

# FAITH for today



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

Spring 2013

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## From the Facilitator

by Jennifer Ludtke

WDREF Facilitator

Coming to the end of another program year, I am always glad to have a little window of time to regroup. It's a nice time to rejoice in having been part of people's faith, walking with them toward a deeper relationship with God.

As I look at all of you, my coworkers throughout the state, I see some of us are walking more closely with teens or little ones; some of us with those in physical or spiritual need; and some of us with multiple parish communities and with all ages, all at one time. That may make it a little tougher to take time to regroup and rejoice! And although it looks different from place to place, multi-parish ministry is certainly a widespread reality in the Church. At our May WDREF meeting, we focused our Tuesday Province Dialogue on the joys and challenges of doing this type of catechetical ministry. You can read more about this dialogue in Jim Gill's article on page four.

During his morning homily on May 25, Pope Francis spoke about the importance of priests, parish workers and parishioners being open and welcoming to those who come to the parish asking for something. He used several examples, including that of a couple who goes to a parish to arrange their wedding, but before being congratulated, are told how much it will cost and asked for their baptismal certificates. Too many times, the pope said, "we are faith-checkers instead of facilitators of the people's faith."\*

As we continue our ministry, my prayer is that no matter who or how many we serve, that we will live up to Pope Francis' call. May we never fall into the trap of being just 'faith checkers.'

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us – individually and as Church – throughout the challenges and joys ahead, and may this summer bring you peace and joy.

God bless you all,  
– Jenny

*\*View the full text of the Pope's audience remarks in English.*

## WDREF Calendar

**August 19-20, 2013**

WDREF Board Meeting  
St. Anthony Spirituality Center

**September 15, 2013**

Catechetical Sunday

**October 24-25, 2013**

WDREF Retreat  
St. Anthony Spirituality Center



## MAREDA

The general meeting on April 10 featured Eamonn O’Keeffe from St. Clare Center who spoke on “The Spirituality of the Disciple.” We discerned our new Board member at this meeting, as several current Board members will not be returning, including Chair, Jim Beuscher and Vice Chair, Heather Lukaszewski.

Our most recent general meeting took place during our Retreat on May 22-23 where we installed our new Board member. Fr. Robert Hater lead the retreat. The Board discerned officers at the June 10 board meeting.

## MDREO

Overview of our Program Days:

- January: Movie Multimedia Day - viewing and reviewing new AV catechetical resources, effectiveness, costs, strategies, etc.
- March: Onsite visit to home parish of the Dead Theologians’ Society - and its “cave” for youth prayer and devotion - at St. Mary’s of Pine Bluff, with founder Eddie Cotter as one of our two speakers on saints in general and DTS in particular.
- April: Adventures in Adult Faith Formation - featuring the extraordinary vitality and vision of Julianne Stanz, the Green Bay Diocese’s new director of its new Dept. of New Evangelization. (Indeed: “Behold, I make all things new,” Rev. 1:5.)
- May: Second Annual Milwaukee Road Trip - End-of-year tailgate fun, fellowship, and frivolity at the Brewers game.
- Recipient of MDREO’s Annual Tithe for the upcoming year: Camp Gray, in Reedsburg (one of four

nominations members voted on).

- Recipient of MDREO’s Jack McBride “Excellence in Ministry” Award: Nora Durst, pastoral associate and longtime DRE at Holy Family Parish in La Valle.

New MDREO Officers 2013-14:

- Paula Hill, president
- Tiffany Topel, vice pres.
- Kevin Sullivan, treas.
- Jennifer Ludtke, WDREF rep

Current board members:

- Jenna Keller, secretary
- Dominick Mewyer, WDREF rep
- Jessica Davis WDREF rep

## Pro-CLAYM

- The diocese hosted a Crisis Planning Meeting, many parishes are now working on improving and implementing plans for their programs. Bishop Ricken determined a final list of five textbooks that parishes and schools will choose from for grades 1-8. High school materials will be examined next year.

ProCLAYMs end-of-year R&R Day (Wrap Up & Recognition), was held May 9 with the theme, ‘Catch the Faith.’ A tour of Lambeau Field with lunch and awards for those completing Emmaus or Master’s of Theology was a part of the day. We also recognized Good and Faithful Servants who are outstanding professionals or volunteers in the parish or diocese, as well as retirees from the field.

Kick Off Day will take place September 19, 2013. Dr. John Craghan will speak on the “Joy of Discipleship In Relation to the Scriptures” followed by lunch and break out sessions where good ideas and best practices will be shared.

Kathy Cornette is the new WDREF rep who joins Theresa Alberts and Anne Stemper. Kathy is taking the position vacated by Mike Lotto. Improving catechist training opportunities continue. Catechetical programs at parishes and schools include classes for catechists in their schedules. These follow the Bishop’s plan to provide foundational, as well as advanced adult training in Morality, Sacraments & Liturgy, Scripture, Prayer & Spirituality, Creed, and Methods over a six-year period.

