

# **“TWO FATHERS & DIDACHE!”**

By Lanny Widjaja

LCS Sisters' Fellowship (WICAS) organized the “Two Fathers & Didache!” talk on 3 May at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer (LCOR).

Dr. Violet James shared that Apostolic Fathers were the disciples of the followers of Jesus or associated with the apostles who became leaders of churches. They loved Jesus and wanted to guide the church to believe in the right teachings, do the right thing, live holy lives, follow the practices of the church, look forward to the coming of Christ and not to be afraid of being persecuted for their faith.

The Didache, written at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, is the teaching of Jesus Christ to His Disciples to teach the nations. It is about two Ways: the Way of Life and the Way of Death. The way of Life is about loving God with their whole hearts and loving their neighbors. It is a reflection of Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7. It also covers Practices of the church like Baptism and Communion. It also teaches the importance of reciting the Lord's Prayer every day at least 3 times a day!

Dr. Violet elaborated on two Apostolic Fathers - Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna. Both were disciples of John the Apostle.

Ignatius wrote 7 letters. Some of the places resemble the 7 churches in Revelation chapters 2-3 like Ephesus, Smyrna, Philadelphia. Ignatius also wrote a personal letter to Polycarp who was then a young bishop, as he wanted to encourage him. Ignatius was not afraid to die for Christ. James, the half-brother of Jesus writes in James 1:2-4 to consider every trial that comes our way as pure joy because of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ and what God is accomplishing in and through our lives.

Polycarp was a man of prayer who prayed day and night. Even when he was captured, he was found praying. In the midst of his sufferings, he even thought of his captors and offered them food!

We only have one letter written by Polycarp, which he wrote to the Philippians. Everything he wrote in this letter reflects the writings of Paul and the disciples and quotations from Christ's teachings. The Roman officers captured Polycarp and pleaded with him to deny Christ in order to live. However, Polycarp refused and was burned at the stake. This man of prayer at the end of his life surrendered his life fully to Jesus Christ, giving Him all the glory! What an amazing testimony!

The participants enjoyed watching the dance by “Four Denominations Churches Senior Dance Group”. They were mesmerized by Cantonese Gospel Opera singers from BLC - Samuel and Maria. They laughed while doing the funny praise dance taught by JCC. BLC Sisters' Fellowship and YCCL “Golden Moments” entertained the audience with their singing.

Praise the Lord that we have collected \$3,421 offerings for International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission!

The programme ended well with the participants enjoying the refreshment and networking with one another.















