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From the Facilitator

by Jennifer Ludtke

WDREF Facilitator

Feasts of St. Monica and St. Augustine (August 27-28)

There is a car-trip tradition in my family of saying (no matter how far we have left to drive) that it's going to be 45 minutes before we stop. My earliest memory of this response is when I was 11 years old, riding in the back seat with my little brother, little sister, and no air conditioning, as we traveled "out west" on a family vacation. How long into each leg of the trip before we started asking "Are we there yet? How much longer?" I'm guessing 15 minutes!

As a child, an hour was a long time to wait (especially sitting next to siblings!). Even now, as grownups, we are so used to things like Internet searches, texting, instant credit, and online shopping that maybe we've lost a little of our ability to be patient with things that just take time.

The first day of our August WDREF board meeting was the feast of St. Monica. Now there's a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, and strong, disciplined character, eventually led to the conversion of her husband, her mother-in-law and her son, Augustine.

As our program year begins, may we, too, learn St. Monica's patience, perseverance and total trust in God's timing. Like a kid in the back seat, the time needed for each person's journey of faith is beyond our control. We can only trust and ask "Are we there yet?"..... 45 minutes.

God bless you all.

- Jenny

WDREF Calendar

November 8-9, 2012
2012 WDREF Conference
The Lodge in Siren, WI

January 10, 2013
Deadline for Best Practices CD
Submissions

January 14-15, 2013
WDREF E-Board Meeting

November 7-8, 2013
WDREF Retreat

2012 WDREF Conference

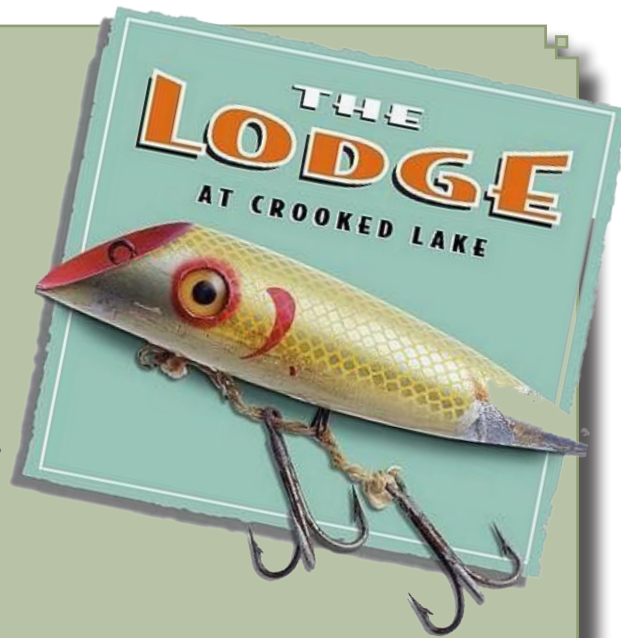
Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory

When: Pre-conference (Nov. 7), Conference (Nov. 8-9)

Where: The Lodge at Crooked Lake, Siren, WI

Why: To be informed, formed, and transformed by our faith with our peers

You've been hearing about the 2012 WDREF Conference for over a year, so what more can we say? **We have two AWESOME keynotes...**



Carole Eipers: no one is more creative in the way she educates and leads people to reflect on the applications for their lives and ministries.



Joe Paprocki: taking the country by storm as he explains our faith in new ways for a new generation.

Mass: Celebrated on Thursday with Bishop Peter Christensen presiding

Prayer Room: Throughout the conference, step into the room for quiet, personal prayer

Honoring St. Kateri: A special presentation of the life of Kateri Tekawitha by local Chippewas

Daily Prayer Services: Honoring our Catholic heritage and our missions within it today

Catechism of the Catholic Church: update your knowledge of this premier document of our time

Theology of Body: Applying this theology in your parish ministry.

Technology and Ministry: How adept are you at using today's technology?

