

FAITH for today



www.wdref.org

Fall 2010

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From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson

WDREF Facilitator

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..." Romans 12:6

What a gift it is to represent catechetical leaders and youth ministers as a member of the WDREF board! What a gift it was to spend two days working together! What a gift all of you are to me!

Throughout our board meeting in August we gave thanks to God for all the gifts He has given us and affirmed one another by sharing the gifts we see evident in each other. During one of our activities, we pulled someone's name from a hat and determined what kind of location, weather, or work of art they would be. What kind of location would people describe you as?

Pagoda - You are an intriguing mystery and spread peace and harmony.

U.N. Building - You are an inspiring place of peace and cooperation. People from everywhere look to you for guidance.

Yellowstone Lodge - You are stately and rustic, a solidly built unpretentious place for people while on their grand adventure.

Resort Hotel - People come to you to recuperate and escape the pressures of their lives. You offer thoughtful hospitality and comfortable luxury.

Gingerbread House - You are the sweetest! A magical place of delightful treats freely given to anyone who discovers your surprises.

Rose Bowl - You are a place people go to celebrate and have a good time!

St. Patrick's Cathedral - When people are near you they have a sense of being on holy ground.

The Louvre - You are full of creativity and masterpieces. Anyone who sees what you have inside is to find rest stunned by the beauty.

Magnificent Skyscraper - You keep us looking upward! You soar into the sky as you rise above other buildings. You can see for miles from your heights.

Fort Knox - You are a strong vault, full of precious treasures. Most people can hardly imagine the value of what you contain.

Serendipity Small Group Icerbreakers & Heartwarmers

(Continued on pg. 2)

WDREF Calendar

October 31, 2010

Best Practices for Sacraments
Book (See WDREF Homepage)

November 10-12, 2010

WDREF Convention
Heidel House in Green Lake
Registration info. available online

November 30, 2010

Earlybird registration for NCCL
Conference Due

(Continued from pg. 1)

The board is looking forward to gathering with all of you at the 2010 WDREF Convention this November as we celebrate 30 years as a statewide organization. We will hear from three wonderful keynote speakers, celebrate Eucharist together, share best practices, and partake in the awards banquet and gala. We encourage everyone to dress up for the banquet/gala, but please don't go out and buy something new! Instead, dig out those old bridesmaid dresses or mother of the bride or groom dresses. Can you still fit into one of your prom formals? Men do you have a leisure suit in your closet? Stay for dancing and karaoke! Read more detail about the convention below...

Register NOW for the WDREF Convention! Nov. 10-12



Have you registered yet for the 16th biennial WDREF Convention? Now's the time! This year's event will be held at the Heidel House Resort in Green Lake, WI.

Gregory F. Augustine Pierce will kick off the pre-convention gathering at 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 10. His presentation is entitled, "Living Authentically in the Here-and-Now Kingdom of God." He is the author of *The Mass Is Never Ended: Rediscovering Our Mission to Transform the World, and Spirituality at Work: Ten Ways to Balance Your Life on the Job*. Pierce is the president of ACTA Publishing and a leader in United Power for Action and Justice.

We also look forward to presentations from Bishop John Barres and Dr. Jane Regan on "The Spirit of Leadership and the Reforms of Vatican Council II." To learn more about our speakers, please see the Convention Brochure on the Events page at www.wdref.org.

Room rates for the convention are \$89. Please call the Heidel House directly to make reservations. Be prepared to provide your own parish's tax exemption certificate. To register, visit the event page at www.wdref.org and fill out the Convention Brochure. Following is information on the cost to attend as well as the official schedule...

