

**16th September 2019**, a red letter day in the history of the Congregation of the Religious of Jesus and Mary, for 61 religious women, from 28 countries around the world journeyed to their Generalate in Rome to commence the 37th General Chapter.

Sr. Monica Joseph, the Superior General, in her opening allocation warmly welcomed each capitular to this historic moment in the post 200 years of the Congregation. She invited the sisters to look together at the signs of the time, to which we are called to respond with hope.

The Allocation Address was followed by a business and voting session to the various responsibilities in the Chapter. The Chapter elected the following sisters as:

- Coordinator : Sr. Ruth M<sup>a</sup> Otero (Argentina);
- Moderator: Sr. Josée Therrien (French), Linda Abicha (English) and Encarna Viarnès (Spanish);
- Auxiliary Moderators: Sr. M<sup>a</sup> Elia Rojas (French), Shanty George (English) and M<sup>a</sup> Eugenia Echavarria (Spanish);
- Scrutineers: Sr. Marielle M´ve (África) and Carolina Salgado (Argentina);
- Secretary: Sr. Françoise Barras (French), Mary Kelly (English) and Josela Gil (Spanish).

Later in the morning Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect CIVCSVA, invited us to re-read and interpret the Second Vatican Council, looking at various important aspects of Religious life, with emphasis on formation, fraternity and communion and management of our economic resources in keeping with the góspel. The morning ended with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist to the Holy Spirit.



At 4.00 pm the capitulars met for yet another business and information session.

Sr. Arantxa Gavilán (Spain) assisted by Srs. Ursula Pinto (Pune) and Flavia Da Silva (Vadodara) were appointed as Mistresses of Ceremonies.

The Liturgy Commission consists of Sr. Sofía Padilla (Argentina), Lourdes Varguez (Canadá) and Marian Saldhana (Pakistán)

The Information Commission was voted. It comprises of Sr. Mary Furuya (French), Selma D´Souza (English), Tesuca Mayorga (Spanish) and Caterina Loconte (Italian). The Various proceedings of the Chapter were voted and the Session ended with the singing of the Magnificat for indeed God has done great things for us.

After a short break the Facilitator Sr. Catherine Lloyd RSCJ through various group dynamics led the capitulars into a journey beyond just physical presence. It was a moment of getting to know each other at deeper levels so as to be effective in this moment of our congregational history.



At the end of this eventful day we continue to journey in hope trusting in the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives as RJMs in the 21st Century.