

FAITH for today



www.wdref.org

Spring 2011

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From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson

WDREF Facilitator

Endings and Beginnings...

At this time of year, we are in the process of ending our programs. Faith Formation, bible studies, First Communion, First Reconciliation and some Confirmation programs are finished and books and resources have been tucked away. It's time to sort out the classroom supply boxes and tidy up the office as you look forward to some relaxation this summer, or perhaps new opportunities awaiting you.

At our WDREF board meeting this May, my term as facilitator ended. It has been a great four years working with the talented and faith-filled people on the board. I also feel I have gotten to know some of you through the times we spent together on retreat or at the convention. I am proud to be a "co-worker in the vineyard" with all of you. I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the wonderful work our board has completed...

The Communications Committee has done a great job working with Sarah as our newsletter and Web master. Watch for more creative ideas from this group to communicate who we are and what we do as a state-wide organization.

The Professional Development Committee is well on its way to having the Best Practices in Sacraments ready soon. Rather than selling it in book form, we've decided to make it available on DVD, so you can download the practice you want to use and tailor it to fit your parish.

The Visioning Committee met between our January and May meetings. They provided these insights:

- The WDREF Visioning Committee sees the value of nurturing local connections for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs); therefore, we challenge local organizations to develop ways to nurture this.
- We recognize the difference in theological perspectives among PCLs; therefore, we challenge local organizations to acknowledge these differences, recognized the value of this range of perspectives, and create opportunities for dialogue, between these perspectives.

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WDREF Calendar

August 29-30, 2011

WDREF Board Meeting
St. Anthony Spirituality Center
Marathon City, WI

November 3-4, 2011

WDREF Retreat
St. Anthony Spirituality Center
Marathon City, WI

(Continued from pg. 1)

The WDREF Scholarship Committee announced that it would be awarding three PCLs with scholarships this year to help with their continuing education and professional development.

The retreat this year is hosted by MAREDA, November 3 & 4, at St. Anthony Spirituality Center. The theme is “Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude” with Jennifer Christ. I encourage all of you to make sure a retreat for yourself is on your annual calendar.

The 2012 WDREF Conference is shaping up nicely. Join us in the northwoods November 8 & 9. The theme of this conference is “Share the Story: Proclaim God’s Glory.” We have two great speakers to help us remember that the word catechesis means “to echo, resound, proclaim.” Dr. Carol Eipers, Vice President, Executive Director of Catechetics for William H. Sadlier, and Joe Paprocki, D. Min., national consultant for faith formation at Loyola Press in Chicago, bring a wealth of information to share with us.

Welcome to the new WDREF board members! Jenny Ludtke (MDREO) was discerned as the new facilitator and she will do a tremendous job. Danelle Kegley (MAREDA) was discerned as the new treasurer. This is a strong team with Ann Fons (MAREDA) as the secretary. New beginnings!

NCCL nuggets

www.nccl.org

Rep. Council Update:

- The 2011 Annual Conference “Celebrating Our Past, Shaping the Future,” was held in Atlanta: May 22-26.
- The 2012 NCCL Annual Conference will be held in San Diego, where we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Vatican II
- We are currently working on some by-law revisions.
- We are developing a “Why Join NCCL?” brochure as well as a Province map with descriptions, which was made available at the May WDREF meeting.
- The 2011 Catechetical Sunday theme is: “Do This In Memory of Me.” It will focus on the Eucharist and the implementation of the Roman Missal. The 2012 theme will return to a more specific catechetical focus.

NCCL
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

Convention reflections

WDREF Convention 2010 Keynote Presentations: Solid Doctrine, Practical Applications

For more and more Catholics today, their parishes and even their Catholic faith are like islands. When they visit the island, they are immersed in the Good News of Jesus Christ through the sacraments and the theology of the Church. When they leave the island, they are once again surrounded by secular values that many times aren’t in keeping with Gospel values.

