

Provincial Chapter Session II (November 11—16, 2023)

The second session of the Provincial Chapter took place in Sacred Heart Convent, Amritsar from 11 - 16 November, 2023 with the inaugural Holy Mass. Our candidates made it more lively and meaningful with their delicate and rhythmic steps. The first session of the chapter began with the lighting of the traditional lamp reminding all of us of the ever abiding presence of the Lord who is the Light of the world.



Those were faith-filled days where the Spirit of God made His presence tangible in diverse ways. Aware that we are powerless without the empowerment and enabling presence of God we embarked on this short but compact journey placing our total trust and confidence in God. This disposition of complete surrender was nourished and sustained by the Holy Hour on the first day, daily Eucharist, personal prayer early in the morning and other

forms of meaningful and inspiring prayer conducted by the team of Sisters who were given this responsibility. It was further strengthened and reinforced by the process of the “Spiritual Conversation” so beautifully explained by Sr. Roshni and the quality time spent together in smaller groups to share with one another the deeper understanding of the GC 2023 orientations. We were also supported by the spirit of Cor Unum, and prayers of the rest of our Sisters in the province especially the ailing and the aged. The entire process of the Chapter was made smooth and the journey light by the graceful and diligent presence and purposeful facilitation of Sr. Roshni.

The Chapter has also been an experience of the delight, goodness and beauty of living and working together with a specific goal in focus. The insights gained from the input of Fr. Edwin Rodrigues SJ, also helped us to find concrete ways of responding to the reinterpreted charism by contextualizing the Orientations of GC 2023 and be good Samaritans in our various ministries in the Indian context. We are aware of the fact that these things can happen only if we are imbued with the Divine and are ready to share that divinity with those among whom we live and work.



The entire process and the outcome of the Chapter now urge us to bring about a change in the mind-



set, attitudes and approach which lead us to, "Go and do likewise" and become authentic SCJM and bearers of the Good News to all especially the most wounded and the abandoned of our time. With the awareness of being sent and having accomplished an eventful task in the life of the Province, the second session of the provincial Chapter came to a conclusion with the Eucharist on 16th November, 2023.



Sr. Teresa Thomas, Provincialate, Delhi



Animators' Meeting / Accountants' Seminar

The provincial chapter was followed by the superiors' meeting on 17th in the morning hours. Sr. Lucy Emmanuel, the provincial guided and animated the sessions. They had a short evaluation of their life and ministry to find ways and means to creatively exercise their responsibilities. It was also a time for them to be strengthened by the presence and experiences of each other. The animators spent some time in smaller groups to share their experiences. In the meantime the accountants had begun their session in the morning in Ashirbhawan. After the lunch, at 2.30 p.m., the animators, all the accountants of the province and the provincial and her team spent the rest of the day updating themselves on financial matters and learning the intricacies of accounting.

Rev. Fr. Jose Thekkencherry, the Procurator of Jalandhar diocese made the Sisters aware of the present political scenario in the country and its implications on religious/minority institutions. He spoke of certain important points like: The need to keep our records, files and accounts up to date always. He made us aware of the restrictions laid on the amount that a person can contribute to someone as charity as well as how much a person can receive and the rules regarding tax deduction on the amount received as charity from unknown sources. He pointed out that it is essential to show the source of the contribution received. He also dealt with the difference between Registered society and Trust and the pros and cons of having one society or many societies and the rules regarding the local funding, ESI, etc.

Mr. Dhawan, the Chartered Accountant of the province spent considerable amount of time with the Provincial Leadership Team, animators and the accountants to make them aware of several important aspects of dealing with finance and accounting.

Sr. Jessy Thomas, the province bursar spent three days with the accountants. She explained thoroughly and in detail the MOA (Memorandum of Association), which all the accountants were not fully aware of. The main purpose of the seminar was to teach the accountants who were not yet able to use the Tally programme to get acquainted with it. The young and not so young eagerly became studious learners for those days and benefitted from it. She, with her organizational skills, patience and clarity of matter made good use of the time in equipping us to be efficient accountants. At the end of the sessions Sr. Ligi Joseph proposed a vote of thanks for Sr. Jessy and the finance commission members. We are grateful to the provincial and her team and the bursar for arranging such seminars occasionally.

The best part of the seminar was the picnic to 'SAADA PIND' (Our Village) Amritsar. The whole place is a replica of the cultural heritage of Punjab.

Sr. Gemma. Jaipur

