



Association of Parish Administrators of Religious Education

A Note from our President

Dear APARE Members,
For those who I have not had the pleasure to meet, my name is Bill Unruh and I have the honor of serving as your APARE President for the next three years.

My catechetical journey has taken many twists and turns over the past twenty years. I served as a Parish Administrator of Religious Education (PARE) for four years at St. Michael Bradford and as an APARE Deanery Representative. I then left parish ministry and fulfilled one of my other passions - teaching high school religion and social studies for ten years. I assure you that there were many "catechetical

moments" during my high school teaching tenure. The Holy Spirit, however, had other plans and directed me back to my "previous life" as a PARE and I am now beginning my fourth year at St. Mary of the Knobs Parish.

When I returned to parish ministry after so many years it was familiar, but yet very different. However, the most familiar aspect of returning was APARE and my New Albany Deanery group the Southern Indiana Directors of Religious Education (SIDRE). It was as if I hadn't left and was welcomed with open arms. I was even as-

signed a mentor to help in the re-acclimation process.

The bottom line is that I fervently believe in APARE and the help and support that it provides. Your fellow PARE's can lend a hand, or an ear, when you need one. Professional and spiritual assistance is made available to members through APARE sponsored retreats and speakers.

Spread the word to non-APARE members to come join us as we work to further Christ's Kingdom here in south-central Indiana!

Peace, Bill Unruh

Fall 2010

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Date to Remember

- ICCL Conference Nov. 7,8,&9
- Retreat January 26-28
- OCE Winter Business Meeting January 11th
- OCE Spring Business Meeting May 17th.
- NCCL Conference May 23-26

Details Available at aparearchindy.com

Save the Date: APARE Retreat 2011

Are you Tense? Feeling Burdened?
Overwhelmed by the Noise? Will you by January?

Plan some time at the "Spirituality Spa"

January 26-28, 2011 * St. Meinrad Guesthouse

Presented by the Terre Haute Deanery.
Registration forms at aparearchindy.com in December.

APARE Who's Who

Your Deanery Reps

Kara Tsuleff Batesville
Janis Dopp Bloomington
Luci Welch Connersville
Stacy Hennessy Indy North
Becky cope Indy South
Bev Hansberry Indy East
Mary Jo Thomas-Day Indy West
Bill Unruh New Albany
Pam Kramer Seymour
Sr. Mary Emma Jochum Tell City
Sr. Mary Montgomery Terre Haute



2010-2011 Officers

President: **Bill Unruh**, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, Floyds Knobs
Vice-President: **Alexa Sifuentes** St. Pius Parish, Indianapolis
Officer at Large: **Rosalie Hawthorne** Nativity Parish, Indianapolis
Treasurer: **Teresa Keith** St. Gabriel Parish, Indianapolis
Recording Secretary: **Lisa Whitaker** St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph Hill
Corresponding Sec.: **Pam Kramer** St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus

Committee Assignments

Fall Day 2011 — ???
Retreat 2012 — New Albany
Retreat 2011 — Terre Haute
Elections 2010-2011 — Indy North
Communication 2010-2011 — Indy South
Social Justice 2010-2011 — Batesville
Fall Day 2010 — Indy West/Seymour

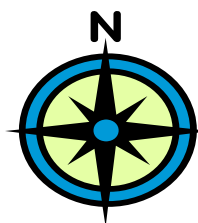
Wandering

by Annette Calloway

Have you been working so hard, raising kids, getting degrees finished and keeping your ministries afloat that you forget what you used to do in your "spare time"? Or when you do have some spare time you have no spare cash?

If that is the case you may want to investigate www.geocaching.com. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hid-

den containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. The site gives all kinds of hints and information on the location, size of the cache, and difficulty of the hunt. The geocache can be anything from an old 35 mm film container to a peanut butter jar wrapped in camouflage. It may be hidden in trees, under rocks, or



www.geocaching.com

hanging from a fencepost. The possibilities are as endless as the members of the web-site who hide them.

