



Wisconsin Province

Fall 2016

Edition 1, Volume 11

From the Facilitator

By Adele Svetnicka, October 2016

Blessings on your year! During this exciting yet hectic time, treat yourself to some quiet time with Christ; sitting, by being still and letting go of all those thoughts that bring us down. Just be present with Jesus, breathing slowly and deeply, over and over letting the 'ahhhh' wash over you.

It has been a busy but good year with WDREF, too. We have been engaged in internal examination and with the help of Dr. Joe Bound and Maria Schuette from the Green Bay Diocese, we have renewed energy

Mission Statement: WDREF promotes ministerial and professional development and provides ongoing formation, advocacy, and support to Parish Catechetical Leaders.

and direction and have reined our mission statement. (See above in blue box.) We are also in the process of developing a couple vision statements to guide our success in meeting our priorities. These will be developed as a result of the caucus time at this year's convention. Come and share your ideas. Our 2016 Convention will be taking place on November 10 & 11. The theme, "The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God" (based on Psalm 19) features Sr. Linda Gibler, OP, PhD., who will help us explore the compatibility of our faith and science. Check out the WDREF Facebook page for more information. Registrations can be found on www.wdref.org



Exhibitors at the 2016 Convention

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At the upcoming 2016 Convention, you'll find exhibitors from textbook publishers, universities, retreat centers, gift items and some books from Lee Nagel's collection. The exhibitors include:

*Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Capuchin Province of St. Joseph
Cardinal Stritch University & St. Clare Center
Durward's Glen Retreat & Conference Center
Holy Resurrection Monastery
LoveEd
Loyola Press
Magnify the Lord Artwork
Ministry Blueprints
Our Sunday Visitor
Pflaum Publishing
RCL Benzinger
Wm. Sadlier
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Anthony Spirituality Center
St. Mary's Press
St. Mary's University of Minnesota
Tau Healing Arts*

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU for dedicated service and faithfulness to and a huge WELCOME TO:

**Kathy Cornette (St. Louis Parish, Green Bay Diocese) as our Secretary for the past two years.*

**Pam Fischer (St. Thomas the Apostle, Green Bay Diocese) as our representative to NCCL (National Conference for Catechetical Leadership) for the past six years.*

**Gwen Nies (Webster Area Parishes, Superior Diocese) as our new secretary.*

**Becky Thompsom (St. Joseph Parish, Madison Diocese) as our new NCCL Rep.*



WDREF Faciliator, Adele Svetnicka

May 2016 Province Dialogue

Diocesan Leaders assist WDREF in SWOT Analysis, submitted by Joanie McKeown

Nine diocesan catechetical leaders met with the WDREF board in May for a four hour SWOT analysis led by Joe Bound, Director of Education in the Diocese of Green Bay. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. Dr. Bound began the morning by describing the basic functions of an organization such as WDREF. These included: advocacy, collaboration, professional development, publications, research, and standards of professionalism. An organization performs these functions to benefit the membership of the organization. He then suggested possible services that WDREF could be performing. Some, such as

hosting conferences or offering scholarships, WDREF currently doing this. Others, such as research projects undertaken in conjunction with a university, provided great food for thought for the WDREF board. WDREF's strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and threats that WDREF faces as an organization were then discussed in small groups, using subheadings such as "Human Resources" and "Finances" to focus our thoughts. Having the perspectives of the diocesan leaders was vital in our discussions. Here are some of the most important items that were noted:

Corporate Strength: statewide organization;
Corporate Weakness: our membership numbers depend on local organizations.
Programs/Services Strengths: convention and retreat;
Program/Services Weaknesses: low numbers who attend the events or purchase products. Marketing Strengths: who we (Board members) are, our commitment; Marketing Weaknesses: need better communication to PCLs, YMs, etc. Finances Strength: Scholarships and grants that WDREF gives; Finance Weaknesses: heavy reliance on convention profit. Physical Facilities: Strength: one place (St. Anthony Spirituality Center) we call home and can

store materials; Physical Facilities Weaknesses: cost of Board meetings (mileage and overnight stay). Economic Opportunity: Church's message of hope, discipleship; Economic Constraint: fear of the future can lead to lack of stewardship. Legal Opportunity: a lot of things available for professional development; Legal Constraint: laws on overtime/etc. could impact us. Technology Opportunity: marketing using social media/internet; Technological Constraint: time to do quality marketing. Social Opportunity: diversity of experiences, bringing ideas from the state to our local settings; Social Constraint: fewer people joining our groups. Competitive Opportunity: people want to do something worthwhile with their time; Competitive Constraint: busyness of most people. As we started to align the items in the SWOT list, we saw: Strengths/Opportunities: we have some great programs and some people are very engaged. Weaknesses/Threats: we need to promote our conventions, retreats and products better, but have limited time and

money to do so. Marketing is a key issue, including personal invitation. The meeting ended with everyone in great spirits and ready to continue the next steps in the process. When you see your diocesan leaders, please thank them for joining the WDREF board in this analysis.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Summarized by Joanie McKeown

WDREF representatives met during the summer to continue the planning process that we began in May with the SWOT analysis. With the additional information from those meetings, the WDREF board was ready and eager in August to work on a revised Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Goal-Setting led again by Dr. Joe Bound.

