

# FAITH for today



## WDREF

Wisconsin Directors  
of Religious  
Education Federation

[www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org)

Fall 2013

### what's WITHIN

2013 WDREF Retreat.....	2
St. Anthony's Update.....	3
Life.....	3
Save the Date: 2014 Conference...	4
Who's Who Moment.....	5
NCCL Nuggets.....	6
Joining WDREF.....	7



### From the Facilitator

by Jennifer Ludtke

WDREF Facilitator

Every fall we experience the “both-and” of reality. The school year ramps up, we prepare in a fever of activity, there are evening meetings, weekend obligations, sports and classes and busyness of all types. On the other hand, nature is ramping down. Evening comes sooner, the heat of summer retreats, trees and plants close in upon themselves to wait for spring, animals fatten up and slow down (although as winter approaches, it's tempting to slip into that category myself!) We all know that our faith is another “both-and” reality: holy and human; saved and sinful; visible and invisible; true God and true man.

At our August WDREF meeting, we talked a bit about being “both-and,” too. We are a state organization, but we exist only with the involvement of local organizations. We look both to the experiences of the past and to the dreams for the future. We are here to both support and to challenge. It's actually kind of a stimulating place to be – it pushes us to really work toward being practical and relevant.

As your program year begins, you're sure to experience the “both-and” of reality too. May you fully enjoy the energetic times, and appreciate the calmer moments, and may God be with you during all of it! May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us – individually and as Church – throughout the challenges and joys ahead.

*God bless you all – Jenny*

*O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at last. Amen.*

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

### WDREF Calendar

**October 24-25, 2013**

WDREF Retreat  
St. Anthony Spirituality Center

**January 13-14, 2014**

WDREF E-Board Meeting

It's not too late to sign up! New Deadline: October 9, 2013

## 2013 WDREF Retreat

*Living our Baptism as Priest, Prophet, King*  
October 24-25 - St. Anthony Spirituality Center



Through talks, quiet time, prayer together, and sharing, we will reflect on the difference Baptism makes. Through Baptism we are joined to the Body of Christ and share in the mission of Jesus to be prophets, priests, and a royal people. But what does that mean day to day? Our retreat will help us to go deeper into the mystery of baptism and what it means for our daily lives.

### **Presenter:**

**Fr. James Kubicki, SJ** - National Director, Apostleship of Prayer

A frequent guest on radio and television, Fr. James Kubicki is also a popular conference speaker, retreat director, and parish mission speaker.

Fr. Kubicki was raised in Milwaukee, WI. He entered the Jesuits in 1971 and was ordained in 1983. From 1984-88 he served as Vocation Director and from 1995-99 as Director of Formation for the Jesuits of the Wisconsin Province. He has worked at the Sioux Spiritual Center, a retreat house for Native Americans; as Assistant Director of the Diocese of Rapid City's deacon and lay ministry formation program; and as Assistant Director of the Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo, MN. In 1995 he became the Wisconsin Province Director of the Apostleship

of Prayer, and in 1997 he became a member of the Apostleship's national Board of Directors. He became National Director on July 31, 2003.

### **Location**

St. Anthony Spirituality Center  
300 E 4th St.  
Marathon, WI 54448

### **Retreat Itinerary**

#### **Wednesday, October 23** (optional)

6-7:00 PM Early registration  
7:00 PM Social time  
9:00 PM Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday, October 24**

8:00 AM Mass  
8:30 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM Registration  
10:00 AM Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Presentation  
12 Noon Lunch, Personal Prayer and Rest Time  
Reconciliation available  
2:30 PM Presentation  
5:00 PM Evening Prayer  
5:30 PM Supper  
7:00 PM Presentation  
8:30 PM Adoration available  
Social time

#### **Friday, October 25**

8:30 AM Breakfast  
9:30 AM Presentation  
10:45 AM Mass and Farewell

Massage is available through St. Anthony Spirituality Center during the retreat. As people of the incarnation, we believe that the body is sacred and should be treated with tenderness. Call (715) 443-2236 for information.

