



XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA BANGALORE

Newsletter No. 11 December 2020

CONTENTS

Christmas... a time of hope

In Memoriam – Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, fmm

Administrative and Academic Audit

A brief report of the

- Executive Board Meetings
- Annual General Body Meeting
- XBHEI's discussions on NEP

Report on programmes of XBHEI for Colleges

Workshops on Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation

Archbishop Daniel Acharuparambil Memorial International Lectures

Training programme for team members Administrative and Academic Audit

Forthcoming events

National Youth Leadership programme “Catholic University Online youth fest Jan 22-24, 2021” being organized by St. Joseph’s College, Trichy, TN.

Webinar on ‘Fratelli Tutti’ – Encyclical of Pope Francis Jan 2021.

Leadership Programme for Women Principals (Online) Feb – Mar 2021.



CHRISTMAS: A TIME OF HOPE

Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC

Former Principal, Holy Cross College, Agartala, Tripura &

Former Vice President, Xavier Board.

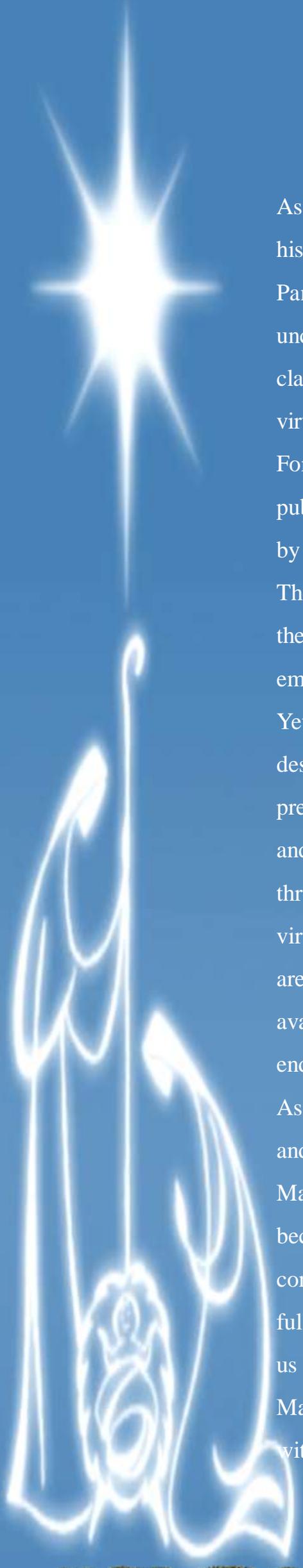
As we all have experienced, we are living in a painful time of history. The distressing situation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought about immense sufferings, despair, uncertainties, fear, and isolation across the world apart from claiming many lives. No one ever thought that an invisible virus would push humanity to the precipice of existence.

For the first time in history, all churches were closed, and all public worship cancelled. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by priests and the faithful participated through virtual mode. The economy and social edifice has seen upheavals. In short, the pandemic has brought about tremendous agony and emotional pain in the lives of people.

Yet, all is not lost. We are people with hope. Jesus has not deserted us. He is sleeping in our boats (Mk.4/38). He is present with us. He will not allow us to perish. He cares for us and will calm all our fears and give us peace. He will work through scientists, doctors and governments, rebuking the virus and will bring about an end to this terrible pandemic. We are already seeing some light at the end of the tunnel as the availability of vaccine slowly becomes a reality and thus the end of the pandemic is imminent.

As the dawn of Christmas draws near, let us increase our hope and ask Jesus to increase our faith in Him who is our Lord and Master. Let us trust in Him who calmed the sea (Mk.4/39) because as the Son of God, He is the only one who has full control of all the elements of nature. Let our days ahead be full of hope and let the feast of the nativity of our Lord bring us immense joy, peace, and good health.

May this Peace and Joy of the little babe of Bethlehem be with you this Christmas season!



IN MEMORIAM



DR. SR. HELEN VINCENT FMM,

AUG. 4, 1931- DEC. 14, 2020

Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent FMM, former Principal (1978-1990) and Secretary of Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai was a visionary leader, a dynamic educationalist and a committed religious who belonged to the congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM).

She was one of the Executive Committee Members of Xavier Board when it was registered as a Society in September 1985 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. Later after her retirement as Principal from Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai, she served Xavier Board of Higher Education in India as Secretary from 1990-1994, with dedication and commitment.

Her yeoman services to the field of Higher Education in India and in particular to the development of Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai is worthy of emulation. She was instrumental in Stella Maris being granted Autonomous status and guided the college in the first few years of Autonomy.