As a result of your adventures you may find little known historic sites, parks, unique shops or interesting local dives. Got some spare time? No! Well this might be something worth making time available. Happy hunting!

Choosing Paths on the Journey

Choosing Paths on the Journey is a planning process designed to assist Faith Formation commissions in planning for the future. It identifies key issues that your parish faith formation program is facing and helps to identify specific goals areas with the assistance of feedback from the parish. Most parishes find this proc-



Strategy/Planning

ess very affirming and beneficial to the faith formation program. The Choosing Paths document is available as a download on the Office of Catholic Education website. Simply go to the OCE website and log into the members area. Select miscellaneous downloads from the drop down button under Parish Administrators of Religious

Education. Click on Choosing Paths. You can use this process to guide your commission through the process or there are facilitators in the Archdiocese who can assist you.

for more information contact
John Jacobi
812-364-6173 ext. 22 or
johnjacobi@insightbb.com

Labyrinth: A Metaphor for Life

By Tammy Stewart

A few years ago a friend was telling me about a labyrinth that she enjoyed praying at St. Mary of the Woods in Terre Haute, IN. As she spoke about the labyrinth I imagined one of those paths lined with immaculately trimmed bushes like you would find in an English garden in the movies. With this picture in my mind, I imagined quaint talks with Jesus as we strolled along the garden path and chatted about my life. I am sure you can envision my surprise when a few months later my friend and I were walking the campus at St. Mary of the Woods and she pointed across the flat lawn and said “there is the labyrinth”. I was quite disappointed as we walked toward the labyrinth and I realized it was merely a spiral dirt path lined with bricks. There went that quaint walk with Jesus I had planned to take while we were on campus. Later in the day I found my way back to the labyrinth and decided to give it a try. My walk was anything but quaint as it turned out to be a rather intense experience.

I had always struggled with prayer, as I am sure many people do. You know the scoop; you sit down to pray with the best of intentions, but soon your thoughts have drifted to what you are going to eat for lunch, or how dusty the table is next to you. What surprised me about my first experience on the labyrinth is that the circle of the path seemed to contain my thoughts and keep them from drifting away. I felt like it was the first time I had stayed engaged in prayer long enough to actually listen instead of prayer only being about what I wanted to say to God.

Hooked on the labyrinth, I hated to leave St. Mary of the Woods. However I was delighted to discover that there are two labyrinths in the Indianapolis area. One is located at the Benedictine Center in Beech Grove and the other is at the Fatima House on the East side.

I found that as I took my family and friends to the labyrinth, many asked me how to walk the labyrinth. There really isn't a right or wrong way to walk the labyrinth, but for a first time experience I tell people to imagine the labyrinth as a metaphor for life, expect to encounter the Holy and be ready to listen. I explain that we begin as we do all prayers, with the sign of the cross as one stands at the entrance of the labyrinth. The walker should begin to follow

the path with slow steps, as they think about the early years of their life. They might ask themselves about their joys and struggles as a child and what their faith was like. One then might think about their life as a teenager and young adult what mistakes they made, what they learned from those mistakes and how those events shaped who they are today. I encourage walkers to look back into the experiences of their lives and observe where God was present in those occasions. As the walker continues to think about the rest of their life to present, they should continue to explore their lives in the same manner and consider how their experiences have brought them to their current situation in life. As one reaches the center of the labyrinth it is common to spend a few minutes pondering these experiences and preparing to spend the rest of the walk simply listening.

As one exits the labyrinth, it is appropriate to end with a sign of the cross or a bow. Some like to spend a few minutes thinking, or journaling about what they experienced while they were silent.

Everyone experiences the labyrinth differently and I have found that I have never had the exact same experience twice. I have walked the labyrinth with my son while pondering our relationship and praying about his life. I have found the labyrinth to

be a playful experience when I walk (or sometimes skip) it with my youngest daughter, or a somber one like the time I walked it with a CRHP sister as we struggled to say goodbye and let go of our to dying friend. I have learned that it does not matter what a labyrinth looks like; whether or not it is quaint or as plain as white lines painted on a tennis court (Benedictine Center). The important thing is that I approach the labyrinth with the intention of being open and honest with God and a desire to listen.



