



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

WDREF

Spring 2009

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WDREF Calendar

November 5-6, 2009
 WDREF Retreat
 (St Anthony's Retreat Center
 Marathon, WI)

September 15, 2009
 WDREF Retreat Grant
 Applications Due

February 25, 2010
 WDREF Scholarship
 Applications Due



From the Facilitator

by *Becky Thompson*
 WDREF Facilitator

“When the birds came back in the spring, Mother began to think about her garden. Out came the seeds—store-bought ones in neat little packages and those we had harvested last fall in unused Sears and Montgomery Ward order envelopes... It was all very personal, the planting. Each seed passed through the warmth of our hands. It was a thing to be done with great responsibility, this taking of living seeds from the envelopes where they had laid dormant and putting them properly into the soil so they could awake and grow.” (The Land Remembers, Ben Logan)

As I was reading *The Land Remembers* last week I thought to myself, “I could have written this chapter.” But instead of my mom it was my dad who would pour over the seed catalogs and seed packets. With ten children the garden was our food for the winter.

We had strawberries, raspberries, currants, apples and gooseberries that mom would make into jelly and jams. Corn, green beans, green peppers, apple slices and even squash, were frozen. Tomatoes would become spaghetti sauce. And the potatoes and carrots kept in a cold place for use when needed.

My husband, Bryan, likes to think he is a gardener and puts in small crops of vegetables this time of year. I, on the other hand, like flower gardens and container gardening. Sunday, before the WDREF board meeting, I was turning over the soil, digging my hands into the dirt, and planting my annuals. Whatever type of gardening you do, it takes time, love and energy. You need to water the plants, pull weeds, fertilize and prune. You just can't stick the seed or plant into the soil and never come back to it.

Planting seeds is what we are all about. Planting the seeds of faith is a “thing to be done with great responsibility.” Like gardening, nurturing the seeds of faith take time, love and energy. At our meeting, Anne Stemper, Pro-CLAYM, brought us each a seed packer and a prayer to remind us of the things we need to plant (the prayer can be found on page 2).



A Garden Prayer

A Garden Prayer for a bountiful garden you will need to plant:

THREE rows of PEAS:

“PEAS” of mind

“PEAS” of heart

“PEAS” of soul

FOUR rows of SQUASH

“SQUASH” selfishness

“SQUASH” indifference

“SQUASH” grumbling

“SQUASH” gossip

FIVE rows of LETTUCE

“LETTUCE” be kind

“LETTUCE” be faithful

“LETTUCE” be patient

“LETTUCE” be respectful

“LETTUCE” really love one another

No garden would be complete without TURNIPS

“TURNIP” for meetings

“TURNIP” for service

“TURNIP” to help one another

Finally, add to your garden THYME

“THYME” for the Lord

“THYME” for each other

“THYME” for family

“THYME” for friends

For the very best garden — water freely with patience and cultivate with love. Remember, we reap what we sow.

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www.wdref.org

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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.

B&R Blessings & Recognition

A special thank you to the following outgoing WDREF board representatives:

Rick Giese - DARE

Heather Lukaszewski - Mareda

Julie Wiedmeyer - MDREO

Anne Stemper - Pro-CLAYM

Rose Schullo - SUMMIT

We truly appreciate your time and dedication to the catechetical ministry.

We also give a big welcome to our new WDREF board representatives:

Ann Fons (Mareda)

Jamie Whalen (Pro-CLAYM)

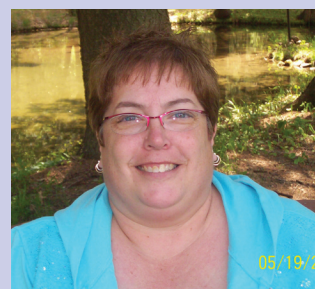
Lenore Krajewski (SUMMIT)

Congratulations to the following:

Joanie McKeown - elected secretary for NCCL

Mike Westenberg - selected by Anne Roat to fill her at-large position on the board

Pam Fischer (Pro-CLAYM) agreed to represent WDREF to the NCCL Representative Council this year.