As Principal of a leading Women's College as an Professor of Economics, she served on several academic bodies of the University of Madras and on Autonomous and Affiliated Colleges in Tamil Nadu and across India. She also left a mark on the numerous students who passed through the portals of the Stella Maris College. Her life was one of leadership and an example of discipline and commitment to all that God entrusted her with. She had a soft, large heart for the poor and downtrodden, she never sent away anyone who came to her for help. With an astounding memory for numbers and names she would rattle off the names of students and the year of passing out of the college. A dear friend to many of her faculty and students her demise has left a void difficult to fill. A true Franciscan, her wants were minimal and she had an extraordinary love for plants and animals. Every stray cat and dog became a pet for her!

We comfort ourselves with the words of Paul Claudel:

"Death is not the extinguishing of the light, it is putting out the lamp, because the Dawn has come".

Yes, the Eternal Dawn has come in the life of Sr. Helen Vincent, FMM.



Xavier Board Administrative & Academic Audit (XB-AA Audit)

A brainchild of XBHEI, which was sparked by a suggestion from Fr. Dr. Thomas C Mathew, CMI, former Vice-Chancellor of Christ deemed to be University & currently prior General CMI Congregation, resulted in XBHEI taking serious steps to devise and bring to fruition the Administrative and Academic Audit process for colleges in India.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) requires Higher Education Institutions to audit both the administrative and academic programmes in the institutions regularly. XBHEI provides this service of auditing institutions who wish to undertake the process.

The objectives of the XB-AA Audit are:

- To understand the existing system and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the various departments and administrative units,
- To suggest methods for improvement and overcoming weaknesses.
- To identify bottlenecks in the existing administrative mechanisms
- To identify the opportunities for academic, administrative and examination reforms, etc.
- To evaluate the optimum utilization of financial and other resources.
- To suggest methods for continuous improvement of quality and sustenance of quality in the institution, keeping in mind the assessment strategies and requirements of accrediting bodies.

The expected outcomes of an Audit are:

- The AA-Audit report be placed before Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Governing Body (GB) of the HEI.
- A Plan of Action (POA) be prepared to implement the suggestions accepted by IQAC and GB.
- HEIs should formally prepare the guidelines / ordinances for AA Audit, so that it becomes an institutionalised practice.

The XB-AA Audit is done by a team of Professors / Principals including Peer Team Members of NAAC. Reports are based on the filled in manual (instrument) and onsite visit to the institution which includes interaction with all stakeholders of the institution.

XBHEI charges a nominal fee for administrative costs. The institution bears the expenses for the travel and accommodation of the peer team members. Audits are undertaken all year round.

For further details please refer www.xavierboard.org

71st Executive Board Meeting (online), May 26, 2020:

The 71st Executive Board Meeting was held via WebEx on 26th May, 2020 at 10.00 a.m. The meeting began with a prayer by Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip FMM, Secretary General, XB read the report of the activities since the last Board meeting.

In his Presidential Address Rev. Fr. Antony Arackal spoke of the drastic changes taking place globally due to COVID -19, the effects of which are also keenly felt in India, especially in the field of education.

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Coordinator, XB Programs spoke on the implementation of Learning Management System (LMS). She listed the pros and cons of using LMS

Fr. Maria Charles SDB, Secretary, CBCI Commission for Education and Culture speaking on the uncertainty of re-opening of educational institutions in the near future and shifting of focus onto online education pointed out his apprehensions on several issues. He stated that practical guidelines in this regard would be sent by the CBCI. He suggested that under the present political situation we need to have a Think Tank to handle the fallout of the pandemic as the misery of the poor is escalating. He requested suggestion of names of persons who can do something at the national level.

Following are a few important points that were recommended / suggested:

- As HEI's, request Government to do something definite for the migrant workers.
- Invite Archbishop of Kolkata, Chairman, CBCI Commission for Education & Culture, New Delhi, for our Board meeting.
- Give more publicity to XB AA Audit and train more Audit team members.
- Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier & Dr. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier to compile a list of resource persons / teams for XB National office.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Sr. Annamma. She emphasized the need to take forward the important points that were discussed and also stated that the presence of Bishops / Archbishops was needed to connect us as one Catholic Body. She then thanked Fr. Antony Arackal for the logistics of the meeting and all the members for their active participation. The Meeting came to a close at 1.00 pm.



72nd Executive Board Meeting (Online), August 22, 2020:

The 72nd Board meeting was held online (on Google Meet platform) on Saturday, August 22, from 10.00am to 1.00pm

The Board Meeting began with the meaningful prayer by Dr. Sr. Pearl.

At the 71st Board Meeting several decisions were made and their implementation was followed up with the member institutions and at the XB office.

Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ gave an introduction to the NEP 2019 and Fr. Joye James, SJ made his comments and suggestions on **‘Strategies for implementation of NEP at Catholic Higher Education Institutions’**

Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ gave an in-depth analysis of the NEP and highlighted the negative nuances in the document, not immediately obvious to the common person and which had strong communal overtones and could have great repercussions for Minorities and their Institutions.

