

Inter SCJM Schools 'meet

On Tuesday, the 3rd of September, the entire family of the SCJM meet –Sisters, teachers, fathers, judges, participants and boarders of Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Dalhousie—assembled in front of the middle school at 8.15 am and marched towards the venue, the Junior gym, accompanied by the school band.

The Junior Gym of Sacred Heart Senior Secondary School, Dalhousie was filled to the brim as the delighted students from the SCJM schools, gathered together to celebrate the joy of belonging to the same family and participate in the literary events. It looked as though the young minds from the different institutions were impatient and excited to display their talents, exchange their opinions and barter their views in a very exhilarating way.



The event kicked off with lighting of the lamp, inviting God in our midst to enlighten our hearts and minds to light up our way, that was followed by a hymn. With a warm welcome address, Sr. Molly Cherian, the Principal of the School, ignited the spirits of the participants. The astounding welcome dance captivated the audience spell bound. Thereafter the chief guest, Sr. Lucy Emmanuel, the Provincial, Sr. Vinita Miranda, the coordinator of the ministry of education in the province and the board of judges for the various events were given a floral welcome. Subsequently the students took the centre stage, exhibited their ingenious capability through poetry, storytelling, creative writing, drawing and painting.


The most exciting event of the day was the debate, where different teams enthusiastically wrangled on the topics 'artificial Intelligence: a boon or bane', by the Seniors and "social media enhances communication" by the Juniors, demonstrating their talents. The audience and the judges were equally overwhelmed by the participants' buoyancy, persuasiveness and expression. All the winners were awarded trophies and certificates and the participants were also given certificates as we admired their unbreakable spirit and determination with gratitude. All the panel of adjudicators were presented with mementos as a token of admiration, gratitude and appreciation.



Quiz also was a thrilling competition to witness, which was the toughest way to test the students' knowledge in political, social, scientific, historical, ecological and arithmetical field. The competitors, established their proficiency, by answering queries with effortlessness and zest.

The atmosphere was stimulating, invigorating, revitalizing with appreciation and ovation exploding from the audience after each presentation. Each event was a testament of their hard work and perseverance.

During the concluding ceremony the **Differently Abled Children** from our Prem Ashram Una, stole the show by their dance extravaganza.



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In her closing remark, Sr. Lucy Emmanuel, the Chief Guest congratulated the winners and participants, accentuating the importance of literary events in fostering originality, creativity, imagination, innovation and critical thinking. She had also pointed out the significance of the SCJM school meet, as it fosters our motto *Cor Unum Anima Una – (one heart and one mind)*. She encouraged the students to go forward courageously and excel in every field, with commitment and dedication.

At the end, Sr. Vineetha Miranda expressed her gratitude to everyone on behalf of the SCJMs for their cooperation, support, collaboration, assistance and teamwork with beautiful words of appreciation.

As the students from various schools bid good bye, most of them were downcast because they had built up love and friendship with likeminded peers. The inter school literary event was a resounding success, reinforcing the power of “Cor Unum Anima Una” to unite, motivate, enthuse and inspire young minds.

I must add one key point that Sr. Moly Augustine, the Manager of the school, took care of the entire accommodation of the guests – students and staff of the visiting schools – very meticulously and diligently. So much so everyone enjoyed their short, comfortable and safe stay here, and wanted to stay on.

With God on our side, from the start to the finish, the whole program was bright and dazzling.

Sr. Lissy Antony, Dalhousie



Golden Jubilarians Programme

The nine golden jubilarians of 2024 were privileged to come together for two weeks, from September 26 to 11 October. We arrived at Sacred Heart Convent Sidhpur on 25th September and we were received very warmly. The serene, calm and peaceful atmosphere, the enchanting Dhaula Dhar ranges and the green Kangra Valley were beckoning us to enjoy the beauty of the nature and at the same time praise and thank the Lord of all creation.

The Province gave us this golden opportunity to be together, to relive the past 50 years of our Religious Life, share with each other our faith journey and our mission experiences to enrich oneself and others. It gave us time to recount the innumerable blessings God has showered upon us and be grateful to God, one another and all those who have been channels of grace and influenced and touched our lives, made us grow and mature and become who we are today.

Rev. Fr. Vincent Amal Nathan SJ from Andhra Province of Jesuits shared with us his wisdom, knowledge and life experiences of growing old gracefully. Since most of us are still engaged in active ministry, the course gave us a blue print as to how we need to integrate our 'doing' and 'being'. Definitely as we grow old the quality of our 'being and presence' must speak for itself. When the 'doing' becomes less and less, it is an indication to spend more time for praying, caring and nurturing oneself and others and become graced companions to all.



The five days programme was followed by eight days of retreat. That provided the time needed to interiorize what we received during the course and spent time with the Lord.



Before the retreat we had a short picnic and after the retreat the students of Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School and St. Marty's Sr. Sec. School students entertained us for an hour. It was a feast to the eyes and music to the soul. It was indeed a captivating and mesmerizing cultural fest and we enjoyed it thoroughly. We are deeply grateful to Sisters Gracy M. D. and Jancy Joseph, the principals of the two schools, all the staff members and students for that beautiful gesture of acknowledging the services, dedication and commitment of the Sisters.

The climax of the Jubilee celebration was the thanksgiving Eucharistic on 11 October. Rt. Rev. Agnelo Rufino Gracias, the Apostolic Administrator of Jalandhar Diocese was the main celebrant and it was con-celebrated by priests from the diocese and other religious houses round Sidhpur. We were privileged to have our SCJMs from almost all the houses in Punjab, Himachal and Jammu and others Sisters from the area. We were glad and privileged to have the relatives of Sr. John Akanath for the jubilee celebrations. At the end of the jubilee celebrations we carry in our hearts an overwhelming sense of gratitude to all those who have been part of our faith journey over the past 50 years especially our Congregation.



We are grateful to Sr. Lucy Emmanuel and her council for providing us this opportunity to come together. We are deeply indebted to Sr. Teresa Attupuram and community for their warm hospitality, love and care and the hard work put in to plan and organize meticulously the jubilee celebration. We also remember with love every SCJM

especially those of our province, friends and well-wishers who have accompanied us through your prayers. May God bless each one of you abundantly!

Sr. Teresa Thomas, for the Jubilarians