

## First Generations of Faith Event at Ss. Peter and Paul

The first **Generations of Faith** event at Ss Peter and Paul Church in Saskatoon was held on Sunday, February 13. Approximately 150 participants – children, youth, young adults and adults – the entire cross section of ages, were present for their first intergenerational catechetical experience.

The topic that was chosen for this event was “The Great Fast”. The objectives of the study were

- to identify the Great Fast as the 40 day preparation for Pascha
- to recognize that the Church has many services and prayers that help us forgive and repent
- to suggest ways of praying, fasting, almsgiving and celebrating the Great Fast as a family

The event started with a meal, followed by an opening prayer service lead by Father John Sianchuk. Then Deacon Thomas Nahachewsky eloquently led the entire group through an explanation of the Ladder of Divine Ascent. After this the participants formed their age appropriate groups.

The facilitator for the families with children from kindergarten age to grade 5 was Kathy Lozinsky, who engaged the children and their parents in a discussion about Zacchaeus. This group also was taught the traditional “holy kiss of love and forgiveness”.

The children in grade 6, 7, and 8 were lead by Ana Larmour and Nicole Gartner. They studied the parable of the Prodigal son. Thanks to the technological skills of their facilitators, this group recounted what they had learned in a DVD presentation which was later watched by the whole group.

The older teenagers and young adults studied the Publican and Pharisee parable. This group, facilitated by Deborah Larmour, was witness to her passion for the Jesus Prayer.

The adults were skilfully lead through a meditation “at the foot of the Cross” by Adrian Olenick.

Many parishioners gave of their time and talents to make this a successful day. The participants found it to be a valuable and moving experience, especially for the adults. A second GOF event is planned for Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to meeting again as a parish family as we continue our spiritual journey. It is our sincere hope to transform our parish community into a community of lifelong learners.



Deborah Larmour discussing the Publican and the Pharisee icon with youth and young adults.



Adrian Olenick and Deacon Thomas Nahachewski leading the meditation with the adult group.