	<i>Member</i>	<i>Non-Member</i>
Wed. Pre-Convention	\$10.00	\$10.00
Thurs. Only	\$125.00	\$155.00
Fri. Only	\$75.00	\$95.00
Full Convention	\$165.00	\$205.00

-- Convention Schedule --

Wednesday

- 4:00 pm Registration/Check-in
- 7:00 pm Pre-Convention Speaker — Greg Pierce
- 9:00 pm Social (Hosted by MDREO)

Thursday

- 7:00 am Breakfast
- 8:00 am Registration
- 9:15 am Convention opening & welcome
- 9:30 am General Session I — Jane Regan
- 11:00 am Eucharistic Liturgy (Bishop Morlino)
- 12:15 pm Lunch and Exhibits
- 1:30 pm General Session II — Bishop Barres
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:15 pm Best Practices Exhibits
- 4:15 pm Exhibitors' Showcases
- 5:30 pm Gala Gathering Reception
- 6:30 pm Gala Anniversary Dinner & Awards
- Dance and Celebration to follow

Friday

- 7:00 am Breakfast and Exhibits
- 8:30 am Exhibitors' Showcases
- 9:45 am Morning Prayer
- 10:00 am General Session III — Jane Regan
- 11:30 am Closing Prayer, Lunch

Exhibit space is still available. Contact Emily Revak at (715) 232-4920 ext. 12 or emily.revak@menomonicatholic.org. We look forward to celebrating 30 years as a statewide organization!

Who's Who Moment

WDREF Friend in the Spotlight



Sarah (Ceranski) Karlen comes from a family of two older brothers and one older sister. She attended St. Mary's Catholic Grade School in Marathon and in 2001 graduated as Valedictorian of her class at Marathon High School.

Sarah graduated with honors from UW-Stevens Point in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Communication (Double Emphasis: Public Relations/ Media & Technology.) While in college, she was heavily involved in student organizations. She served as news editor of *The Pointer* (campus newspaper), president of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and was involved in student television. She completed a variety of internships at Saint Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point, Land's End in Dodgeville and the American Cancer Society in Wausau.

Sarah also had the opportunity to study abroad for a semester in the South Pacific, where she learned about new cultures in Australia, Fiji and New Zealand.

After school she gained valuable experience building her career at Airfoil Public Relations and then later at Oakwood Healthcare System in the metro Detroit area. In August of 2006, she married her best friend, Christopher Karlen. While Chris was in law school at the University of Iowa, Sarah worked at MECCA Services, a non-profit organization offering substance abuse, problem gambling and HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling services. As Marketing Coordinator she assisted in organization-wide communication, media relations, advertising, web editing, fundraising, and event planning efforts. Most recently she participated in MECCA's strategic

planning process as the chair of the Rebranding Committee.

This June Sarah moved to the Twin Cities with Chris' job and is presently interviewing in the Woodbury-St. Paul area. Sarah's interests include spending time with Chris and their dog, Porter, who is now certified with Therapy Dog International. They love to visit nursing and veteran homes on weekends. Sarah also enjoys the outdoors and spending time with family in northern Wisconsin. This year she will be teaching first grade faith formation at St. Ambrose Parish in Woodbury, MN. Sarah Karlen has been our WDREF Newsletter editor since 2008 and most recently has accepted the position of Web editor. It is great to have her!

Introducing WDREF's newly redesigned Web site and Newsletter!

It's with great pleasure that we introduce our newly redesigned Web site at www.wdref.org. We are excited to use this virtual tool as a way for members to connect, access resources, and stay informed with the latest WDREF news and events. We invite you to take a look around the site. You'll notice that our photo gallery is under construction, we hope to have it up and running soon! Content and suggestions for the Web site are always welcome. Please feel free to contact our Web editor, Sarah Karlen at stkarlen@gmail.com.

In addition to our new Web site, we've also given our WDREF newsletter a bit of a facelift! With a brand new title, "Faith For Today" our Newsletter now contains colors in a layout that reflects our Web site. We're hoping these changes will improve our WDREF brand and make the organization more recognizable for both current and future members.



Marenda

The Marenda Board was informed that members of the Pastoral Associates of the Milwaukee Archdiocese (PAMA) Board are interested in merging their organization, which includes parish nurses and other lay ministers, with Marenda. We invited members of PAMA to one of our recent Board meetings. We discussed possible concerns with a ‘merger’ and benefits of an inclusive lay ministry organization. Any new organization would need to continue to be a member of WDREF. We also noted that Marenda is already open to pastoral associates, and has members who are pastoral associates.

We are working on developing a brochure once again, which will be mailed to all catechetical leaders in the Milwaukee Archdiocese as a way of encouraging new members.

