



OMG...it's time to start planning for the WDREF Convention!!!

Mark you calendars! In fact, clear the dates in next fall's Religious Education schedules and tell everyone you know to come to the Ramada Inn and Convention Center (formerly, Country Springs Hotel and Convention Center) in Stevens Point. The dates are Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14, 2008.

The theme for the convention is *Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future*. The speakers focus will be on the importance of our religious past along with the issues that permeate our catholic identity in the future. What do we need to be aware of as Catholics as we move forward in this culture, at this time? How do we define ourselves? Our ministry?

The speakers who will try to help us answer these queries and others are Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS, Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives (University of Dayton) and the Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation whose presentations will focus on how we as parish catechetical leaders need to embrace technology and its importance in our programs.

And Jackie Witter, former director of the Office of Catechesis for the La Crosse Diocese currently the Director of *ILLUMINARE: THE LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY PROJECT OF ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY*, St. Paul, MN. Ms. Witter will talk to us about our role as lay ecclesial ministers in today's world and what we need to have as our focus as we move forward.

DARE, the La Crosse Diocesan Association of Religious Educators, is honored to be able to host two top-notch pre-convention speakers on Wednesday evening, November 12, 2008 – Mike Carotta, a nationally known speaker in the field of Youth Ministry and Fr. Jan Michael Joncas, internationally known in the areas of Liturgy and Liturgical music. Mr. Carotta will also speak on Thursday.