will confer with pastors after ban on public Masses has been lifted.
- Emailing review lesson to parents of 2nd graders once a week. It includes a link to a short video to watch, discussion questions, and a prayer. Also send the lesson to Fr. Paul to post on the Burmese Facebook page and to Deacon Rigo for his Hispanic Facebook page.

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

- Mailed a packet of print materials to homes of PREP students. Many PREP students have Spanish-speaking parents, so the three lessons are in a format that the children/youth can do them independently. Have begun to send the same weekly email to PREP families that I do for 2nd graders, but many of the PREP parents do not have email addresses. Plan to have mini-retreat for PREP students prior to First Communion.
- Had begun prep for sacraments of initiation with a Congolese CHS 9th grader and a BMAP 7th grader, but suspended those meetings. I hope to do virtual lessons with the 7th grader, but not with the 9th grader who needs to have a translator with her.
- Sent “distance learning” print materials to two families who are interested in Baptism for their children.

Other

- Joining in weekly “Digital Open House” virtual meetings with Archdiocesan Faith Formation Staff; review the weekly resource list from the Arch. team. Share interesting ideas from these with fellow FF Team members.
- Attended online meeting of Cedar Valley Multicultural Resource for information about any special needs in the refugee community.

COR & Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Kuchera

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COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - COR is now closed until further notice due to the pandemic.
 - All events open to the public and bookings for private events have been cancelled until further notice.
 - Tatiana Jackson’s “God is Love” exhibit is still up and paintings can be purchased through Tatiana’s website - tatianajackson.com. Once COR is able to open again, we hope to extend Tatiana’s exhibit. I am working on tweaking the schedule of our exhibit lineup.
 - Our COR golf fundraiser at Jesup Golf and Country Club on June 7 is cancelled. We encourage that if you are able to get out to the course this summer, golf for COR, and make a donation on our event webpage: <https://waterloocatholics.org/golfouting>
 - While closed, I am working on supply inventories, organizing, painting, and touch ups, searching for grants, maintaining the COR facebook page, and professional development

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open tea/prayer has been held via Google Hangouts on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. We will continue on the online platform until further notice.
- Have been checking in with young adults via phone calls to see how they are doing and if there are needs they have that we can help with.
- Finished additional training for Prepare Enrich and will offer this service to dating, engaged, and married couples. Prepare Enrich is an online questionnaire that couples can take. Results

indicate strength areas and growth areas in the couple's relationship at that time. As a trained facilitator, I review results with couples and teach them exercises to work on growth areas.

- Assisted St. Edward with their Notes of Joy project. I focused on recruiting young families to make cards to send to married parishioners.
- Witness to Love Marriage Formation
 - Met with first couple for the Civil Marriage initiative at Queen of Peace
 - We are a pilot group for the Civil Marriage Initiative in Spanish for Witness to Love
 - During May will be checking in with current couples to see where they are at in their preparation

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha
 - We have decided to offer Alpha Online this summer. It will be on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 9 pm. We are collaborating with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hiawatha and are excited about the opportunities the online platform offers.
- Faithful Companions - finalizing intro session 4
- RCIA
 - prepared online Holy Week Retreat
 - Held immediate catechesis for Confirmation and Eucharist online on April 6 and 20.
- Spiritual Direction 101 Series - held session 3 of the series online on April 4. The participants have wanted to keep meeting to dive into St. Ignatius of Loyola's Discernment of Spirits so we have been doing that weekly utilizing videos that Fr. Bob Gross made for us.
- Livestream Mass Catechesis - working with the team and Blessed Sacrament on implementing some catechetical information about the parts of the Mass into the live streams to reach out to inactive family members who may be watching Mass with their families.

HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

Confirmation:

- Still on hold with no updates in regards to confirmation. Did receive word that scheduling of confirmation 2020-2021 is also on hold until they can make a plan to get caught up for the ones postponed this late winter/spring due to Covid-19
- Sending weekly emails/Remind texts to candidates and families with prayers and "refresher" materials to keep things fresh in their minds.
- Mailing postcard update next week saying still no word on when confirmation will take place.

Testify

Mission Statement: Testify is an inter-parish youth coalition that invites people of all ages to engage their faith with enthusiasm and energy, praising His name through music, liturgy and ministry.

- All events canceled until public masses can be celebrated

High School/Middle School Youth Ministry

- Constantly posting on all our online and social media platforms. Sharing prayer ideas, virtual youth events, virtual concerts, etc.
- Annie delivered May baskets to a number of high school youth
- Writing cards to youth group teens. Trying to send 8-10 per day. Some kids are writing back!
- Project YM and Lifeteen are both offering weekly online youth nights. Many of our teens have participated. Lots of great online stuff from John Angotti and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.
- Annie is posting videos to Instagram several times a week
- Girls book club is meeting once a week at our regularly scheduled time via Zoom.
- High School weekly Zoom youth nights offered by Annie
- Middle school weekly Zoom hangouts offered by Gen

Other:

- Helping Paul with virtual scavenger hunt
 - Attending virtual arch youth ministry meetings
 - Monthly MAC group virtual meetings
 - Researching and planning for what YM might look like this fall if social distancing guidelines are still in place.
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Becky McElroy
Business Manager

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.
- Working from home, going into the office as needed.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.
- Preparing financial reports.
- Accounts payable.
- Phone calls being transferred to my personal cell phone.