

Fall Formation 2017

By Denise Walley

A joint effort of the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface Services of Catechetics has taken place over the past week. Fall Formation Sacraments was led by Judith Vasquez and Koreen Hrizai. With the option of attending two separate evenings at St.



John Cantius Church or a full day at St John XXIII Parish, approximately 80 catechists of the two archdioceses participated.

All Catechists were reminded of the 'call' to this beautiful ministry. Being a catechist is a vocation of service in the Church that has been received as a gift from the Lord and must in turn be transmitted. The catechist walks with Christ and must be adaptable in order to bring the message closer to the people.

The session opened with a beautiful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd presentation by Nancy Wood and assisted by Madame Louise Fillion and Sister Bibiana Ikwun HHCJ, on the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. Some of the catechists' experiences of this presentation brought forth trust in the Good Shepherd, a feeling of openness to the Lord and a desire to follow the Good Shepherd.



A reflection of San Damiano Crucifix brought everyone together in prayer. A new experience for some of us, this cross which was instrumental in the mission of St. Francis of Assisi of rebuilding the Church, and can be adapted by catechists as a reminder of our mission to do our little part in the building up of the Kingdom of God. The San Damiano Crucifix is a beautiful icon painted with the main figure of Christ and contains images of other saints and people related to the incident of Christ's crucifixion.



Fr. Peter Nemcek, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, opened Part 2, Sacrament of Service, sharing on Holy Orders, vocation and discernment. We are all called to holiness, to sainthood. All vocations are to be lived day in and day out, unlike a job at which we devote only a certain number of hours daily. Fr. Peter discussed discernment which is becoming aware of our call and responding to that call.

Judith Vasquez confirmed that the sacraments of service are for the service of others as she engaged in a presentation on the Sacrament of Marriage. In Christian marriage, there is a permanent and unconditional commitment and Christ remains at the centre of the relationship.

In the sacraments of healing, Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, we encounter God in our brokenness so we can journey on to the Lord.

Participating catechists were blessed, refreshed and recharged to go forth and bring the Good News to everyone we encounter!

Sincere thanks are extended to the parishes of St. John Cantius and St. John XXIII for providing space for learning, and time for sharing with one another, by hosting the workshops!