

The Province of St Anthony, Singapore-Myanmar, saw 35 Sisters gathered to celebrate the Applicative Session of the Provincial Chapter from 17-20 Jan 2023. This was held at LifeSprings, Canossian Spirituality Center.

Sr Christina Yeo, Provincial Leader welcomed everyone and officially declared the Chapter open and Sisters invoked the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit with a solemn hymn. The Eucharist was celebrated with Fr Francis Lim sj who later led us in an enlightening session on 'Discernment in Common'. In the afternoon, Sr Christina introduced the facilitator Ms Theresa Goh, our ex-pupil - a global consultant and coach.

Theresa commented that in a rapidly changing world, we Canossians, are called to transform lives. Recalling the symbolism of new wine in new wineskins, she said we are challenged to live the centrality of the gospel in a time of polarities and paradoxes: the desire for control vs flexibility; new ministries vs diminishing vocations and energies.

We started with a reality check: where are we and where do we want to go? What is our future-desired state? How do we get there?

In line with the General Chapter themes on governance, formation, mission, the first 3 days were spent in looking at the values inherent in the themes. We realize the importance of spiritual conversations that each one of us need to engage in; to build resilient, Christ-centred communities, witnessing to the Kingdom of God.

We saw the need for effective governance at all levels: accountability, managing conflict of interest and transparency. We will not be able to live out our mission without personal/interpersonal formation and transformation. Sisters responded enthusiastically, and diligently learnt from Theresa the many skills needed for better communication among ourselves, better planning for mission. We then moved on to set our goals on good stewardship charting a new direction to address emerging poverties and needs of society.

The 4th and final day was devoted to the drawing up of the Province Statutes and Resolutions. This was facilitated by Sr Cecily Pavri and Sr Marilyn Lim as we focussed on the values and purpose of the Statutes. Proposals from the Provincial Council and the Communities in Singapore-Myanmar had been consolidated earlier and these were presented, commented upon, and questions that arose were clarified. Sisters then voted for each article that was proposed with coloured cards: green for approval, yellow for abstention and red for objection. The outcomes were accordingly recorded. Conclusively, Sr Christina formally brought the Chapter to a close. In unison of hearts, Sisters, with a grateful heart and spirit-filled joy spontaneously thanked God and Mother Mary with the Magnificat.

The evening closed with a grand celebration of the traditional Chinese New Year reunion '*Lo Hei*' [tossing up good fortune] and dinner followed by traditional distribution of *Ang Pows* (Red packets). Indeed, it was an evening of heartfelt thanksgiving for the many graces received during these four intense days of growing together in deeper trust and openness.

Our Foundress, we felt must be smiling on us as her presence was tangibly felt by each one of us in all our Chapter deliberations/learning, decisions and especially as we grew closer to each other through all that we experienced.

written by Sr Marilyn Lim



Sr Chris Yeo expressed her gratitude to the Sisters for their loving cooperation and responding to the Wonderful movement of the Holy Spirit.



Sr Maria J Awn with a 'Thank you' gift for our Facilitator Ms Theresa Goh.



Srs Chris Yeo, Sr Gerry Tan & Sr Louisa Lim with our external secretary Ms Martina Tan.



This has been the BEST province chapter since the first one that I attended in 1994. Why so? A brilliant facilitator who elicited from us where we are and where we want to go. We were led to be courageous to stir change in ourselves. There was much energy, bonding and seeking the God who called us forth.
Sr Cecily Pavri

Sr Gerry Tan with a Chinese New Year gift for Fr Francis.





It was a journey within, for more self discovery and the need to move and risk as prompted, for the kingdom of God is within. 'Cast your net into the deep' 'Do not be afraid'. Yes have faith instead of fear. As each of us repent, shaking off old habits and attitudes, putting on Christs' mind and heart, we grow 'in holiness' together. Perhaps then, can that fire St Magdalene speaks of be ignited and burn/ shine brightly. Sr Dot Lim



This has been a very energizing experience of growing together with my Sisters in our relationship with one another in Jesus. I feel we have embarked on a new journey with a renewed desire of wanting to live our lives more meaningfully as Canossian Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor. My hope is as I get to know myself and my Sisters better through open, trustful communication and spiritual conversations as a community, I will be a more authentic witness in whatever I do. Sr Janet Wang



**Sisters, focused and committed
to the process...**



**Sisters, called to be a light in St
Magdalene's footsteps...**

