

# FAITH for today



[www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org)

Spring 2012

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## From the Facilitator

by Jennifer Ludtke  
WDREF Facilitator

### What does the world need these days?

Sometimes, as a mother, I would say it needs a swift kick in the pants. Not the most Christian response, but I'm betting that many of you who are parents can recognize the impulse. Then there's that old song from 1965:

*What the world needs now Is love, sweet love; It's the only thing that there's just too little of.*

That might be closer to what Jesus would expect, but it's a little schmaltzy for my taste. Let's give it one more try...

"What the world is in particular need of today," Pope Benedict XVI writes in his Apostolic Letter *Porta fidei*, "is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end." (n. 14).

Now that's a vision we can buy into.

Over the summer, as you prepare for the coming program year, let Pope Benedict's vision inspire you. How do we open the hearts and minds of others to a greater desire for God? How do we support our colleagues in that effort? That answer will continue to be a work in progress as we move through the Year of Faith, but it is one that WDREF encourages catechetical leaders at all levels to contemplate.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us – individually and as Church – throughout the challenges and joys ahead, and may this summer bring you peace and joy.

God bless you all,  
Jenny

## WDREF Calendar

**August 27-28, 2012**

WDREF Board Meeting  
St. Anthony Spirituality Center  
Marathon, WI

**September 24, 2012**

WDREF Award Nominations and  
Grant Applications Due

**November 7-9, 2012**

2012 WDREF Conference  
The Lodge in Siren, WI



## DARE

The DARE Board has continued to address the questions and concerns coming out of the WDREF re-energizing process. Results include:

- Strengthening DARE's commitment to help PCL's connect with people outside of the parish for support, resource-sharing, and joint planning;
- The need to promote a servant attitude and on-going formation in both spiritual and educational development to all PCL's, paid or volunteer; and
- Serving as a sounding board for the Offices of Catechesis and Evangelization, and the Office of Youth Ministry, as diocesan leaders look for feedback, input, and support. Upcoming projects include discussing a new name for the organization, to better describe our membership and avoid confusion with the anti-drug association.

## MAREDA

- *National Catholic Reporter's* John L. Allen, Jr. spoke at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, on Feb. 28. His presentation was "Are You Up for the Challenge of the Roman Catholic Church in the 21st Century?"
- Youth Ministry Summit II was held Feb. 28, focusing on the transition from high school into young adulthood and college. Bishop Hying, campus minister Brian Zanin, and others presented. The summit aimed to equip participants to more effectively accompany teens in these critical transitions. Youth ministers appreciated meeting campus ministers from UW and Catholic institutions in the diocese.
- "Faith-a-thon," the annual knowledge competition for middle school

students sponsored by the Office of Catechesis & Youth Ministry and the TYME OUT Youth Ministry and Retreat Center, was held Saturday, April 28 at the Cousins Center. A second "Faith-a-thon" will be held May 11 at TYME OUT, especially for Catholic school teams.

### *Summer 2012 Programs & Projects:*

- The Office is developing a new Youth Ministry Institute in collaboration with TYME OUT Youth Ministry Center to provide formation for catechists and other adults involved in youth ministry. A "Sampler Session" for DYMs was held June 4, with the program slated to begin in fall.
- We have established a **Summer Activities for Catholic Kids** Web page. Akin to the fish fry and festival pages, this offers parishes, schools and organizations a place to publicize their Vacation Bible School, Summer Youth Programs, and other activities.

## MDREO

MDREO had a productive spring!

- In January we gathered at the Bishop O'Connor Center for a the movie *The Catholicism Project* and watched some clips from this series, with great discussion.
- Joe Paprocki of Loyola Press was our speaker in February presenting, "Getting the Best from Your Catechists."
- In March we gathered at the Cathedral Parish for a presentation by Msgr. Kevin Holmes entitled, "The Whys and Hows of Supporting Marriage in Your Parish," from a series of homilies he gave on the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, "Marriage, Love, and Life in the Divine Plan."

• In April we met at our diocesan camp, Camp Gray, for a presentation on Middle School Youth Ministry by retreat coordinator Theresa Wilks. We voted on our tithe recipient, "Revolution of Love."

