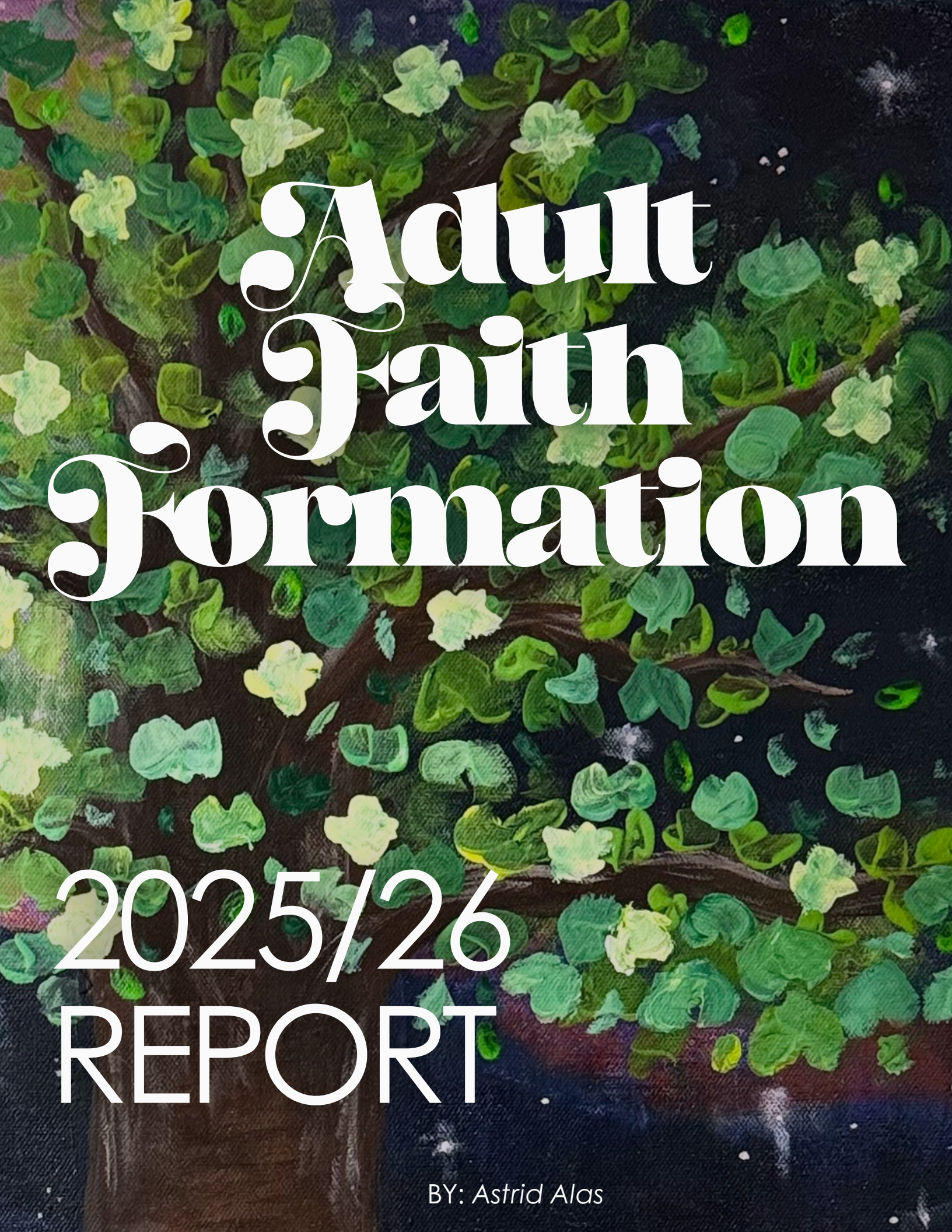




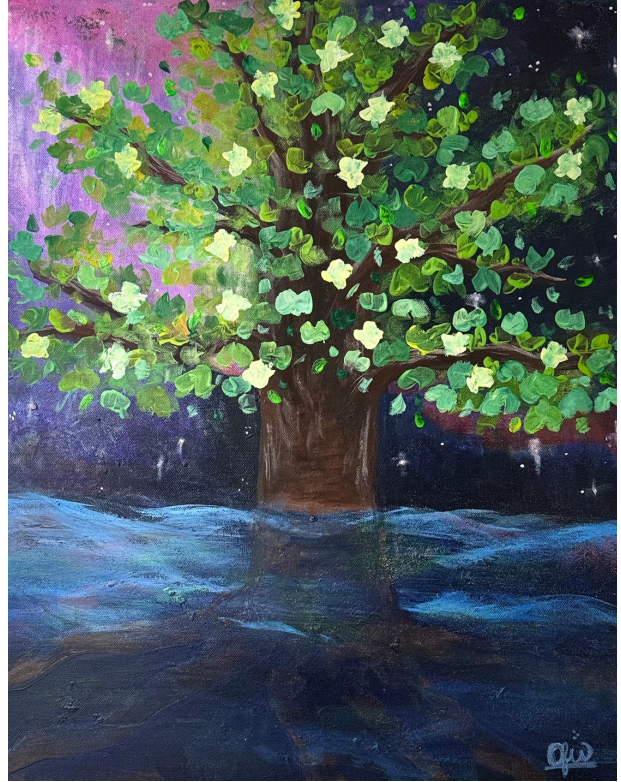
Adult Faith Formation

2025/26
REPORT

BY: Astrid Alas

Flourish

In the beginning, the story of creation opens with a divine invitation: "Be fruitful." From Genesis onward, God calls His people to flourish, to bear fruit, and to become vessels of His goodness. The mulberry tree, ancient and symbolic, mirrors this call. Known for its usefulness, its leaves feeding silkworms, its fruit nourishing, its wood valuable, it is a tree that can be used in multiple ways. Its roots, although strong and determined, can also disrupt foundations when planted in the wrong place. Like humanity, it holds potential for great fruitfulness or unintended harm depending on where and how it grows.



The Lord desires that we flourish, not in our own strength, but by learning to listen, to trust in His will, and to follow Him. In Scripture, God often reveals His leading through creation itself. As David was told: *"As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the Lord has gone out in front of you."*
2 Samuel 5:24

God moves ahead of His people and will not forsake us if we wait in His perfect time and believe in His promises.

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Luke 17:5-6

A mulberry tree with deep, stubborn roots would never naturally grow in the sea. Yet Jesus speaks of a miraculous uprooting, a life taken from where it once stood and firmly planted in the deep waters of His grace.

The painting *Flourish* captures this mysterious reality: a mulberry tree, not in soil but standing in the rolling waters of the sea, foliage bright and full, fruit abundant. It is rooted not in earthly ground but in obedience, trust, and the leading of the Spirit. As a life surrendered to God, it flourishes in a place that makes no sense to the world but is sustained by Him.

Paul writes: *"Let your roots grow down into Him... Then your faith will grow strong... and you will overflow with thankfulness."* Colossians 2:7

To flourish is not merely to grow; it is to grow in the right place, planted by God, nourished by His presence and in alignment with His will.

Ministry Overview

"The journey together can be challenging, and barriers to the mission of the Church include lack of faith formation. With that at the forefront, adult faith formation provides many opportunities for the faithful to come together to continue to know and learn about our faith, and to be better equipped for the mission."

