



WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

WDREF

Winter 2010

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From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson

WDREF Facilitator

“The road of life twists and turns and no two directions are ever the same. Yet our lessons come from the journey, not the destination.” - Don Williams, Jr.

What kinds of roads have you traveled on your inner journey this past year? Did you encounter any roadblocks? Rest areas? Did you meet someone who helped you find direction or cross over a bridge to new freedom? As we began the WDREF board meeting in January, these were some of the questions we discussed as we looked back at last year and each made a road map of our journeys. Take a few minutes to reflect on your own journey.

We began our last board meeting discussing and evaluating the November retreat, which was led by Lee Nagel. Fifty-eight people participated in the retreat at St. Anthony Spiritual Center and the comments were very uplifting. Here is a sampling:

“Strengthened my hope and affirmed direction I am taking.”

“I expected more private time, but I would not have changed a moment.”

“Went above my expectations—to be honest, I was not looking forward to it because of the time away from the office...but it was so worth it. I have learned so much from the sharing of other people.”

MAREDA will be planning and hosting the 2011 retreat. We look forward to sharing in another wonderful experience. SUMMIT will be leading the charge for the 2012 Convention and will begin discussions on location, theme and potential guest speakers.

The PDC/Visioning Committee reported on the sales of our *Employing Catechetical Leaders: A Practical Guide* and pointed out that in the January/February *Catechetical Leader*, page six there is an ad for this handbook, which is now being distributed by NCCL. Thanks to everyone who had a part in putting the handbook together. Now they are on the fast track to developing a ‘Best Practices’ book on sacraments. If you would like to submit an idea for this publication, please e-mail Joanie Mckeown at jmckeown@grantsburgtelcom.net by May 10, 2010.

One final thought...if you are asked to consider becoming a WDREF representative, please prayerfully consider serving your local organization and WDREF.

WDREF Calendar

February 25, 2010
WDREF Scholarship
Applications due

April 18-22, 2010
NCCL Conference
Balley's Hotel in Las Vegas

May 17-18, 2010
WDREF Board meeting

November 10-12, 2010
WDREF Convention
Heidel House in Green Lake

Mark your Calendar: 2010 WDREF Convention

As you are preparing your budget and calendar for this fall, remember to include the WDREF convention, November 10-12, 2010 at the Heidel House in Green Lake.

This year's theme is **"Soul of Leadership: Responding to the Call."**

Speakers include: Gregory Pierce, Jane Regan and Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Capuchin.

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 statewide organization. It will be a journey you won't want to miss!



Responding to the Call

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.

Scholarship application available online

The deadline for the WDREF Scholarship is March 15, 2010. 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.

- The 2010 Annual Conference will be at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada April 18-22. This is a professional development conference for catechetical leaders. This year's theme will be: "An Oasis amidst Diversity." Keynoters include: Fr. Allan Figueroa Deck, S.J., Carole Eipers, Carmen Marie Nanko-Fernandes and Vallimar Jensen. Program and registration information is available at: www.nccl.org
- Brainstorming for the 2011 Annual Conference continues. The conference will probably be held in the Washington, DC-Baltimore area.
- The Leadership Discernment Committee is in the process of gathering names of potential nominees for the two at-large positions that will be available this year.
- Anne Roat, NCCL President, had those attending the Rep Council meeting randomly call 118 members to ask what NCCL could do for them. Many comments were made and the Rep Council discussed this as well.
- NCCL committees are all involved with many avenues of our field, including membership, product development, standards and certification, technology, etc. If you are interested in making an impact on the national scene, consider joining a committee.
- The Episcopal Advisor to NCCL is Bishop Blair. At the recent Rep Council meeting he highlighted some key points:
 - 1) High School texts are starting to come in for a conformity review. Conformity means it is free of error and presents the necessary content in an age appropriate manner. The same committee reviews all elementary and secondary texts and it takes about six months to a year for a conformity review to be completed.
 - 2) The committee of Evangelization and Catechesis is grateful for the input from NCCL on Catholic VBS.
 - 3) Sacramental catechesis for marriage is a first priority right now. The Bishops just approved their pastoral letter on marriage "Marriage: Life and Love in the Divine Plan," a document that brings together the teachings of the church to face the issues of today.
 - 4) The new translation of the Roman Missal was overwhelmingly approved and now goes to the Vatican for final approval. When Bishop Blair was asked what reasons we can give as to why it is a good thing, he indicated:
 - a.) The translation into English in the 1960's was done rapidly, so in some areas it could have been better if they had more time. The Latin has great biblical connections that were missing from the English, so we are reclaiming the richness of the Latin text.
 - b.) This translation uses a more elevated manner of expressing the ideas. It is more reverent, helping one to more readily move into sacred space.
 - c.) The new translations enrich our prayer and enhance our understanding of the theology of the Liturgy.

