

## A Convocation Reflection

*[On this past November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> almost 800 parishioners from the dioceses of Fargo and Crookston attended a Convocation of Lay Leaders centered on the theme of re-igniting the fires of faith in the lives of our parishes and culture. St. Leo's and St. Thomas parishes had 9 parishioners attend this event. This week Delores Grommesh offers this reflection about the Convocation:]*

Before attending the convocation, the nine of us who were asked to attend met to share what we had hoped to learn about evangelization and what we hoped to take away from the convocation. After sharing, it was clear that we all had a lot similar thoughts and feelings about evangelization.

I have to say the convocation enlightened me on many feelings I had about evangelization. For most people, evangelization is hard, myself included, and conjures up feelings of fear and pressure. One of the speakers stated evangelization does not have to be hard, and the first step is freeing ourselves from fear and pressure. How do we free ourselves? By prayer. In prayer we develop a close personal relationship with Christ, a relationship which can lead us to living a more faith filled life, a life which can open us up to share and inspire others to have a relationship with Christ.

At the convocation they had many different break-out sessions. One was in regards to family and friends and how to bring them back to the church and faith. I chose to attend this session because I have heard many times people say "My family or my kids no longer practice their faith, how do I bring them back?" In the session a woman shared how just the simple act of letting her mother know she was praying for her, led her mother to tell her a couple months later that she had started praying for her and was once again attending church on a regular basis.

As we learned, at the convocation, there are many ways to evangelize, but prayer is a big part of evangelization and it is something each of us can do to help bring others to Christ.

Yours prayerfully,  
Delores Grommesh