Board Highlights

Points of interest from the May board meeting

The May meeting is usually one filled with all kinds of emotion. New representatives and local organization presidents/facilitators are welcomed and it's nice to see so many faces around the table. But it is also a time of sadness because for some members this will be their last board meeting. Because some organizations did not have their elections/discernment yet, Dave Kenny, WDFEF secretary, would like to be contacted as soon as you know who your new reps and presidents/facilitators are.

During our budget discussion we decided this year to pass a deficit budget to increase grant money for the retreat and convention so that more people could benefit or more money could be awarded. Do not be alarmed – we do have additional monies sitting in the savings account so we should be fine.

Committee Reports - PDC's & Visioning's goal is to produce a "Best Practices" book focusing on Preparing for the Sacraments. The committee members are going to ask people for ministry ideas that are "time tested" or "work year after year" and to spur ideas, they will include some samples. Watch for the submission form on the Web site by early August! Let's work together to get "50 Best Practices in Preparing for the Sacrament" or how about 100?

The communications committee is in need of a new chairperson. Sarah has agreed to continue to be our newsletter editor and discussion regarding the web site continues. WDFEF folders will be collated this summer and given out at the August board meeting to be distributed at the first fall organizational meetings. An informational DVD is being put together as publicity to be shown at the fall organizational meetings so if you have any photos of catechetical leaders, local organization activities or WDFEF retreats or conventions please send them to LeeAnn Lella at lalella@eastsideparishes.org. This DVD could be streaming on our Web site.

Retreat 2009 – Register early! As we are nearing Advent we will be exploring the season of hope with Lee Nagel, Executive Director of NCCL. Presentations include: I Can't See: Lift Me Up; Peeking Over the Fence: Glimpses of Grace; It's Not So Dark That You Can't See!; T.O.E. Stretching Exercises. Hosted by Pro-CLAYM. The 2011 retreat will be hosted by Mareda.

Convention 2010 will be held at the Heidel House in Green Lake. After much discussion, the board decided not to raise the registration fee this year and will look at ways to cut back expenses (WE WANT YOU THERE!). Speakers include Gregory Pierce (pre-convention) Archbishop Charles Chaput and Dr. Jane Regan.

The scholarship committee reported that Anne Stephens from Barron was awarded the WDFEF scholarship. She is working toward Youth Ministry certification.



Introducing the 2009-2010 Executive Board!
(Becky Thompson (facilitator), Dave Kenny (secretary)
and Peg Miller (treasurer).

WDFEF Retreat – November 5-6, 2009

This year's WDFEF retreat will be held November 5-6, 2009 at the St. Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, WI. The theme of the Retreat is:

Standing on Tiptoe: The Season of Hope and our retreat master will be Lee Nagel, the Executive Director of NCCL. All are welcome!

For more information, contact Pam Fischer, retreat chairperson, at faith1@lakefield.net.

2010 Scholarship Application Now Available!

WDREF Scholarships are available for any academic endeavor! Visit www.wdref.org to download an application.

Applicants must be:

- A member of a local diocesan organization in the state of Wisconsin. (WDREF Board members may apply.)
- Actively engaged in the religious education ministry in the state of Wisconsin.
- Intending to remain in the religious education field for at least two more years.
- Committed to their own professional development (i.e. working towards certification, continuing education units, or a bachelor's, master's or postgraduate degree in a field related to religious education ministry).

First consideration will be given to applicants who have not been awarded a WDREF scholarship in the last two years. In addition to completing the application form, you must also secure a letter of recommendation from each of the following three people:

1. A diocesan staff person in the religious education department
2. Another DRE or coordinator
3. A parish staff member with whom you've worked within the last five years

Applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to Jenny Schneider at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Neenah by **February 25, 2010** to be considered (see application for mailing information).

WDREF Retreat Grant Application Form

Members of the local organizations of DARE, Mareda, MDREO, ProCLAYM and SUMMIT are encouraged to apply for grant money to attend WDREF's fall retreat.