How do we bridge the distance between our daily lives and the island of faith? At the 2011 WDREF Convention, Bishop John Barres, of the Diocese of Allentown, PA, offered a very inspiring vision of the current directions within the Church. He named six important areas where we, as parish catechetical leaders, can assist people in re-connecting with their faith and making it a more integral part of their lives. Dr. Jane Regan, Associate Professor of Theology at Boston College, focused on four key ways that we can help Catholics to moor themselves to their faith and their parish so that Gospel values become an intimate part of their everyday lives.

[Click here](#) for a summary of Bp. Barres’ and Dr. Regan’s presentations, courtesy of Joanie McKeown, a PCL and WDREF Board Rep. from the Diocese of Superior.



DARE

DARE is working to increase membership, approving a new contract to be used for DREs, CREs, and Youth Ministers, and update our diocesan Catechetical Handbook.

On March 15, Mary, Mother of the Church in La Crosse hosted the Spring DARE Gathering. Thirty DREs, CREs, and youth ministers gathered for breakfast, time to network, and time for learning. Fr. John Parr presented "Heart Speaks to Heart: Reflections on Blessed John Henry Newman." We are working on finalizing speakers and dates for our fall 2011 and spring 2012 gatherings.

The DARE board has also been examining and updating the purpose, schedule and best way to distribute our newsletter. Working closely with Ann Lankford and others in the Diocesan office, the new Administrator of Faith Formation Employment Contract is complete and will be used this coming contract year.

MAREDA

In January, Archbishop Listecki spoke at our general meeting, which took place shortly after the announcement that the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is filing for bankruptcy, so he re-iterated the message sent to all parishes that this action is the most prudent way to ensure that the necessary services, which the archdiocese provides, continue, and that victims of abuse by priests are fairly compensated. He also shared with us his conviction of the importance of religious education and youth ministry; noting that

we are dealing with a generation of Catholics who are not all well-grounded in the solid teachings of Catholicism. He reported that he held a youth ministry summit to generate collaboration in that area.

On March 31, we discerned new Board Members for 2011-2012. We were led in prayer by Ben Breski of the Tyme Out Center, and then enjoyed a presentation by the Pius XI High School Comedy Sportz Team.

We are preparing for the MAREDA retreat called "Sabbath" with Ann Marie Eckert on June 1-2 at the St. Vincent Palotti Retreat Center in Elkhorn. Parish catechetical leaders from other dioceses are welcome to register. Visit www.mareda.org for information.

The MAREDA Board has been working on a proposed change to our constitution, regarding the way officers are discerned. At present, the general membership discerns/ elects officers to specific positions. The proposal is that the general membership will discern/elect people to the Board, which will then discern who will fill which position. We have not had a consistent process for discernment, so we set up a sub-committee to look into the best way to do that.

MDREO

Our last program day was held at St. Patrick's in Madison on April 14. The day consisted of a panel of local young adult ministers presenting on "Generation X, Millennials, and the Gospel: Awakening the Desire for God." Camp Gray, our diocesan church camp, was selected as our

tithe recipient. It was announced that Sr. Jude Seaman was selected to receive the Jack McBride Award for her service to ministry.

Tiffany Topel was elected as secretary and Dominick Meyer is our new WDREF representative. Chris Cardin, Sarabeth Bowe, and Peg Miller were all thanked for serving on the MDREO executive team.

Pro-CLAYM

Pro-CLAYM ended the Religious Education year with R&R Day (wrap up & Recognition Day). District V was in charge of R&R Day in Door County. There were two options to choose from: Hands On Art studio or a tour of Door County wineries. Amidst the wonderful art and wine, several people were recognized for their years in the field, who are retiring – Bobbie Whittaker, Lisa Hecht, and Marie Francis. Mary Armbrust was recognized for completing the MTS (Masters of Theological Studies) program at St. Norbert College.

Pro-CLAYM is looking forward to its annual Kick-Off Day, August 26, 2011 at Camp Tekawitha near Shawano, WI. The members from Districts 1 & 2 are busily working on the specifics of the day to welcome back all the workers to the vineyard.

Pro-CLAYM will also have new officers for the 2011-2012 Religious Education year. President will be Kathy Lieburn; Vice-President - Carrie Aimers; Treasurer - Cheri Klika; Secretary - Theresa Alberts; and Past President - Amy Weigand.