## Pro-CLAYM

- The Green Bay Diocesan Department of Education has firmed up six strategic plans for the next five years. Our members have been very instrumental in building four of these plans for Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Formation, Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation. Exciting things on the horizon for all!
- The department has also unveiled a new certification plan for our catechists as well as us as administrators. It will be fully rolled out beginning in August with the Train the Trainer classes starting in May.
- Our annual R&R Day (our wRap up and Recognition Day, held every year) took place May 17, with an "Amazing Race" theme. Our District 3/4 did the planning for this day, which took place at several locations in the Green Bay area and tested the abilities of all the participants. It was a great deal of fun, and ended with a wonderful lunch at the local zoo pavilion.
- We are recognizing three of our fellow catechetical leaders, two of whom have attained a Master's in Theology and one who will be certified in our Diocesan Emmaus Program for lay ministry certification.
- We hope to add a re-visioning day to our calendar next year for Pro-CLAYM. Like WDREF this year, we need to get reenergized about our organization.

*(Continued on next page)*



## SUMMIT

- SUMMIT is excited to host the 2012 Conference in Siren and plans continue for welcoming PCLs from across the state.
- The April meeting featured a professional enrichment presentation

by Fr. John Anderson, regarding the success of Whole Community/Intergenerational Catechesis at St. Mary's, Tomahawk.

- Several members and guests gathered at Camp WeHaKee for girls, near Winter, WI on May 17. The camp is owned and maintained by the Sinsinawa Dominicans.

We enjoyed a tour of the camp, lunch and a great day in the north woods.

- SUMMIT will dearly miss Dcn. Roger Cadotte, our Diocesan Religious Education "go-to-guy" for more than two decades. We pray for him in his new role as Parish Life Coordinator for his home parish/parish cluster, near Bayfield.

## 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](http://www.wdref.org). The nomination deadline is September 24, 2012.

### *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 WDREF through one of the following: ProClaym, DARE, MAREDA, MDREO, SUMMIT. (WDREF 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](http://www.wdref.org). The nomination deadline is September 24, 2012.

## Congratulations to our WDREF Scholarship Recipient!

Recently, WDREF awarded our annual \$500 in scholarship monies to Elizabeth Plestina. Please join us in congratulating Elizabeth!

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.

# WDREF Board Highlights

[View our May 2012 Board Meeting Flickr Pics!](#)

## **PDC (Professional Development Committee)**

The Sacramental Best Practices CDs are done and for sale. Plans are already beginning for the next Best Practices CD, to be on Prayer Experiences and Retreats. Well done, PDC! See the *Best Practices* article on page seven for details.

## **Communications Committee**

The committee continues to move WDREF toward better usage of electronic communication and media. Two areas being considered are changing from the current .pdf newsletter (distributed 3 times per year) to a more frequent e-newsletter, and quite possibly shifting from our traditional fall membership folders to a business card with a QR code and web address, so that membership information and materials would only be available online.

## **“Tell the Story, Proclaim God’s Glory”**

Details are coming along in a timely fashion for the Nov. 7-9 Conference. In addition to the main speakers, workshop presenters will be Kieran Sawyer (theology of the body), Dave Baudry (technology), and Michelle Nilsson (CCC). The entire convention will be located in the unique atmosphere of ‘up north’ – well worth the trip! Official information will be mailed soon. More details can also be found at: [www.wdref.org/Events.html](http://www.wdref.org/Events.html)

## **From the Local Organizations**

It was another full program year for all of the local organizations. MAREDA (Milwaukee) invited PCLs to meet in focus groups to discuss issues relating to catechetical leadership and MAREDA. They are still compiling the results. DARE (LaCrosse) is in the process of actively and purposefully examining who they as an organization, and considering a name change as well. At a recent meeting, MDREO had people line up by the number of years they have been in ministry. There are a large number of new, young PCLs in that diocese. This is definitely not the case in other dioceses. It would be very interesting to know the statistics across the USA on this...perhaps the visioning committee could do some research.

## **NCCL**

Pam Fischer’s NCCL report is included on page seven. Special congratulations to Joanie McKeown...the slate of which she was a part, was elected the new NCCL officers.

## **2014 Conference**

The 2014 conference will be hosted by ProCLAYM, and they are even now getting to work, contacting potential speakers and locations. The theme is “We Are A People of Faith” and artwork is currently being developed.

The final business for Monday evening was to welcome new presidents and board members, say thank you to departing board members, and to discern the next WDREF Secretary. We thank Dominick Meyer, MDREO, for saying yes to that leadership role.

