

FAITH for today



www.wdref.org

Winter 2011

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From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson
WDREF Facilitator

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding a pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Matthew 13:45

A "Pearl" Prayer

Precious Lord, remember the WDREF organization as we celebrate 30 years.

Always know that we seek your never-

Ending gift of faith, hope and love. We are

Amazed by Your work through these human hands.

Remember the members that have gone before us, rejoice with the members here today, and celebrate those who were the visionaries that started this organization. May we always keep the

Love of our Lord the foundation of our ministry. Amen.

Pearl is the gift/symbol of a 30th anniversary. Pam Fischer of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Newton wrote this prayer in honor of our anniversary. Thank you to all who worked so hard on the WDREF convention as we celebrated 30 years as a state-wide organization – the first state-wide organization in the nation. A big thank you to all who attended the convention—thank you for sharing your time, faith and energy with members throughout the state. Congratulations to Larry Behlen, recipient of the Stephen C. Gilmour Award for Leadership in Ministry, and Bob Nolan, the recipient of the Henrietta M. Mackin for Service in Ministry. Both of these gentlemen are very deserving of these awards.

Despite the road conditions and weather, the WDREF board gathered for our January meeting and the first topic of business was looking at and discussing the evaluations of the convention. We thank everyone who took the time to fill them out and return them. They will be very helpful in planning the next convention. A big thank you to MDREO, the host organization for a wonderful convention.

The next convention will be hosted by SUMMIT on November 8-9, 2012

(Continued on pg. 2)

WDREF Calendar

February - ASAP
WDREF Scholarship
Applications Due

May 22-26, 2011
NCCL Conference
Atlanta, Georgia

November 3-4, 2011
WDREF Retreat
St. Anthony Spirituality Center
Marathon City, WI

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in Siren. Dr. Carole Eipers will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Eipers is Vice President and Executive Director of Catechetics for William H. Sadlier, Inc. Carole served in parish ministries for over twenty years as a Junior High teacher, Director of Religious Education, Catholic Youth Ministry and Pastoral Associate. She served in both suburban and urban parishes and schools. Carole also served on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops committee on catechesis and has been an author for the bishops' World Youth Day catechetical materials as well as a member of the catechetical team at World Youth Day in Denver.

On the opposite years of the convention, WDREF sponsors a retreat for your personal and faith growth and also provides another opportunity to network with others in the field. This year's retreat will be held at the St. Anthony Spiritual Center in Marathon City on November 3-4. Jennifer Christ will be this year's retreat director. Jennifer is a writer, speaker, retreat director, spiritual director, instructor in Deacon Formation Program and consultant to The Nazareth Project from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The Professional Development Committee reported on our Best Practices publication. At this time there are 71 best practices submitted but none for the sacraments of Holy Orders or Anointing of the Sick. If you have something you would like to share please contact Joanie at jmckeown@grantsburgtelcom.net as soon as possible. The Communication Committee has done great work with Sarah on the newsletter and the Web site. Please check it out at www.wdref.org The Grant Ad Hoc Committee reported that they had given out four grants for people to attend the convention for a total of \$600.

Finally, in the next couple of months YOU may be asked to serve on the WDREF board by your local organization. Please prayerfully and seriously consider this position if you are approached. You will learn so much and work with some great people.

Convention reflections



An enthusiastic crowd celebrated 30 years of WDREF at our convention in November. Keynote speakers Bishop John Barres of Allentown, PA and Jane Regan of Boston College, provided insightful and thought-provoking presentations. The 'waters' of the five dioceses were gathered for the blessing of all, and Mass was celebrated with Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison. A vintage-dress gala banquet and dance was held with a 'style show' for evening entertainment. To see more pictures, visit www.wdref.org and click on the photos tab at the top.





DARE

We are working to promote and increase membership and we are in the final stages of approving a new contract to be used for DREs, CREs and Youth Ministers. We also continue to work on updating our diocesan Catechetical Handbook.

On October 26, St. Patrick's Church in Onalaska hosted the Fall DARE Gathering. Over 30 DREs, CREs and Youth Ministers gathered for breakfast, time to network, and time for learning as well. Fr. Mark Pierce presented on "A Gift of a Sacramental Spirituality." His presentation centered on three key words, and the questions they answered:

- 1) Mediation: How does God address us? By what means does the divine communicate?
- 2) Tradition: Where should we look for understanding of God's voice? and
- 3) Sacramentality: How does God channel his divine life and his grace to us? How can we access it?

