

FAITH for today



www.wdref.org

Winter 2012

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WDREF Calendar

March 1, 2012

WDREF Professional
Development Scholarship
Applications Due

May 7-10, 2012

76th Annual NCCL Conference
San Diego, CA

May 21-22, 2012

WDREF Board Meeting
St. Anthony Spirituality Center
Marathon, WI

November 7-9, 2012

2012 WDREF Conference
The Lodge in Siren, WI



From the Facilitator

by Jennifer Ludtke

WDREF Facilitator

May God at the intercession of St. Blaise preserve you from throat troubles and every other evil. Amen.

As I had a minor case of laryngitis on the first day of our January WDREF meeting, it seemed appropriate to start off by offering a nod to St. Blaise, whose feast we just celebrated on February 3. On this feast day, when I think of “throat troubles,” I often make the leap from sore throats and laryngitis to the harmful words that, I have to admit, sometimes come out of my throat. Yes, I would love St. Blaise to intercede for me so I don’t get physically sick, but more painful to me are the ‘throat troubles’ that manifest themselves in gossip or cynical comments. St. Blaise, may your intercession help deliver me from those as well...

Our WDREF board meeting in January was filled with blessings (and lots of business) once again. We welcomed Sr. Jacqueline Spaniola, OSF, who recently began work at the Green Bay Diocesan Department of Religious Education. We also heard encouraging feedback from the diocesan staff as a body about participating in a province dialogue in May. The desire for positive, intentional communication came through loud and clear from all parties. I am excited to share the results of that conversation after the May meeting.

We also heard promising things from the local organizations and WDREF committees about putting the August “reenergizing day” insights and goals into action. Putting energy into the question of how WDREF is still relevant and valuable, and empowering local organizations to grow in vitality will continue to be a priority.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us – individually and as Church – throughout the challenges and joys ahead.

God bless you all.

- Jenny

2012 WDREF Conference

Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory

Two years ago when we were selecting the theme for our state conference we began by looking at the readings of the day for Mass on Wednesday evening. Our gospel for that day includes the parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin from Luke. Wonderful stories to share with people of all ages! In the responsorial psalm we are told, "to proclaim all his wondrous deeds. Glory in his name... Recall the wondrous deeds" (from Psalm 105). Let's **Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory!**

In October Pope Benedict XVI announced a special *Year of Faith* to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others. Again, we are reminded to **Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory!**

The beginning of the *Year of Faith*, October 11, 2012, coincides with the anniversaries of two great events, which have marked the life of the Church in our days: the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, called by Blessed Pope John XXIII (October 11, 1962), and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," given to the Church by Blessed Pope John Paul II (October 11, 1992).



Dr. Carole Eipers

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*. **Read more about the sessions on the next page.**

Mark your calendars now for November 7-9!

Event details along with the conference brochure, which includes an itinerary, pricing and registration form can be found at www.wdref.org.



Dr. Joe Paprocki

Share the Story: Proclaim God's Glory (Continued from page 2)

Descriptions of the General Sessions:

Wed. Nov. 7 (Pre-Conference Session) – Joe Paprocki, D.Min.

The Catholic Storyteller: How We Share the Story of God's Glory in a Uniquely Catholic Way

When Catholics share the story of God's glory, we do so from a distinctive Catholic point of view. In this session, Joe Paprocki, D.Min., will identify and explore five key elements of this Catholic point of view that shape our telling of the story of God's glory, which, in turn, shapes our lives.

Thurs. Nov. 8 (Session 1) – Joe Paprocki, D.Min.

Proclaiming the Story of God's Glory: Using a Language of Mystery

Good storytelling involves more than simply speaking words written on a page. When Catholics share the story of God's glory, we do so with a language that goes beyond words. In this session, Joe Paprocki, D.Min., will identify and explore the elements of what he calls a "language of mystery" – a form of Catholic storytelling that involves sign, symbol, gesture, movement, song, ritual, silence and metaphor.

Fri., Nov. 9 (Session 2) – Dr. Carole Eipers

Once upon a time...

Each of us has a story of faith. Telling those stories is crucial to the new evangelization. Listening to others' stories and connecting all of our stories to the all-encompassing story of God-with-us makes catechesis relevant. How can we "story" more faithfully and effectively?

Fri., Nov. 9 (Session 3) – Dr. Carole Eipers

Happily ever after...

