

# WDREF

Wisconsin Directors of Religious Education Federation

# WDREF

Spring 2008

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## WDREF Calendar

**November 2009 - TBD**

St. Anthony Retreat  
(Marathon, WI)

**November 13-14, 2008**

WDREF Convention  
(Stevens Point, WI)

**April 26-29, 2009**

NCCL National Conference  
(Dearborn, MI)



## From the Facilitator

by Becky Thompson

WDREF Facilitator

*“God who sings in our hearts... we pray to be open to the many ways that your symphony of love plays in our lives....Together we can create wondrous music in your concert of love.”* (Joyce Rupp, Out of the Ordinary)

For those who know me, music is part of who I am. At our May WDREF Board meeting, beautiful music was made. We sang in prayer, we sang in gratitude, we sang in sorrow, and we sang words of hope and encouragement in and throughout our meeting.

We are grateful for the new members of the board who said “YES!” when they responded to the call from their local organizations and the Holy Spirit to serve on the board: Lety Gutierrez-Kenny, MAREDA; Colleen Monfre, SUMMIT; Peg Miller and Julie Weidmeyer, MDREO; and Jenny Schneider, ProClaym (formerly GB-AREA). We also sang in gratitude when the Holy Spirit and WDREF discerned Dave Kenny, MAREDA, as our new secretary and he responded “yes”.

We sang a song of sorrow as we said good-bye and blessed those whose term on the board is over: Pam Fischer, ProClaym; Franz Posset & Kathie Fritz, MDREO; Joanie McKeown, SUMMIT; and Bob Nolan, MAREDA. Thank you good and faithful servants. Thanks, Kathie, for serving as secretary for the past two years! I know it hasn't always been easy.

A big song of praise, “ALLELUIA!” was exclaimed when we received our copies of the revised handbook, “Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders.” Thanks to the PDC and all who helped in putting this together. A special “Thank you” to Pam Fisher, Kathy Pichler and Joanie McK-  
eown.



We rejoiced with the communication committee over the “new and improved” newsletter and their ideas for marketing and communicating what and who WDREF is. The Visioning and PDC members met together and will be collaborating on a “best practices” publication and explore how we can help people to see our “work” as a ministry and vocation. Our final reports during Monday’s meeting were on our up-coming conventions and retreat. I really look forward to seeing you all at our 2008 convention in Stevens Point!

Finally, we sang words of hope and encouragement as we discussed relationships. We ended Monday by discussing the relationship between our local organizations, WDREF and our diocesan offices. How do we work together? How could it be better? After all, our mission, our ministry, is the same—to teach others the truths of our faith and have them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

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## 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.

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## Upcoming Award Nomination Deadlines

### *Support in Ministry*

#### *Henriette M. Mackin Award*

This award is presented to a person or organization, which has given outstanding support to the catechetical ministry in a parish or diocese in the state of Wisconsin.

It is open to both paid and volunteer people. (eg. a catechist, priest, secretary, parent, liturgist, janitor, parish organization, etc.) Diocesan personnel are not eligible.

To complete the nomination process, you **MUST** secure a letter of recommendation from one other person. In addition, please ask your nominee for a resume or vitae. For the full award application and information on where to mail all three documents, please visit **www.wdref.org**. The nomination deadline is September 1, 2008.

### *Leadership in Ministry*

#### *Stephen C. Gilmour Award*

This award is presented to a degreed professional person actively engaged in parish catechetical ministry on a directorship level.

The person should be outstanding for his/her leadership and achievements in the catechetical field and must be a member of WDREF through one of the following: ProClaym, DARE, MAREDA, MDREO, SUMMIT. (WDREF Board Members are not eligible.)

Please ask your nominee for a resume or vitae and staple it to your nomination form. For the full award application and information on where to mail the documents, please visit **www.wdref.org**. The nomination deadline is September 1, 2008.

## Leading Links

*Just a click away*

**www.usccb.org**

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – news, daily readings, movie reviews and more

**www.biblegateway.com**

Resource for bible passages with translations available

**www.sacredspace.ie**

Guide for daily prayer

**www.actsofkindness.org**

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation

**www.forbetterlife.org**

The Foundation For a Better Life

**www.nccl.org**

National Conference of Catechetical Leaders (WDREF is a member organization)  
Catechetical Sunday is September 21 – order your kits now from the NCCL Web site.

**www.other6.com**

An examination of consciousness - Where have you found God today? Where do you need to find God today?

**Find us on the web!**

**www.wdref.org**

**News • Updates • Events**

**www.wdref.org**

## NCCL nuggets

### NCCL Annual Conference Recap

Many attendees said that the NCCL Annual Conference held in Houston, TX April 6-10, 2008 was the best they've attended in recent years. Keynote speakers Fr. Ron Rolheiser and John Allen (from NCR) and Learning Session presenters Carole Eipers and Bill Huebsch received the highest accolades.

