



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

WDREF

Spring 2010

View also at www.wdref.org

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WDREF Calendar

June 20, 2010

"Early Bird Discount" for the Spring 2011 NCCL Convention

August 31, 2010

'Best Practices - Sacraments' due

September 1, 2010

Award Nomination due

September 24, 2010

Convention Grant Application due

November 10-12, 2010

WDREF Convention
Heidel House in Green Lake



From the Facilitator

by *Becky Thompson*

WDREF Facilitator

"Spring is an energetic season of hope, a time of awakening, of stirring and coming alive. There is much movement happening everywhere. (Rupp and Wiederkehr, The Circle of Life, p. 99)

At the end of this month's WDREF board meeting I asked everyone to give me one word that described what they were feeling after two days of hard work. Some of the words spoken aloud were alive, hopeful, energized and refreshed. I am truly blessed and privileged to be able to work and minister with the people gathered around the table at the WDREF board meeting and you.

At this meeting there was plenty of "movement happening everywhere." I had the great opportunity to meet with the new board reps and the local organization's presidents for almost an hour. With their experience and love for the catechetical ministry, I know this group has some exciting times ahead. *(Look for their picture on page 5.)*

The Professional Development Committee and Visioning Committee are still working together to collect YOUR best sacrament practices. At this time, however, they have only received nine. We would love to have this handbook ready for sale at our fall retreat in November 2011 so please take some time to sit down and write about one or two successes you've had in your sacramental preparation. Please make your submissions online at www.wdref.org by August 31. A few of these "best practices" will be highlighted at our convention. What else would you like these two committees to pursue?

The WDREF Convention is right around the corner! There will be great speakers, prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, time for networking, and a 30th Anniversary Gala all at the Heidel House in Green Lake. An application for grant money can be found on our Web site, www.wdref.org. This year's convention is hosted by MDREO. Larry Behlen is the chairperson.

(Continued on pg. 2)

We also discussed some of the speakers and a theme for the 2012 convention hosted by SUMMIT.

The Communication Committee has been working to rewrite the newsletter and web master job description. Sarah Karlen has done such a great job with the layout of the newsletter that we have also contracted her to be our Web master. Any suggestions on what else the communication committee should be working on?

Mareda will be hosting the 2011 retreat at the St. Anthony Retreat Center and they are currently working on a retreat director. More will be known by our August meeting. Our hope is that at the convention you will receive information about both the 2011 retreat and 2012 convention.

In the evening, through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit we discerned who would become the new WDREF secretary. Ann Fons from Mareda was discerned for the position. During our prayer we also welcomed the new board representatives and thanked our outgoing representatives. (*You can read who these people are in our Blessings and Recognition column*).

Tuesday morning we had a report from the scholarship committee and then that committee was dismantled. All members of the board enthusiastically became a member of the grant, scholarship, or award committee for the coming year. We were very grateful to the diocesan representatives, Rosie Bartel, Roger Cadott, and Gary Pokorny, who joined us on Tuesday, and for the lively discussion on accreditation, certification, and the safe environment programs.

“May hope move freely through your heart, gifting your spirit with enthusiasm and joy!”

(Rupp and Wiederkehr, p.102)

2010 WDREF Convention...this Fall!



Mark your calendars for the 16th biennial WDREF Convention to be held at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, WI. The convention is Thursday, November 11, and Friday, November 12, 2010, with a pre-convention gathering on the evening of Wednesday, November 10.

This year's theme is **“Soul of Leadership: Responding to the Call.”** Speakers include: Gregory Pierce, Jane Regan and Bishop John Barres of the Diocese of Allentown, PA

Join us for a wonderful gala and banquet, entertainment, awards, prayer, Mass, exhibits and an opportunity to network with colleagues in the field. We look forward to celebrating 30 years as a state-wide organization. It will be a journey you won't want to miss!

We have exhibit space available. If you know of anyone interested in participating as an exhibitor, please send their contact information to: Emily Revak at (715) 232-4920 ext. 12 or Emily.revak@menomoniecatholic.org

Members of the local organizations of DARE, ProCLAYM, Mareda, MDREO and SUMMIT may apply for grant money to attend the convention if parish financial assistance is not available. The deadline is September 24, 2010. **Visit www.wdref.org** to download the application. See you in Green Lake!

Rep. Council Update:

- The PCL Forum that took place in Las Vegas was led by speaker, Tim Welch. His key note included several concepts from his book, “Technology in our Parish.” Dan Thomas is the new PCL Forum Animator, which also makes him a member of Rep Council and the Leadership Discernment Committee. He’s a PCL in Tipp City, OH, in the Diocese of Cincinnati.
- You can now view the “Catechetical Leader” Magazine online. Soon it will be member driven, meaning you will need to be a member to access the magazine online.
- Discernment of At-large Board Members. The two new members are Mary Jo Waggoner, she is a Diocesan Director in the Diocese of San Diego; and, Karen Pesek, a Diocesan Director of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
- We are trying to establish an editorial board for the “Catechetical Leader” magazine. We discussed the rough draft of the Editorial Board job description.
- Strategic Plan—a progress report on each of the four action items was given. Some of the key items of the strategic plan include:
 - Adult Faith Formation
 - Technology in Ministry
 - Increase in Membership/Participation
 - Ready and on-going access to resources and information for members
- The Episcopal Advisor to NCCL is Bishop Blair. He reported that he is encouraged by the professionalism and sense of community that he sees and experiences in our NCCL meetings and conferences and by what he hears is happening around the country. He appreciates the opportunity to serve as our advisor.

