



October 2023

Dear Catechetical Leader,

We hope you had a wonderful summer, and a great start to your 2023-2024 Religious Education year! Your program may have begun in September, or maybe you started in July or August, if you have a summer intensive program. You may have classes during the week, or a family program on the weekends, or a Sacramental prep program for your Confirmandi on Sunday nights. With the many innovative models so many of our parishes are adopting, catechetical leadership is now truly a year-round position, as we constantly endeavor to answer the missionary call to “go out” and meet families where they are in new and creative ways. We also occupy a unique place in our parishes, experiencing the challenges and rewards that are part and parcel of journeying in faith with families and inviting others into this ministry, which is so vital for the life of the Church.

For all of these reasons, and for many others, it is so important that we have meaningful connections with one another as catechetical leaders. This ideal is the purpose of the TRED organization, of which every PCL of our Diocese is a valued member, and is expressed primarily through our cluster groups. Mutual support, opportunities for collaboration, and bonds of friendship exist in a special way within these groups in each of the counties. Gathering regularly in our local clusters and staying in touch with our colleagues truly bears fruit, for us as leaders, and for the people we serve in our parishes.

We encourage you this year, as always, to bring your unique gifts and experiences in ministry to other catechetical leaders through your involvement with TRED, whether this is through regularly attending cluster meetings, participating in our PCL Facebook group, or taking part in the different events – both in-person and virtual – that TRED sponsors during the year.

As we know from St. Paul, “a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.” On behalf of TRED, we are so grateful to share this ministry with you, as we bring our different gifts to the Body of Christ, and help our children and their families grow in faith and in His love this year. God bless you, and we pray that you have a joy-filled and wonderful year ahead!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Donohue".

Mrs. Jessica Donohue
TRED Board President

About TRED

The TRED organization is comprised of everyone in the Diocese of Trenton who directs the faith formation of the children in a parish. TRED has a Board of Directors, the members of which work to serve PCLs in our Diocese. We endeavor to provide opportunities for catechetical and spiritual formation for PCLs, to offer financial support for similar offerings within clusters, and provide an additional connection between PCLs and the Diocesan Department of Catechesis. In short, we exist to support, mentor, inform and connect PCLs throughout the year.

The Board of Directors consists of officers and what we call "Cluster Representatives." Cluster reps are PCLs from each of our four counties in the Diocese who come to our board meetings to receive information and news from the Department of Catechesis and various other departments in the Diocese, and discuss accomplishments and concerns within their county. We have annual dues to help support the speakers and various activities we provide. You can find the form with information on how to submit payment of dues [here](#). *Please note that all PCLs in our Diocese are members of TRED by virtue of their appointment to the role by the Pastor, and as such, have access to everything TRED offers, regardless of the parish's ability to pay dues.* Each cluster holds meetings throughout the year. In order to benefit from what TRED offers and to stay connected, it is vital that you make every effort to attend your cluster's meetings whenever possible.



We are here to serve and support you!

Your 2023-2024 TRED Board

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