



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

WDREF

Fall 2008

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From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson

WDREF Facilitator

“Heavenly Creator, how can it be September already? It just seems like only yesterday that our parish programs were winding down and I was looking forward to some quiet time during the summer. You know how busy and filled my days are now....”

Is this your prayer as September begins? If it is, I thank you for taking the time to read the WDREF newsletter. I can't wait to tell you about our August board meeting! Nancy Metz, co-chair of the 2008 convention reported that the convention registration forms will be in the mail shortly (you may already have yours by the time you read this). As you will see, or saw, from the brochure, it will be a wonderful convention in a beautiful setting with great speakers! Come and meet other people throughout the state of Wisconsin who, like you, work hard in church ministry. Let us be a support for one another and grow in faith and knowledge at the convention.

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) and Visioning reported that as soon as all the invoices for the Employing Catechetical Leaders Handbook are paid, the printing of the handbooks will be covered. YES! More good news – NCCL as agreed to help with the sale of the book, and Bishop Sklba and Archbishop Dolan congratulated MAREDA on this fine book. Review copies have been sent to the following magazines: Catechist, Church and Today's Parish.

We looked at the data from the Parish Catechetical Leadership Survey we had posted online and discussed how we will use this information. Three new surveys will be posted soon so please take time to check them out. Finally, PDC and Visioning continued discussing the publication of “Best Practices in the State of Wisconsin.” Watch and listen for more about this at the convention.

The Communication Committee was informed that not everyone was notified when the spring newsletter was ready. It was decided once again, that the diocesan

WDREF Calendar

November 13-14, 2008
WDREF Convention
(Stevens Point, WI)

April 26-29, 2009
NCCL National Conference
(Dearborn, MI)

November 5-6, 2009
WDREF Retreat
(Marathon, WI)

offices would be asked for their support in getting the word out that the newsletter is available. In the meantime, it will be sent to all board members so hard copies may have to be printed to take to the local organizational meetings. Other things the Communication Committee is working on include: a promotional DVD; updating the Web site, Web editor job description and evaluation form; and promoting our ministry at area colleges. It is a priority to get the Web site up and running again!

We are so excited about the retreat for 2009. Lee Nagel, Executive Director of NCCL and long-time friend of WDREF will be our retreat director. Yee haw! Please mark your calendars now for November 5-6, 2009. The 2010 convention will be hosted by the Madison Directors of Religious Education Organization (MDREO) and will be held at Heidel House in Green Lake. Speakers are in the works.

Because of communication difficulties, the deadline for the Stephen Gilmore Award and Henrietta Mackin Award will be extended to September 23. These awards are presented during the WDREF convention. More discussion is taking place regarding the wording of the awards and a possible third award for those who have Advanced Certification and are administrating, coordinating or directing a catechetical program.

See you in November in Stevens Point!

WDREF 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.

Find us on the web!
www.wdref.org

News • Updates • Events

www.wdref.org

NEW Award Nomination Deadlines!

The award nomination and award application form deadlines have been extended. If you are interested in applying please return materials by September 23.

Support in Ministry Henriette M. Mackin Award

This award is presented to a person or organization, which has given outstanding support to the catechetical ministry in a parish or diocese in the state of Wisconsin.

It is open to both paid and volunteer people. (eg. a catechist, priest, secretary, parent, liturgist, janitor, parish organization, etc.) Diocesan personnel are not eligible.

To complete the nomination process, you **MUST** secure a letter of recommendation from one other person. In addition, please ask your nominee for a resume or vitae. For the full award application and information on where to mail all three documents, please visit **www.wdref.org**. The nomination deadline is September 23, 2008.

Leadership in Ministry Stephen C. Gilmour Award

This award is presented to a degreed professional person actively engaged in parish catechetical ministry on a directorship level.

The person should be outstanding for his/her leadership and achievements in the catechetical field and must be a member of WDREF through one of the following: ProClaym, DARE, MAREDA, MDREO, SUMMIT. (WDREF Board Members are not eligible.)

Please ask your nominee for a resume or vitae and staple it to your nomination form. For the full award application and information on where to mail the documents, please visit **www.wdref.org**. The nomination deadline is September 23, 2008.