Several members of DARE attended and enjoyed the 2010 Green Lake Convention. It was a fun and beautiful learning experience. Our Spring DARE Gathering is scheduled for March 15. It will be hosted by Mary, Mother of the Church in La Crosse. Fr. John Parr will lead us in Lenten Reflection at this gathering. Certification hours are available for all DARE Gatherings.

MAREDA

In November we had a wonderful presentation by Johan Van Parys, PhD. on "Bringing the Senses into the Spirit of Advent." It was a

reflective morning that invited us to incorporate not just the visuals of Advent, but to use all of the senses to help families prepare during the Advent season. Johan was sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor.

In January, we will gather in prayer with the shepherd of our Archdiocese. We have asked Archbishop ListECKI to share with us his vision of the mission of the Archdiocese, and to consider how we as catechetical leaders can best serve as "Co-Workers in the Vineyard" for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. We hope to be able to get to know him better and to learn from him the ways catechetical leaders can best promote the mission of the Archdiocese.

On March 31, the Pius XI High School Comedy Sportz Team will present "April Fool's Delight." We hope that many will join us for a morning of laughs. Our final event for this catechetical year will be a retreat with Ann Marie Eckert on June 1-2 at the St. Vincent Palotti Retreat Center in Elkhorn. We welcome Ann Marie back to our archdiocese to lead us in an overnight retreat focused on Sabbath. Ann Marie holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, NY, and is currently a contributing author at the Center for Ministry Development.

MDREO

The Madison Office of School and MDREO will revisit Religious Standards of 2001 and make recommendations so they align with our Religious Education programs.

MDREO program committee has many exciting days planned for this spring:

Tuesday, February 15 - St. Bernard Parish, Madison. *The Spirit of II Vatican Council* w/ Doug Bushman

Thursday, March 3 - St. Joseph, Ft. Atkinson. *Preaching the Gospel to the Digital Generation* w/ Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell

Thursday, April 14 - St. Patrick, Madison. *Young Adult Panel* to include: Marc Laudonio & Nicole Carter (Cathedral Parishes), Bridget Yallaly (St. Andrew, Verona & St. William, Paoli), and Caroline Holmes (St. Paul Catholic Center)

May 19-20 - St. Benedict's Abbey, Benet Lake. Joint Retreat MDREO & MDPMA

ProCLAYM

Our Diocesan Director for Religious Education has been out on medical leave. So, as the Department of Education is a bit short handed, we have some great volunteers in the field that have helped out on the diocesan level. There was also an overwhelming response from DREs and CREs to step in and help teach the Catechism class for certification. It's awesome to see everyone work together for the greater good.

In May, we will be having a Day of Reflection where we reflect on the importance of our ministry and the changes we've made in our parishes. We have a new Web site: www.meetup.com/proclaym/.

This is a great place to post district and board meeting minutes, events and more. Our next Pro-CLAYM Board Meeting will be January 21.

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SUMMIT

Roman Missal Workshops

A series of workshops presented by the Diocese of Superior Roman Missal Implementation Committee will run from January 8, 2011 through May 21, 2011. The workshops are open to all but especially designed for parish leaders, musicians, liturgy committees, catechetical leaders and school personnel. The presentation will give an overview of the translation process, the foundations of liturgical reform, and how we pray the liturgy.

Youth Rally

Do I Have to Go? It can be tough to wake up? Discover why we go to Mass. The rally takes place March 30, 2011 at St. Joseph Parish in Amery, WI. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. and Bishop Christensen will lead Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by a presentation by Chris Stefanick. Chris Stefanick

answers the tough questions teens have about the Mass, from the rituals contained in the liturgy, to the doctrines of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

National Catholic Youth Conference

NCYC will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana November 17-19, 2011. The Diocese of Superior estimates over 200 youth and adult chaperones will attend this year's event.

Spring Theology Day: And God Said

What? This event will take place at the Flat Creek Inn & Suites in Hayward and features Margaret Nutting Ralph, Director of M.A. Program for Roman Catholic Students. The workshop is based on the bestselling book, "And God Said What?" and will allow us to explore the Catholic approach to Scripture, the contextualist approach, in which we consider the literary forms, the beliefs of the time, and

the two thousand year process of revelation that resulted in the Bible that we now have.

