

## PDCARE Executive Board Nominee: Vice President

Cynthia (Cindy) A. Balceniuk, DRE, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Doylestown



#1. Cindy has been the Director of Religious Education (DRE) at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish (OLMC), Doylestown since 2007 . Prior to this appointment, she assisted as the Coordinator of Religious Education for 16 years. Cindy holds a degree in Marketing with a minor in Theology from King's College, Wilkes-Barre. She and her husband, Ed, are active parishioners at OLMC, the parents of six children, grandparents to six with two more on the way. She has been an active member of the PD/C/ARE Association serving as the Bucks County recording secretary and a former Chair and Co-Chair of the Avalon Gathering Committee.

#2. I began my work in Religious Education as a part time coordinator when my children were young, my youngest not yet born. I had no idea that this position would so profoundly change my life. While I was practicing my faith at the time, i.e. attending weekly Mass, praying with my family at home, etc., this work, God's work, has led me on a faith journey that has become the main focus of my life.

Religious Education has changed over the last 27 years with the increase of Prep/CCD population vs. Catholic schools; as technology has influenced our culture, it is now a part of our Religious Education program, and I, too, have had to learn and keep up with the changes. Flexibility is essential in this ministry.

#3. The PD/C/ARE Association has been and continues to be a very important support for me as a DRE. We share our successes, get and give advice for solving difficult situations or problems. Having other DREs as a resource has been invaluable. Truly only other DRE/CRE's understand all that we do. However, we share more than program models and problem solving, we share our faith. Whether it's praying together at county meetings, at conferences or on retreat, the level of faith and love of the Lord of fellow Association members has been inspiring!

#4. The reason I am effective or successful in my work as a DRE is due to the Holy Spirit. I have been amazed by what the Spirit of God has led me to do and has provided me with the tools to do His work. If elected to the position of Vice President, I am confident that God will be my guide and assist me along the way. As DRE have I grown as a leader in order to be effective; I have great appreciation for the people God has put in my life, confidence in God's goodness, integrity and faithfulness to the teachings of the Catholic Church and a vision that the work I do is helping to build the Kingdom of God. In all of this I work hard to trust in the Lord to guide me in the work He has led me to do and I would do the same as Vice President of the PD/C/ARE Executive Board Committee.