Young Adult Scholarship Available for NCCL Annual Conference

To encourage young adults to consider the catechetical ministry, NCCL is offering up to 25 scholarships to the NCCL Annual Conference, held next year in Detroit, MI on April 27-30, 2009. The purpose of this young adult initiative is to:

- Raise awareness about professional catechetical ministry among young adults who might be discerning ecclesial professional roles.
- Foster arch/diocesan involvement in bringing forth strong candidates for professional catechetical ministry among young adults.
- Create an awareness in young adults of the benefits of gathering with NCCL, the professional organization for catechetical leaders which includes parish and diocesan leaders, academic members, and publishers.

Scholarship recipients will receive a special pass allowing them to participate in all Liturgies and prayer services, major presentations, learning sessions and Hot Topics, as well as the NCCL Awards Luncheon, Harcourt reception, OSV Brunch, and Sadlier Event (dinner and entertainment) and visiting the exhibits. The value of this award is over \$400. It does not include travel, lodging, and other meals and expenses. To be eligible, candidates must:

- Be under 40 years of age.
- Have some ecclesial ministry experience.
- Never have been a professional parish or diocesan catechetical leader.
- Be able to cover the additional expenses not included in this award.
- Be nominated by their diocesan catechetical director.
- Not have received this award for a previous NCCL conference.

If you would like to place your name in nomination for this award, contact your diocesan director and ask him or her to nominate you. Your diocesan director will then submit the request by e-mailing Joanie McKeown, NCCL Membership Committee chair, at joanie50@consultant.com. The e-mail should include the following information:

- Candidates' names and contact information, including e-mail address.

- A brief description of their current professional and/or ministry involvement, including their interest and/or participation in professional catechetical ministry.
- Current educational background and future intentions on pursuing degrees related to the catechetical field.

The deadline for scholarship submissions is January 30, 2008. NCCL's Membership Committee will determine the awardees and notify them via e-mail by February 13, 2008. We encourage you to approach the "young adults" (those under 40) whom you know, including your CREs who are seeking continuing education, to see if they are interested in this young adult scholarship. Last year over a dozen more scholarships could have been awarded, if NCCL had received more applications.

Questions? Contact Joanie McKeown, WDFEF's rep to NCCL, at joanie50@consultant.com.

NCCL Now Operating under Governance Policies

How does a group as large as NCCL manage the many details of its organizational life? When NCCL opened the doors to parish catechetical leaders over a dozen years ago, and hundreds of PCLs joined the organization, this question moved from the back burner to the front burner.

To avoid a duplication of efforts and the chance that some items might fall through the cracks, new governance policies have now been put into place. These policies enumerate the specific responsibilities of NCCL's Board and the Executive Director who is hired by the Board.

The policies place with the Executive Director the responsibilities for the management of NCCL. The Board sets the vision for NCCL, the parameters for the office of the Executive Director and monitors the work of the Executive Director. Ongoing dialogue, including regular conference calls and updates from the Executive Director are proving to be an effective way of keeping everyone informed so that the work of the Executive Director is always in line with the vision of the organization.

For further information, contact Joanie McKeown, WDFEF's rep to NCCL, at joanie50@consultant.com.

2008 WDREF Convention- NOVEMBER 13-14

The WDREF Convention is almost here! And boy do we have a great presentation line up! This year's convention will be held Thursday and Friday, November 13-14, 2008 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center (formerly, Country Springs Hotel and Convention Center) in Stevens Point. The cost is \$62 for a single room suite, \$72 for a double, \$82 for a triple, etc. There are other types of rooms available as well. Visit www.wdref.org to view the WDREF Convention Registration Brochure. Hurry, it will be here before you know it! This year's theme is *Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future* and the messages conveyed by our presenters embody this premise so well.

Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS is the director of the University of Dayton's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives and the Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation. She will present the following two topics:

New Perspectives on E-Catechesis: Crossing the 21st Century Communications Threshold

Today catechists are challenged to forge into a rapidly expanding e-culture that is transforming the educational, social, political and corporate life of our world. E-culture is the new missionary territory of the 21st Century. With or without us this expanding e-culture weaves its way into the fabric of our lives. As catechists, we need to be informed if our catechetical ministry is to make a difference in the lives of those we seek to minister to today.

