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I began as a volunteer at St. Agnes Parish in 2008. I started as a Cantor for our Parish the same year we registered our oldest child for PREP. Following our daughters first grade year, the former DRE was looking for a few new Catechists. Noticing on our registration form that I was a former public elementary school teacher in the Central Bucks School District (and previously in NJ), she reached out to ask if I might consider teaching PREP. Having been out of the classroom since 2002 to raise our three children, I was anxious to get back into the classroom.

The following September I began teaching Levell PREP on Wednesday evenings. I held this volunteer position for 7 years; growing in my faith along the way as I got more in more involved in various aspects of parish ministry.

St. Agnes, being my home parish, offered many opportunities to enhance my involvement. Cantoring and teaching PREP quickly became a very important part of my life.

In 2015 our DRE, Anne Hayes, approached me to tell me she was retiring at the end of the school year. She asked me to consider applying for the role of Director of Religious Education. I did not hesitate to apply for the position. I felt quite fortunate to have worked under her for several years and was blessed to have the fine model of her program to follow.

That August I stepped into my new role at St. Agnes PREP, this time in an administrative role.

I have now been leading our Religious Education Program for almost four years. Each year my confidence grows and my love for this position grows, as well. Having a degree in Elementary Education is, unequivocally, the professional foundation that guides me daily. Our building, although we no longer house a school, is vibrant, cheerful and faith-filled.

My staff consists of roughly 27 men and women who have such loyalty to our program! Since becoming the DRE, we have folks who now teach for us on both evenings of PREP because they enjoy it so much. I provide professional development, fellowship and a team-themed atmosphere, which are so well received.

Leading this fine ministry, which is constantly evolving, has enriched my life in all ways.

As a member of the PDCARE Association I find myself inspired and motivated at high level. Our monthly county meetings *are*, without question, one of the best aspects of working in Religious Education.

To someone who is not familiar with Religious Education, the role of a D/CRE is often misunderstood and vague. PDCARE offers the support and professional motivation that is needed in this ministry. After each county meeting I walk away re-charged! Sharing ideas, strategies and resources with other administrators is priceless.

PDCARE also provides the spiritual growth we need. I try to never miss an opportunity for our days of reflection or professional development. Few other occupations can blend personal life and professional life so intricately. I marvel at how lucky I am to work in a field that is founded in my faith. PDCARE provides the perfect balance that a DRE needs.

I have been very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to act as Chairperson for our annual Avalon gathering in 2018. What a tremendous experience! The experience of Chairing the Avalon gathering gave me an excellent chance to work with fellow D/CRES in all of our Archdiocesan counties, and work closely with committee members and presenters in a new way.

Avalon reinforced for *me*, once again, that PDCARE knows just how to provide incredible professional development while always keeping our faith at the heart of the matter...

If elected as Secretary to the Executive Board Committee, I would take the experiences I have gained to inspire and encourage others to embrace their faith. As a leader, one has the platform to do so. As a woman of faith; a mother; a ministry leader; a teacher; a parent...I feel that I am a relatable example to those in my parish and profession.

I take great pride in the fact that since becoming the Religious Education Director at St. Agnes I have been a connection for people in a wide variety of ways- A connection to parish life, music ministry, public education and PREP. Being a woman who is comfortable speaking in front of others, someone who is organized and attentive to detail, are attributes I would wish to share.

In a similar way, I feel I would be able to do the same as an Executive Board member. In this role I would continue to inspire Disciples; to act as an example of furthering involvement in parish life at every level. Sharing my time and talents with those who work in our ministry would be a way to further our Mission.