### **Registration**

Visit [www.wdref.org/events.html](http://www.wdref.org/events.html) to download the WDREF Retreat Brochure, which includes the event registration form. Registration fees include private rooms with shared bathroom, meals and social. To help us keep our cost affordable, (an \$80 value). To help with planning, please indicate if you are coming for the pre-retreat evening, and if you will be present for breakfast on Thursday.

Please make checks payable to WDREF and register by **October 9, 2013**. If you have any questions please contact Jenny Ludtke at [jennifer@stamadison.org](mailto:jennifer@stamadison.org) or (608) 833-2600.

# St. Anthony's Update...

St. Anthony Spirituality Center



A Board has been formed for the efforts of St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon City. We continue to make progress on "a new chapter" for St. Anthony's but all pieces are not in place, yet. A recent letter dated September 15 was received from Fr. John Celichowski, Provincial Minister:

*"I write this brief letter, joined by our Provincial Council, to affirm our support for the efforts of St. Anthony's of Marathon, Inc. in your efforts to continue the ministry of St. Anthony Spirituality Center after the Provinces sponsorship ends at the end this year.*

*Although negotiations continue and nothing has been finalized, we are hopeful that your continued work with our Treasurer...will bear fruit. Please know of our prayers as the process continues."*

The Board and Staff appreciate all the wonderful support and prayers during this time of discernment and planning. We will keep everyone informed of the progress. Thank you WDREF for your continued support and caring of St. Anthony's.

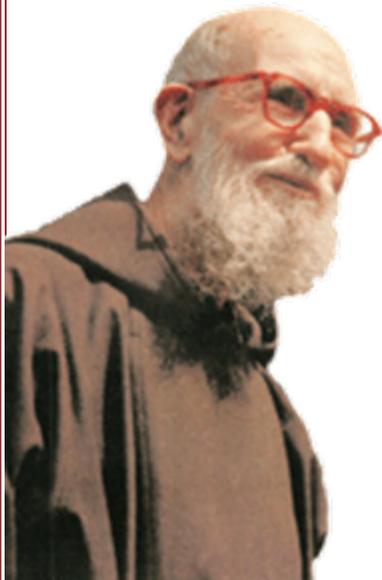
In Christ,  
*Barb Ceranski*  
Board Vice President

## "Life"

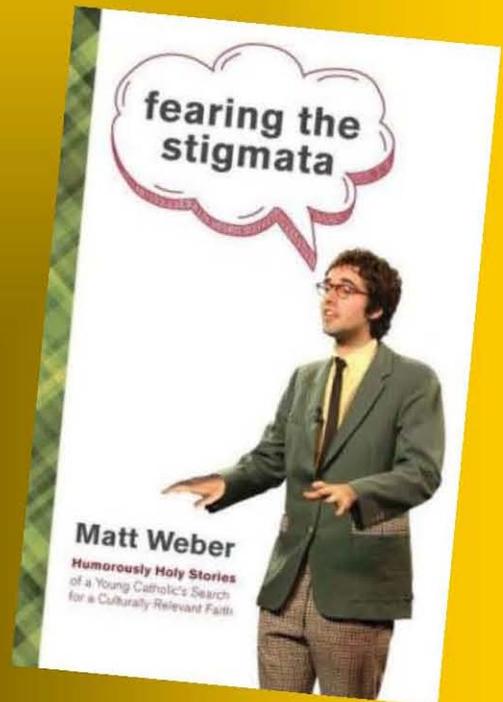
Do not pray for easy lives.  
Pray to be stronger.  
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers.  
Pray for powers equal to your tasks  
- then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,  
but you shall be a miracle.  
Every day you shall wonder at yourself...at the richness  
of life which has come to you by the grace of God.  
But everyone needs someone - knowing that somewhere,  
someone is thinking of you.

Prayer from Ven. Solanus Casey, OFM

<https://drvc.org/saints-bios/venerable-solanus-casey.html>



# Save the date!



Matt Weber is a Harvard graduate. As a producer for CatholicTV, he hosts a weekly segment called "A Word with Weber," which airs internationally to over 10 million viewers. He is a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post.