Opportunities of E-Communication for Effective Catechesis

The Internet and new media resources are yeasting copious opportunities and challenges for engaging in catechesis today. How can parish catechetical leaders hone their Internet and media consciousness and skills to incorporate the wealth of these resources into our catechetical environments? This session will identify quality resources and methodologies for paving the way for a new e-perspective on catechesis for the 21st century.

For the past 25 years, **Dr. Michael Carotta** has lived and worked with adolescents as a Catholic schoolteacher, parish catechist, diocesan consultant, researcher and much-celebrated author. He will be speak to the topic of:

Cultivating Spiritual Awareness With Adolescents

This session will explore concrete principles and processes for helping adolescents develop spiritual sensitivities and moral imagination. Examples from the young adolescent paperback series, "Lincoln Park," will be used to illustrate these specific dynamics, including the unique function of adults as spiritual teachers.

Jacquelyne Witter is the founding director of iLLUMINARE: Called for Service, Formed in Christ, The Ministry to Ministers Project of St. Paul's Monastery in St. Paul. iLLUMINARE provides ongoing pastoral formation and spiritual renewal for experienced Church ministers. Jackie is a faculty member in the graduate Pastoral Ministry Program at Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD and a faculty member for the Murray Institute at the University of St. Thomas. Her message focuses on:

Catechesis For Our Time: Proclaiming the Legacy We Have Inherited, Entering Into The Future That Awaits Us

We will reflect on the foundations of the Faith and the rich history of the catechetical ministry as we consider the opportunities and challenges we face as catechetical leaders in the contemporary world.

WDREF Pre-Convention Night

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Ramada in Stevens Point, DARE will present:

Session A:

Unchanging Confirmation

Michael Carotta

Confirmation now seems to serve a functional purpose. But given all we know about adolescent spirituality, youth culture, good adolescent catechesis and youth ministry, how might we enhance Confirmation prep's potential to be a more transformative experience for young people? What might it look like? What might be the tasks, and what are the challenges?

Session B:

A Paschal Journey: Illness, Conversion and Hope

Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

After living through a severe bout of Guillain-Barre Syndrome in 2003-2004, Fr. Joncas outlines five stages of this paschal journey and plays music he composed since the experience that mark each of the stages.

The cost to attend one of the sessions is \$10.00. For more information, contact Nancy Metz at 715-423-1251. Visit www.wdref.org to fill out and submit your registration form.



DARE (LaCrosse)

In the last WDEF newsletter we did not get the chance to introduce the DARE officers. Congratulations and thank you for sharing your leadership talents!

- President* – Sue Soriano
- Vice President* – Kathy Mero
- Secretary* – Barb Ceranski
- Treasurer* – Carol Mercord
- Communications Chair* – Leo Jacoby

MAREDA (Milwaukee)

The Mareda Committee has put together a wonderful program this year. Here are some of the upcoming activities:

October 2, 2008

Evangelization - Using Technology to Share the Gospel
Ben Brzeski at St. Mary's Hales Corners (Sponsored by Pflaum Publishing Company)

October 10, 2008

Edelweiss Margarita Fiesta Boat Cruise
(Social night for members and spouses)

December 4, 2008

Spirituality of the Workplace
Dr. Dan Scholz, Jean Marie Weber and Niles Kauffman, OFM
Cardinal Stritch University
(Co-sponsored with PAMA)

MDREO (Madison)

MDREO's upcoming speaking engagements:

Thursday, October 23, 2008

Moving our Ministries from Maintenance to Mission
Waunakee Village Center

With a mixture of laughter, stories and audience participation, national speaker Rich Curran will lead our group

on an adventure to seek the greatness within ourselves and the courage to live out that rediscovered knowledge.

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Social Justice
St. Dennis, Madison

John Huebscher will give us an opportunity to look at the topic of Social Justice in our church teachings as lived out in our parishes, our programs and ourselves. In the afternoon we will have breakout sessions with practical ways to apply the concepts talked about in the morning session.

December 4-5, 2008

Quiet in the Pines
Offered by the OEC

Parish catechetical staff are invited to join the staff of the OEC at Durwards Glen near Baraboo. The retreat will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 4 and end by 2 p.m. on Friday, December 5. More details can be found on the Diocesan Web site.

