

PDCARE Executive Board Nominee: Treasurer

Leona Russell, DRE, St. Stanislaus Parish, Lansdale



#1. Leona has served as the DRE at St. Stanislaus since 2012. From 2007-2012, she was the DRE at St. John the Baptist Parish, Ottsville. She holds a B.S. in Accounting from Indiana University of PA. and worked in the financial world for 25 years. She and her husband have two children, are active parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish and have served as coordinators for the Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley.

#2. I have been involved in Parish Religious Education for 20 years. My involvement began when my oldest daughter was in second grade and I volunteered as an aide in her classroom. The following year, I took on the role of catechist for third grade and continued in that role for the next eight years. After returning from a “Silver Summer” workshop, a coworker told me that I had a special glow coming from the workshop and she never saw me so happy. This was the start of my discerning where my career was headed next. I chose to leave “Corporate America” in 2007 with the intent of teaching college level accounting. Instead, God led me down a path to become the DRE for my home parish. I was truly blessed to become part of this ministry and am currently in my 11th year as D/CRE, now serving at St. Stanislaus in Lansdale.

#3. I have been a PDCARE member for the past 11 years. Being part of this Association has helped me to grow and learn from others. It is rare that I miss a monthly meeting as I look forward to not only receiving the updates from Ann Menna each month, but also for the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with fellow D/CRE's. The other D/CRE's are also great listeners when we need to vent. Hearing the stories of others helps us to realize that we are not alone when difficult situations arise. I participate each year in the Fall and Spring Professional Days and the annual Catechist Convocation to continue to learn and obtain resources to share with my catechists. I also very much look forward to the Advent Reflection days, the Avalon Conference and Malvern Retreats. It is so important to be able to get away and focus on our own spiritual growth and development. These events help me to be refreshed and renewed.

#4. If elected to the Treasurer position of the PDCARE Board, I will use my gifts and talents as an accountant for over 20 years, as well as my experience managing the finances as part of my PREP responsibilities for the past 11 years, to further the mission of the Church and this Association by ensuring that the funds are accounted for properly and that the membership fees are used in accordance with the PDCARE Constitution so as to bring the greatest benefit to our members.