

PD-CARE Executive Board Committee

Sr. Marie Garman, IHM: Nominee for Vice-President

Sister Marie Garman, IHM, is a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Sister attended St. Joan of Arc Elementary School, Little Flower High School and holds a degree in Elementary Education from Immaculata University and a graduate degree in Liturgical Studies from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. Sister has taught grade school in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Dioceses of Camden and Allentown. She presently serves as the.



Sister was assigned as Director of Religious Education at SS. Philip and James Parish, Exton, PA 2019, and still is wondering what a “normal” year might look like! The DRE position at SS. Philip and James includes overseeing PREP and all the record-keeping and people-keeping that go with it. It also includes working with catechists and children in sacrament preparation, preparing the sacramental celebrations, and providing various church experiences. Additionally, the DRE is directly involved with the RCIA Program, both as an advisor and a catechist, as well as, the Parish CYO Board.

This assignment, however, is not Sister's first experience with parish religious education. Sister has served as a catechist in several parish schools where I taught. At McAdoo Catholic in the Diocese of Allentown, I found myself teaching First Grade full-time in school, as well as a Second Grade CCD class preparing for sacraments, and trying to manage “The (RE) Program.” At the time, I felt as though I wasn't able to do any of those things effectively, due to being overwhelmed and time-deprived. I knew that I never wanted to be a DRE. Ever! My experience at SS. Philip and James, however, has changed my perspective. Now my work now is all about PREP and RCIA and the planning and record-keeping and people-keeping that goes with it. I am learning more about the catechesis piece as well as the administrative piece. I am also finding ways to meet families' needs and help them “make it work.” I have experienced the generosity of Ann Menna, Fr. Dieckhaus, and several of our DREs who have stepped up and mentored me as needs arose, and I feel that I am growing into this position with each event. I appreciate the time and work involved, and am grateful to be able to bring previous skills to the task, as well as pick up new ones along the way. I feel as though I learn something new every day.

Additionally, I became a member of PD/CARE when I began my first year as DRE, and it has been very helpful in many ways: PD/CARE

- Is a dependable source for answers.
- Allows for finding “outside” guidance when needed.
- Provides a community of peers.
- Facilitates professional learning.

If elected to the position of Vice-President, I envision using my previous teaching experience, organizational skills, knowledge of liturgy, musical ability and people skills to support the ministry of the Association and its members. I believe that when we are of one mind and heart, and act in the mind and heart of the Church, we are able to accomplish much in the building up of the Kingdom of God as we minister day-to-day in the here and now, to and with the People of God.