For more information, please contact Pam Fischer at faith1@lakefield.net or visit www.nccl.org.

Retreat reflections

The WDREF held its bi-annual retreat on November 5-6, 2009 at St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI. Sixty-three catechetical leaders from around the state came to experience who "God Is..." The theme of the retreat was "Standing on Tiptoe: The Season of Hope."

Lee Nagel, who is the executive director of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership, led the retreat. Lee shared his love of life, his infectious laugh, and how to deepen our intimate relationship with God. **Mark your calendars for the next bi-annual retreat: November 3-4, 2011.**



Bobbi Whittaker, Dave Beaudry, Lynn Meyer and Theresa Lambrecht participate in a "multitasking" activity



Closing prayer in the chapel

B&R Blessings & Recognition

The Superior Mutual Ministry Team annually presents two awards at the diocesan Fall Catechetical Conference. There were no nominees for the Thomas Toohey Award for Catechetical Leadership this year. The Gloria Lang Award for Outstanding Support in Ministry was received by Kristine Deering, coordinator of Religious Education for the clustered parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Dobie; Holy Trinity, Haugen, and St. John, Birchwood.

Kris has been in catechetical ministry for over 25 years, serving as parish religious education coordinator for Holy Trinity for 12 years before becoming CRE for the entire cluster three years ago. She is also involved in music ministry, Bible study, and special event planning, especially as youth leader. Along with her leadership skills, Kris brings prayer and energy to everything she does. Praying the rosary has sustained her throughout her life, including her grief at losing her son Russell in a traffic accident. With husband John at her side, and the support of children Michelle, Tim and Mary, Kris will continue to lead catechetical programs and events for her cluster, and support religious vocations through prayer and perseverance.

Among the awards given by the Diocese of Superior, we recognize two members of SUMMIT who received diocesan awards. Deacon Chet Ball, Parish Life Coordinator and Director of Religious Education at St. Anthony of Padua in Park Falls, received the Bishop George A. Hammes Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Schools.

Diana Maki, Coordinator of Religious Education at Holy Family in Woodruff, received the Father Harold Dodge Award for Excellence in Ministry. Both Diana and Chet are longtime active members of SUMMIT, and we offer our congratulations to them and our prayers for their continued ministry.



MDREO (Madison)

We had two wonderful program days: **“When Your Employees are Volunteers”** We discussed effective ways to retrain, recruit and equip our volunteers with the tools they need to succeed in ministry. The panel was made up of professionals in the community who work with volunteers on a regular basis.

“Caritas in Veritate & the Year for the Priest.” We began the day praying the rosary for our priest. There were beautiful scriptures and meditations to help us focus on the ministry of priesthood and lift up our priests in prayer. Msgr. Holmes presented on Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical Caritas in Veritate. We spent time sharing ways parishes have honored their priest or ways that they plan to throughout the year.

We’ve been working on ways to get members together for more fellowship and community building. Next year we will have a social in August and during Advent we will gather at one of the Madison parishes for Mass, secret Santa, snacks and shopping for those who live in the outlying areas.

Our upcoming program days for 2010 will involve a day where the Diocesan Director of Worship will address the upcoming changes in liturgy. In February, Thomas Smith will share how to cultivate the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in March, Barbara Sutton will guide us in using images in our programs. She will use video, facsimile and projected images of the “Saint John Illuminated Bible.” Our final program day, in April, will look at how we can better integrate technology to do more effective outreach. We will conclude our year with a joint retreat with the pastoral ministers of our diocese.

MAREDA (Milwaukee)

Upcoming Events:

Connect, Awaken, Share:

Help Parents Pass On a Living Faith

Tom McGrath & Joellyn Ciccirelli
Loyola Press
Wed. March 3, 2010 (9:00 a.m. - Noon)
St. Mary Parish, Waukesha
This two-hour professional development event will model innovative ideas and experiences that will energize parents and help them become active participants in their children’s faith formation.