# Who's Who Moment ...

WDFW Member in the Spotlight

Justin Steele, Youth Minister

Holy Rosary, Medford

SUMMIT Facilitator, Director of Light of Christ Press



*Justin Steele*

When I approach ministry, whether at church or talking to non-Catholics, I do so with two emphases. First I come as a witness and convert to the “real”

Catholic Church from a diverse Protestant background. It is in large part the numerous misconceptions that keep people out of the Catholic Church. Secondly, I come as a historian and theologian to help others understand and appreciate the “original Church” founded by Jesus Christ upon the authority of His apostles.

The diversity of my Christian upbringing came from a Lutheran mother, a Seventh-day Adventist father, and a family decision to be non-denominational. With that I had friends who were Baptist, Methodist, Assemblies of God, etc. All this confusion resulted in a faith odyssey where I hit rock bottom like a young St. Augustine, saw the light of Christ, and began praying my way closer to Him. In fact, this prayer odyssey led me directly into the RCIA process in 2000 as a result of one particular prayer. Here I was able to study and contrast Catholicism and the array of Protestantism. I was received into the Church on Easter of 2001. Since then I've been active in catechetical ministry.

Following the Sacraments of Initiation I made St. Augustine patron saint of my vocation and went on to discern the priesthood. This was not my calling. Instead I went to the UW Marshfield to begin my undergrad where I met my wife, Melissa Augustine! Appropriately, we fell in love before the scales were lifted from my eyes and I realized that sign! From there, after marriage, we discerned a move to Wichita, Kansas where I earned my BA and then MTS in theology from Newman University (namesake of another convert).

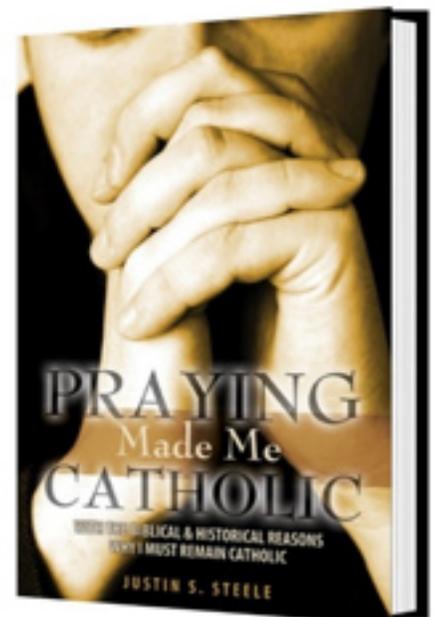
After the masters degree we moved home to North-central Wisconsin.

We were living in Abbotsford in the Diocese of La Crosse. The Lord then quickly opened the door for us with the position of CRE and Youth Minister for grades 7-12 up the road at Holy Rosary in Medford, Diocese of Superior. In looking into this diocese I discovered that it is only 1 of 4 within the US who has as its patron saint St. Augustine – he is still guiding us! This June my wife and I had our fourth child. In my position at Holy Rosary I was asked to be active in SUMMIT. Eventually I was asked a SUMMIT member to be the new Facilitator, which I now undertake.

In 2006 I submitted a manuscript on my conversion story to Ignatius Press. After long consideration they denied it. Yet, for the following 3 years I worked with Marcus Grodi's

people of the Coming Home Network (of the EWTN show The Journey Home) to publish it. Sadly, due to a financial crisis they were unable to continue. Entrepreneurial as I am, in February of 2013 I founded Light Of Christ Press. In April I published my poignantly titled book “Praying Made Me Catholic: With the Biblical & Historical Reasons Why I Must Remain Catholic.” It can be found on our blogsite at [www.LOCPress.WordPress.com](http://www.LOCPress.WordPress.com). We will be publishing the works of others as well.

I pray for everyone in catechetical ministry, that their voice and witness inspire others to become more faithful to following Christ. My hope, then, is that more Catholics show within themselves the light of Christ to others, leading to the conversion of souls.