Want to find a labyrinth by you. Check out the web,
<http://labyrinthlocator.com>, or
<http://www.labyrinths.org/inkymiohlist.html>

Membership in APARE includes a membership in ICCL.
ICCL Semi-Annual Conference



Inspire the Desire

"the Spirit within,
the Spirit without"

November 7, 8 & 9

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Mooresville

Conference Highlights—At a Glance

Sunday, November 7

6:00—7:00 pm

Registration/Exhibits

7:00 pm

Parish Mass

8:00—10:00 pm

Refreshments/Entertainment/Activities/Closing Prayer

Monday, November 8

8:30—9:15am

Registration/Exhibits/Hospitality

9:15—9:30am

Prayer

9:30—10:30am

Breakouts

11-00-Noon

Mass

Noon-1:30pm

Lunch/Exhibits

1:30-2:00pm

Exhibits/Reconciliation/Adoration/Prayer Experience

2:00-3:30pm

Keynote—Steve Angrisano

4:00-5:00pm

Break-outs

5:30-8:00pm

Prayer/Dinner/Festivities

Tuesday, November 9

8:30—9:15am

Exhibits and Hospitality

9:15—9:30am

Prayer

9:30—11:00am

Keynote—Steve Angrisano (with dialogue)

11:00—1:00pm

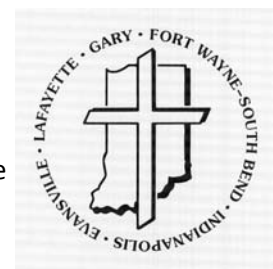
General Session/Lunch/Awards/Exhibits

1:15—3:00pm

Sending Forth Liturgy with Steve Angrisano

Housing: Holiday Inn Express, 6296 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168 (off of Interstate 70, exit 66) Located 2.3 miles north of St. Thomas More Catholic Church. Special Conference fee is \$79.00 per night for 2 nights or \$89.00 for one night. Fee includes a full breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express. Reservations at 1-800-315-2621, identify yourself as part of the ICCL Conference to receive this room rate. Bring tax exempt information with you. The group rate is not guaranteed after October 15, 2010.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Steve Angrisano is a singer, songwriter and storyteller, Steve creates relevant, dynamic music for liturgy and listening, proclaiming that through Christ we have the power to carry out God’s work. Steve’s unique blend of laughter, song, story and often hilarious audience interaction have made him a popular choice for parish missions, concerts and workshops. A parish musician, music director and youth minister for 11 years, Steve’s focus is, and has always been, one of honest ministry. There is an unmistakable awareness that Steve is not a performer. What he shares, both in story and song, is a witness of the love and life of Jesus. Steve lives in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, with his wife, Jenni, and three children.



2010 Indiana Conference for Catechetical Leadership—Registration
 Inspire the Desire: The Spirit Within, the Spirit Without

NAME _____ DIOCESE _____
 PARISH _____ TITLE/POSITION _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

_____ I will be attending only the Indiana Conference for Catechetical Leadership

Spouses, pastors, principals and other parish staff, with a registered catechetical leader can “tag along” on Monday, November 8 for \$75.00. This fee will covers all keynotes, breakouts, lunch and dinner.

_____ I will “tag along” at \$75.00 on MONDAY with (name) _____

Enclosed Fee:

- _____ Member Fee \$125 on or before October 15, 2010
- _____ Non-member Fee \$150 on or before October 15, 2010
- _____ Conference fee postmarked after Oct. 15, 2010—\$160.00
- _____ Scholarship awarded by Diocesan Office
- _____ Scholarship awarded by Diocesan Association

RETURN REGISTRATIONS TO

Tyra Serrano
 2614 Buchanan
 Gary, IN 46407
 tyraserrano@sbcglobal.net

*MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **Indiana Conference for Catechetical Leadership (ICCL)**
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE*

SPECIAL NEEDS: (diet or access) _____

Full registration, including housing, scholarship and breakout info. on the APARE web-site. www.aparearchindy.com

SIX DATES for Catholic Couples hosted by the parish

Building and strengthening marriages begins with husbands and wives making time to be with each other, and having fun together.