The grant application can be found at www.wdref.org and should be submitted to Peg Miller at St. Peter Parish in Madison by **September 15, 2009** (see application for mailing information).

Grant guidelines include:

1. A maximum of \$500 in grant monies will be available for the 2009 Retreat.
2. Grants will only be given to WDREF members, i.e. members of DARE, Mareda, MDREO, ProCLAYM or SUMMIT.
3. Preference will be given to members who have not previously received a WDREF grant. (Members could receive grant money more than once, depending on number of applicants and funds available.)
4. Applications will be confidential.
5. Applications will be reviewed and selections made by the Grant Committee with final approval given by the WDREF Board. Recipients will be notified by October 1.

Assistance may be granted for up to 80% of the registration cost for the retreat. **Don't delay, apply today!**

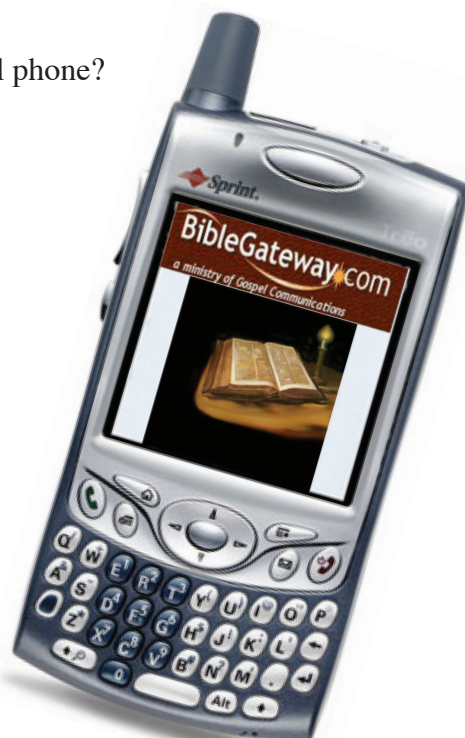
Cell Phone vs. The Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several time a day?
- What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?
- This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

- Oh, and one more thing.
- Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.
- Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?'
- And no dropped calls!



McKeown elected, Westenberg appointed, Fischer designated.

Joanie McKeown elected to NCCL's Board of Directors

Every three years, NCCL (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership) elects new officers at their annual conference. At this year's conference in Dearborn, MI, Joanie McKeown was elected as secretary of NCCL. McKeown has ministered in parishes in the Diocese of Superior since 1988. She served as secretary of SUMMIT (Superior Mutual Ministry Team) for two terms, served as SUMMIT's representative to WDREF for three non-consecutive terms, was Facilitator of WDREF for two terms, and represented WDREF on NCCL's Representative Council for five years.

Other newly elected officers of NCCL include: President Anne Roat (diocesan director from Lafayette, IN), Vice-President Russell Peterson (diocesan director from Belleville, IL) and Treasurer Kathy Kleinlein (diocesan director from Venice, FL).

Michael Westenberg appointed to NCCL's Board of Directors

With the election of Anne Roat as NCCL's president, Roat's at-large position on NCCL's Board of Directors became vacant. After consulting with her newly elected vice-president and secretary, Roat appointed Michael Westenberg to fill the remaining two years of her at-large position on the Board. Westenberg is a parish catechetical leader in the Diocese of Green Bay. Previously, he represented WDREF on NCCL's Representative Council for two terms and served one term as leader of NCCL's PCL Forum.

Pam Fischer designated to serve on NCCL's Representative Council

Having been elected to the Board, the remaining year of Joanie McKeown's term on NCCL's Representative Council was open. At its May meeting, WDREF's Board designated Pam Fischer to represent WDREF on NCCL's Representative Council through June of 2010. Pam Fischer serves as a parish catechetical leader in the Diocese of Green Bay. She currently is representing ProCLAYM (Professional Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers in the Diocese of Green Bay) on the WDREF Board.

She previously served as president of ProCLAYM, is currently chair of WDREF's Retreat Committee, and is one of the authors of WDREF's publication, *Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders*, Revised Edition.