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Our new Pro-CLAYM Web site, www.meetup.com/proclaym/ is working out splendidly. We've increased our traffic and people are also accessing it via Facebook.

The Department of Education for the Diocese of Green Bay is in the midst of hiring an Assistant Director of Religious Education. This new position will prompt a stronger support system for the many DREs, CREs and youth ministers.

SUMMIT

On Feb. 24 SUMMIT's gathering was a retreat day with a theme of: "The Soul of Prayer." Fr Jim shared

wonderful stories and insights into quiet and contemplative prayer. In the afternoon session, the Executive Board shared a humorous dialogue rendition focused on the Our Father.

On May 12, we looked at the topic: "The Soul of the Church - Keeping God in Busy Lives" as presented by Mr Daniel Kitzhaber, which included a visual demonstration of the distance sin puts between us and God. Chris Newkirk also spoke of an exciting educational opportunity coming in 2011-2012 in collaboration with Viterbo University. It includes nine monthly classes offered within a co-hort to study elements of Servant Leadership.

Our Mentoring Committee will be offering Deanery Connection gatherings in each of our five deaneries, on Jan. 12, 2012. Catechetical leaders gather to share ideas, support, and encouragement.

Discernment for "new" officers took place. Colleen Monfre will be serving a second term as WDREF Representative; Kritstyn Tickler will be our Secretary; and Gwen Nies, will begin a second year as facilitator.

The Executive Board, made up of facilitator, secretary, treasurer, three WDREF reps, and diocesan staff liason - Roger Cadott, will be meeting in early June to discern dates, goals, and topics for 2011- 2012.

Congratulations to the WDREF Scholarship Recipients!

Recently, WDREF awarded their annual \$500 in scholarship monies to three individuals. Congratulations to Kathie Amidei, Pastoral Associate for Lifelong Faith Formation at St. Anthony in Pewaukee; Stephen Pable, Director of Religious Education at St. Gabriel Parish in Neenah and Anne Stemper, Coordinator of Faith Formation in Chilton.

There were many applications for the scholarship money and it was a hard decision to make. If the committee had the option, we would have awarded money to all the worthy applicants! Congratulations to you all!

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.

A Peek into the 2012 WDREF Conference

2012 Conference Planning Committee Minutes

The 2012 WDREF Conference meeting was held at the actual conference site - beautiful northern Wisconsin at The Lodge at Crooked Lake in Siren. www.mylodge.com/

Becky reported that the WDREF Board discussed the evaluations and noted that we need to keep reaching out to the entire spectrum of Catholic PCLs so it is good to have a balance of theological leanings and styles – conservative and liberal.

We reviewed the attendance figures for the last two conventions, and a report from the Board led to the consideration of what to call this – a conference or a convention? We decided to call it a conference – but consider ourselves the Convention Committee. We noted the importance of local organizations firing up their members to attend and to help get the word out about the conference. We set a goal of 100 attendees and decided to base the budget on that.

We spent some time reviewing sub-committee responsibilities and also discussed the theme and logo. The two favorite themes were, “Embrace the Story...” or “Share the Story... Proclaim God’s Glory.” Becky provided us a sample logo she worked on, which uses words as a graphic.

