



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

*February
Newsletter
2017*

From the Facilitator
Adele Svetnicka
February 2017



The New Year is well on its way. The holiday excitement is long gone and we have settled back into the rhythm of our programs. I don't know about you, but this time of year can be a little tough on me.

The lack of sunshine definitely plays a part in that, and there are many days where it is an effort to drum up the energy needed! 'Down time' in the form of sitting and doing nothing productive (dare I say 'sloth'!?) constantly beckons and usually wins; this is at home of course. It is a struggle to find a healthy balance between my needed down time and being a complete slacker.

Obviously prayer helps me with this, but so does confiding in and talking to a friend, a co-worker, or my spouse. Just verbalizing my struggle lessens the hold it has on me and helps me find a little more strength and determination for the day.



Whether you struggle with the same temptation or something else, remember to pray! And remember that we are not supposed to walk this earth or go through our 'stuff' alone. We were made for relationship; relationship with God and with one another. Share your burden and watch it lessen.

May this New Year be filled with many blessings and healthy balance for you. And maybe even fruit from the seeds you plant in your ministry!

May the peace of Christ guide you in all you do,
Adele



CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY

Saint Clare Center for Catholic Life

To: The Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF)

From: Jean Marie Weber

Cardinal Stritch University Liaison to the Catholic Community

Date: January 31, 2017

**RE: Thank you to the Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF)
THANK YOU for the conferral of the GOOD and FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD**

The following reflects what I see as the value of the WDREF:

The meetings of the Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation (WDREF) are

collegial and supportive gatherings of lay ministers passionate about the various ministries to which they are called. These gatherings allow for discussion on issues pertinent to pastoral ministries in particular. This collegial atmosphere strengthens and supports pastoral ministers in their field. It is important to come to WDREF meetings for this collegial support, getting creative ideas that help enhance ministry programs as well experiencing affirmation and a deepening of one's vocation. Attending WDREF is an opportunity to get a sense of the Church in Wisconsin and beyond. This is a forum where one can speak to people primarily dedicated to pastoral ministry. Also, outside of the actual meeting, one benefits from the possibility of contacting other members for information and advice. This networking is invaluable. Ministry is all about relationships and collaboration. WDREF assists with cultivating these relationships and enriching collaboration. These gatherings place particularly pastoral ministers in the same place at the same time with people who understand, value, and have expertise in the work to which they have been called by God.

WDREF has been an important part of my ministerial life. As co-founder and on-going member, this has been a life-giving resource for which I am grateful. The conferral of the Good and Faithful Servant Award is a recognition of all of these benefits which we as a WDREF community share. Thank you for choosing me as a recipient!



News from our 2016-17 Year Thus Far

Over the summer of 2016, our efforts to “re-group” came together. From a core number of interested and passionate Catechetical Leaders, a new team of officers were discerned to chart our course. Under the facilitating leadership of Kim Palmer (Immaculate Conception Parish, New Richmond) we determined to have three gatherings during the current catechetical year. A key component will include working on improving relational ministry within our ranks through personal invitations and phone calls. Wishing to kick-off with a bang, Mr. Tom Thibodeau of Viterbo University, LaCrosse, was contacted to present us with information and experience on the importance of Ritual and Celebration. It was a fabulous day at St Anthony's Parish in Tony, with many inspirational highlights and enthusiasm in abundance for the year ahead.

Our second gathering is slated to take place on Monday, February 13 at St Peter's Parish in Cameron. It will be a day for networking, sharing and supporting one another in our catechetical ministry. The Executive Team, which also includes Secretary Kay Berg (St. Mary's Parish, Tomahawk), Treasurer Terri Hunt (St. Patrick Parish, Hudson – and a WDREF Representative), Adele Svetnicka (WDREF Rep, St Peter's Parish, Eagle River) and Gwen Nies (WDREF Rep, St John's Parish, Webster) surfaced concerns and topics for discussion from members at large. We look forward to “building our arsenal” of strategies, methods and tools in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ at all age levels. It is exciting to consider the variety of ideas that will be shared by so many creative and faithful people who will be gathering for just such a purpose.