## Highlights from the May 2013 National Conference • Cleveland, OH

### • Business Meeting:

-USCCB has the Catechetical Sunday material available.  
-Evangelization Committee has designed and made available a website with links to church documents, articles, religious trends etc. that all deal with evangelization. You can join a mailing list:

<http://www.21stcenturycatholicsevanglization.org>

### • Fr. James Mallon:

-Feeding the fire of your faith, Pope Francis says, "Now go do it." We need to stir the fire of our own hearts... status quo cannot exist in our church today...passion is key... passion is connected to vision and without vision there is no passion...we need that fire in our bones to continue to do his work...do not be afraid to risk yourselves. St. Augustine says: "...without God we cannot, without us God will not."

### • PCL Forum:

-The New Evangelization: we have to be out in the world and ask these questions: What is the message? How are we transmitting the message? Who needs to hear the message? How do we know they heard the message? It needs to be a freely chosen faith.

-We need to nurture the relationships we already have, pray for those who you would like to reach, share your own story and invite.

-If the Pope tweets, we should tweet!

### • TED Talks:

-We need to tell our own story. Healing is transformation. Believing is seeing! The providence of God is everywhere.

-We will do what it takes to get the job done-if we want it badly enough.

-We must foster a cultural change in our parishes, a cultural shift, we need to be \*a welcoming church, \*an evangelizing church, a church where people experience transformation and we must shift from a child centered to adult centered formation.

### -Ten Keys:

1. Have a welcoming environment: look at it as a person who has never been there before.
2. Hospitality: SMILE at parishioners.
3. Uplifting Music: a diversity of old and new
4. Homilies and Testimonies: communicate a good message
5. Meaningful community: body language speaks the truth, name tag Sunday, prayer partners.
6. Experience the Holy Spirit: put a line on the budget for the Holy Spirit.
7. Spiritual Growth/Discipleship: Make five expectations: To worship, to grow, to serve, to connect and to give.
8. Calling forth of gifts and leaders: empowerment
9. Formation of small communities: we need interpersonal relationships
10. Become an inviting church: all this requires is courage!

Visit [www.nccl.org](http://www.nccl.org) to learn more about NCCL.

## Become a WDREF Member!

Become a member of WDREF and take advantage of these great benefits:

- Network with others in the field
- Share best practices & resources
- Engage in continuing education
- And more!

Joining your local organization automatically makes you a member of WDREF. Check the list below to find your local organization, and visit the [Our Organization](#) page on the Web site for contact information. A portion of your local dues helps support WDREF activities and projects.

### *Local Organization Presidents:*

#### **DARE**

Diocesan Association of Religious Educators (La Crosse)  
Contact: Emily Revak  
St. Joseph Church  
910 Wilson Ave.  
Menomonie, WI 54751

#### **MAREDA**

Administrators of Catechetical Leadership in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Contact: Heather Warner  
St. Mary Catholic Church/St. Mary By The Lake  
225 S. Hartwell Ave./7605 Lakeshore Dr.  
Waukesha, WI 53186/Racine, WI 53404

#### **MDREO**

Madison Directors of Religious Education Organization  
Contact: Paula Hill  
St. Olaf Parish  
623 Jefferson St.  
De Forest, WI 53532

#### **ProCLAYM**

Green Bay Association of Religious Education Administrators  
Contact: Betty Manion  
St. Mary Magdalene Parish  
N2845 Shadow Rd.  
Waupaca, WI 54981

#### **SUMMIT**

Superior Mutual Ministry Team  
Contact: Justin Steele  
Holy Rosary  
424 W. Cedar Street  
Medford, WI 54451

## WDREF Executive Team



**Treasurer - Danelle Kegley**

**Facilitator - Jennifer Ludtke**

**Secretary - Dominick Meyer**

Learn more about our executives...

[www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html](http://www.wdref.org/OurOrganization.html)

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**Find us on the web!**

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A blue rectangular button with the white Facebook logo on the left and the text "Join our group +" on the right.

## 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.