

VIII Provincial Chapter of St. Francis Xavier Province

Day 6: January 9, 2022

“You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

The sixth and final day of VIII Provincial Chapter of St. Francis Xavier Province began with the Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am officiated by Msgr. Dennis Odiver. While sharing his reflections on the gospel of the day (the Feast of John, the Baptist), he said that just as with the Baptism of John, the season of Christmas ends, and the Ordinary days of the Liturgical year begins, our Chapter ends and another Chapter of life begins with its challenges. He highlighted that Jesus was immersed in the water; he didn't need baptism but he embraced our humanity so that through him we may be cleansed and purified. Jesus coming out of the water signifies glory, victory overcoming death. When God the Father confirmed Jesus as his beloved Son, he embraced humanity and shared his divinity and holiness with us.

Msgr. Dennis advised us to listen to the Lord telling us, “You are my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased”. He added that Jesus is stretching his hands and touching us. We must continue being docile, and acknowledge his invitation.

Sr. Leena John, the Provincial Superior thanked Msgr. Dennis for making himself available to enrich us with spiritual nourishment. She added that words will not be enough to express our gratitude to him. Sr. Leena highlighted some virtues of Msgr. Dennis saying that we admire and appreciate his simplicity and ability to adjust. His docility and kind disposition cannot go unnoticed. He proved to us that authority is service by his own exemplary life. Sr. Leena affirmed that we will pray for him always. She assured that we shall live synodically, practicing synodality – walking together to make a better world.

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 group study (as the personal study was already done earlier), followed by the plenary session to study and choose the points to be sent to the General Chapter.

Marian devotion was done at 2:45 pm, and we proceeded to the study of the Answers to the question 5 of part III, followed by the Constitution Chart. The Chapter secretary read the minutes of the day and it was approved.

Finally, the Provincial Superior thanked everyone mentioning some names who were actively involved in organizing the Chapter presentially and online. She thanked Sr. Philomina Malliakkal, Sr. Maria Rosario, Sr. Eugene Mary Pathrose, Sr. Joyce Sebastian and Sr. Theresa Kavungal, members of the previous council. She thanked Sr. Marivel Monteveros, the Chapter Secretary and Sr. Marychelle Gruta, Sr. Tech.

Sr. Leena thanked the community of Santa Ana Provincial House for all the arrangements they made to make this great event a success. She also thanked all the participants of the Chapter;

she thanked the two scrutinizers Srs. Baby Jane Enomlay and Josephine Haloot. In short, she expressed her gratefulness and appreciation to everyone. Then, she declared the VIII Provincial Chapter of St. Francis Xavier Province closed.

To God, be the glory for ever.