On Wed., May 24, SUMMIT will host an all-inclusive event for parish personnel who work to

spread God's Word. Bishop Powers has called our diocesan priests, deacons, parish directors and parish life coordinators to gather with us as we seek to work in the vineyard of the Lord collaboratively at all levels. Key training/funding/staffing/support are sure to comprise the discussions of the day. We are grateful for the quarter century of local experience and current pastoral support given to our Diocese by Bishop Powers (His one year anniversary is Feb. 18.) The location of this gathering is yet to be determined, largely dependent on Bishop Power's schedule.



~BOOK REVIEW~

Book: "Operating On Faith"
 Author: Matt Weber
 Publisher: Loyola Press 2016

This is a new book written by the WDEF Keynote speaker of our 2014 convention! It is a book that shares Matt's story of his first year of marriage. He truly didn't think how literal his vows were...in sickness and in health...! He shares how we need to always remember that faith, hope and a whole lot of love and a little spunk are necessary to face some of life's difficulties.

Synopsis of January Board Meeting

Technology was a good friend at our January meeting! According to our constitution and bylaws, a quorum of no less than four diocese present is required. The southern part of our state, especially Milwaukee and Madison had freezing rain and school closures. We only had three diocese present. So, we plugged in our devices!! Using various technology, we were able to connect with three

representatives and be represented by all five dioceses! Amen!

We were able to do a lot of good business but have planned a March Go-To-Meeting to finish up business for the May meeting.

Here is a look at our January meeting:

Convention 2016 Review

- Overall was successful and well enjoyed
- Exhibits were wonderful and exhibitors felt very welcome and appreciated
- Networking and meeting others 'in our field' was a huge benefit
- Evals gave very good feedback – both positive and suggestive for next time

Convention Caucus Time Feedback

- Each diocese met to discuss our proposed mission statement change and our proposed goals for the next three-four years.
(see December newsletter)
- We continue to review all of the feedback and suggestions – there is a lot, and it is very good.

Retreat 2017

- Sunday, Oct 29 – Tuesday, Oct 31
- St Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon City
- Theme: Creating a Personal Sanctuary
- Director: Sr. Jolynn Brehm, FSPA
- Focus: A relaxed retreat where we can be renewed, have different prayer experiences, participate in the sacraments, enjoy Adoration, and personal reflection time. Ahhhhhh!!



A Prayer for Catechist's

Annual Contracts

- Decision to have our three annual contracted positions, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Recording Secretary all be on the same contract schedule of July 1 – June 30.

Scholarship

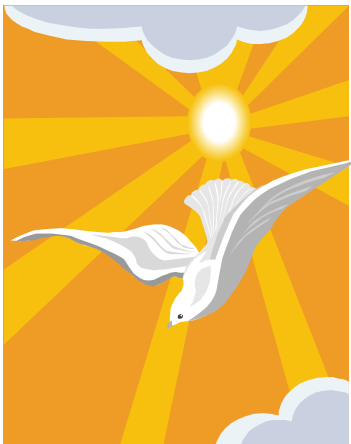
- Reminder to all that WDREF offers scholarships to all pursuing further education in our fields of ministry.
- Applications are due March 15, 2017
- Check with your local rep or go online (wdref.org) to print an application.

Convention 2018

- November 5-6, 2018
- Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.
- Save the Date!! If we are able to book our first choice for keynote speaker, you won't want to miss it!!
- Each diocese could use extra help with their 'task(s)':
 - ProClaym: Exhibits
 - MDREO: Publicity
 - SUMMIT: Registration
 - Mareda: Program Book

Discernment in May

- May is when we discern new officers.
- This year we will discern a new facilitator and treasurer.



We pray with
Confidence to an ever loving God.
Always know that we seek to do
your will.
Teaching the faith to our students
is a gift that lasts a lifetime. Help us
to
Encourage all believers that you
are always present to them. Know
that we gain
Comfort from your never-ending
love. Give us
Hope that the joy of our gift of
sharing our faith continues to
flourish.
Inspire us to be creative, joy-filled
and truthful educators. May you
be our
Sanctuary, holding us close to your
heart.
Together nothing is impossible.
Amen.