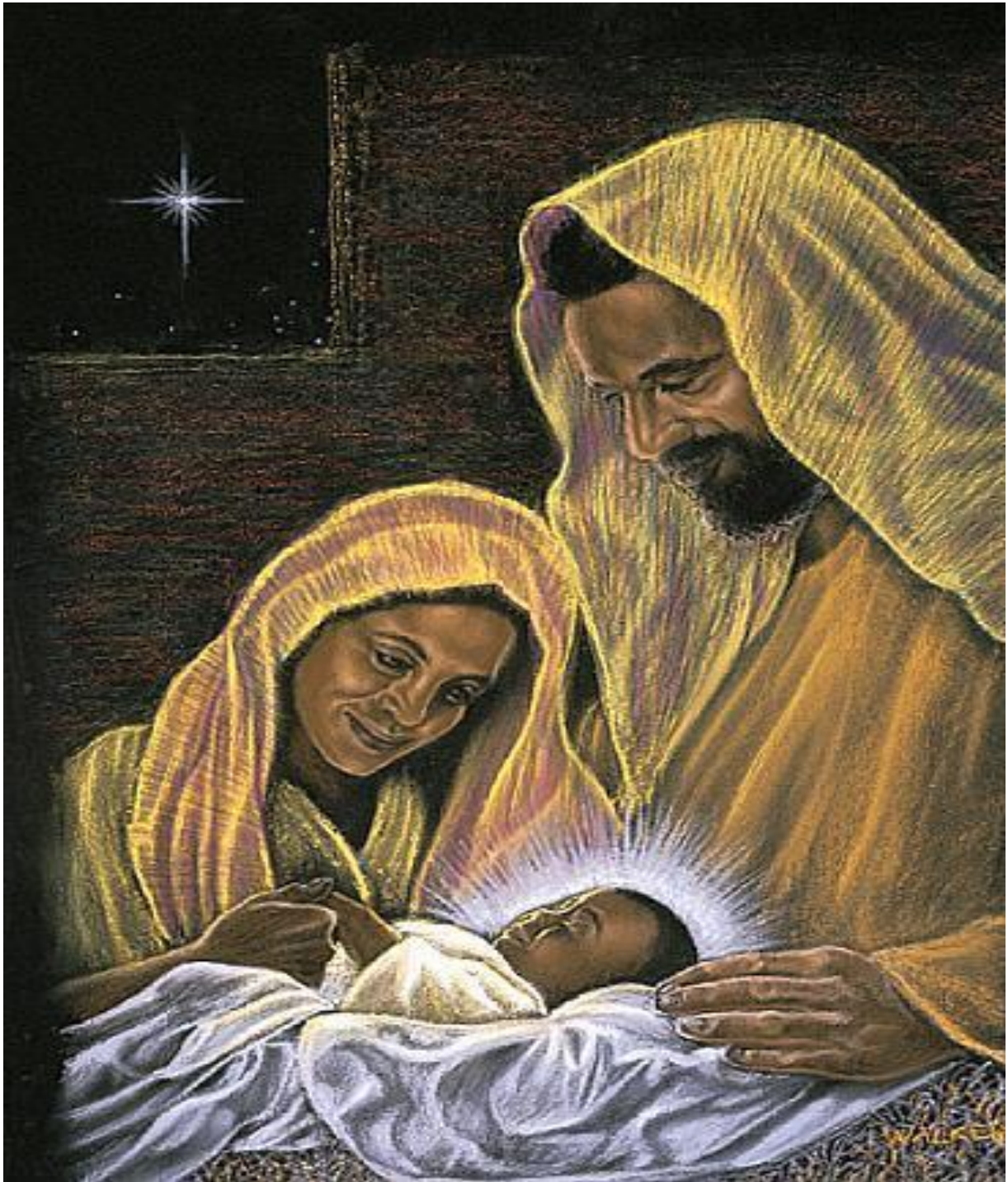


II MOSAIC – 2017



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Mystery of the INCARNESS of Jesus Christ

Celebrating the mystery of the INCARNESS of Jesus Christ, to whom we consecrate our lives is a heavenly blessing, a remembrance of the great merciful love of God for us.