Our state was well represented. Rosie Bartel, Diocese of Green Bay, was co-facilitator of the pre-conference "Addressing the Needs of Rural Parishes" and the Hot Topic "Training Catechetical Leaders and Catechists in the Rural Setting." Poster Postings were presented by Roger Cadotte, Diocese of Superior, on "Collaboration: A Tapestry of Transformative Catechesis"; Pam Fischer and Anne Stemper, PCLs in the Diocese of Green Bay, on "Taste and See": an intergenerational retreat on the Eucharist; and Joanie McKeown, PCL in the Diocese of Superior, on "Seven Ways to Pray."

### NCCL Election Bylaw Changes

All PCLs who join NCCL can now vote in NCCL elections! The bylaw changes, which extend voting rights to all PCLs passed by a 6 to 1 majority! What a marvelous testimonial on the value of collaboration within the organization. As members of WDREF, PCLs can now join NCCL for only \$40 per year.

### 2009 Annual Conference: April 26-29

NCCL's 2009 Annual Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, MI (near Detroit), April 26-29. Milwaukee to Detroit is only 370 miles, so check your calendars, find others to carpool and plan on attending this marvelous conference. If you've never been to The Ford Museum in Dearborn plan an extra day for a tour, which includes historic items such as Kennedy's limo and the chair Lincoln was seated in when he was assassinated.

Visit [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org) for registration details. An early bird discount (\$249/person) is available through September 15.

For more information on these and other NCCL issues, go to [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org) or contact WDREF's PCL Rep to NCCL, Joanie McKeown, [joaine50@consultant.com](mailto:joaine50@consultant.com).



**NCCL**  
National Conference for Catechetical Leadership

# Looking for a Summer Read?

Sneak a peak at these reviews

## Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza

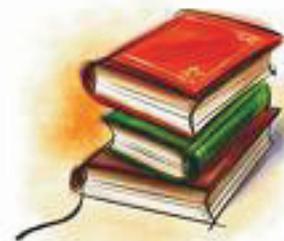
This book is the personal story of Immaculee Ilibagiza, a young university student who grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was destroyed as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide that would take the lives of nearly a million people, including most of Immaculee's family.

It is more than just a history of this reign of terror. The author and seven other women spent 91 days hidden in a local pastor's bathroom. Immaculee emerged from there a transformed woman. During the endless hours of unspeakable terror, she discovered the power of prayer and the meaning of unconditional love – a love so strong she would later be able to seek out and forgive her family's killers.

The triumphant story of this remarkable woman's journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose lives have been touched by fear, suffering and loss...all of us.

## The Shack by William P. Young

This is the fictitious story of a man who experiences a crisis of faith when his daughter is abducted and brutally murdered. Four years later, deep in the midst of depression, he receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him to "The Shack."



It is the very place where evidence of his daughter's murder had been discovered. What transpires is a series of theological conversations and experiences between the man and God. Young presents the nature of the Blessed Trinity, God's endless love for us, along with the concepts of trust and forgiveness in a fantastic and creative way.

This book began as a story written by a father, to help his children understand deep theological concepts about God. It is an engrossing piece of fiction that may leave you thinking, praying, loving and forgiving in a whole new way.

## 2008 WDREF Convention on it's way

This year's convention will be held Thursday and Friday, November 13-14, 2008 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center (formerly, Country Springs Hotel and Convention Center) in Stevens Point. The cost is \$62 for a single room suite, \$72 for a double, \$82 for a triple, etc. There are other types of rooms available as well.

The theme for the convention is Cherish the Past, Embrace the Future. The speakers will focus 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 period of time? How do we define ourselves and our ministry?

We are looking forward to the pre-convention presentations that will be given on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, from the following speakers:

### **Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski**

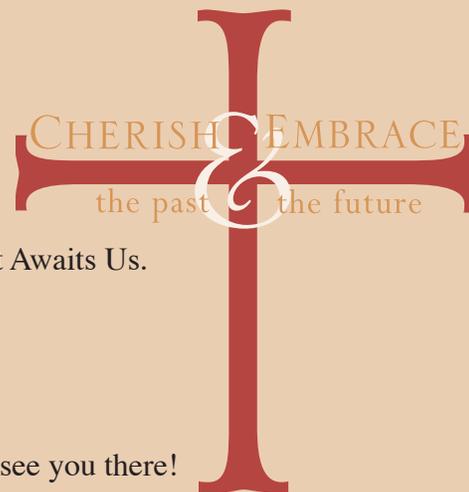
New Perspectives on E-Catechesis  
Opportunities of E-Communication for Effective Catechesis

### **Jacquelyne Witter**

Proclaiming the Legacy We have Inherited; Entering into the Future that Awaits Us.

### **Michael Carotta**

Cultivating Spiritual Awareness with Adolescents



Registration forms will be arriving via mail. Please watch for them. We hope to see you there!

*Thank you to all of our incoming and outgoing local level officers for your involvement and dedication.*

## **SUMMIT**

Thank you to outgoing WDREF Representative, Joanie McKeown, and welcome Colleen Monfre from Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith.

