

PDCARE Executive Board Nominee: Treasurer



Angela Lawlor, DRE, St. Anthony of Padua, Ambler

#1. Angela just returned to the Archdiocese from the Archdiocese of Boston. After completing her Masters in Theology from Boston College, Angela taught religion at Archbishop Williams High School, Braintree, MA. She presently serves as the Director of Religious Education, St. Anthony Padua Parish, Ambler. She holds an undergraduate degree from St. Joseph University and lives in Hatfield with her husband and new born daughter.

#2. This is my first year as a Director of Religious Education as well as my first year working professionally in a parish setting. The best way to describe my experience thus far in Parish Religious Education is new, unique and challenging. I am constantly learning and encountering new parts of the role. As in any job, there is a learning curve, regular tasks that need to be accomplished and other to be mastered. I have worked hard to successfully master those tasks as the year has progressed. At the same time, there have been ongoing events, such as sacraments and special program events, which are new for me in this role. I encounter these new aspects of the position daily and they require me to remain proactive and dedicated in my willingness to learn. They call on my ability to be a self-starter in order to plan and execute events and experiences in a timely manner and that create a positive and impactful faith formation experience for students and catechists. My experience has helped me to recognize and hone my existing gifts and strengths, develop new skills, and recognize and reflect on my struggles and weaknesses. Most importantly, this experience has allowed me to begin to think creatively about the ways in which we educate children and adolescents about the Catholic faith in a way that is age appropriate, creative, meaningful, and ultimately helps to prepare them to live out the faith in their daily lives.



#3. When I began my role as the Director of Religious Education at St. Anthony of Padua, the first emails that I received concerned membership in the PD/C/ARE Association and the Avalon Conference. After hearing about the positive role that PD/C/ARE plays in the life of a Director of Religious Education, I knew that it would only benefit me as a new DRE to connect myself with those who have experience in the role for advice and support. I have benefitted greatly already as I heard about new models of Religious Education in Blue Bell, have connected with DREs at meetings or taken a step back to reflect in Avalon. Another offering was the Latino meeting when I was challenged by the presenters, particularly Professor Ospino, to reach out to the diverse communities of my parish by discovering best practices. I have found these opportunities to be professionally and spiritually enriching, which shows the Association's holistic care and concern for Directors and the role they play in the parish setting.

#4. When reflecting on the decision to run for the treasurer position in the PD/C/ARE Association, I found myself thinking back to what other roles I have held in the past and how they might best contribute to a particular position. In many situations, I have often taken roles "behind the scenes" that require a great deal of organization and help to support work being done to accomplish a larger goal. If elected, my organizational skills and ability to communicate and accomplish tasks in a timely manner are gifts that I would use to fulfill

my responsibilities as Treasurer. In my role as a DRE, I also manage my own budget so the skills I have developed already as a DRE in this way will be beneficial in helping to manage the financial aspects of PDCARE. The position of Treasurer is integral to PD/C/ARE because it is with these funds and the organization of the person in this role that events like Avalon and professional and spiritual development days can be executed. I believe my gifts and skills matched with this role will allow me to help PD/C/ARE continue to provide opportunities for DREs to be sustained and go back to their parishes feeling nourished and confident in their ability to minister to their communities and build God's Kingdom.