## **Province Dialogue**

On Tuesday, Diocesan catechetical leaders joined the WDREF Board for a Province Dialogue on the Year of Faith. It was a fruitful gathering, with representatives from all five dioceses. Our prayer reminded us that we are rooted in faith and in history, and we continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit. The dialogue began with sharing a few of our personal reflections on the Pope’s statement *Porta Fidei*. We continued the dialogue by providing information on events already being developed in each diocese. It was exciting to hear the many ways that the Year of Faith will be implemented.

The question that remains is: How can WDREF support these local, diocesan, and province-wide efforts? It is hoped that this discussion continues between the local organizations, their diocesan personnel, and WDREF.

As Pope Benedict states, “This [Year of Faith] will be a good opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith.” (*Porta Fidei*, 4) Let us enter into that reflection together with joy!

## Province Dialogue...Planning for the "Year of Faith"



The spring, 2012 WDFEF Board meeting marked a renewal in the crucial ongoing dialogue between parish catechetical leaders and diocesan catechetical personnel. One of the hallmarks of WDFEF has been the strong partnership between the local organizations and their diocesan personnel, as well as between the Board and the designated diocesan representatives.

To strengthen these relationships and allow time for dialogue, the normal business of the Board was accomplished during the first day of its regular two-day meeting. Tuesday morning was devoted to sharing ideas on the meaning and importance of the Year of Faith in light of the New Evangelization. Those present also considered these questions: How do we see ourselves and catechesis in light of 50 years after Vatican II? What has been the influence of the Catechism (20 years out)?

Diocesan and Board reps also shared special events being planned in their respective dioceses. *Here are a few:*

- At the WDFEF Conference, Nov. 8-9, 2012, the Year of Faith, CCC, and Vatican II documents will be lifted up. Michelle Nillson (Madison) will also be doing a workshop on the CCC.
- Materials from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee were distributed, describing plans for an Evangelization Summit.
- LaCrosse used grant monies to purchase Fr. Robert Barron's "Catholicism" DVDs for each parish; they developed their own resources to go with it. Their yearly Catechetical Leadership conference, in preparation for the Year of Faith, will focus on Jesus Christ and encountering him. Speakers will present in pastoral ways the teaching of the church in the area of sexual morality.

• In Green Bay, Bishop Ricken wrote a pastoral letter calling all to holiness and outlining his vision for the diocese in various areas. An appreciative inquiry process was used as background for the development of the strategic plan, which focuses on seven areas of ministry. They are reflecting on how to develop Year of Faith within the strategic plan.

• At Superior's annual Teacher/Catechist conference in October, they will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the conference. The theme is: "Well done, good and faithful servant." The canonization of Kateri Tekawitha will be celebrated in a number of parishes.

• Madison's Seat of Wisdom Diocesan Institute started two years ago with the Core Curriculum based on the CCC. New, advanced courses will be focused on the documents of Vatican II. They will be celebrating the opening and closing of the Year of Faith. They are giving the CCC to families (as mentioned in the implementation guidelines) and will be developing questions for those preparing for sacraments, directing them to the CCC for answers. They will also be using homily tips that suggest how to incorporate Vatican II ideas into homilies.

As the dialogue concluded, everyone was asked to consider how WDFEF can support these efforts. If we were to develop a joint Year of Faith statement, what would it look like? One idea was a public profession of the Creed at the 2012 WDFEF Conference.



### WDFEF Board Executive Team members and Diocesan Representatives

From left: Jenny Ludtke, WDFEF Facilitator; Roger Cadotte, Diocese of Superior; Dominick Meyer, WDFEF Secretary; Ann Lankford, Diocese of LaCrosse; Chris Rogers, Diocese of LaCrosse; Julianne Donlon-Stanz, Diocese of Green Bay; Joe Bound, Diocese of Green Bay; Danelle Kegley, WDFEF Treasurer; Gary Pokorny, Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Sr. Jackie Spaniola, OSF, Diocese of Green Bay; and Patrick Delaney, Diocese of Madison.