God, in his infinite mercy, expresses himself in making one of us, invites us this Christmas to create unity in the diversity of our cultures inside and outside the congregation: here, grounding our life in prayer, simplicity, joy and in love; out there, giving us the mission entirely, starting with the poorest ones, following their way of being and proceeding.



Let, therefore, Jesus be reborn in our hearts and in our lives through the birth of the UNITS that make up our SMIC Family.

May our faith be strengthened and harmony and love spread throughout our SMIC communities around the world and remain throughout the year that will soon begin.

May the lights of this Christmas help us to enlighten and strengthen our multicultural communion through the living and integration of our Franciscan spirituality. May the directions of the Congregation, grounded in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, be our guides for the time of transition we are living.

We want families, especially SMIC, as well as all the people of the world, to gather together in the joy and peace of the Child Jesus.

A happy, blessed and fruitful Christmas for each sister in particular and for the graces received to extend to our entire Congregation that lives this time of hope in its restructuring.

Our embrace and our prayers

Your sisters

Sr. Livramento Sr. Beatrice
Sr. Beatrice Sr. Gizele

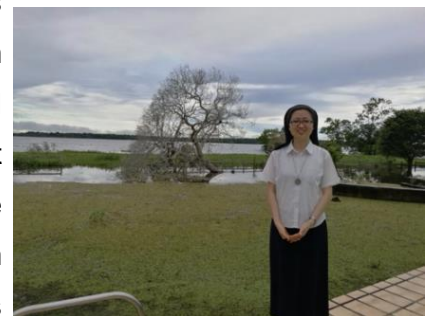
From, Sr. Anita Hu

Half a year is a long time to slow down the pace of life, converge my mind, go back to the birthplace of the Congregation, taste the fruit prepared by our ancestors and predecessor Sisters, get in touch with the achievements that was made by the love and lives of them, is such a special blessing. With my background and habits, in this open, warm and pious land, my body has been recuperated, my soul has been cared for and nourished. I have felt the power of love and forgiveness in my everyday life. Encountering the various sisters in different communities made it easy to feel their warm caring love and hospitality. Seeing them as powerful missionary models in the apostolic services and institutions, I deeply realized that we are all divine carriers of our Charism in the SMIC history. Each individual, who has been in the flow of the history and with their own talents, gives a push to the Charism to move forward to make its development sustainable. It is the time to take over the deep expectations and responsibilities of our predecessor Sisters. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."(Mt11:29-30) So there is no reason for me not to be grateful and joyful to accept everything that God prepared for me since He created me in the very beginning. May His Will be done to me. Amen.



From, Sr. Felicita Wang

The entire year is wonderful and in each of us there is something wonderful also. I treasure the precious moment with each other. Although I felt anxious and worried before I came to Brazil because of stopping my study, after one year I found the significant impact on my lifetime. I learned a lot from each other and from the Brazilian Sisters, especially we had a chance to step on the foundation land of our congregation, to touch the history, to find our root, this



brought me a great of motivation to my religious life. I will keep in my heart the thoughtful love and care of the Sisters I encountered in both Salvador and Belem Provinces, I received much inspiration from the Brazilian sisters, from their passion for mission, especially for the poor. This will encourage me to keep moving forward in my mission in the future. I will remember every moment that we as an international community grow together throughout of the whole year. Thanks to the congregation for this meaningful program, thank God for all the good gifts He granted to us each day. I enjoyed this journey very much.

From, Sr. Scholastica

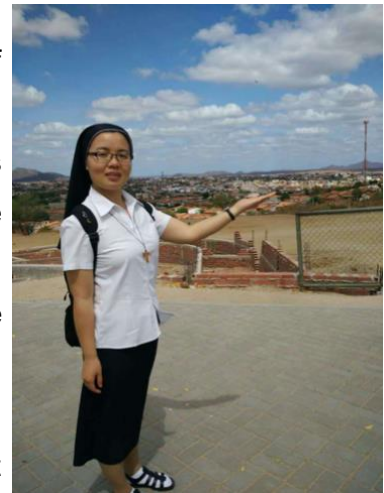
It is a gracefilled year for us. I would like to express my special thanks to each sister who has given us so much encouragement, support and prayers. We are approaching the end of the program. I especially feel that this is a year long pilgrimage fulfilled by God's guidance and blessings. We were always warmly and joyfully accepted by our sisters in each community we had visited. Although our Portuguese is very poor, it was not an obstacle for our interaction and communication with each other. There is no feeling of "disacquaintance" and distance. Once again, thank you all my dear sisters.