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Catechizing the Un-churched
St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison

Lee Nagle, president of NCCL, will be engaging us in ways to reach out to families whose Mass attendance is hit and miss but their class attendance is great!

ProCLAYM (Green Bay)

Upcoming ProClaym Leadership Days:

November 6, 2008

Theology of the Body Workshops
with Ascension Press

January 15, 2009

Faith & Male Spirituality
How to Work with Tough Kids
Discussion: New guidelines and rites for sacraments
Discussion: Legal Issues & How to Deal with Legal Situations

(Contracts, Terminations, Safe Environments, Harassment, Employee Rights).

SUMMIT (Superior)

Highlights submitted by Diana Maki, SUMMIT president:

The SUMMIT Executive Board, along with personnel from the Diocesan Offices of Christian Formation and Religious Education & Youth Ministry, is meeting with Bishop Peter Christensen on September 26. Our May 8 meeting had to be postponed. Proposed discussion includes background and history of SUMMIT, Bishop's vision of catechesis for the diocese, Bishop's view of Lay Ecclesial Ministry and the Bishops' Charter Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal.

The SUMMIT Executive Board, along with personnel from the Diocesan Offices of Christian Formation and Religious Education & Youth Ministry met at the end of May to plan for 2008-09 SUMMIT gatherings. The attitude guiding that meeting was "Today is the first day of an awesome future for SUMMIT."

SUMMIT provided Bishop Christensen with his copy of *Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders: A Practical Handbook* – revised and expanded edition. It was decided at the Executive Planning meeting that each pastor/parish director be provided a copy of this valuable resource. SUMMIT and the Diocesan Office of Christian Formation are together funding this endeavor. Handbooks will be distributed through Leadership Days meetings in August.

Word is out about the new handbook! Three pastors and several PCL's have contacted me needing the wisdom provided in the handbook. Great work Handbook Committee!

Who's Who Moment

WDREF Member(s) in the Spotlight

This month we are shining the spotlight on our Convention Committee who has worked painstakingly to bring us an outstanding program for this year's convention in Stevens Point. Thank you for all your efforts!

A special thanks to Convention Co-Chairs from DARE:

Bonnie Bauman



Nancy Metz



And thank you to all of our convention committee members:

DARE (LaCrosse)

Lynn Meyer
Rick Giese
Linda Corey
Kathy Pichler
Nancy Metz
Bonnie Bauman
Barb Ceranski
Carol Mercord
Kathy Mero
Ann Lankford

MDREO (Madison)

Ann Sirianni – registration
Larry Behlen – registration
Becky Thompson – registration

ProCLAYM (Green Bay)

Anne Stemper – exhibits

SUMMIT (Superior)

Joanie McKeown – binders
Sr. Cas Benbenek – binders

MAREDA (Milwaukee)

Bob Boehm– publicity
Bob Nolan – publicity

Who's Who

Contact the WDREF President...

If you would like to contact Becky Thompson regarding any WDREF matters, please e-mail her at beckyt@stjosephbaraboo.org

Convention Grant Applications Due September 23!

Members of the local organizations of DARE, MAREDA, MDREO, ProCLAYM and SUMMIT may apply for grant money to attend WDREF's Convention. The grant application form is available on www.wdref.org.

The deadline for submission is: September 23, 2008.

How to Join WDREF

When you join your local organization, you automatically become a member of WDREF. Please contact your local presidents listed here, to join:

MAREDA (Milwaukee)

David Beaudry - dave@stmoftours.org

DARE (LaCrosse)

Sue Soriano - wi.soriano@hotmail.com

MDREO (Madison)

Nicki Paulson - npaulson@stpetersofmadison.org

ProCLAYM (Green Bay)

Betty Manion - betty@smm-waupaca.org

SUMMIT (Superior)

Diane Maki - holyfamilycre@charterinternet.com

Introducing our Executive Team!



Facilitator
Becky Thompson

Secretary
David Kenny

Treasurer
Rick Geise

WDREF Newsletter Editor: Sarah Karlen
Suggestions or Comments?
E-mail: stkarlen@gmail.com