



## **Celebration of the Vows of Sandra Cayetano Victoriano**

*By Ana Ramirez U. RSCJ (MEX)*

On Saturday, May 7, the city of Leon became the spiritual and emotional center of the RSCJ Province of Mexico. Almost half of the province was there in person and the rest of the sisters, the community of Reñaca Alto, in Chile, where Sandy did her novitiate, and a good number of RSCJ from the Philippine Region and Rome, were there virtually.

The Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Luis Arturo Macias SJ, who has accompanied Sandy in her life journey, and by the parish priest and the vicar of the parish. It was a long Eucharist, but that did not bother us, because it overflowed with the deep meaning that infuses the life of a person who decides to follow Jesus in community and serve their people. The readings and the songs really moved us.

It was very meaningful and, for me, very valuable, to see Sandy walking in front of her parents in the entrance procession. It really showed that they were presenting her to the Lord as a cherished offering.

A key moment was the "Liturgy of the Vows": Sandy's presentation by her formator, who spoke to us from Chile, Sandy's response proclaiming her clear and conscious decision, the formula of the Vows and the handing over of the Crucifix and the Constitutions. A rite with a long history, which reminds all of us of this key moment in our lives.

At the end of the Eucharist, all the participants were moved as they listened to Sandy's parents who, at the request of Fr. Luis Arturo, shared their feelings about this experience of giving their daughter to God. It was heartwarming to see Sandy come forward, welcome them down from the presbytery, give them an affectionate hug and respond with the blessing, which is so expressive and has so much history.

At the end of the celebration I asked myself a question: We, the RSCJ who accompany Sandy, either in person or virtually, in this celebration that will define the direction of her life, how can we welcome her, support her, and accompany her? These were Arturo's words before the penitential act and the suggestions he gave Sandy to guide her life:

- In the penitential act: to recognize that, as humans, we are joined by our own and others' limitations, and to welcome these serenely and with compassion, in the style of Jesus.
  - In the homily:
    - Her full trust in God our Father, and our trust in her.
-



## Sociedad del Sagrado Corazón Provincia de México

---

- To offer her a community that strengthens and encourages her
- The freedom to be true to herself, to follow Jesus in her own way.

At the end of the Eucharist, we were all invited to go to the "Community Center" to continue socializing in a different way. The large space favored a joyful and simple sharing. The León community prepared a traditional and delicious "taquiza" = a variety of stews in delectable tortillas, hibiscus and watermelon water and a huge cake. A truly Mexican meal.

The festivities ended with much gratitude and joy at having a new Religious of the Sacred Heart in our province. We welcome you, Sandy, as you follow Jesus in our provincial community.

---