Awards Banquet: Honoring our own for their excellence in the catechetical ministry

Surprise gifts for attendees: Valued at \$20 each

Exhibits: See new products and talk with the exhibitors about your needs

Meet your peers: Share the joys and receive support for the difficulties within your ministry

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in your midst!

Event and session details along with the conference brochure, which includes an itinerary, pricing and registration form can be found on the Events page at

www.wdref.org.





Mareda

- MAREDA continues to work to support our local co-workers in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. They will begin their fall membership drive shortly.
- MAREDA's first event of the fall will be a social gathering to attend the local Comedy Sports on Fri. Sept. 7. This should be fun and get us laughing as we get into the swing of fall.
- The Archdiocese hosted a "Welcome Back Day" on Tues. Sept. 18. MAREDA had a table to sign up members and promote upcoming events.
- Their first meeting/event of the year will be on Thurs. Oct. 25. The program for the day will be "The Challenge of the New Evangelization," presented by Kenneth Koran, and sponsored by Sadlier Publishing. The day will be co-sponsored by PAMA (Pastoral Associates of the Milwaukee Archdiocese).
- We look forward to attending the WDREF convention. The Archdiocese will be sponsoring a bus.

MDREO

- Madison-area members gathered in July to assemble bookmarks and prepare mailings for the fall convention—both for statewide distribution.
- A Catechetical Convocation with Bishop Morlino will be held Oct. 4, 2012. This will be a diocesan-wide event for both MDREO members and non-members at which MDREO will be featured as one of the event sponsors, along with the diocesan Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.
- "What does it mean to be a catechetical professional?" – a panel discussion, will take place April

2012. It will cover three must-have components for professionalism in PCLs:

- Financial responsibility/advocacy at the parish level
- A commitment to ongoing professional development for the self/staff
- Fostering a personal life of prayer
- An Advent Day of Prayer, in December, with Abbot Marcel Rooney, OSB is in the works.
- Several other events are also planned including: a speaker event to address "Adventures in Adult Faith Formation;" a Movie Matinee of latest and greatest video resources available to PCLs; a repeat of the popular "Milwaukee Road Trip" fun day we had with Brewers Game and a religious destination; and a visit to the "international headquarters" of the Dead Theologians Society, and founder Eddie Cotter are also planned.

ProCLAYM

- Proclaym is in the process of collecting and compiling a catechist survey for Bishop Ricken to aid him in understanding the structure of religious education programs in the parishes throughout the diocese. This will be shared with him later this fall.
- Many members of Proclaym have volunteered to be trainers for the new Catechetical Certification Training in the Diocese of Green Bay. The goal is that all catechists will begin attending the foundational classes and will be certified within a few years. In addition, these courses are open to all parishioners, promoting adult faith formation for everyone. Classes will be offered in several locations throughout the diocese this year.
- Proclaym's R & R (Wrap Up

and Recognition) Day took place in May. The day was entitled, 'An Amazing Journey of Faith' and followed 'The Amazing Race' format with destinations related to diocesan icons and local activities. It ended at the NEW Zoo where lunch and presentations took place.

- One of the goals for Proclaym this year is to do visioning, especially to examine if our attention and activities really are following our written goals and constitutional purpose. Our theme this year will be 'Walk A Mile In Their Shoes,' with the idea of creating understanding, empathy and cooperation for the many demands that face our members.
- The Proclaym Kick-Off Day will take place on Thursday, October 4, with guest speaker Sr. Antona Ebo on the topic of human rights and dignity, entitled "Ministers of Hope: See the Change, Be the Change!"

DARE

- In late September DARE will have its annual meeting and lunch with Bishop Callahan.
- A calendar is being developed, which will be sent out to DREs, CREs, YMs and others in ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse with offerings for speakers and networking from DARE, as well as events happening throughout the Diocese being planned by local organizations and parishes, which will be open to anyone to attend.
- DARE is working to increase interest in membership and involvement on the DARE board.
- Talk continues about ways to best be present and available to all in ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse, and best fulfill the goals DARE began to formulate during their meetings last year.