Extreme Faith Camp

Crosswoods Camp is in the middle of the Chequamegon National Forest, close to Hayward and Ashland, WI. This camp offers teens comfortable lodging and meeting spaces, great food and lots of outdoor activities. For more information about this facility check out www.crosswoods.com. The week will be filled with swimming, canoeing, crafts, rock climbing, high ropes course, mountain biking, games, speakers, and music. Add in small group sessions, service opportunities, daily Mass, participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and teens will find an EXTREME weeklong camp. They will build new friendships and find themselves drawing closer to Jesus Christ.

Scholarship applications due NOW!

Applications for the WDREF Scholarship are due this month. Please visit www.wdref.org for a printable application with details. Applicants must be:

- a member of a local diocesan organization in the state of Wisconsin.
- actively engaged in the religious education ministry in 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 post graduate degree in a field related to religious education ministry.

WDREF Board members and diocesan personnel are not eligible. First consideration will be given to applicants who have not been awarded a WDREF Scholarship in the last two years. In addition to the application, interested members must also secure a letter of recommendation from each of the following:

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

Letters of recommendation should be mailed with the application to the address listed on the form.

Register NOW for the Fall Retreat! (Nov. 2-4, 2011)

Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude...

“Watch carefully then how you live...giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
(Ephesians 5:15a, 20)

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

Find us on the web!

www.wdref.org

News • Updates • Events

www.wdref.org

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.

Adult Faith Formation and Today's Spiritual Seeker: Getting it Right

A Professional Development Seminar

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2011

Time: Mass, 8:30am; Presentation, 9:30am; Closing, 2:30pm

Location: St. Francis Xavier Cathedral (140 S. Monroe; Green Bay)

Cost: \$25/person (includes lunch and materials)

Hosted by: Diocese of Green Bay; Department of Education, through the generosity of the Bishop's Appeal



Modern life is impacting people's attitudes and perspectives about religion and the spiritual journey. Yet so many of our approaches to church life and ministry seem to suggest that nothing has changed. Quite the contrary. Church attendance is on a downward spiral, especially in the ranks of younger adults. Indeed, they are increasingly prone to suggest that they are "spiritual" rather than religious. As a result, church leaders face major challenges of how to minister effectively to modernity's offspring. This seminar will identify developments influencing today's spiritual seeker and propose strategies for how adult faith formation leaders can effectively respond. The format will include presentation coupled with individual and group activities aimed at participants acquiring practical knowledge and workable strategies for parish application.

Presenter:

Neil A. Parent is the former Executive Director of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and the former Representative for Adult Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). He is the author of "A Concise Guide to Adult Faith Formation," Ave Maria Press, 2009, and has written numerous articles on various aspects of adult faith formation, catechesis and the spiritual journey.

Online Registration is available at: <http://a3.acteva.com/orderbooking/bookEvent/A308292>

Coming From Out Of Town?

A special discounted rate has been secured for out of town visitors at the Kress Inn, 300 Grant St, De Pere, (920) 403-5100 www.kressinn.com. The room rate is \$69 per night. Please mention upon calling that you would like to avail of the Diocese of Green Bay rate to reserve your room at this price.

For more information call Shelia at the Diocese of Green Bay, Department of Education at (920) 272-8276.

WDREF is on Facebook and Flickr!

WDREF has entered the world of social media! We've created a Group Facebook page where members can 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. And that's not all...WDREF has also linked the photos tab on the Web site to our brand new Flickr account! Check out the newly added WDREF Convention album!



B&R Blessings & Recognition

The **Henriette M. Mackin 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 (i.e. a catechist, priest, secretary, parent, liturgist janitor, parish organization, etc). This year's recipient is **Bob Nolan**.

Bob is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Grafton, WI. He has volunteered many hours in the areas of youth ministry and social justice. Bob has served on the WDREF board, participated in Mission trips, retreats and worked with youth, parents and parish life locally and on the archdiocesan level. Bob is known by peers to have a great knowledge, to serve others with love, and to be a true example of what it means to live out one's baptismal call in today's world. You cannot help but feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in all that Bob says and does. Bob we thank you for your continued support and your generous spirit.

