

MONTHLY REPORT

Faith Formation Administrative Team
June 2020

Adult Faith Formation Report May 2020

Dave Cushing (dbqwcaf@dbqarch.org)

A. Initiation

1. RCIA/RCRA. Our plans are to resume RCRA sessions in person in the fall.

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

2. Baptism Preparation. 02 families participated in the May baptism preparation online. The next class is June 8 and will be held online. Baptism preparation classes will resume in person in July.

> 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 summer series will begin June 2 and will be conducted online in collaboration with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Hiawatha. The summer series will 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 Spiritual Seekers is June 17.

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

3. Waterloo Catholics on Facebook. Total daily reach for the Waterloo Catholics Facebook page in April was 3,615 (daily average: 113; daily range: 170/61).

> 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. 01 person participated in an online discussion of the Bible on May 18. The next online discussion about faith is scheduled for June 18.

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

2. Critical Choices Workshop. There were no participants for the May 16 Critical Choices Workshop which was scheduled to be held online. Workshops will resume in person in the fall.

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

3. Bridges to Contemplative Living. 04 persons are participating in this eight-part book discussion which is meeting online on Wednesday evenings. The group has indicated a desire to continue with the second book when the current series concludes on June 3.

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

4. Know Your Faith. The next Know Your Faith session is Monday, June 15.

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

5. Summer Bible Study. Dr. John Waldmeier from Loras College will facilitate this year's Summer Bible Study. Dates are pending for the four-week series which will be conducted by video conference.

> Learn more: <https://waterloocatholics.org/summer-bible-study>

6. Summer Forum. I am in the process of planning this year's Summer Forum which will be

live-streamed on Facebook or YouTube. The sessions will examine the challenges of racism in American society from a historical, personal, local and church perspective.

D. Spiritual Growth

1. Pentecost Novena. 28 people participated in the Pentecost Novena which was available by email.

2. Online Conversations. 75 people have participated in our online conversations about the spiritual challenges of living during a pandemic.

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

3. Summer Online Retreat. Dates are pending for this summer's Busy Catholic's Online Retreat. The retreat will feature a series of reflections on the Eucharist by Fr. Ronald

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
- Continue to record video reflections on the Sunday's Gospel, similar to what would had been done during a CLOW session
- CLOW will resume in September

Wednesday RE/ Saturday RE

- Plan to transition the 6th-8th grade kids into the LifeTeen/EDGE program beginning in September
- Meeting with pastors to gauge direction of Wed RE program for the 2020/2021 year
- Registration materials will be available starting July 1

Summertime RE/ Enrichment

- Cancelled in-person Summer RE, will be replaced with virtual RE platform
- Totus Tuus has been cancelled by the Archdiocese; being replaced with virtual VBS that will be offered for FREE to all families (registration will start June 10)

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

- Hosting a virtual church scavenger hunt with images of all 4 churches

Gr. 2-12 Sacraments

Julie Niemeyer

First Sacraments - 2nd grade

- Public Masses resumed (with restrictions) at three parishes on May 30/31. Queen of Peace will resume on June 14/15. I will contact each pastor to meet during the week of June 9 about format for First Communion in his parish.
- I email parents an update and a review lesson each Monday. Lesson 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

- 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 send another printed lesson packet to PREP families in mid June - along with information about First Communion plans for each parish. Hope to have a mini-retreat for PREP students prior to First Communion.
- Hope to re-connect with two youth who desire sacraments this month to finish prep lessons now that pandemic restrictions have eased. One is Congolese CHS 9th grader (who needs a translator with her) and the other is a BMAP 7th grader. Both will be fully initiated.

- Sent “distance learning” print materials to two families who are interested in Baptism for their children. Had virtual meeting with one of the children, and plan to have more. Internet access for the other family is a problem.

Other -

- Joining in weekly “Digital Open House” virtual meetings with Archdiocesan Faith Formation Staff to learn what other faith formation leaders are doing. Also regularly review the resources document from the Arch. team and alert other FF Team members of interesting ideas
- Have been participating in weekly “Faith in the Pandemic” virtual meetings hosted by Dave Cushing. Also am participating in a “Bridges to Contemplative Living” study group.
- Registered for and viewed portions of the NCCL (National Conference of Catechetical Leadership) virtual conference - “Witness”. Will be able to continue viewing archived sessions.

COR & Young Adult Ministry

Ellen Kuchera

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COR AT 220 EAST:

- Coordinator of Evangelization Report
 - COR resumed regular hours beginning May 26.
 - COR will be available to rent for private events once all guidelines from the state are able to be met.
 - Tatiana Jackson’s “God is Love” exhibit will be up through the end of June. Kim Behm, Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Hawkeye Community College will display an exhibit next at the beginning of July. We hope to offer an opening for the exhibit on July 3.
 - We are monitoring the status of downtown events, including Irish Fest, to determine programming for the summer/fall.
 - We are working with Dawn Pegis to create a new schedule for the 12 Days of Christmas tea and craft mornings.
 - Alpha Online - I am serving as a small group helper and coordinating hospitality packets to be mailed to Alpha participants to make the experience more fun and inviting.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:

- Open tea/prayer has been held via Google Hangouts on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. We will see if participants are comfortable meeting in person, socially distanced outside, during the summer.
- Continued to assist St. Edward with their Notes of Joy project throughout May.
- Witness to Love Marriage Formation - have been putting together showcase couple profiles, checking in with couples, offering formation resources, and date night ideas
- Light the Night - will convene leadership team in June to determine a course of action for Light the Night

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

- Alpha Online - begins Tuesday, June 2, from 7:30 - 9 pm. We trained a fabulous team on May 19 and are looking forward to discovering the benefits of the online platform.
 - Faithful Companions - finalized Intro Session 4. Got our pilot group off the ground to begin regular meetings. Working to start another group this summer.
 - RCIA
 - Will begin working with parishes to plan initiation for the RCIA catechumens.
 - Spiritual Direction 101 Series/Discernment of Spirits Small Group - our last session will be on May 30 and we will determine if participants are interested in beginning a Faithful Companions group.
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HS/MS Youth Ministry

Annie Zeets

Confirmation:

- As public masses return, the Waterloo pastors have decided we will do confirmation at each parish. In the coming weeks, we will be making plans on how to proceed.
- I sent an email to all candidates and parents once the announcement of masses resuming was made letting them know it will be a bit before we know when confirmation celebrations will happen and that they will look a little different than previous years.
- Planning to meet with Kevin Feyen from the archdiocesan pastoral center to discuss how confirmation prep might look in these times of smaller group gatherings and social distancing.

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 it is safe for youth to gather and vocal music groups are allowed to sing at masses

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.
- 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.
- Met in person, socially distanced and outside with the high school girls book club. We are reading our second book "Go Bravely" by Emily Wilson
- High School weekly Zoom youth nights offered by Annie
- Middle school weekly Zoom hangouts offered by Gen
- Gen did an online Harry Potter escape room with the middle school youth.

Other:

- 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. Will work with Kevin Feyen from the archdiocesan office on how youth ministry can happen.

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.
- Put in survey monkey surveys for Dave.
- Preparing financial reports.
- Accounts payable.