We proclaim God's glory, but Saint Paul writes that we also share in that glory moving from "glory to glory" as we are transformed into the image of the Lord. How do we celebrate this glory and invite those we serve to glory? What do we need to better proclaim and more fully embrace the glory of God in this *Year of Faith* and beyond?

Communication Survey...We need your feedback!

The Communications Committee has been busy with the launch of a new WDREF Web site, Facebook group, and newsletter. Now that you've had some time to read and navigate these tools, we'd like to know what you think! We invite you take a brief survey (also available at www.wdref.org) that focuses on

your evaluation of our social media and print efforts as well as WDREF's overall communication with you as members. We thank you in advance, and look forward to learning how we can improve in the future!

[Take me to the Communication Survey!](#)



Mareda

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee, with Mareda, sponsored *Great Expectations: Coaching Parents*, in two locations, featuring Leisa Anslinger. Also last fall, 275 youth and adult leaders from the Archdiocese participated in the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

Upcoming events include the Mareda March and May General Meetings with presentations by Dennis Kurtz and Mark Lyons. Archdiocesan projects include reviewing and updating catechist certification policies and procedures, and an effort to articulate expected technological competencies for PCLs.

MDREO

PCLs in Madison began the catechetical year by hosting a potluck lunch for those attending the diocesan Getting Started program, designed for new catechetical and youth ministers in the diocese. MDREO program days included speakers Denise Utter on parents and catechesis, and Christopher Carstens on developing a liturgical spirituality.

MDREO's executive committee has been discussing their action plan for re-energizing the organization, and thereby bringing new energy to WDREF; it includes increasing membership, encouraging more intentional meetings with the Bishop, and plans for a workshop on teaching financial advocacy skills.

ProCLAYM

The program year started with the annual Kick-Off Day, featuring Norbertine Fr. Jim Neilson, an art professor at St. Norbert College who challenged the membership to consider their use of images and art in catechesis.

Throughout the fall, board meetings focused on the ideas WDREF reps brought back for revitalizing ProClaym and contributing to a stronger state-wide organization. Two of the districts sponsored catechist in-services, featuring nationally known speakers Joe Paprocki and John Donahue-Grossman.

DARE

The October membership meeting was devoted to the WDREF re-energizing process. A group from the diocesan Youth Council led by Chris Rogers, LaCrosse Diocese Director of Youth Ministry, will join them and work with DARE through

that process. The hope is to build up an awareness and image of youth ministry and religious education that supports the mutual goal of promoting discipleship.

The discussion will continue in March, following up on DARE's identity as a tool of communication; a resource hub; a link to the diocese; a promoter of professionalism; and visionaries in ministry.

SUMMIT

The September membership gathering focused on catechizing for the new Roman Missal changes.

In December, members assisted Roger Cadotte of the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation in planning for the annual Catechetical week, to be observed in February 2012.

A short survey regarding knowledge of and participation in SUMMIT was given to all pastors, parish life coordinators and PCLs in the Diocese of Superior in early December, with a February 2012 summary expected. The diocese has continued its catechetical leadership days and regional catechist workshops, with NCEA's ACRE assessments and the IFG (Information for Growth, for adults) coming up soon.