_ Most Reverend Bishop Mark A. Hagemoen _



Our Mission

- Accompany both parishes and individuals in a Discipleship Making Model for the purpose of multiplying missionary disciples.
- Discerning God's call to each person to share in the mission and life of the Lord.
- Creating an environment for growth in discipleship and holiness.

Awaken

Fall 2025

“I Believe”

The Awaken Fall Sessions offered a rich opportunity to contemplate the Holy Trinity and the hope of eternal life. Through each session, participants were invited to enter more deeply into the truths professed in the Nicene Creed. As they reflected on the Creed, they were encouraged to deepen their knowledge, renew their relationship with the Trinity, and more fully embrace the hope of sharing in His divine life for all eternity.

19



PARTICIPANTS



Rama Pilgrimage

2025



In August 2025, 55 participants from across the city journeyed on pilgrimage to Rama to celebrate the community's 80th Anniversary during the Jubilee Year of Hope. Pilgrims participated in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, prayed the Stations of the Cross, Living Rosary, and candlelight procession.

55



PARTICIPANTS

Rejoice

Advent Retreat 2025

Our yearly Advent Retreat took place in December 2025. It provided a nurturing space for reflection, meditation, prayer, and community. Participants had the opportunity to prepare their hearts and minds for the sacred Christmas season. This retreat was attended by 51 participants, which is an increase of 21% from the previous year.

51



PARTICIPANTS



Called & Gifted

Urban & Rural Areas

Three Called and Gifted workshops were given in the Diocese of Saskatoon during the fall and winter, with a total of 53 participants.

53



PARTICIPANTS

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

23

ST. MARY PARISH
MACKLIN

11

LA TRINITE PARISHES
VONDA

19



Awaken

Winter 2026

“The Art of Listening”

Our Awaken winter sessions for 2026, titled “The Art of Listening” offered a profound time to delve into the importance that intentional listening can have on our lives and relationships. Over the course of four sessions, we explored the foundational elements of listening, progressed through different levels, and finally understood listening in the context of our relationship with the Lord.