Thank you also to Gayle Spencer from Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith who has served as SUMMIT Treasurer and welcome Dr. Larry Huiras from St. Patrick's in Hudson.

## **ProClaym (formerly GB-AREA)**

Thank you to outgoing president, Steve Pable and welcome Betty Manion.

## **MDREO**

Thank you to outgoing president, Julie Endl and welcome Nicki Paulson. Thank you also to Linda Sheridan, former treasurer and welcome Delores Eggers.

## **MAREDA**

Thank you to outgoing president, Ron Jacobsen and current vice-chair Maureen Rotramel. We will soon welcome our incoming chairperson, Dave Beaudry.

We also thank former secretary, Letty Guitarrez and treasurer Carol Budzinski. And we welcome incoming secretary Theresa Markl and treasurer, Rosilie Sass.

*If you have a recent accomplishment, or know of a WDREF member that deserves a round of applause, we'd like to hear from you. We are thankful each day for the blessings in our lives, let's share the good news with each other!*

## **Who's Who Moment .....**

*WDREF Member(s) in the Spotlight*

For the WDREF Newsletter's first Who's Who section we'd like to shine a spotlight on the members of the Professional Development Committee (PDC), especially Joanie McKeown, Pam Fischer and Kathy Pichler for their hard work on the newest edition of the WDREF Handbook - "Employing Parish Catechetical Leaders."

Joanie is from SUMMIT, and also serves WDREF as representative to NCCL. Pam is from ProCLAYM and Kathy is from DARE. These ladies worked tirelessly on the updated handbook which includes sections entitled, "Creating a Catechetical Plan," "Ministry Agreement and Profiles," "Evaluation Procedures," "A Sample Ceremony for the Installation of a Parish Catechetical Leader," "A Salary Tool," "Benefits Package," and so much more.

Thanks again to the PDC Committee for your great work!

# Who's Who

## **WDREF handbooks are here!**

The handbooks will be available for purchase at the WDREF convention in November. If you are unable to attend or would like to purchase a copy before the convention, please contact Joanie McKeown at [jmckeown@grantsburgtelcom.net](mailto:jmckeown@grantsburgtelcom.net) for ordering and shipping details.

### ***Handbook pricing information:***

WDREF members and diocesan offices requesting 1-5 copies receive special pricing at \$12.75 per book. The retail price for a handbook is \$15.95. When ordering, please provide the name of your diocesan office or local DRE organization. Bulk pricing is as follows:

6-23 copies - 40% off retail

24-99 copies - 45% off retail

100 or more - 50% off retail



## ProCLAYM

Over the past few years GB-AREA has reviewed and reworked its' vision and mission. From these conversations came the ultimate agreement that the group also needs a name change.

As we have come to understand the wider mission and participation in catechetical ministry, we decided upon the name ProCLAYM, for "Professional Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministers." The name suggests not only this wide spectrum of ministry, but also the important connection between catechesis and evangelization.

ProCLAYM is looking forward to an exciting future, working with new leadership, sponsoring reinvigorated events that serve a wider audience of ministers across the diocese, and working to support and improve our service to the catechetical ministry in our local communities.

## MDREO

Susan Leet, a member of MDREO, was recently awarded the Jack McBride Leadership in Ministry Award. The award is presented annually to a member of MDREO who is actively engaged in parish catechetical ministry on an administrative level, has provided outstanding leadership and made significant contributions in the faith formation field.

Susan has spent nearly 20 years in church ministry and earned her masters degree from Catholic Theological Union. She is currently a member of the parish staff at St. Albert the Great Parish in Sun Prairie. She is actively involved in MDREO and has served as both president and vice president of that group. She has also been active with WDREF and several local youth ministers groups. Above all she is a wife and mother of four teenagers.

The following was taken from her nomination form, submitted by a co-worker, Paula Horn: "Most of all, I appreciated the heart I see in her..."

Her ministry is a reflection of her convictions and her faith, along with her family - the roots of her life. It's not just a job. She's wise and funny and personable and GOOD."

## MAREDA

We've had three program days this year with an emphasis on different aspects of Social Justice and how we as catechetical leaders can pass that information on to those we minister to. We will end our program year with a closing morning of Affirmation followed by a retreat led by Tom Zanzig.

We are also working to make our Web site more interactive. Eventually, we will add a "share shop" in which members can pass on ideas that worked well in all different areas of ministry.

While planning for next year's programming we hope to include a "social" activity. Our Archdiocesan catechetical offices are being reorganized once again which will present new challenges for members. Finally, we are also in the midst of discernment for a new chair.

## Thank you to our Executive Team!



From left to right:

**Facilitator**  
Becky Thompson

**Treasurer**  
Rick Geise

**Secretary**  
Kathie Fritz

Thank you to Kathie Fritz for serving so well as our WDREF secretary.

David Kenny, our new secretary was discerned at the May meeting. We welcome David to the team and we thank our returning treasurer, Rick Geise and facilitator, Becky Thompson for their continued commitment to serving on the board.