Playing with Your Ministry

Dennis Kurtz
St. James Parish—Franklin
April 12 & May 20, 2010

A Morning of Reflection with Bishop

Richard Sklba
St. Joseph’s Center- Milwaukee

New Web site - The John Paul II Center launched www.johnpaul2center.org offering resources and programs in the areas of catechesis & youth ministry, marriage and family formation, diaconate formation, lay formation, young adult and campus ministries.

New Directors Institute - All directors of religious education, youth ministry and lifelong faith formation who are new to ministry or new to the archdiocese are invited to participate in the New Directors Institute, providing information, support and resources that will be helpful as your ministry unfolds. For complete schedule, topics and registration, visit: www.johnpaul2center.org

Catechesis on Role of the Archbishop

The arrival of a new archbishop, Most Reverend Jerome Edward ListECKI offers a teachable moment, an opportunity for catechesis on the role of bishops in the church, and of the nature of the local archdiocesan church. We offer several downloadable resources for catechists, teachers and others at: www.johnpaul2center.org

Advent Resources including blessings, event outlines, calendars, etc. available at: www.johnpaul2center.org

Season of Mercy Resources

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee will observe a Season of Mercy during Lent 2010, a time to reflect on the love and mercy of God and to renew our appreciation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Watch for events and resources at: www.johnpaul2center.org

Youth Multimedia Arts Contest

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is sponsoring an Arts Contest for youth. This is an opportunity for 7th -12th graders to learn about the root causes of poverty, investigate the work of locally or nationally funded CCHD groups, and reflect on Catholic Social Teaching and how it calls us to respond. The students then have the opportunity to get creative, use their talents, and make artwork reflecting what they have learned. For more information, visit: www.usccb.org/cchd/contestmaterials.shtml If interested in getting your parish involved contact Nicki Steinmetz at CCHDintern@archmil.org.

World Youth Day will be held Aug. 15-21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain. The John Paul II Center is beginning to plan a Young Adult (college age thru age 39) trip. For more info: www.livingourfaith.net TYME OUT Youth Ministry Center (www.tymeout.org) will coordinate a trip for high school aged youth. Contact Margie Lang at 262-966-1800 or margie@tymeout.org.

Forming the Catechetical Spirit is a year-long catechist formation program designed to provide basic-level catechist formation, and help catechists and teachers complete basic certification in one year. The program is currently being offered in two districts (3, 12). In January, arrangements will be made to offer the program in additional locations in 2010-2011.

(Continued on page 6)



STATE of Mind

News from around the state

SUMMIT (Superior)

We introduced our theme “Encountering Grace,” with a presentation by Doris Murphy, “Encountering Grace Through the Environment,” giving support to stewardship of this earth God has given to us. Larry Huiras continued our theme with “Taking Baptism Seriously: Encountering Grace Through the Sacraments,” reminding us how our call is supported throughout our lives.

Our next meeting will introduce us to Megan Noll, the new diocesan Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. We look forward to meeting her and hearing her presentation on “Strategies and Insights of Young Adult Life: Implications for Ministering to the Sons and Daughters of the Light.” We also begin the discernment process for our 2010-2011 officers.



2009-2010 Executive Board

(Becky Thompson (facilitator), Dave Kenny (secretary) and Peg Miller (treasurer).)

Find us on the web!

www.wdref.org

News • Updates • Events

www.wdref.org

WDREF Newsletter

Editor: Sarah Karlen

If you have story ideas or comments to share, please send an e-mail to stkarlen@gmail.com.

DARE (LaCrosse)

In October, DARE held the first open meeting in Menomonee featuring Fr. Ed Shuttleworth as guest speaker. As we are looking to expand membership, we opened the meeting to everyone in the surrounding deaneries. The meeting was well attended and well received. Certification credits were offered through the diocese. The occasion also offered an opportunity for our youth ministers to meet in the afternoon with the diocesan director. It seemed to be a win-win for everyone involved. We will hold one more open meeting in March with Fr. Ed returning by popular demand. We will use the same format allowing Chris Rogers to meet with youth ministers from around the Stevens Point area where the meeting will be held. DARE is financing everything this year with the hope that through increased membership and perhaps a BEET Grant from the diocese, we will be able to continue this open meeting concept with a nominal charge to participants.

The DARE newsletter is going out with every publication of the diocesan newsletter and our Web site is up and running through the efforts of our very gifted editor. Hopefully these efforts will culminate in a much more active and representative organization.

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 that is 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!