

VIII Provincial Chapter of St. Francis Xavier Province

Day 5: January 8, 2022

“You must increase; I must decrease.”

The fifth day of VIII Provincial Chapter of St. Francis Xavier Province began with the Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am officiated by Msgr. Dennis Odiver via Zoom from St. Andrew the Apostle Parish. While sharing his reflections on the gospel of the day, he highlighted the main characteristic of John the Baptist, which is humility. As leaders, as Religious, as Christians, we have to exercise humility. Learning to be humble is a life-long process. Our spiritual life is revealed through our humility. “I am not the Christ, but I was sent before him”. This is an example of outstanding humility. John the Baptist was not overcome by jealousy. Likewise, we must allow God to take over / reign over our life. He alone can give meaning and purpose in our life.

After the Eucharist, the assembly proceeded to the Chapter hall, and started with the reading of the minutes of the previous day. This was followed by the personal study, group study followed by the plenary session. As we were informed of the abrupt news that the Sisters from St. Francis Xavier community, Yunnan had to leave for China today itself due to some visa problem, we changed our planned schedule. Instead of following up with the answers of the documents, we proceeded to the election of the Sisters who will be participating in the XXX Extraordinary General Chapter, and also the one from among them who will be participating in the Pre-Chapter commission.

Based on the election, Sr. Philomina Malliakkal, Sr. Philomina Noronha, and Sr. Eugene Mary Pathrose were elected. Sr. Philomina Malliakkal will be participating in the Pre-Chapter commission.

In the afternoon, the representatives of Saint Anne Family groups joined us with the Marian devotion. After the Marian devotion, they presented their points, shared their experiences etc. Then, they were invited to have tea with the sisters, after which they left us.

The assembly then resumed the work in the plenary session presenting the points and choosing the ones to be sent to the General Chapter. We completed the study of Question 2.5 and 3. A.