From, Sr. Maria Goretti

My life in Brazil is full of grace and blessing during this year and I felt God's love. God gave me an opportunity for my growth, I am full of peace and gratitude to Him. In this year, I had a great experience that I never had before and it has broadened my horizons. Through the courses I took and daily life events, I learned how to be in unity as a member of the SMIC family in acceptance of cultural differences. I do really appreciate it.

I would like to thank the sisters in both provinces of Brazil for the loving care that they have showed to me, for their hospitality and thoughtfulness. I felt a deep sense of belonging though we are from different cultures and yet we are all one in the SMIC family. It is a great honor for me to step on the foundation land of our congregation, to go through the congregational historical site where our fore sisters once left their footprints with their loving heart and hard work.



My heart is full of gratitude after one year of common formation experience in Brazil and I am very grateful for being part of the SMIC family. This will be the most meaningful year in my life.

Review and Reflections From, Sr. Veritas Yang

Time flies and we have come to the end of the Common Formation Program! I am very grateful to the Congregation for giving me this opportunity to take part in our International community life as a preparation for my life commitment to God – Perpetual Profession of my Religious vows. This is truly an important and enriching year for me. Though we are an International Congregation, this is the first time, and I hope not the last, to experience International Community Life. My life has been enriched through

this multicultural experience that has laid a good foundation for my life in the future. I feel that it is very important to an International Congregation as SMIC that Sisters with different cultures would be able to have respect, trust, listen to and be mutually inclusive. Though we are spread out in different continents, WE ARE ONE.

I thank God for what I have received this year, be it challenges or experiences, all are part of my life growth. When I was told I would be one of the participants for this Common Formation Program, I was both happy and excited and a little worried about my limited language skills. I could not believe that I would be qualified for it. God has done this great thing for me! And I am extremely grateful!

When I learned that the site for the CFP 2016-17 would be moved to Brazil instead of Manila, where the congregation started and our founders, Mother Immaculata and Dom Amado had lived and served, I was so happy that I could personally step on the footprints left by our founders. What touched me most is the reality that when Mother Immaculata and our fore sisters came to Brazil without knowing the language and with such inadequate living conditions, through their daily prayer, they were able to build a deep relationship with God, thus they would not be knocked down by whatever hardship they were to encounter. When I personally walked on and through the places that Mother Immaculata had been

I immediately knew that I have found my ROOT. From this ROOT, I draw the nutrients that would nourish my religious life. This year, no matter how much difficulties in language, either in daily communication or in all course learnings, made me nervous and anxious. I have found anew my identity as Franciscan Missionary sister, and the SMIC Charism.

This new experience gave me a new strength and power. It is so true that life has to dive into its depth instead of remaining on the surface. As Jesus said to Peter, "Draw from the depth and you will have a good catch." My life is like a big tree with luxuriant branches that has to go deep into the very depth of the earth in order to get nutrients needed to sustain its growth. It is the same with my religious life. I need to constantly return to the History of the Congregation for the strength that comes out from the Roots, because Mother Immaculate, our founder, the forerunner of the Congregation, who had laid down for us a strong and deep foundation.

During this year in Brazil, I have taken part in many community activities which have all touched me deeply that even made me think of settling down in Brazil. We also had chances to visit Sisters in both Brazilian Units, though not all of them. I believe in God's love that united us in heart and spirit. I am very grateful to our Brazilian Sisters for their acceptance and hospitality that made me so feel at home



like a returning family member. I have learned very much from our Brazilian Sisters, their joy as consecrated religious women and their dedicated service to the poor. They are vividly living out the Charism of the Congregation. All of these have renewed my religious commitment and given me strength and perseverance to continue to journey on. I do know how important this year is to me.

Our Charism calls us to be a contemplative compassionate presence to others, especially to the most needy, the forgotten ones. This is the spirit of Franciscan Missionaries. I have witnessed this in the persons of our Brazilian Sisters.