Cardinal Stritch invited us to have a table at the August 12th Co-Workers in the Vineyard Symposium for the St. Clare Center. Board members were there to answer questions and take membership registrations. Members of Marenda continue to meet to plan the 2011 WDREF retreat.

MDREO

Larry Behlen and the committee have been working diligently on the Convention to be held in Green Lake. It will be a great time for all! WDREF members are invited to join us for our other programs this year:

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ Holy Mother of Consolation in Oregon.
 “Some Good Reasons for Celebrating and Sharing: Our Imperfect

Church” with Fr. Martin Pable.
Thursday, December 2, 2010 @ St. Peter in Madison 11a.m.-1p.m.

“Prepare Ye for the Coming of the Lord” The event will include prayer, lunch, white elephant gift exchange and time for socializing. Christmas shopping to take place after 1p.m.

Thursday, January 13, 2011
 Our Lady of Assumption in Beloit.
 “Discerning Spirits” with Msgr. James Bartylla.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 @ St. Bernard Parish in Madison. “The Spirit of II Vatican Council” with Doug Bushman.

ProCLAYM

On August 13 we had the Pro-CLAYM Board Retreat at the Bridge Between Retreat Center in Denmark, WI. Amy Weigand did a morning presentation on Servant Leadership and then we joined the sisters at The Bridge for Lunch. The afternoon portion of our day was supposed to be in service to The Bridge Between, but the weather was not cooperating. The afternoon was left open for people to do what they felt they needed to do in order to pump up for the new RE year.

On August 26 we had our annual Kick Off Day to launch the new RE year. We presented our Servant Award and had a chance to witness the awesome gifts and talents of our guest speaker, Carol Eipers. She spoke about “Tapestry of Faith: The Fabric of our Lives.”

SUMMIT

At our February meeting we made a decision to raise SUMMIT dues for 2010-2011 to \$40, so that our organization is in a better financial position to remunerate our guest speakers, etc. At the conclusion of

this year, we will revisit the amount of individual dues, which will best meet our needs and obligations. SUMMIT enjoyed a Retreat Day at Holy Family parish in Woodruff on May 11. It was led by Sr. Marla Lang, FSPA from the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae. Due to the nature of the retreat day, a business meeting was not held. The importance of such a time for us to pray and reflect together will be offered again in the 2010-2011 year.

Our SUMMIT Executive Team met at the end of May to begin the planning process for the 2010-2011 meeting presentations. Speakers and meeting sites have been finalized and the brochure is ready. We look forward to a great year with the following on our formation agenda:

Nov. 18 - The Soul of Working Relationships (By Christine Newkirk, Diocese of Superior). To be held at St Peter’s, Winter.

Feb. 24 - The Soul of Prayer: Retreat Day (Led by Mary Testin, St Anthony Spirituality Center). To be held at St Mary’s, Tomahawk.

May 12 - The Soul of Church: Keeping God in Busy Lives (By Daniel Kitzhaber, St John the Baptist, Marshfield) To be held at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Medford.

Several Executive Team members met in mid-June to begin the planning process for WDREF’s 2012 Convention. A possible site, “field trip” activity for the convention, and catering possibilities were looked at. We think it is safe to say that it will be a wonderful trip north for everyone.

Rep. Council Update:

- You can now view the Catechetical Leader (CL) magazine online if you are a member of NCCL. We are currently working on it to be member driven.
- 75th Annual NCCL Conference will be held May 22-26, 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme is, “Celebrating Our Past, Shaping the Future” Celebrando Nuestra Historia, Construyendo Nuestro Futuro “75 Years of Fidelity to the Word.” The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency and single and double rooms can be booked for \$99. For more information regarding the rooms visit <http://www.atlantaregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/rooms/room-description.jsp>.
- Pre-register NOW and save! Only \$289 until midnight PDT November 30, 2010. Go to www.nccl.org and click on 2011 Conference Pre-Registration. Registration will be accepted after November 30 at an increased cost.

• Looking for a new job? Visit www.nccl.org and click on “Career Center.”

• NCCL offers free Webinars once a month. Read Lee’s weekly update for time and place of these offerings.

NCCL
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

2010 Executive Team



Facilitator - Becky Thompson
Treasurer - Peg Miller
Secretary - Ann Fons

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.