When NCCL's Board and Representative Council meet in November, Wisconsin will be well represented by these three outstanding parish catechetical leaders!

NCCL 2010 Annual Conference: Billy's in Las Vegas - April 19-22, 2010!

National and internationally renowned speakers are being engaged for NCCL's next Annual Conference. Add in the publisher-sponsored events, the high-quality exhibits and the excitement of Vegas, and you have a winning combination of information, formation, networking and camaraderie for all those interested in catechetical issues on the parish and diocesan levels.

Hotel rooms are \$99 a night. Airfare to Vegas is reasonable. Through June 30, NCCL members may register for the Annual Conference at the discounted rate of \$259. The rate increases to \$269 through September 30; \$289 through December 31; and \$309 after that. Non-member rate will be \$319 in the fall.

As a member of WDREF, you can join NCCL for only \$50 a year. (The membership fee is normally \$60 per year.) Among the benefits of membership, NCCL members receive:

- Lee Nagel's weekly "Monday Greetings" which are filled with useful ideas for your ministry and your personal reflection
- NCCL's bimonthly magazine, *Catechetical Leader*
- Discounts on Catechetical Sunday materials
- Discounts on NCCL publications and other items in NCCL online bookstore
- Discounts on Hertz rental cars

Looking Back at NCCL's 2009 Annual Conference...

StrengthsFinder, Adult Faith Formation center-stage

by Joanie McKeown

Belong, Engage, Believe

“There are different gifts, but the same Spirit...” How often have we heard that, quoted it, and used it in prayer services and how often have we ignored it as we’re tackling a new project or looking for volunteers. StrengthsFinder is an online assessment tool that helps to identify your top five “strengths” or attributes. All those who registered for NCCL’s Annual Conference were mailed a copy of the book “Living Your Strengths, Catholic Edition” so they could take the online assessment and learn to apply that information to their personal and professional lives.

The conference began with “St. Paul” (portrayed by Fr. Rick Cassidy) describing his call and ministry and asking us to reflect on why we have chosen to be Disciples of Christ and to minister in his Church. After spending time on that inner reflection, keynote speakers Dr. Greg “Dobie” Moser and Leisa Anslinger moved the discussion outward, highlighting ways that a strengths-based approach to ministry leads parishioners to become more engaged in the life of the parish and creates a more evangelizing parish community.

Dr. Jane Regan, who was presented with NCCL’s 2009 Catechetical Excellence Award, gave an extraordinary presentation on developing quality adult faith formation in a parish. Scott Appleby described the lack of religious memory as one of the dynamics that religious educators encounter today when they try to minister to young adult Catholics. To build this “religious memory” we need to encourage older Catholics to share their experiences of faith and the ways in which their Catholic beliefs have helped them throughout their lives.

In the PCL Forum, Carole Eipers, with her usual flair, encouraged us to take the “solid food” of scripture and tradition to create recipes for adult faith formation in our own unique situations. Other presentations that were well received were the updates on Theology, Morality and Scripture, along with the numerous sessions on the use of Technology to enhance adult faith formation.

Daily Mass provided nourishment for our souls. The meals and receptions sponsored by Harcourt, Our Sunday Visitor, and Sadlier provided nourishment to our bodies while we networked with catechetical leaders from around the country. Two additional social events, Stars Over Detroit in the hotel rotunda and a jam session by the conference musicians, provided additional opportunities to relax and mingle.

We left the conference refreshed and renewed in our ministry, with new ideas on how to help those in our parishes to: *Belong, Engage, Believe.*

Applying to be an NCCL Representative

Could you provide a little more background on the NCCL REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATION for Term: 2010 through Spring 2013. The application is pretty basic so I'm looking for more information as to what this position all involves. Is there some kind of description? Why should WDREF members apply? Who decides who fills the position? What are the requirements? etc. Any info. you can provide would be helpful.

Contact the WDREF Facilitator...

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

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Suggestions or Comments?
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