WDREF Board Highlights

- From diocesan reports it is clear that certification is on many peoples' minds. Diocesan reports from Superior, Milwaukee and Green Bay all mentioned efforts regarding more effective, systematic certification processes and approaches.
- In an interesting happenstance, shortly after receiving a preliminary 'save the date' for the May province dialogue, the diocesan directors had a meeting. At that gathering, they discussed possible topics and the intention to attend. Several suggested topics from that meeting were shared with the WDREF board, and communication was clearly a winning theme: what improvements can be made between diocesan staff and WDREF members so that we hear and understand each other better. The willingness of diocesan staff to be part of the May dialogue is positive and exciting news.
- **Professional Development Committee:** "Best Practices for Catechesis on the Sacraments" is ready! CDs will be available for sale soon! The committee's goals are to continue the Best Practices series of CDs, bring PCLs up-to-date in Technology, and work on how to promote professionalism so that parishes will include it in their budgets.
- **Visioning Committee:** WDREF should continue to encourage vitality, improvement and accountability at the local organization level. One strategy for doing so: In May, when the facilitator meets with the new presidents and WDREF representatives, work on creating two potential goals for how the local organization is going to stay vital and relevant. The WDREF representatives' job will be to help keep those goals on track.
- **Communications Committee:** a key focus is working with our Newsletter/web editor to improve the effectiveness of the WDREF Communication tools and engagement among WDREF board members and membership. They have put together a brief survey to help evaluate usage. Please take a few minutes to provide your feedback. **-Take the Communication Survey-**
- **Scholarships** for continuing education are available. The application deadline is March 1.
- The retreat, although we always hope for more attendees, is of intrinsic value and WDREF will continue to offer one on a biennial basis. The next retreat will be October 24-25, 2013.
- November (7) 8-9, 2012 is the next Convention. There will be exceptional speakers and workshops in a unique atmosphere – well worth the trip 'up north.' The 2014 convention, hosted by ProCLAYM, could potentially be held in Door County.
- Pam Fischer, our NCCL representative, is in a unique position as one of only a few parish catechetical leaders on the NCCL rep council. WDREF, as one of only nine organizations having a rep on NCCL Rep Council, provides a national voice for PCLs (parish catechetical leaders). We will continue to look for ways to use Pam's presence to its full potential, and to make WDREF an example for other PCL organizations.
- Local organizations reported progress on the goals that had been created at the August re-energizing day. Intentionally working toward more vital local organizations looks very different in each diocese, but there is no argument that investing in our parish catechetical leaders is essential. Keep up the good work everyone!
- Reciprocity for Safe Environment training between dioceses will not be pursued at this time.
- An Internal Case Statement was assembled and shared by Joanie McKeown. This invaluable tool can be used to apply for grants that will be used to further WDREF's goals and mission.
- A final thought: Are there ways to save money at these meetings? WDREF board members shall revisit ways of being good financial stewards at the next meeting.

Adult Faith Formation and Catechetical Leadership Day
Thursday, April 26, 2012 8:30am–3:00pm
The Rock Garden Conference Center, Green Bay

Digital Catechesis: Ministry for the 21st Century

Agenda :

8:30 am– Gathering/Registration
9:00 am– Prayer
9:30am – Keynote Presentation
12:00am -Lunch and announcement
of “Faith In Our Future” award win-
ners
1:00 pm—Keynote Presentation
2:45 pm– Closing Prayer
3:00 pm- Dismissal

Learn about implementing new technolo-
gies that can serve ministry and catechesis,
and how to collaboratively explore new
technologies when they seem promising but
sometimes daunting. Topics covered in-
clude: digital storytelling, modulaton, digital
natives vs digital immigrants, reflection
tools and community building.



Jonathan F. Sullivan currently serves as the director of catechetical ministries for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and host of the Catechetical Leader podcast for the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership. Jonathan received his BA in theology and pastoral ministry from Quincy University and his MA from Aquinas Institute of Theology. He has made numerous presentations over the years on such topics as the use of technology in ministry, management in an ecclesial context, and the Catholic understanding of the Bible.



Diocese of
Green Bay

This event is partially funded
by the Bishop's Appeal



LIFELONG CATHOLIC LEARNING
DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY
Department of Education

Tim Welch is the Consultant for Educational Technology at Catholic Education Ministries, Diocese of Saint Cloud, MN. With more than 25 years of experience at the parish and diocesan level. Tim holds a degree in Electronics at Savannah Tech in Savannah, GA and also a degree in Theology and Religious Education from Saint John's University in Collegeville, MN.



Registration: \$25/person (includes lunch). [Register Here](#)

NCCL nuggets

By Pam Fischer, NCCL Rep.
faith1@lakefield.net

- The two slates that the NCCL membership must discern for its new leadership this spring are:

Slate One: Cheryl Fournier (P), Jose Amaya (VP), Mary Fran Cassidy (S), and Mary Jo Waggoner (TR)

Slate Two: Bill Miller (P), Enedina Sacuedo (VP), Linda Styker (S) and Joanie McKeown (TR).

- The Conference will be held in San Diego, CA from May 6-10, 2012. The theme is EMBRACE GRACE. Check out www.nccl.org for additional information.

- The theme for Catechetical Sunday is: Catechist and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization.

- Members of the Representative Council of NCCL have collaborated and have written a very useful book entitled: "Doing Ministry for Less." Order your copy today from NCCL.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding NCCL, please contact Pam at the e-mail address above.

NCCL
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

WDREF Executive Team



Treasurer - Danelle Kegley
Facilitator - Jennifer Ludtke
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.