Everything Passes and Life Continues From, Sr. Maria Creuza Peixoto

During this year I had the opportunity to live with the Sisters from China, Taiwan and Namibia. It was a very good time during my time with them. Although we did not understand the language, we related very well by gestures and some communications in Portuguese that over time they have been learning. That was great!



I was radiant with the way they communicated: the joy, the friendship, solidarity, and sisterhood among us, the willingness to meet the people who came, especially the children. In the community their presence was very important. They had a great ability to communicate with everyone, even without knowing the Portuguese language.

Another thing that caught my attention was the relationship with the market employees and with the greengrocers. They both fell in love

with the way the Sisters treated them.

We had a farewell party for them where several people from the community participated. They all brought a memory to them as an expression of affection and friendship. Chinese friends of ours also participated in this celebration, inserting themselves in Brazilian culture in a joyful and participative way.

Sister Silvia was a heroine with the responsibility and all the service she provided to this group, from the preparation of our house to receiving them until farewell. The dedication, the patience of knowing how to listen and follow, facing the challenges of the community, the animation, the testimony of involving the group in the mission, was very significant. We had the collaboration of Sisters Beatrix and Veronica. I believe that this experience positively marked their lives forever.

I know that everything passes and life goes on, but I praise and thank God for having the grace to live with this group, where I learned a lot and now I not only miss them, I miss them very much

The seed of Vocation must be planted at an early age in the young people by: Sr. Helena

I and Sr. Monika attended the vocation promotion workshop at Oshikuku(OVamboland) from 15-17 September 2017. The Vocation workshop was blessed with 75 young people and eight Congregations of men and women. I shared about our Congregation's History, together with that I linked my vocation story and how God worked greatly in my life until I responded to



His call. Sr. Monika explained the different steps in our Congregation and distributed the pamphlets to the young people. The Sunday Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. John Hausiku OMI.

In his homily Father touched on the Transfiguration of the Lord and how Abraham was called to do God's work. We are all called in different ways but the reality of our life experience must be accepted and continued. He added how the three disciples presented themselves on the Mount. This experience must be taken into our life experience as we face the reality of life. I would say that overall this

vocation workshop was fruitful as young people were keen to listen and showed great interest.

I hope many will be able to open their hearts and listen to God's call more seriously in their lives.

A Day of Joy and Peace in Gobabis / Namibia by Sr. Francis

It was indeed a day of joy of peace. Parents, God-parents, Family and Friends were gathered here in Gunichas to celebrate this special day with us. Especially the newly confirmed candidates, 51 in total. We were having His Excellency Archbishop Liborious N. Nashenda in our midst. The Mass was presided over by His Excellency the Archbishop, our Parish Priest Fr. Raymond Shikesho, and the Deacon Michael Kasati, from Blauberg.

Introduction:

In his homily his Excellency addressed mostly the newly confirmed candidates, reminding them of this memorable day in their lives and in their Christian journey. They should always live a life worthy to receive Christ. To lived in the spirit of love and hope. He was stressing God's compassion and mercifulness. That God will never reject us. We all should imitate God in His



mercifulness by being kind and good to our brothers and sisters. He encouraged us from John's

Gospel: If we want to enter God's kingdom: "Love me by loving your brothers and sisters. We should keep Gods commandments if we wish to remain in His peace.

They have been sent out (Like the early Apostles)

- They should always be ready to proclaim the good news.
- Not ever to abandon their faith.
- To be always willing to participate in Church activities and Be proud to be Catholic

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebrated Its Golden Jubilee

From, Sr. Jane

You may have heard that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, with events in many countries. On Pentecost Eve, June 3rd, Pope Francis with 50,000 charismatics from 120 countries of the world celebrated with a gigantic prayer meeting in Rome's Circus Maximus.

Among events in the US was the 2017 Jubilee Conference, "Rivers of Living Water," July 20-23 in Pittsburgh, PA. This was the city where Duquesne University students originally experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that ignited graces of Confirmation that led them to a closer relationship with Jesus and ways of sharing that. By God's grace working through a charismatic Haitian friend, Clerice, I got to share a room and attend this year's Pittsburgh conference. Everything functioned in three main languages: French (Haitians made up 1/3 of the attendees), Spanish, and English. The Filipinos and the Vietnamese also had talks on some days.