In a world full of competing demands for our attention: children, work, friends, etc., time for each other is a rare commodity for most married couples. Yet, without this opportunity for staying connected spouses drift apart and marriages suffer. The strength of marriages is a concern of the Catholic Church because marriage is the heart of the family, and families are schools of love.

Understanding this, parishes are offering programs to encourage couples to make time for each other. "The Church is built on the foundation of marriage and family life," wrote the United States Catholic Bishops in their recent Pastoral Letter, **Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan**. They urge the entire Catholic community to "a renewed commitment to helping those called to the vocation of married life."

In response to the Bishops' call, John Bosio, author of *Happy Together*, the

Catholic Blueprint for a Loving Marriage and his wife Teri used the materials from his book to develop a program to help couples strengthen their marriage. The program is called **SIX DATES for Catholic Couples**. This is a ready to use program. It comes with a Coordinator's Guide, videos and handouts (in PDF format) ready to print.

The six videos inspire spouses to become aware of the gift that they are to each other as husband and wife, and of the preciousness of their relationship. The topics of the six dates are:

1. **ONCE UPON A TIME:** *Each couple's love story is connected to God's love story.*
2. **MARRIAGE IS** *What we believe*



about marriage as Catholics.

3. **WHAT KEEPS YOU TOGETHER?** *What keeps spouses in love is the ability to see God's image in each other.*
4. **WHAT ABOUT ME?** *Learning to love requires overcoming selfishness. God helps us with his graces and teaches us self-giving love.*
5. **THE BLUEPRINT OF LOVE** *Christ's love for the Church is the blueprint for our loving. Learning to love like Christ loves is the source of our happiness.*
6. **WHERE DO I FIND THE COURAGE?** *Overcoming selfishness through learning to love is difficult. Prayer is the source of strength in our daily challenges. It opens us up to receive God's graces.*

The scripts for the videos are true to Catholic teachings. They received the "Imprimatur" from Most Reverend David R. Choby, Bishop, Diocese of Nashville.

www.happy-together.net

or contact John Bosio at

JBosio1@aol.com.

New Faces/New Places

NEW FACES

Hannah Biehle

St. Mary, North Vernon

Terry French

St. Joseph, Jennings County

Julie Heidlage

Holy Family, Oldenburg

Rita Jansing

St. John, Osgood &

St. Mary Magdalen, New Marion

Sandy Neagle

St. Mary, New Albany

Mark Olesh

St. Patrick, Salem

Anita Poper

St. Mary, Greensburg

NEW PLACES

Meli Barber

St. Anthony, Indianapolis

Aaron Haag

St. Andrew, Indianapolis

Josh Schaffner

St. Mark, Indianapolis

Mary Schaffner

St. Anthony and Holy Trinity,

Indianapolis



APARE MISSION

United in Jesus Christ and in the Catholic Traditions, we are catechetical leaders who support, challenge and enrich one another and collaborate to further effective faith formation in the local and global church.

WE VALUE

Spirituality

Communication

Professional Credibility

Internal & External Collaboration

Prophetic Stance

Advocacy for the Ministry

Cooperative learning

Inclusion of all

Catechetical Leaders

Waiting in Joyful Hope!

By Christina Flum

Advent shines as the time of expectation. These four weeks before the celebrated birth feast are meant to symbolize centuries of yearning for the Messiah. Advent calls believers to rediscover the reasons for our belief in Jesus as the Christ. It is a season meant to encourage a personal and profound interior journey of waiting, a season modeled on the pregnant virgin's journey to birth. Mary stands as a solitary figure of courageous hope in the midst of darkness. Mary, the human being, simply said, "Yes!"

In our consumer world, Christmas decorations and gifts are already on the store shelves so that shoppers will shop, spenders will spend and profits will rise. Overwhelmed with the Christmas pitch we find minimal public awareness of this waiting time called Advent.