Betty Manion is the new President for 2013-14 with Mary Carter as vice-president.

## SUMMIT

Our final formal SUMMIT gathering of the 2012-2013 year was held on April 11. Dr. Larry Huiras of St Patrick parish in Hudson and Mrs. Colleen Monfre of the Burnett County Tri-Cluster parishes were the presenters during our morning educational/formational session. They gave us great insights into preparing a personal/professional mission statement, as well as items from their “DRE” Tool Box.

On May 9, several of our members gathered for a “Pray and Play” day at St. Francis Solanus parish and school in Reserve, near Stone Lake. It is a mission parish, which serves many Native Americans in that area. The school children performed their play about the life of Kateri Tekakwitha during the WDREF Conference in Siren last November and on May 9, the children treated our group to some special dances, which have high importance for their culture.

*(Continued on next page...)* 2



We also were able to dine with the children at the school.

Officers and WDREF representatives for the coming year have been discerned. Justin Steele from Our Lady of the Holy Rosary parish in Medford will serve as facilitator; Dawn Langman of St. Boniface parish in Chetek as treasurer; and Tom Henke of St. Anne's parish in Sanborn as our recording secretary. WDREF reps for

this next year are Colleen Monfre, Adele Svetnicka from St. Peter the Fisherman parish in Eagle River, and Gwen Nies, St. Dominic's parish in Frederic.

Members of the Executive Board are looking forward to planning the coming year's SUMMIT events. The first hurdle is getting everyone, including Peggy Schoenfuss, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation, available, on

the same day. Thanks to the efforts of Joanie McKeown, we do have our first gathering scheduled with presenter, Mr. Dennis Kurtz from St. Mary's Press. This will be on Thursday, Sept. 5. Location is yet to be determined. We are looking at opening it up to catechists, as well as catechetical leaders from outside the Superior diocese, and of course that would have an effect on the size of facility needed.

### WDREF Board Highlights

#### **Retreat: October 24-25, 2013**

Led by Fr. James Kubicki, National Director for the Apostolate of Prayer, this fall's retreat, "Living Our Baptism as Priest, Prophet, King," promises to be a beautiful opportunity for prayer. The retreat will include evening prayer, opportunities for Reconciliation and Adoration, personal quiet time, and group conversation. Official flyers will be mailed soon.

#### **Conference 2014:**

The 2014 conference will be hosted by ProCLAYM, and they are even now getting to work, contacting potential speakers and locations. The theme is "We Are A People of Faith" and artwork is already being developed. The main presenter will be Matt Weber, author of "Fearing the Stigmata." Loyola Press will sponsor him.

#### **PDC (Professional Development Committee)**

Work continues on gathering ideas for "Best Practices on Prayer." Betty Manion (incoming president, ProCLAYM) will approach Liguori, Pflaum, OSV, and 23rd Publications about publishing the first Best Practices CD and potentially our next ones. Other current projects include promoting NCCL's USCCB approved National Certification process and finishing the list of colleges and universities.

#### **Communications Committee:**

The committee continues to move WDREF toward better usage of electronic communication and media. An extensive discussion took place about using the service Constant Contact in place of sending the newsletter as a pdf. There are exciting possibilities for sending as well as tracking information that WDREF wants to share. Thank you to Sarah Karlen, who continues to do a great job with the web site, and who put together an excellent proposal on Constant Contact for the WDREF board.

#### **Visioning**

Although this committee had not met, the hope is that each local organization will continue to take time each year to develop at least one goal and share it with WDREF. It is possible that in light of the Province Dialogue and the work of the PDC committee, more direction will develop for the committee.

#### **Of Special Note: St. Anthony Spirituality Center**

As of January 2014, the Capuchin priests will no longer staff the Spirituality Center. A group from the Spirituality Center is discussing with the Capuchin leadership the possibility of the Spirituality Center remaining open since it is operating in the black. While it is our great hope that St. Anthony's will continue to be WDREF's host location, we will be exploring the costs of some other meeting location options.

Each year at their spring meeting the WDREF Board engages in a dialogue with representatives from the Province of Wisconsin's Diocesan offices responsible for faith formation, and local organization Presidents. The topic for this dialogue is chosen in advance by the Board. This year's dialogue, held May 14 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon (WI), addressed the topic of "Multi-Parish Faith Formation Ministry," which the Board recognizes as a growing reality throughout the state and the country.

The dialogue identified strengths and challenges of multi-parish formation ministry, what can be learned from each other's experience with collaboration, and from these, ways WDREF can take the lead in addressing the topic statewide.