I was impressed by many great speakers, liturgies, and music carrying out three themes: 1. The urgency of our times for the Holy Spirit to pour out gifts of Christian witness and healing that our world so deeply needs. 2. The ways that we can share Jesus in a "spiritual ecumenism" to offer these gifts in many circles in which Christians live and move. I especially enjoyed Dr. Vinson Synan, a classic Pentecostal who went from skepticism that the Holy Spirit could really inflame Catholics to a fellow-witness who has shared in all the main Catholic charismatic events of these 50 years. 3. The torch is being picked up by leaders in the next generation. One leader of that group calls them the "Joshua Generation" who want to carry Jesus through the Holy Spirit to their peers, but also need us who are the elder "Moses Generation" to mentor and assist them.



In the 1980's the People of Hope, a Catholic charismatic covenant community in New Jersey, began reaching out to children in their community with summer camping sessions. Tim, this year's leader of Camp Hope, invited me to bring a few Sisters to the camp. Our Sisters Naomi, Hannah, and Augustina went with me for one day, watching how the older teens ministered to the younger ones, and even the little children played in the care of one of the mothers.



The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is entering a new phase through the Holy Spirit. Urged by Pope Francis himself, we are offering again Life in the Spirit Seminars (LISS) and other ways of inviting people to know God's personal love, plus various follow-ups. The Paterson Diocesan Charismatic Renewal Team held an LISS in the past two Springs. In addition to that, they also held sessions in some parishes and prayer groups. After the 2017 LISS, we initiated a monthly diocesan prayer meeting for all charismatics which meets on the 2nd Mondays of each month at the diocesan Evangelization Center, St. Paul Inside the Walls. All are welcome!

smic-sisters with Camp hope Director

USA Annual Gathering From, Sr. Eleanor

At the end of August, the United States held its annual gathering at San Alphonso Retreat Center, on the edge of the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. With that backdrop it was a relaxed and informative time together.

Two major directions emerged: first, the province developed their strategy for implementing the international decision to close province governing within the next six years. The second major direction resulted in the commitment to work as a province on the issue of refugees and immigrants, continuing what individual Sisters have already been doing. The direction statement reads:



“Whereas, the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God, living our Franciscan heritage, are not only hearers of the Word, but doers—

And, whereas, we are called to care for our brothers and sisters in need we choose as a province to commit our resources of time, talent and treasure to work together to alleviate the suffering

of refugees and immigrants who come to our nation, seeking a new home.

Our efforts include the following:

Being in relationship with refugees and immigrants by

- Assisting with their re-settlement, education, access to those things necessary for life.
- Supporting legislation which enables a better life for refugees and immigrants (such as the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals - DACA).
- Opposing all efforts to build a wall along our southern border including making a public statement.
- Connecting with Network and Franciscan Action Network, both advocacy groups on a national level.
- Being willing to speak in a nviolent way in order to educate and raise consciousness of others with regard to refugees, immigrants and the profiling of people based on race or ethnicity.
- Providing public support of positive actions of others.
- Continuing to collaborate with others involved locally with refugee and immigrant issues.”

The remainder of the meeting centered upon ways to live out the other international decisions



to intensify living our Franciscan spirituality, to better understand the reality of climate change and how to work to counteract its effects and finally to deepen our awareness, as members of an international religious congregation, of reaching beyond our borders to embrace the well-being of others throughout the world.“ We have begun our commitment to the refugees by adopting a Syrian family for the holiday season to provide winter outer wear for each family member as

well as some playthings

for the 4 children.

We also have each chosen a month to provide informative websites, articles, etc. as part of our monthly newsletter highlighting input for our General Chapter and province directives. Finally we have participated in campaigns through email and the internet to educate and advocate for immigrants, climate change issues and peace initiatives.

XX ASSEMBLY OF THE HOLY CROSS-SALVADOR From, Sr. Ana Lúcia Pereira SMIC

You see, I'm doing something new: it's sprouting now, and do not you see? (Isaiah 43,19).

It was necessary to open our eyes and heart to walk the path of the dynamics of the provincial assembly that took place on 10-15 October in the Province of the Holy Cross. Praise God for harmony, tranquility, peace and seriousness.

