



CONVENTION 2016 CAUCUS

Submitted by Adele Svetnicka

Not only was our convention fantastic in learning about God's creation of the universe, networking with other in our ministry, and talking with the vendors while looking through their samples, it was also a great opportunity to meet as one

organization made up of five dioceses.

One opportunity we took was our caucus time. We met for a brief update on WDREF's work over the past two years with a look at what we are considering for the future. Last May, Dr. Joe Bound (Green Bay Diocese) led us in a SWOT analysis which explored our

Strengths
Weaknesses

Opportunities Threats.

We also began to look at our mission statement and vision statements. When we met in August Dr. Bound helped us take this information and create three goals for the next

Proposed Revised Mission Statement WDREF promotes **ministerial and professional development and provides ongoing formation, advocacy, and support to parish catechetical leaders.**

three - five years.

The caucus allowed each diocese to ask questions, have

their own discussion, and then provide written feedback and/or suggestions. There were excellent suggestions and feedback, much of which will be discussed more in depth at our January meeting. While the pages of feedback are too much to print here, here are the items which were discussed:

ADAPTIVE CATECHESIS

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 9:00am till 2:30pm at St.

Bernard Parish in Middleton, WI will be hosting Michele

Chronister from the National Catholic

Partnership on Disability for

inspiration and ideas on how to

accompany our brothers and sisters

with special needs to deeper union with

Jesus Christ.

REGISTER AT:

<http://tinyurl.com/mdreo-adaptivecatechesis>

Only \$10.00 and includes lunch.

Current Mission Statement

As the statewide organization of professional catechetical leaders, the Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF) promotes ministerial and professional development and provides ongoing formation, advocacy, support and recognition to our members through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Proposed Revised Mission Statement

WDREF promotes ministerial and professional development and provides ongoing formation, advocacy, and

support to parish catechetical leaders.



Three Proposed Goals

1. To sponsor events, one per year:
 - a. Retreat 2017
 - b. Convention 2018
 - c. Regional Meeting/Gathering (2019)
 - a. This comes to your diocese/region
 - b. Will address key topics of importance/interest
 - c. Share and brainstorm best practices
2. To promote/market better to increase

attendance and relevancy, and provide for collaboration and support throughout the state.

3. To remain solvent so we can carry out our mission
 - a. Assess current revenue and source
 - b. Create list of opportunities to raise money
 - c. Grants, donations, fundraisers...

We have great enthusiasm and momentum coming into our January meeting! We are motivated by our relationships with each other and with our fellow workers in the field. Just as our Catholic faith is relational, so are our ministries!

NCCL UPDATE

Submitted by Becky Thompson

The NCCL Representative Council met in Dallas, TX, at the end of October. Rooted in the historical narrative of NCCL, the visioning and advisory platform of NCCL's Rep Council, discussed changing realities in the

catechetical landscape, affecting representation.

Through creative presentations and Spirit-driven prayer experiences, the various council members unpacked various themes including:

- **Mutuality of Mentoring** for incoming and long-standing

catechetical leaders.

- **Advocacy** for NCCL membership on the local province level.
- **Potential growth** in the definition of categories of NCCL membership.
- Effective steps to achieve **dialogue**

internally and externally.

- The new Department of Labor regulations and the **diverse interpretation** in dioceses across the nation, affecting the vocation of professional catechetical leaders.
- Creating procedures for effective **partnerships.**
- **Enhanced stewardship of current members** through the implementation of the strategic plan, through the work of committees; and the **enhanced mission-driven** purpose of the forums.

All of these themes uncovered the need to populate the Rep. Council fully, and thus launched our Annual Appeal to directly respond to the financial difficulties of various provinces to secure representation into the future. The 2016

Annual Appeal goal is \$6000, which would double our current reserves for the Rep Council. These monies would assure a robust and diverse representation of the catechetical landscape by offering scholarships and support to new representatives.



BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Pam Fischer

Pope Francis; The Name of God is Mercy A

Conversation with Andrea Torielli

As we have just concluded the Year of Mercy, I thought highlighting one of the books that impacted me during this past year was this one. It is a delightful book written in a question and answer format, so

that it can be read at a leisurely pace. The Pope answers questions like: What is mercy to you? Why is it important to go to confession? How can mercy be taught to children? But, I truly believe that the most thought provoking statement/question is the one that follows:

You have said many times, "God never tires of forgiving, it is we who get tired of asking him for forgiveness." Why does God never tire of forgiving us? Pick up the book and discover what he answered and what he answered to many more thought provoking questions.

[To the Tune of 'Joy to the World'](#)

Joy to the World, I've
lost my list.
How will, I get, things
done?
With faith formation
dates,
New Lessons, oh
they're late,
I'm on my knees in
prayer,
I'm on my knees in
prayer,
I'm on my knees, my
knees in prayer.

Joy to the world, Jesus
help me.
I've lost the Advent
wreath.
10 minutes 'til they
come,
The copies not yet run,
Oh Father, Son and
Spirit,
Oh Father, Son and
Spirit, Oh Father, Son
and Spirit help me.

Joy to the World, oh
what is it now?
One, more thing, to
do...
Create another
program,
One more thing here
to cram,
My piles are way too
tall,
Can't see my desktop
at all,
Oh why is the
volunteer list so small?

Joy to the World, I
need to breathe.

And let, the Spirit,
guide me.
Let go of all the
emails,
Phone calls, and tiny
details,
Just Focus on the Star
Focus on the Holy
Babe, With Jesus Christ
all is great! Whew!



The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God: 2016 Biennial WDREF Convention

The 18th biennial WDREF Convention, "The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God", was held November 9-11, 2016 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake Wisconsin. A pre-Convention "Parish Pub Trivia Night", sponsored by Mareda, WDREF member organization in the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and convention host, was held on Wednesday night.

The convention opened on Thursday morning with Mass with Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome

Listecki presiding. A choir made up of Mareda members, and assisted by parishioners from Lumen Christi parish, Mequon, provided music for the Mass and other prayer times throughout the convention.

The speaker for convention general sessions was Sister Linda Gibler, OP, PhD. Sister Linda is a Dominican Sister of Dallas TX and currently serves as Academic Dean at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, where she also teaches.

Sister Linda's Thursday morning presentation, "Can Science and Faith Get Along Together?: A Look at Our History and Today" traced the relationship between the Church and scientific endeavors throughout history, revealing an impressive history of encouragement and support. Her Thursday afternoon presentation "From Sacramental Cosmos to Sacred Banquet: Nature's 'Catechism'" explored the intriguing ties between our understandings of God, Jesus, the sacraments, and the natural world. Friday afternoon she addressed "The Challenge of Living and Teaching Laudato Si".

Friday concluded with a panel of catechetical leaders reflecting on how their learnings from the convention impacted them, and their practical applications to ministry. Panelists were Jennifer Ludtke, Director of Adult Formation and Outreach at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Madison, Kristen Adsit, Director of Faith Formation at St. Katherine Drexel in Beaver Dam, Dennis Kurtz, Midwest Sales Consultant for St. Mary's Press, and Sister Linda.

At the awards banquet on Thursday night, The Stephen C. Gilmour Award, presented biennially to a degreed professional actively engaged in parish catechetical ministry on a directorship level, was presented to Tiffany Topel. The Henriette C. Mackin Award, also given

biennially, to a person or organization which has given outstanding support to the catechetical ministry in a parish or diocese in the state, was awarded to Mary Chatham. Jean Marie Weber was the recipient of the Good and Faithful Servant Award, an occasional honor given by the WDREF Board of Directors to a person who has shown outstanding support of parish catechetical ministry for a substantial number of years.

CO-CHAIRS FOR THE CONVENTION WERE JIM GILL AND ANN FONS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE. OUR NEXT CONVENTION WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 2018 IN STEVENS POINT, IN

THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE.