# 2012 WDREF Conference

## *Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory*

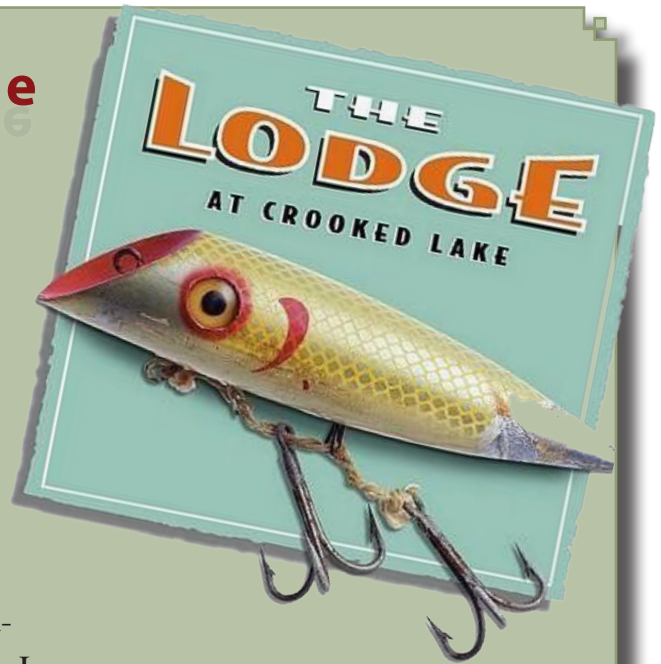
Plan to attend the WDREF Conference, **November 7-9!**  
The event is hosted by SUMMIT in the Diocese of Superior at The Lodge at Crooked Lake in Siren, WI.

During this [Year of Faith] strengthen your faith and learn to share stories that proclaim God's glory by making time to attend the WDREF conference. Dr. Joe Paprocki's presentation is entitled, "Proclaiming the Glory of the Story: Using the Language of Mystery" and Dr. Carol Eipers' presentations are "Once Upon a Time" and "Happily Ever After."

In addition, three workshop speakers have been secured. They include Kieran Sawyer (Theology of the Body), Dave Baudry (Technology), and Michelle Nilsson (CCC).

Grants are available to members of the local organizations of ProCLAYM, DARE, Mareda, MDREO and SUMMIT to attend WDREF's conference if parish financial assistance is not available. Visit [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org) to download a Grant Application form.

**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](http://www.wdref.org).**



## **WDREF Conference Grant Applications: Due September 24, 2012**

Members of the local organizations of DARE, Mareda, MDREO, ProCLAYM and SUMMIT are encouraged to apply for grant money to attend WDREF's fall conference. The grant application can be found at [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org) and should be submitted to Anne Stemper of Good Shepherd Parish in Chilton, WI by **September 24, 2012**. See application on Web site for mailing information.

### **Grant guidelines include:**

- 1) A maximum of \$1,000 in grant monies will be available for the 2012 Conference.
- 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 Oct. 1, 2012.

Assistance may be granted for up to 100% of the registration cost for the conference. **Apply today at [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org)!**

## Rep. Council Update:

By Pam Fischer, NCCL Rep.  
[faith1@lakefield.net](mailto:faith1@lakefield.net)

- I am pleased to announce that a new slate of officers was elected in San Diego, CA at the annual conference. The new slate consists of: Bill Miller (P), Enedina Sacuedo (VP), Linda Stryker (S) and our very own Joanie McKoewn (TR). Congratulations to Joanie and her slate!
- The 2013 Conference will be held in Cleveland, OH. The dates of that conference are May 19-23 and it will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cleveland.
- We are NCCL. It is our direct line to the Bishops. What is attracting people to other organizations? What do we want from NCCL? Should the effective DRE series be updated? Evangelization is the “hot” word right now. The New Evangelization’s bottom line is designed to help establish us as a people of faith and to help us build the kingdom of God. At the Conference John Roberto told us that we need to be “Curators of our faith.” We need to find the best resources that will help all become the best we can be and we must share this with our families. To summarize the New Evangelization into three key pieces I would say that it is calling us to: 1. Deepen our faith. 2. Renewal of Worship, attend Mass and listen in a new way, and 3. Witness, share the faith.
- What is your diocese doing to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II? In this anniversary year let’s develop a list of what we are doing to share with others the gifts that this Vatican council gave us.
- Some of Bishop Blair’s comments to the general assembly of members indicated that they, the bishops, are working on Catechesis and the Social/New Media. He asked a question: “How are we a member of faith in this new reality of the new media that is all around us?” He also indicated that they meet with publishers annually because they do not want to turn God into an “app.” A document called: “Disciples Called to Witness” can be downloaded for free from the [USCCB Web site](#). The 2013 Catechetical Sunday theme is: “Open the Door of Faith.”