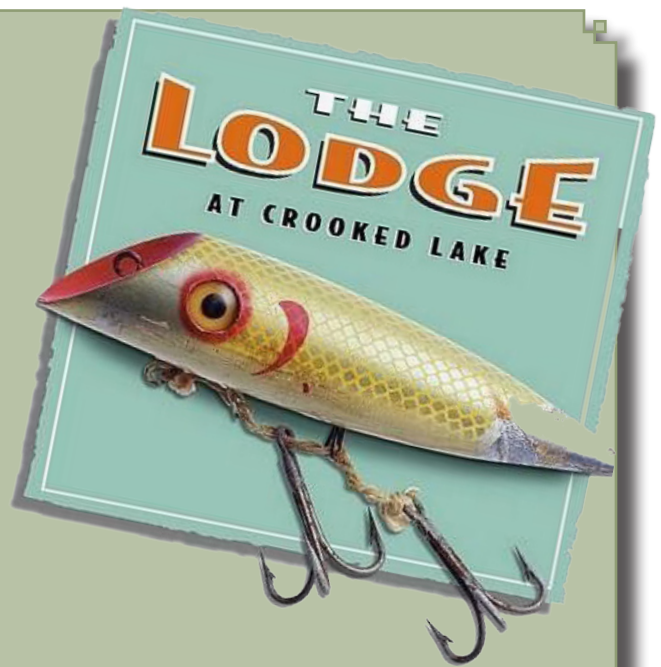
Carol Eipers has been confirmed as one of our presenters. She is a former Chicago Archdiocesan catechetical leader and parish catechetical leader and she has a very creative and dynamic presentation style. We discussed the possibility of a second main presenter because it is possible many PCLs do not know Carol Eipers. It was suggested that Joe Paprocki would be a good choice.

The Superior Diocese would like to have David Haas host the pre-convention at the church in Webster. It was noted that although we have to cater meals, the overall cost of meals will be lower since a continental breakfast is offered and included with rooms at the Lodge.

We took a tour of the facility, wonderful northwoods décor with beautiful views and a nice patio. Registration will be great in the lobby. We have a lot of nice break out rooms and will consider setting one up as a prayer area. The conference area can be divided into a smaller and a larger room.

Finally, in regards to the schedule, we want to consider beginning later on Thursday with opening prayer at 10 am. We decided it is best to extend the day on Friday, ending at 2 pm. This will make it more of a two-day event, and more worthwhile.

Our next committee meeting will be held August 17 or 18 in Eau Claire.



Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude...



Join us at the
St. Anthony
Spirituality
Center

2011 WDREF Retreat (Nov. 2-4)

It takes discipline and a sincere intention to let go of our fear, anger, and bitterness and to begin to rejoice in what we have, which is all that we really need. Gratitude is a spiritual practice, which reaps love, joy, compassion, and hope as its fruits.

Gratitude is more than something that happens once a year at Thanksgiving time, or when someone gives you a present or does a kind deed. Gratitude is an attitude to be embraced for the long haul, so that we may experience the fullness of life Jesus promised. We will explore practical ways to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in our everyday lives.

Presenter:

Jennifer Christ is a consultant in ministry throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, a retreat leader and a spiritual director. She serves as an instructor in the Deacon Formation program for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and as a formator at the St. Clare Center of Cardinal Stritch

University. She is a member of the preaching team at the Redemptorist Retreat House in Oconomowoc. She self-publishes catechetical materials for parishes and is the author of three books published by Paulist Press: “Journeying with Mark,” “Journeying with Luke,” and “Journeying with Matthew.” Jennifer is married and is the mother of four adult children.

Location

St. Anthony Spirituality Center
300 E 4th St.
Marathon, WI 54448

Registration

Visit www.wdref.org/events.html to download the WDREF Retreat Brochure, which includes the event registration form. Registration fees include private rooms with shared bathroom, meals and social. To help us keep our cost affordable, please indicate when you are arriving, your gender and what meals you will be attending. Please make checks payable to WDREF.

Retreat Itinerary

Wednesday, November 2 (optional)

Early registration 6:00-7:00 PM
Presentation –7:00 PM
Social –8:30 PM

Thursday, November 3

Mass– 8:00 AM
Breakfast– 8:30 AM
Registration– 9:00 AM
Welcome/ Presentation – 10:00 AM
Dinner– 12 Noon (Bookstore Open)
Presentation—2:00 PM
Evening Prayer –5:00 PM
Supper– 5:30 PM
Presentation– 7:00 PM
Social– 8:30 PM

Friday, November 4

Mass– 8:00 AM
Breakfast—8:30 AM
Presentation– 10:00 AM
Closing Prayer– 11:00 AM
Dinner– 12 Noon

Questions? Contact Lety Gutierrez-Kenny at (262) 639-6280 or letyg@hotmail.com

News from Area Dioceses...