### ***Strengths of multi-parish formation ministry:***

- Collaboration gives us a sense of the Church being larger than our individual parishes
- Opportunity for smaller parishes to remain viable through the sharing of personnel and resources
- Offers experiences of diversity
- Encourages individuals to serve as mentors to others

### ***Challenges of multi-parish formation ministry:***

- Fear of loss of funds
- Facilities
- Local input
- Distance
- Theological diversity between parishes and pastors
- Impact of dealing with more than one school district

Discussion around what can be learned from each other, despite different settings and programs, and some of the best spiritual, mental, and practical "takeaways" raised creative results. These included the need to keep our current experience in perspective as we consider the situation.

Other world regions are dealing with even greater challenges. There is a need to develop the sense that we're called to be disciples, everywhere, no matter what the circumstances, to keep in mind that multiple parish ministry is no longer new and that it has been successful in many places, to remember that youth we serve are often most willing to adapt to new models. Moving slowly, and letting a multiple parish ministry develop gradually and naturally were identified as important.

Additionally, the group identified the need for setting clear job descriptions and expectations, attending to the spiritual and formational needs of ministers, and that hospitality and welcoming are crucial to the process of collaboration.

At the conclusion of the morning of dialogue, ways in which WDREF can take the lead in addressing the topic statewide were delineated. These included the exploration of mentoring possibilities (pairing professional PCLs with volunteers and part-time ministers), and promoting models that have a proven record of success. It was noted that books and articles have been published on multiple parish ministry in general, but little has come forth regarding formation ministry in particular.

To answer this need, the organization will address the topic from various perspectives, including through the WDREF newsletter, "Faith for Today" and our biennial Conference. The Professional Development Committee will oversee these and other efforts to address multiple parish formation ministries as we move creatively into the future.

## **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.

# 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

Message 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 **September 30, 2013**. If you have any questions please contact Susan Leet at [susan@saintalberts.org](mailto:susan@saintalberts.org) or (608) 837-3798.

## **Grant Availability**

Grant monies are available for the retreat. Please read on to the next page for more details.

## Retreat Grant Applications - Due September 15, 2013

Members of the local organizations of DARE, Mareda, MDREO, ProCLAYM and SUMMIT are encouraged to apply for grant money to attend WDREF's fall retreat. The grant application can be found at [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org) and should be submitted to Sue Devine-Simon of St. James Parish in Menomonee Falls by **September 15**. See application on Web site for mailing information.

### Grant guidelines include:

- 1) A maximum of \$500 in grant monies will be available for the 2013 retreat.
- 2) Grants will only be given to WDREF members, i.e. members of DARE, Mareda, MDREO, ProCLAYM or SUMMIT.

- 3) Preference will be given to members who have not previously received a WDREF grant. (Members could receive grant money more than once, depending on number of applicants and funds available.)
- 4) Applications will be confidential.
- 5) Applications will be reviewed and selections made by the Grant Committee with final approval given by the WDREF Board. Recipients will be notified by Oct. 1.

Assistance may be granted for up to 100% of the registration cost for the conference. **Apply today at [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org)!**

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## Prayer for Church leaders

Lord Jesus Christ,

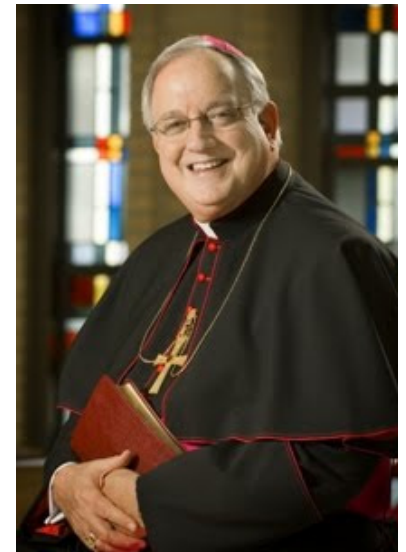
Watch over those who are leaders in your Church. Keep them faithful to their vocation and to the proclamation of your message. Teach them to recognize and interpret the signs of the times.

Strengthen them with the gifts of the Spirit, and help them to serve their subjects, especially the poor and lowly. Give them a vivid sense of your presence in the world and a knowledge of how to show it to others. Amen.