We received a bean sprout germinating at the beginning of the assembly, to care for as a symbol of our walk and every day to water, pay attention, see the process that happened to break the earth and grow.



All of us were able to experience that something new was already emerging in our midst because the collaboration of all the Sisters was very good. We were eager to embrace this new moment, everything was very well organized. We worked in groups where grassroots and consensus table facilitators played their part very well. Together we perceive the lightness of the Spirit of God guiding us.

Spirituality was the culmination; we had time to contemplate, to delve into our interior to hear and identify not only our feelings but what the other was saying. We felt that the sharing of faith helped us a lot to pray more intensely and all the sisters were able to express the richness of spirituality. Frei Moacir Casagrande enriched us with the reflection of the gospel and reminded us that "Transitional Spirituality" is moving us to a process of passage, and this requires of each of us a constant conversion for the Spirit to speak.

We realize that communication between us must be trained to better growth of compassion and human integration, to know how to dialogue through nonviolent communication is God's grace for our community life. Our dear Sister Livramento facilitated this moment with simplicity and lightness and we did some training exercises from the explanation of the theme.

We are also grateful for the great help of Sister Janis Jordan, who is always ready to help us understand the whole process of restructuring.

May the God of life help us to cultivate, care for and embrace the new that has come. May we be consecrated joyful, mystical, women of good fraternal coexistence, who open our hearts to see that new things spring between us and together we can be stronger.

BELEM'S PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

Sr. Maria José

From 05 to 09 of October all members of the Belem Province were invited to participate in the historical Assembly to decide if we continue to be a Province or to change our form of government. We followed the decisions of the 2016 General Chapter. To help us to study, to reflect and to decide we had three illustrious facilitators: our General Minister, Sr. Livramento, Father Moacir Casagrande, OFM Cap., and Sr. Janis Jordan, SMIC. They helped us to understand the dynamic of the Assembly and how to work in groups and get a good final result.

We paused for several moments to reflect and to work on the process of transition, to prepare ourselves in the spirituality of transition of the Congregation. We focused on: the principles of the community discernment, the nonviolent communication and the Directions and Actions for the Congregation.

It was very efficient the way the three worked with us to create a climate of prayer at the ambient of work. We kept total silence during the time when we stayed at the conference room. That situation was very useful to work and get good results. We worked with calm and in good understanding. When we finished the Assembly, we knew that we were ready to be a Province no longer. We were prepared to follow the steps for the new situation of the Congregation.



**Renewal of Vows: Srs. Lydia Phạm, Joyce Hà and Jennifer Ngô
(from left to right)
November 25, 2017, Tainan, Provincialate
Holy Name of Jesus Province**



The Ending-of-the Term Reviewing Gathering

After consultation of the Sisters of the Asia Holy Name of Jesus Province, development of the issues listed in the timetable for the implementation of the new model; and the pre-approval by the GLT the Governance Policy of the Holy Name of Jesus Unit, the Asia PLT called for a Chapter of Mats on November 26 to review the implementation of the XV Asia Provincial Chapter Acts.

In this morning, there were faith sharing and clarification of reports (which were written by all communities, apostolate units and the committees of various tasks). In the afternoon we shared in small groups about what we were most grateful and satisfied for the past three years, and what greatest change we want to see for the next three years. From all the posted expected changes we want to see, would emerge the directions and proposals for the first Unit Assembly which is to be held from January 16 to 20, 2018.

After this session, Sr. Benedicta Kuo, the provincial coordinator, shared about the revised Governance Policy for the coming Unit, the preparation of the first Unit Assembly, and then announced the DECREE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PROVINCE OF HOLY NAME OF

JESUS, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIT OF THE HOIY NAME OF JESUS issued by Sr. Livramento, the Minister General. The decree is effective on 27 November 2017.

The transition rituals from Holy Name of Jesus Province to Holy Name of Jesus Unit would be celebrated after the election and inauguration of the New Unit Leadership Team.



The Gathering was held on Nov. 26, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe at the Provincialate



The gathering started with faith sharing in seven groups



Clarification of the reports



Sr. Benedicta sharing about the revised Governance Policy pre-approved by GLT