The **Stephen C. Gilmour Award** for Leadership and Ministry is presented to a degreed professional person actively engaged in parish catechetical ministry on a directorship level. The person should be outstanding in his/her leadership and achievements in the catechetical field and must be a member of WDREF through one of our local organizations. This year's recipient is **Larry Behlen**.

Larry embodies all the qualities of a leader. He is humble of heart and has given his time not only in the church, but in his community, demonstrating his belief in service. Larry always lends a helping hand and does not shy away from difficult or challenging tasks. He is organized and knowledgeable, and always an approachable leader. These skills and Larry's dedication to the youth of his parish has led to growth in a religious education program with little participation, to a regular weekly program with high attendance rates and engaged youth.

Larry has been a great asset to WDREF by sharing his leadership skills as a past treasurer and most recently as a chair person for the convention. Larry we thank you for your countless hours of support and your dedication to those you serve.

A Lenten Reflection

Give up complaining — **focus on gratitude.**

Give up pessimism — **become an optimist.**

Give up harsh judgments — **think kindly thoughts.**

Give up worry — **trust Divine Providence.**

Give up discouragement — **be full of hope.**

Give up bitterness — **turn to forgiveness.**

Give up hatred — **return good for evil.**

Give up negativism — **be positive.**

Give up anger — **be more patient.**

Give up pettiness — **become mature.**

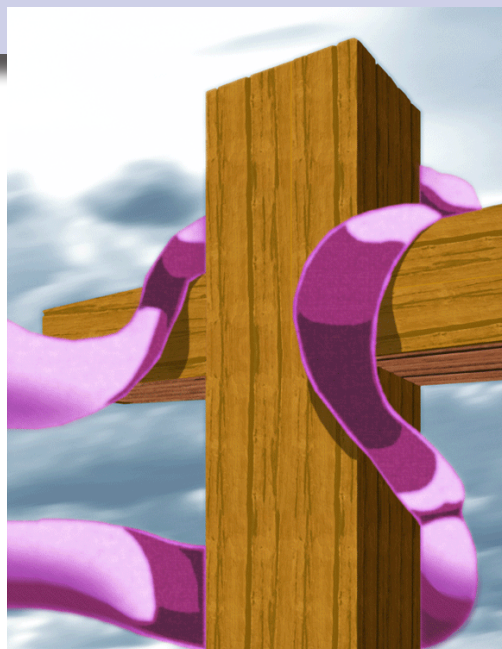
Give up gloom — **enjoy the beauty all around you.**

Give up jealousy — **pray for trust.**

Give up gossiping — **control your tongue.**

Give up sin — **turn to virtue.**

Give up giving up — **hang in there!**



Rep. Council Update:

- The Marketing Committee is working on ways to effectively market NCCL. Ideas include table top displays and individualized e-mails.
- Once again the Representative Council was asked to call our NCCL members for feedback about the organization and to gauge attendance for this year's conference. There were 159 calls made, of which 67 were unanswered.
- Membership numbers are currently down. One of the concerns that came out of this conversation was that we should not forward the *CL Weekly* newsletter to non-members. Rather, this should remain a benefit for members only.
- We are currently participating in a fundraising campaign, entitled "\$75 for 75 years." For more information on how you can help, please visit www.nccl.org.
- NCCL's 2011 Annual Conference in Atlanta will be held May 22-26. The theme this year is *Celebrating Our Past, Shaping the Future*.
- The 2012 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 NCCL's By-law revisions.
- In small groups we focused on a "Fed Ex" activity, writing a chapter for a "Doing Ministry for Less" book.
- We had some great discussion on the structure of the provinces. Information on how it was formed and how we work as an organization, etc. should be written down and shared with other provinces. It would be great for our historical records as well.
- 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.
- The following is a report from Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Leonard Blair, who is the chair of the Subcommittee for the Catechism: The bishops have developed a new protocol for evaluation of textbooks, which incorporates compliance with the framework and the CCC. The lead time needed by publishers to modify their books will be taken into consideration in establishing a time frame for textbooks to be in compliance based on the new protocol once it is ready to be used.

NCCL
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

2011 WDREF Executive Team

Facilitator - Becky Thompson

Treasurer - Peg Miller

Secretary - Ann Fons