Bishop Blair spoke with the bishops of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis and Sub-committee on the Catechism about concerns that were expressed to him at our NCCL Representative Council meeting in November 2009. There are several products that are not subject to a conformity review (e.g. Vacation Bible School materials, Sacramental Preparation materials, supplementary or optional curriculum textbooks), all of which should not be considered lacking in quality because they are not subject to review.

- The “Early Bird Discount” for the Spring 2011 NCCL Convention will be extended to June 20, 2010, due to the lack of information of where it will be held. Visit www.nccl.org to register.


National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

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

Looking for a Summer Read?

“When Other Christians Become Catholic” - Paul Turner, Paulist Press

Turner seeks to clarify and confirm the status of baptized persons who enter into full communion of the Catholic Church. In addition, he explores the rites of reception in the early church and the second Vatican Council’s call for ecumenical dialogue, and looks to the reception rites of other Christian communities to gain added perspective. Turner’s historical and ecumenically sensitive analysis will help members of catechumenate teams think more carefully about the baptismal unity of all Christians.



“A Concise Guide to Adult Faith Formation” - Neil Parent, Ave Maria Press

In the newest addition to *The Concise Guide* series, Neil Parent lends his authoritative voice to the issue of adult faith formation. Parent articulates his view that learning about the faith in adulthood is not merely an extension of basic childhood religious education, but is rather a continuous, lifelong process. Drawing from years of experience leading the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership, Parent combines Church teaching and adult learning theory to make this a must-read for pastors, catechists, and students in faith formation ministries.

“Training Workshop Essentials: Designing, Developing, and Delivering Learning Events that Get Results” - Robert W. Lucas, Pfeiffer/John Wiley

This unique training resource offers trainers, educators, and facilitators a hands-on guide for designing and implementing training workshops and sessions that incorporate concepts learned from research on how the human brain best obtains, retains, and recalls information. By using this proven approach, trainers can create memorable workshops that are dynamic, fun, and effective events.

“Renewing Parish Culture: Building for a Catholic Future - John J. Piderit, SJ, and Melanie M. Morey, Sheed and Ward

In this volume Piderit and Morey discuss the problem of declining parishes and bring some solutions to light. The authors pinpoint four basic principles (narrative, norms, benefits and practices), which have been used effectively by nuns to reach their parishioners for years. In addition, they prescribe creative applications of these principles to address specific problems such as Mass attendance, Eucharistic culture, prayer, and religious education.

Congratulations WDREF Scholarship Recipients!

All of the applicants for the 2009-2010 WDREF Scholarship were very deserving and it was a tough decision to make. After prayer and discussion, the scholarship was awarded to two members (\$250.00 to each recipient):

Rebecca Thompson

Becky is enrolled in the Master of Servant Leadership Program at Viterbo University. She has served the Church for 25 years full time, 5 years part time and several years as a volunteer. She currently serves as the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation at St. Joseph Parish in Baraboo. Congratulations, Becky!

Danelle Kegley

Danelle will use this scholarship for a class through Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, where it will count toward her Master’s Program. Danelle currently ministers at Sacred Heart Parish in Horicon. Congratulations, Danelle!

B&R Blessings & Recognition

Thank you to all of our outgoing and incoming local level officers for your involvement and dedication.

Our outgoing WDREF board representatives: **Welcome new WDREF board representatives:**



Pam Fischer – ProCLAYM
David Kenny – Mareda
Not pictured: Sr. Casmira Benbenek,
OSM – SUMMIT

Thank you, LeeAnn Lella (DARE) for agreeing to serve on the WDREF Board for two more years.



Emily Revak – DARE
Sue Soriano – DARE
Mike Lotto – ProCLAYM
Jenny Ludtke – MDREO

Not pictured:
Deacon Russ Cabak – SUMMIT
Danelle Kegley – Mareda

Who's Who Moment

WDREF Member(s) in the Spotlight



The new local chapter Presidents

Chris Cardon (MDREO), Emily Revak (DARE),
Amy Weigand (Pro CLAYM), Gwen Nies (SUMMIT)
and David Kenny (MAREDA)

Leading Links

Just a click away

www.thepastoralcenter.com
(23rd publications, Bill Huebsch)

www.lifelongfaith.com
(John Roberto's site)

www.cnaaff.org
(Catholic Network for Adult Faith Formation)

www.ronrolheiser.com

www.teamrcia.com
(Nick Wagner)





ProCLAYM

On Thursday, May 6, ProCLAYM celebrated R & R Day at Fin and Feather in Winneconne. The theme of the day was “Hats Off to You.” Everyone was asked to wear their best-loved or favorite wacky hat.