A total of 54 participants joined us for this valuable experience.

54



PARTICIPANTS



Man of Sorrows – Tree of Life

Lenten Retreat 2025

In March 2026, an adult faith formation Lenten retreat was held with 51 participants. During the retreat, participants delved into the sorrows of the cross and the gift of redemption. Through guided meditations and prayers, attendees were encouraged to connect with their spirituality in meaningful ways as they prepared for the Lenten season. This experience fostered a sense of community and shared devotion.

51



PARTICIPANTS



The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary guided the participants during this retreat

Oasis

In April 2026, a diocesan adult faith formation event took place, centred around Eucharistic Adoration, providing time for deep reflection and encounter with the Lord. The evening was enriched by adoration, worship, prayer, and social time.

“Oasis” provided a wonderful opportunity to come together, reflect on the fruits of faith, and strengthen our relationship with God. A total of 78 participants joined in this event.



78 
PARTICIPANTS



Testimony

Hannah -
Adult Faith Formation Alumni

My past was redeemed, and I started to thirst for opportunities to spread the Great News of great Jesus and His sacrificial redeeming love is for us!

However, I found it difficult to know where to be and what my role is in building His kingdom. This is where the Adult Faith Formation programming of the Diocese of Saskatoon helped direct my path to serve God more intentionally. In 2021, I was invited to Project Timothy through Called and Gifted. I was able to discern that the charism of intercessory prayer is one the Lord has blessed me with, and I enjoy serving on the prayer ministry team at Beloved at the Cathedral every first Friday of the month, as well as the Oasis night, which was a night of prayer and healing.

Another Faith Formation initiative that has greatly impacted my faith is the retreats! I attended the Advent retreat of 2025. Community in these retreats has been a great encouragement to my faith because Astrid, the Verbum Dei missionary Sisters, the volunteers, and the participants are very welcoming, very well organized, and plan impactful lessons! It helps build the church community connections and also resuscitates the stagnation in my own personal faith. Hearing others' stories and experiences this retreat about how Christ-like hope is beyond what we can see or understand- it is bigger than attaining what we ask for- a retreat member said this which relates to the Bible verse in Romans 8:24. The person who spoke and shared this, was Jackie Saretsky whom I later learned that they were the hospital Chaplain for Saskatoon. This allowed me to network with her since I teach nursing students in the hospital. She was able to come speak with my students about spiritual care services available in the hospital and provide fantastic Catholic based information about having tough conversations with patients who are dying. Most of the students took the pamphlet that the Chaplain team made which uses the passion of Our Lord as a blueprint and speaks to the importance of dignified conversations at end of life. Unfortunately many nurses are unfamiliar with the spiritual care and Catholic services provided to patients in the Saskatoon hospitals- so despite the primary nurse not knowing about the service, when a patient was asking my student for Communion while they were at the end of their life, a student knew that it was possible and asked for my help to put in a spiritual consult for a Priest to visit! Then I saw Jackie following up with the patient and a Priest came in to give them the Eucharist! Praise God!

The last Faith Formation program that has impacted me so far is the Awaken series 2026 "the art of listening" where we had a weekly session about how to hear God's voice in prayer. There were great guest speakers like Sister Marta, Father Joseph, and Father Dan. I learned so much from them and the participants in table discussions. My parents also signed up and so this provided structured opportunities to speak about our faith journeys together which was helpful in fostering faith in our family. We learned about the four types of listening, what the synodal church is, and how to listen to God through scripture and adoration. Awaken was fruitful in many ways but my biggest takeaway was that the voice of God is powerful but most clearly heard as a still small voice. Reminded of Exodus 33:22 and 1 King 19:9 where Moses and Elijah separated by hundreds of years retreat to the same Mount where God came in the silence and speaks to them. This translated to prioritizing quiet time in the busy and loud world for personal prayer especially in adoration I can hear His voice, quiet and most times can be heard in the stillness.

Thank you so much for all the Faith Formation the Saskatoon Diocese has invested in and I hope to continue to draw closer to Jesus through the Church's programming to continue it's mission to proclaim Christ and God's Kingdom today!



Astrid Alas

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Coordinator



amalas@rcdos.ca

Email



rcdos.ca/adult-faith

Website



[adultfaithformation.rcdos](https://www.instagram.com/adultfaithformation.rcdos)

Instagram



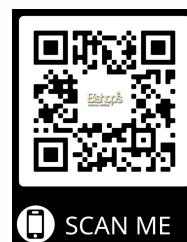
(306) 659-5858

Phone & WhatsApp

Thanks to the volunteers for sharing their time and gifts.



Adult Faith Formation is supported thanks to your donations to the BAA.



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