## Best Practices CD Available!

The newest version of WDREF’s Best Practices CD is now available! We are proud of the collaboration of catechists across the state of Wisconsin who submitted over 80 different catechetical lessons to engage students of all ages in learning about the sacraments of the Church. It is our hope that these ideas will help you in your catechetical ministry. Click the “Best Practices CD” link at [www.wdref.org](http://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

Joanie McKeown  
NCCL Treasurer & CFO



Joanie McKeown has served as a parish catechetical leader in the Diocese of Superior since the 1990s. Born and raised in St. Paul, MN she began her service to the Church in the 1970s as a Math teacher and class advisor at Derham Hall, a Catholic all-girls high school in St. Paul. During that time, she completed a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

After marrying and moving to northern Wisconsin, she was drawn, again, to Church work, this time as a parish-cluster book-keeper and administrative assistant. With a second Master's, this one in Pastoral Ministry from the University of St. Mary, Winona, MN, she moved into the field of religious education and parish ministry which has been her passion ever since.

In the mid-1990s, Joanie was selected to serve as SUMMIT's (Superior Mutual Ministry Team) rep. to the WDREF Board. She became WDREF facilitator for two terms during which time she assisted the Professional Development Committee in writing "Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders." In more recent years, she worked with the PDC on their two current titles, "Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders, Revised

and Expanded Edition" and "Best Practices in Catechesis on the Sacraments." Joanie has received awards in 2003 and 2004 for outstanding leadership in the catechetical ministry.

In 2004, Joanie was selected by the WDREF Board to represent the parish catechetical leaders in Wisconsin on NCCL's (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership) Representative Council. This led to her being selected to chair NCCL's Membership Committee in 2006 and to her election to the NCCL Board of Directors as Secretary in 2009.

At NCCL's 2012 Annual Conference in San Diego this past May, Joanie was re-elected to the NCCL Board of Directors, this time in the position of NCCL Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer.

When asked what led her to seek involvement in the catechetical ministry on the state and national levels, Joanie replied that it is grounded in the needs of her local diocese. Locally, very few people have the time, energy, and/or finances to benefit from the information, insights, and inspiration that come from participation in statewide or national conferences. She sees her role as being a conduit, representing their needs at

the state and national levels and bringing ideas back to her local DREs, CREs and YMs.

The recent Province Dialogue between the WDREF Board and members of the diocesan faith formation offices in all five dioceses in the state (referred to by the Church as the Province of Milwaukee) is a case in point. Great ideas were shared by all the diocesan reps. on plans that their dioceses are developing for the Year of Faith. WDREF members noted that the upcoming WDREF Conference will also focus on some of the themes of the Year of Faith, such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church and ways to share our faith with the current generations of young people. Joanie will take these ideas to the national level through NCCL, and at the local level, will help SUMMIT to develop its offerings for the upcoming year.

Joanie urges all parish leaders of faith formation to actively maintain connections with their peers, for it is in the sharing of ideas that we are all able to improve and enhance our faith formation programs.



## Leading Links

*Just a click away*

New on WDREF's Web site: [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org) check out highlights from *CL Weekly*. This is a free sneak peek of NCCL's weekly newsletter. If you are interested in subscribing to *CL Weekly* you must first register for NCCL membership. Check out these helpful tips and resources!



# B&R Blessings & Recognition

Introducing the 2012-2013 Executive Team...



**Treasurer: Danelle Kegley**  
**Facilitator: Jennifer Ludtke**  
**Secretary: Dominick Meyer**

Learn more about our new executives...

[www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html](http://www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html)

...And the WDREF Board!

***Top row, from left:***

Pam Fischer, Jim Gill, Lenore Krajewski,  
Sue Devine-Simon, Colleen Monfre,  
Danelle Kegley, Theresa Alberts,  
Emily Revak, Anne Stemper,  
Jennifer Ludtke, Mike Lotto.

***Bottom row, from left:***

Dominick Meyer, Jessica Davis,  
Joanie McKeown



**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](http://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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