It was a beautiful sunny day! We had a beautiful prayer based on the many hats we wear in our ministry. Our own Betty Manion then shared her gifts of humor and storytelling including an interactive improv story! After a wonderful buffet meal, the day ended with dessert on a 90-minute river cruise on Lake Winneconne.

As we wrap up our year, some of our districts are very busy planning our Kick-Off Day on August 26, at St. John’s, Howard. Our speaker for the day will be Carol Eipers. Our officers for next year are: Amy Weigand, President; Therese Schelter, Vice President; Kathy Lieburn, Treasurer; and Theresa Alberts, Secretary.

ProCLAYM is always for looking for ways to increase our membership and to better serve all of our members. This coming year we hope to work on updating our Web site and to have the opportunity for our board to meet with Bishop Ricken.

MDREO

This year’s recipient of MDREO’s Jack McBride Leadership Award is Larry Behlen. Larry started as a catechist in 1980 at Our Lady of the Lake in Green Lake, WI and has served as coordinator of faith formation for 21 years. Larry has been very involved with MDREO and WDFEF as a treasurer, board member, multiple committees and WDFEF conventions and retreats.

In addition to growing and improving the junior and senior high religious education program, Larry has been active in his local community. He has served on the City Council as a board member and mayor as well as numerous civic committees and boards.

In the words of his nominator, “Larry embodies all the qualities of a leader. Larry is humble of heart. As you can see from the variety of ways he has given of his time, not only in the church but in his community, he believes in service. Larry is always willing to lend a helping hand. He has never shied away from a difficult or challenging task. He keeps up with current issues in ministry and exhibits wisdom in dealing with challenges.” Thank you Larry for your years of dedication and service.

Upcoming Award Nomination Deadlines

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 1, 2010.

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 WDFEF through one of the following: ProClaym, DARE, MAREDA, MDREO, SUMMIT. (WDFEF 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 1, 2010.

Mareda General Meeting- May 25, 2010

Excerpts from Lisa Marie Calderone-Stewart's Caring Bridge Journal

This morning, I had a delightful few minutes with an outstanding group of people... The group is called, "Mareda." When I worked at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, it was my job to serve these marvelous people by listening to what their ministry was like, hearing what their needs were, and trying to create resources, events and programs to help them meet their needs and the needs of the children, youth and adults they served. The work was never-ending, because over time, the available money was decreasing, but the needs kept increasing, so it seemed impossible to do a good job.

What a joy to walk into this room of ministry professionals, to see them rise from their seats so quickly, and create such enormous, thunderous, applause... just because I was coming in! I thought, "It should have been me giving all the applause for them... since they have been working so hard, so long, for so many children, youth and adults across the ten counties of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, enduring all kinds of hardships, sometimes having to leave one job or parish to start up at another one, so dedicated they have been to serve the people of God..."

Dave Baudry, introducing me, mentioned how both of us were in Montgomery, AL, at the same time, in the 1980's, working with Fr. Bill James of St. Jude parish. Dave also remembered me with this crazy-looking plastic fish the year we made evangelization our focus... I traveled around the archdiocese telling everyone, "Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime. But teach me how to teach others to fish, and we

all eat for our lifetimes..." Dave said he googled me, and found so many books and articles, he couldn't believe it. Well, the reason for my brief presence at this Mareda meeting was the reception of an award... the Mareda Excellence in Catechetical Ministry Award. The reason it was so brief was because I am truly becoming more tired, and cannot do anything that takes much energy anymore... Yet, what a touching gift to me!

The Mareda Excellence in Catechetical Ministry Award...

Catechetical ministry is what all those people do who meet with children, youth and/or adults weekly or monthly to help them learn more about the Bible, about Church, about Church history, about prayer, and about following the teachings of Jesus. What an honor to know that they who do such find work would want to award me with this mark of excellence...

It was a blessed moment... I am sure I will not see most of them again... but how sweet it was to look around the room and smile at all those familiar faces... and blow them all kisses and tell them "Thank you" for the tremendous service they provide for our Church.



Check out <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lisacalderone> to read more about Lisa.



Mareda Excellence Award in Support Ministry – Robert Nolan



Mareda Scholarship Award – Ruth Weis

Introducing the new 2010 Executive Team!

...And the new WDREF Board!



Facilitator
Becky Thompson

Treasurer
Peg Miller

Secretary
Ann Fons

Top row, from left:
Becky Thompson, Lee Ann Lella, Jamie Whalen,
Mike Lotto, David Kenny, Pam Fischer,
Jenny Schneider.

Middle row, from left:
Lety Gutierrez-Kenny, Chris Cardin,
Emily Revak, Amy Weigand,
Sue Soriano, Ann Fons.

Bottom row, from left:
Peg Miller, Gwen Nies, Colleen Monfre, Lenore
Krajewski, Jennifer Ludtke.

Not pictured:
Danielle Kegley