

A SYMPHONY OF GRATITUDE

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever” (Ps. 136:1)

The 17th of December 2023 dawned on a note of immense gratitude in our hearts as the SCJM Provincialate, Delhi celebrated the 50 golden years of its presence and mission in the Archdiocese of Delhi and the 25 Silver years of Sr. Jessy Thomas. The day was welcomed with a meaningful prayer service to praise and thank the Lord for His innumerable blessings and graces upon our Provincialate, every SCJM who had been an integral part of our mission here, our friends, well-wishers, benefactors and all those who have been part of our journey over the past 50 years. We were privileged to have the esteemed presence of Sr. Gemma, one of the pioneers of our mission in Delhi. It was also particularly a moment of thanksgiving for the unique gift of Sr. Jessy Thomas and her contribution towards the welfare of the province, the Church and the society at large.

The most important part of the day was the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration. It began at 6.30 P. M. officiated by His Grace Most Rev, Anil J. T. Couto Archbishop of Delhi Archdiocese and concelebrated by around 25 priests.



“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture are like trees without roots” says Marcus Garvey. It is therefore apt to delve into history and revisit the origin and take note of the life giving, energizing and nurturing experiences and be grateful to all that had been which make the present more rewarding and future more hopeful. At the beginning of the Holy Mass Sr. Lucy Em-

manuel, the provincial superior gave a glimpse of the past 50 years of our presence and mission in Delhi. She said that the very mention of the term Jubilee evokes in us sentiments of joy and gratitude to God, our pioneers, friends and well-wishers. Any celebration to be truly meaningful and effective have to have its triple reference activated: i.e., remembering the past with gratitude, critiquing the present in the light of the past and envisioning the future with renewed commitment. For “lives of great men/women all remind us that we can make our lives sublime, and parting, leave behind us, footprints on



As we celebrated the twin occasion, the theme that resonated was a “symphony of gratitude”, a melody that intertwines with the very essence of the existence of the Provincialate. Over the past 50 years, countless individuals have stepped into this house, each contributing a unique note to the harmonious composition of the history of the house.



Like the gentle strumming of a guitar, the stories of those who entered here, created a sweet and melodious tune, echoing the gratitude that permeated the atmosphere. In the early chords of this symphony the founders and pioneers of this house played their role, laying the foundation for a community bound by faith and service. Their notes of dedication

and service set the tone for the years to come, creating a legacy that is felt with each passing day. The symphony of gratitude is not just a collection of individual notes but the harmonious blend of events that have unfolded within these walls. From joyous celebrations to moments of sorrow, from shared laughter to silent prayers, each event has contributed to the rich tapestry of the history.

We are extremely grateful to the numerous people who came into our life and became part of our mission supporting and encouraging us all the way and in particular those who stood by us in challenging times such as the incident of the murder of one of our hostlers and the accident and death of Sr. Archana. The SCJM remembered with gratitude all those great people whose generosity, kind words and deeds, love and concern are etched in our hearts. A few among them God plucked away to be replanted in his garden of life. The province can never forget the hard work, commitment, dedication and selfless giving of (Late) Sr. Declan Murphy, Sr. Mechtilda De Clerck, Sr. Alice De Bruille and Sr. Hildegarda Ceysens.



On this auspicious occasion we remembered with love and gratitude (Late) Archbishop Angelo Fernandes who welcomed us to Delhi Archdiocese, (Late) Archbishop Alan De Lastic (Late) Fr. George Kureethara, (Late) Fr. Zach Varickamackal S.J. and Archbishop emeritus Vincent

Concessao, Archbishop Anil Couto and all our former and present parish priests who extended their support and cooperation in every way. We also thanked God for the gift of Mrs. Komal Khanna (Ex Student, Dalhousie college) who was at our side in all our needs.



The presence of all our former Provincials, Sr. Suman Toppo, one of the newly elected General Councilors, our Sisters from nearby communities, religious from around the area, parish council office bearers, Sr. Jessy's relatives and other friends added joy to the celebration. The melodious singing led by Mr. Glen (one of the parishioners), offer-

tory procession and prayers and 'aarati' rendered solemnity and meaning to the occasion.

After the Eucharist there was the ceremonious cake cutting, felicitation of a few special invitees, greetings, wishes, etc. especially for Sr. Jessy Thomas on her Silver Jubilee. The day came to an end with the fellowship meal. When we look back at the months that preceded the great event: the planning, preparation and execution of what had been planned was a symphony of love, a tapestry woven with threads of joy and togetherness and an experience of the "Cor Unum Anima Una". We too can rightfully acknowledge the words of Melody Beattie, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow".



Sr. Teresa Thomas, for Provincialate, Delhi