MISSION STATEMENT: As the board discussed WDREF's mission statement, we reached the conclusion that our mission hasn't changed, but it would be helpful if the mission statement was more focused. The mission statement for WDREF was: *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. The new draft to receive final approval in January is: **WDREF promotes ministerial and professional development and provides ongoing formation, advocacy, and support to parish catechetical leaders.** Let your WDREF reps know what you think about the change!*

VISION STATEMENT: Instead of spending valuable board meeting time on wordsmithing, we listed the key concepts to include in vision statements. An Ad Hoc Committee will create a first draft of the vision statement using the key concepts. Further work will be done by the board at its next meeting.

GOAL SETTING: As the board analyzed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the SWOT analysis, some patterns emerged. 1. WDREF sponsors some great events and has produced some great

products, but needs to promote them in new and better ways. 2. A lot of the new people in the catechetical field have a strong sense of service. How can we increase WDREF's relevancy to them? 3. Catholics will give financial support to worthwhile endeavors. How do we reach them? After further discussion, these were developed into three main goals: 1. To sponsor one event per year, retreat 2017, convention 2018, Best Practices/roundtables 2019, 40th Anniversary 2020. 2. To promote events to increase attendance, increase relevancy and provide for collaboration and support throughout the state. 3. To build up WDREF's financial reserves so there is more money for scholarships, grants, etc. Time was spent listing some of the action steps needed to complete each goal. These will be developed further over the next few months. The draft of the strategic plan will then be presented at the WDREF Convention for input from the local organizations. The board wants to hear from you during the Convention before finalizing the plan. Please join us in November

and let us know your thoughts.



NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM

Gwen Nies: Secretary
Adele Svetnicka: Facilitator
Sue Devine-Simons: Treasurer



NCCL info:
NCCL Conference, May
22-25, 2017
"Transformative
Leadership"

NCCL brings together
diocesan and parish
catechetical leaders,
academics, and resource

providers for formation, networking, and prayer. See www.NCCL.org for more information about NCCL and its Annual Conference.

Scholarships Available

Scholarships are available for catechetical leaders pursuing degrees, certification, or for continuing education. Download the application form and requirements at www.WDREF.org.

Past Member Part of an Ecumenical Worship Service

October 31st is the date set for a symposium at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, with scholar, author, historian and speaker Franz Posset. The day-long event with an ecumenical worship service will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Planners working with Franz Posset include (from left to right) Karla Jensen, Director of Auxiliary Programs and Outreach at Wayland Academy, Franz Posset, Bishop Mary Froiland of the

ELCA South Central Wisconsin Synod, Rev. Mark Jensen of First Lutheran Church and Vicar Tim Knipfer, intern, at First Lutheran Church. Bishop Richard Sklba (not pictured) will also be another dignitary on hand during the commemoration event, held in Wayland Academy's Kimberly Chapel. Posset was a past member of the Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation.



BOOK REVIEW:

The Abbey By James Martin, SJ
By: Pam Fischer

Fr. James Martin, SJ has written many books, but *The Abbey* is his first novel. I have read several of his books and have heard him speak at the NCCL national conference. He is absolutely one of the most engaging authors I have read. This is a story of discovery for both of the main characters, Mark and Anne. The bulk of the story takes place at the monastery where



Mark works as a carpenter. Anne is also a stickler as Mark's landlord...Mark's car breaks down and needs a ride and he calls Anne for help. Pick this book up and discover the how God truly works in mysterious ways.

2016 WDREF CONVENTION NEWS

The 2016 WDREF Convention is quickly approaching! November 10-11 will find members at the Osthff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI for "The Heavens Proclaim the Glory of God" with our main presenter Sr. Linda Gibler, OP, leading us in an exploration of the relationships between faith and science, and their implications for our ministry in the Church today.

Sr. Linda is a Dominican Sister of Houston, TX and currently serves as Associate Academic Dean at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, and as an adjunct

professor for the Loyola Institute for Ministry.

Friday breakout sessions will include:

- * "Setting the World on Fire-One Family at a Time", presented by Jane Angha, Consultant for Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Green Bay and Director of Ministry Blueprints.
- **"Creative Ways of Using Technology in my Ministry" presented by Dave Baudry, Director of Christian Formation at St. Agnes Parish in Butler, WI
- **"Evangelization: Opening Doors of Mercy" presented by Dr. Carole Eipers, catechetical consultant for Wm. H. Sadlier, who will sponsor her.
- **"Spirituality: The Innate Search for God-Pastoral Implications" presented by Jean Marie Weber from Cardinal Stritch College.

A registration form can be found at www.wdref.org . The Convention venue, the Osthoff is located on the shores of Elkhart Lake, WI