It is our task to retrieve this quiet season for our hearts and homes. Without walking into the loneliness of the wait, the word Emmanuel, "God with us," has little meaning. Children can rediscover the wealth of Advent traditions that turn their eyes away from television commercials for the latest toy fads and back to Jesus and the values of his gospel.

What's it to be, "Advent" or "the Holidays"? Maybe the first thing we can do to get ready for Christmas is to ask the hard questions – ourselves, with family or with friends: Why do we keep this festival? What are we celebrating?

Here's another hard question: Which calendar will we follow – our church's calendar with its seasons of Advent and then Christmastime, or the commercial calendar with its "holiday season"?

Can't we keep both calendars? After all, we need to keep all sorts of calendars in balance: work calendars, family calendars, social calendars, and academic calendars. The trouble is that the church's calendar and the commercial calendar are at odds. The more you keep one the harder it is to keep the other. Advent is definitely lost if the sights and sound of Christmas ("the holidays") push it off the calendar. And the Christmas season can be lost if we're already tired of it when it arrives.

When I was working in a parish I had an "Advent Activity Day" each November; providing tools to the parish families for balancing the "Sacred & Secular" of Advent and Christmas. I heard from the parents that they needed assistance with balancing the two calendars. The day developed from

the needs of the parents. It is such an overwhelming time and to have one day set aside for making an Advent Wreath and an opportunity to talk about the difference between Advent & Christmas was beneficial.

In my current position, I still see and hear of the need for balance. My way of addressing the need has changed. I have compiled a great number of files with Advent activities, prayers and traditions for classroom and home use which I share upon request. I offer workshops in the deanery for parents, teachers & catechists about "Balancing the Sacred & Secular of Advent" which includes ideas for "Keeping the 12 Days of Christmas." I have done parish evenings of reflection for adults as well as intergenerational events on both of these topics as well. It is amazing what a child can learn about the Birth of Jesus while making an

edible manger! It is also inspiring to reflect upon each of the persons and creatures present at the Birth and contemplate who you can best relate to at any given time.

The beauty of all these events is they are self-contained and can be tailored to fit your parish. Each of you can facilitate one of these events using my information or go to the Loyola Press or the Pflaum website for some great ideas for hosting a ready-made day they have developed.

Intergenerational Advent Activities on the Web

<http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-wreath-activity-center.htm>

<http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-bingo-activity-center.htm>

<http://www.loyolapress.com/advent-card-making-activity-center.htm>

<http://www.loyolapress.com/john-the-baptist-activity-center.htm>

Advertisers make the mistake of beginning the Christmas celebration too early. If we imitate them, we can get overloaded. That takes the fun (and the point) out of both the preparations and the celebrations. Christmastime begins on December 25 and lasts for several weeks afterward. There will be plenty of time for parties and concerts and caroling and all the other joys of that season.

But for now, it is Advent. Advent has its own joys. Some people gather each evening for prayer. They may light the candles of an Advent wreath or open the little doors of an Advent calendar. They might keep the saints' days in Advent as a way of preparing for Christmas. Many people get the Christmas tree and lights and other decorations repaired and ready so that on Christmas Eve all these wonderful things can be used to welcome the Savior.

Take time this advent to wait in joyful hope!

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me at: dcmnad@sbcglobal.net

APARE Membership 2009-2010

aparearchindy.com

Regular Membership - \$35 (First year administrators and Echo Apprentices are free) Includes voting privileges, newsletters, reduced rates for **APARE** events, access to scholarships for continuing education and workshops, and the right to fully participate in the activities of the association.

Associate Membership - \$25 Open to former members and other interested individuals. Associates have all the rights of regular members except that they cannot vote or hold office.

NAME: _____

Title: _____ Parish: _____

Mailing Address: ___ Home ___ Parish _____

Home/cell phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____

___ Regular member (\$35)

___ 1st yr administrator or echo (free)

___ Associate (\$25)

Make check payable to **APARE** and mail to:

Teresa Keith, St. Gabriel Parish,

6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis, IN 46224