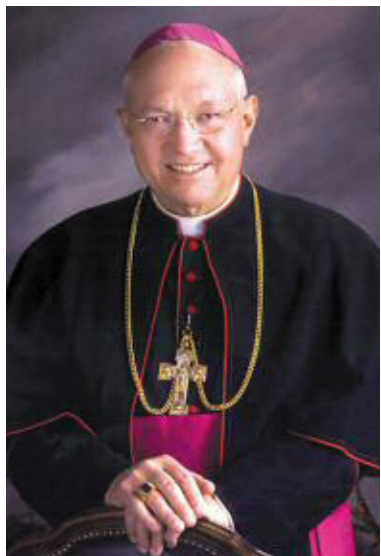
Source: [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)



Most Reverend David L. Ricken,  
Bishop: Diocese of Green Bay



Most Reverend William P. Callahan  
Bishop: Diocese of La Crosse



Most Reverend Robert Morlino  
Bishop: Diocese of Madison



Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki  
Archbishop: Archdiocese of Milwaukee



Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen  
Bishop: Diocese of Superior

# On Location.....

*A tribute to a special place*

For close to 30 years WDREF has had a close connection with St. Anthony's Spirituality Center in Marathon City, WI, located about 12 mi. west of Wausau. The federation has been blessed by having St. Anthony's and its hospitable staff and environment welcome us several times each year for board meetings and retreats.

The history of St. Anthony's begins in 1917 when the Capuchin Franciscans chose 45 acres in Marathon, WI as the site of their new house of studies, which would be under the patronage of St. Anthony of Padua, the founder of the first Franciscan school. Those who are familiar with St. Anthony's heavily wooded property would be surprised to learn that the land was originally an open field. The landscaping of today, which includes pine, birch and maple forest, a pond, grotto, stations of the cross, and hiking paths were all added over the years.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid in July of 1918 about two months after construction began. Much of the work was done by the friars themselves with the assistance of their new neighbors who often donated not just their time, but materials too. The door latches in the original building are a unique, handcrafted feature. In order to save on the cost of hundreds of doorknobs and locks, the friars came up with their own alternative made entirely of wood. A first

visit to St. Anthony's always necessitates a short instruction on how to lock and open your bedroom door! On August 15, 1919 the new building, consisting of three wings surrounding an inner courtyard and chapel was dedicated. In 1923 a fourth side of the quadrangle was completed making the courtyard completely enclosed.

Until 1970, St. Anthony Friary served as a house of studies for the Capuchins instructing junior members of the community in philosophy and theology. The vocations boom following WWII led to the addition of another wing on the east side of the building in 1963. By 1970 the number of students had decreased and the community desired their seminarians to be exposed to a more diverse world than rural Marathon City could provide, so the house of studies was closed.

Soon after it was discerned that the building would be reopened as St. Anthony's Retreat Center, which almost immediately was successful with over 600 retreatants the first year. Since then, St. Anthony's has hosted countless numbers of persons and groups seeking solitude, spiritual direction, or a place for meetings. A few years ago its name was changed to St. Anthony Spirituality Center in order to reflect the diverse nature of the groups who utilize it.



Recently St. Anthony's has reached another crossroads in its history. As with so many religious communities today, the St. Joseph Province of the Capuchin Franciscans has discerned that they will no longer be able to sponsor the center due to the declining number of community members in active ministry.

The Center's board of directors is exploring plans to keep St. Anthony's open and thriving for many years to come. They have scheduled three prayer and discernment sessions to facilitate carry out their planning, and invite all interested persons to participate. Contact the center at (715) 443-2236 or [info@sarcenter.com](mailto:info@sarcenter.com), for information about these meetings.

To learn more about St. Anthony Spirituality Center, its history and programs, visit: [www.sarcenter.com](http://www.sarcenter.com).

WDREF is eternally grateful to all who have labored over the years to provide the perfect place for our organization's gatherings, and promises our prayers and support as they discern their future.



# B&R Blessings & Recognition

A special thanks to our Board Members who have completed their terms of service:

Mike Lotto – ProCLAYM (Diocese of Green Bay)

Lorraine Krajewski – SUMMIT (Diocese of Superior)

Joanie McKeown – SUMMIT

## Returning 2013-2014 Executive Team...

**Treasurer: Danelle Kegley**  
**Facilitator: Jennifer Ludtke**  
**Secretary: Dominick Meyer**

Learn more about our executives by visiting:

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



## ...And new WDREF Board!

### *Top row, from left:*

Dominick Meyer (Secretary), Jessica Davis, Sue Devine-Simons, Danelle Kegley (Treasurer), Theresa Alberts, Pam Fischer (NCCL Rep.), Anne Stemper, Colleen Monfre, Jim Gill.

### *Bottom row, from left:*

Jenny Ludtke (Facilitator), Gwen Nies, Adele Svetnicka, Kathy Cornette, Joanie McKeown (Recording Secretary).

*Not pictured: Emily Revak*



## WDREF is on Facebook and Flickr!

Check out the WDREF Facebook and Flickr pages! Join our Group on Facebook and ask questions, network, and share insights with each other. Access our page by clicking on the Facebook icon on [www.wdref.org](http://www.wdref.org). Remember, you must have a Facebook account created first.

WDREF photos can be viewed via our Flickr account by clicking the Photos tab on our Web site.

Find us on the web!  
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