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Sponsored by the Technology in Faith Formation Committee, the first Gigs, Geeks and God day was held January 6, 2011 at Good Shepherd Parish, Menomonee Falls. About 75 DREs, DYMs and other parish staff took part in workshops, shareshops and conversation on the use and impact of technology on faith formation. Gigs, Geeks and God 2.0 has been scheduled for January 12, 2012.

The Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry will offer a morning for catechetical leaders to help them prepare their teachers and catechists to prepare their students. Dr. David Stosur, visiting Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Edgewood College, Madison will lead the program on Thursday, May 19, 9 am - 1 pm at the Cousins Center. Gary Pokorny will present archdiocesan and publisher resources for the new translation.

Some young people and adults will be travelling from the archdiocese to Madrid for World Youth Day in August. Meanwhile, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will hold a WYD@HOME, a youth gathering on Saturday, August 20, 2:30-8 pm at the Cousins Center. The gathering will feature Mass with Archbishop ListECKI, catechesis, food, and praise music. Some Wisconsinites will be sent forth to join in WYD-Chicago through the night.

The archdiocesan delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference, November 17-19, 2011 is forming. Registration is underway with over 300 already committed.

All archdiocesan offices currently located at the St. Joseph Center on Layton Blvd. will be moving in June to the Archbishop Cousins Catholic Center on Lake Drive. This will save money and bring staff back into one place, promoting collaboration.

Projects are underway to update our Catechist Certification policies and procedures; develop additional online resources for catechetical leaders; and design and launch a Basic Youth Ministry Training program

for youth ministers and adult leaders in collaboration with the TYME OUT Youth Ministry Center.

Events in 2011-2012 will include Welcome Back Day for DREs and DYMs on September 27; Great Expectations, a program on Coaching Parents, with two sessions for catechetical leaders and one for catechists on October 11-12; Exploring Muslim-Catholic Relations, a day for parish staffs, to be offered in two locations, October 20 and 21; Rooted in Faith, a Youth Ministers' Retreat, a collaboration among the Archdiocese, WYRE Ministries, NET, Franciscan University, and Catholic Charismatic Renewal, October 21-23; and Vida...Jornada de Fe, a workshop on Hispanic catechesis, December 3, 2012.

Diocese of Superior

The 2011 Youth Rally was held at St. Joseph Parish in Amery. The theme was "Do I Have to Go?" with a focus on the reasons we attend Mass. Chris Stefanick from the Archdiocese of Denver facilitated the rally with approximately 500 attending. Bishop Peter Christensen presided at the opening Mass.

The Spring Theology Day was held at the Flat Creek Inn and Eatery in Hayward on Saturday, April 30. Margaret Nutting Ralph, professor from Lexington Theological Seminary, was the speaker. The title of her talk was "And God Said What," based on her bestselling book.

The Assessment for Catholic Religious Education will be given to grades 5, 8 and 11 in November and December of 2011. The Information for Growth will be given to catechists and Catholic school teachers in August and September of 2011. In collaboration with the Office of Schools, the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation is working on resources to assist catechetical leaders in their ministry to those with special learning needs.

The NET will be ministering in the diocese in October of 2011.

B&R Blessings & Recognition

**Introducing the new
2011 Executive Team!**



Treasurer - Danelle Kegley
Facilitator - Jennifer Ludtke
Secretary - Ann Fons

Learn more about our new executives...
www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html

**...And the new
WDREF Board!**



Top row, from left:

Colleen Monfre, Jim Gill, Lenore Krajewski,
Lee Ann Lella, Pam Fischer, Emily Revak

Bottom row, from left:

Dominick Meyer, Ann Fons, Danelle Kegley,
Jenny Ludtke, Joanie McKeown

Not pictured:

Ann Stemper, Ann Sirianni,
Jamie Whalen, Mike Lotto

Look for WDREF on Facebook and Flickr!

If you haven't done so already, check out the WDREF Facebook and Flickr pages! Join our Group on Facebook and ask questions, network, and share insights with each other. You can easily access our page by clicking on the Facebook icon on www.wdref.org. Remember, you must have a Facebook account created first. To view WDREF photos, click the Photos tab on the Web site to visit our Flickr account!

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