SUMMIT

• This spring, SUMMIT's Executive Board looked over results of a survey given to pastors and PCLs in the Diocese of Superior. They are trying to ascertain reasons for declining involvement in SUMMIT, as well as areas of interest that would entice more to become involved. Findings indicated that the economy had a good deal to do in lower numbers, not only with fewer PCLs at parishes, but PCLs having fewer paid hours for

their parish work, and less monies for educational/enrichment activities and mileage to attend such offerings. Another finding indicated that the topics PCL's would like to see offered as part of their catechetical certification process given via SUMMIT, were regarding areas that would specifically improve, inform or direct their professional catechetical leadership abilities to serve the parish.

• SUMMIT will be conducting four meetings during 2012-2013 held on Thursdays, at Holy Trinity Parish in

Haugen, WI. Each gathering begins with a period of professional formation, which can be applied toward ongoing catechetical certification. Meetings include:

9/27/12 - Diocesan Input on plans for The Year of Faith

12/6/12 - Recruiting, Forming, Training and Retaining Catechetical Volunteers

2/7/13 - Rep. from Catechetical Publisher for Presentation & Round Table

4/11/13 - The PCL Toolbox w/ and beyond Joe Paprocki's book.

Board Highlights

- Conference 2012, "Share the Story, Proclaim God's Glory" is practically here. A tremendous amount of work and prayer has gone into its planning, and we are sure to be treated to a wonderful event in a unique environment. If you haven't already registered, now is the time! For the registration form and brochure, visit the events page at www.wdref.org.
- Our WDREF treasurer, Danelle Kegley, is doing an exemplary job. Her diligence is helping the board to clarify budget issues and update our tax exempt status. She has also been doing some initial leg work reviewing the archives kept at Marquette University.
- The Professional Development Committee won't be resting on their success. Plans are already in the works for the next Best Practices collection, focused on prayer. Submit your ideas – the goal is to have at least 15 from each diocese.
- The Visioning Committee has given each local organization the task of setting at least one concrete goal that will help them to be dynamic and relevant to their members. WDREF board members are also urged to consider how well they share the value of WDREF at their local meetings.
- The Communications Committee is helping WDREF move toward being paperless. Our fall folder information is all available online, the e-newsletter continues, and we are trying out a QR code that will bring smartphone users right to the WDREF Web site. Welcome to chair, Jim Gill, as well!
- Future plans are already underway for the 2013 Retreat and 2014 Conference...believe it or not!
- Ideas for the May, 2013 Province Dialogue are being surfaced. At this dialogue, Diocesan catechetical leaders and WDREF board members focus discussion on topics that are important to catechetical leaders throughout Wisconsin.
- A final challenge facing WDREF is how to be fiscally responsible. In order to move toward a balanced budget, the WDREF board will be holding an e-meeting in January rather than meeting at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon. We thank the staff at St. Anthony's for their gracious adjustment to our needs.

Best Practices Book-on-CD: *Prayer Experiences and Retreats*

from WDREF's Professional Development Committee

Be a part of this new book by WDREF!

Deadline for submission: January 10, 2013

Each year, we hear catechetical leaders from around the state discussing innovative program ideas that are having a positive impact on the faith formation and spiritual development of Catholics of all ages. We would like to gather these "Best Practices" for a series of books published by WDREF.

Our first area of focus was the Sacraments. That book-on-CD was completed in May 2012 and is available for purchase. Details on how to order can be found in the article below. Please contact joanie50@consultant.com for more information.

Our next book will be on *Prayer Experiences and Retreats*. What prayer experiences and/or retreats have you designed that really seem to impact those in attendance? e.g., a special way of praying the rosary, a prayer service to end the year, a retreat for the RCIA, etc.

We are looking for prayer experiences/retreats that are age-specific (i.e. for a particular age or grade level) or that work well for all ages. Possible sections in the book will be: prayer experiences related to the seasons, prayer experiences related to saints & their spiritualities, catechesis and experiences of the Church's devotions, retreats for children, retreats for teens, retreats for adults, retreats for multi-generational groups, prayer experiences and retreats for people with special needs, other prayer services.

Please share your ministry ideas with us by completing the online form. Just click the "Best Pract. Prayer Form" link at www.wdref.org.

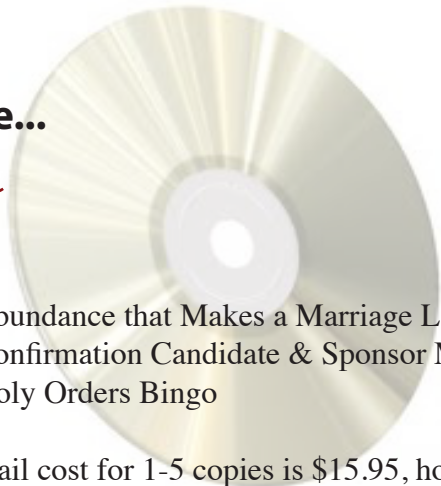
The editorial committee will review the submissions and decide on which to include so that we have an appropriate balance in the various areas of interests and ideas. They may contact you for further information and photos as the submissions are grouped into chapters. You will be given credit in the book for your submissions.

First Best Practices CD Available for Purchase...

The first version of WDREF's Best Practices CD on sacraments is now available! It is our hope that these ideas will help you in your catechetical ministry. Click the "Best Practices CD" link at www.wdref.org to access the order form.

Here are some of the sample titles included in this version of the CD:

- Collage on the Sacraments
- Night of Reflection for First Reconciliation
- Baptism Certificate made by Children
- Anointing Prayer
- Readiness Signs for First Communion

- 
- Abundance that Makes a Marriage Last
 - Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor Meeting
 - Holy Orders Bingo

Retail cost for 1-5 copies is \$15.95, however WDREF members and diocesan offices will receive a \$12.75 courtesy price. Please list the name of your diocesan office or local DRE organization when ordering.

Discounts apply when ordering more than five copies:

- 6-23 copies - 40% off retail price
- 24-99 copies - 45% off retail price
- 100 or more - 50% off retail price

Who's Who Moment ...

WDREF Member in the Spotlight

Sue Devine-Simon, Director of Child Ministry
St. James parish, Menomonee Falls



**Education in
Theology**
+ Family
+ Experience

Sue Devine-Simon,
Kitchen Table
Theologian

I have a vocation. I am a minister, a mom, and a wife. All of those “calls” are wrapped up into one, which could be called Kitchen Table Theologian.

Coming from a family of 11 and then creating a family of 6, looking at ministry through the lenses of the family was the only way to see. It was simply the reality of my life. While at a parish in Brookfield, I met with a group of parents who wanted to begin meeting, as families, to share faith together. In 1985 we began to gather as a Family Religious Education program. From that time forward, every program for me became a family program because it was created and sustained as a partnership between home and church. Whether it was sacramental prep, traditional type programming, family workshops, retreats, or the intergenerational programs themselves, it was family programming.

Since my graduation from Marquette University in 1981 with a degree in Theology, I have been living my vocation as a Catechetical minister in youth ministry, child ministry, and family ministry. God called me to this work, and has sustained me in it for many years. It was what I really wanted to do when I was younger, and at this point I cannot imagine any other lifestyle I would rather live. In 1987 I received a MA from Cardinal Stritch University.

Since then I have had the opportunity to work in rural, suburban, and urban settings, in two dioceses. This has given me many different perspectives of church. I have been blessed with a husband and family who have challenged and strengthened my faith and my approach to ministry. They have helped me to further develop a “Kitchen Table Theology” and enhanced my understanding of how we live as the domestic church. Everything I do is seen through the lens of family and the domestic church.

WDREF has played a major role in my professional life. I have been a member for more than 30 years. I have always found support and growth in this organization. As I've moved in and out of different

positions and dioceses, it has remained as my one constant. Not only does WDREF provide camaraderie, growth, support, and learning opportunities, it also keeps us moving forward in the direction of the kingdom...WDREF helps me to see that my little world isn't all there is, that we can do better things and be a better witness for the gospel if we join together.

When I began in Catechetical leadership in 1981 there were very few guidelines or templates as to what ministry was for lay people. The WDREF organization has helped us to put structure and vision to our roles. We have looked at trends in ministry, and in the church, and used that information to help us grow and develop our roles.

I have been so blessed in this ministry! I have met so many wonderful people and have been supported and cared for by those who have gone before me and by my peers. What a privilege and honor it is to serve God's people. May God bless our efforts today and always.

Highlights from the May 2012 National Conference • San Diego, CA

- USCCB: “Disciples Called to Witness” The New Evangelization
- Echoes of Faith: fully bilingual and ipad/iphone apps by spring of 2013.
- Fr. Frank DeSiano (Paulist Father) keynote had a lot to say about how our faith gives us an identity. We need to embrace the future of the church; by embracing it we are transformed. Question to ponder: “What does it mean to be “modern” in today’s world?” Millennial are living in a world with way too many choices, we “make” our identities with images and outside influences...the world is not going to stop going in this direction. We need to embrace the people; we need to reach beyond ourselves.
- PCL Forum: Mike Corrota was the speaker and he suggested that instead of it being about your life’s work, it is about the work of your life through the call to faith, the call of relationships and the call to work.
- We need to provide a variety of experiences and we need to personalize it and customize it to the families we serve. Faith formation is a network, we need to be curators of faith formation—we need to find the best resources that will help all (John Roberto).

Highlights from Bishop Blair:

- One of the key questions he offered was: “How are we a member of faith in this new reality of the new media?” We don’t want God to become an app. How do we go about not letting that happen?
- He indicated that the three main ideas behind the New Evangelization are the hope that our faith will be deepened, our worship will be renewed and we will be a witness and share our faith with others.
- Year of Faith: October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013
- Catechateical Sunday theme 2012: Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization
- Catechetical Sunday theme 2013: Open the Door of Faith

Visit www.nccl.org to learn more about NCCL.

NCCL
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

LIVING OUR BAPTISM AS PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING

WDREF RETREAT

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2013

ST. ANTHONY RETREAT CENTER, MARATHON

FACILITATED BY:
FR. JAMES KUBICKI, SJ
NATIONAL DIRECTOR APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER



Become a WDREF Member!

Become a member of WDREF and take advantage of these great benefits:

- Network with others in the field
- Share best practices & resources
- Engage in continuing education
- And more!

Joining your local organization automatically makes you a member of WDREF. Check the list below to find your local organization, and visit the **Our Organization** page on the Web site for contact information. A portion of your local dues helps support WDREF activities and projects.

Local Organization Presidents:

DARE

Diocesan Association of Religious Educators (La Crosse)
Contact: Emily Revak
St. Joseph Church
910 Wilson Ave.
Menomonie, WI 54751

MAREDA

Administrators of Catechetical Leadership in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Contact: Jim Beuscher
St. Mary Catholic Faith Community
9520 W. Forest Home Avenue
Hales Corners, WI 53130

MDREO

Madison Directors of Religious Education Organization
Contact: Mary Lynn Hendrickson
Holy Mother of Consolation
651 N Main St.
Oregon, WI 53575

ProCLAYM

Green Bay Association of Religious Education Administrators
Contact: Gloria Kennedy
St. Clare Parish
2218 Day St.
Greenleaf, WI 54126

SUMMIT

Superior Mutual Ministry Team
Contact: Gwen Nies
St. Joseph Church
PO Box 399
Osceola, WI 54020

WDREF Executive Team



Treasurer - Danelle Kegley

Facilitator - Jennifer Ludtke

Secretary - Dominick Meyer

Learn more about our executives...

www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html

Find us on the web!

www.wdref.org

News • Updates • Events

www.wdref.org



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.