This was followed by a brief discussion on the NEP by the Members.

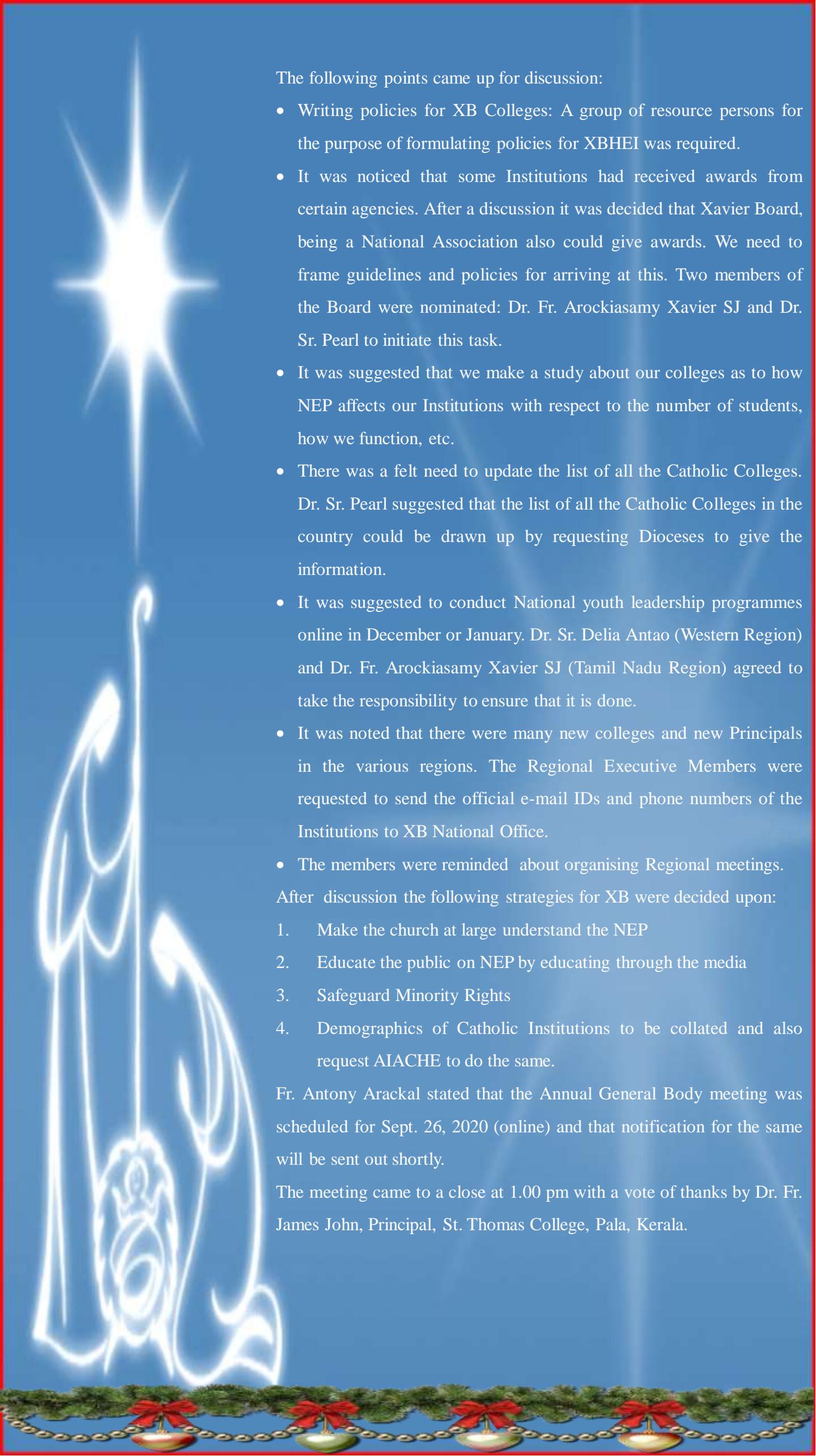
Fr. Lancelot D’Cruz, SJ, stated that he had identified 3 areas with the NEP that required looking into: Issues with the non-commitment to the Reservation Policy as laid out in the Constitution. He requested XB to work with legal experts regarding the Reservation Policy and the NEP. He & several others stated that Education was on state governments’ concurrent list and states cannot abdicate that role to the centre and finally the issue of Minority Rights. Fr. Lancelot also said that these 3 areas will touch our institutions, their administration and functioning and requested XB to collate the demographics of all the Catholic Colleges in the country.

Finally, it was decided to form a committee which would study the NEP in detail and make recommendations to the Government for looking into the issues which will affect the Minorities and negatively impact the Reservation Policy, implications for the states as education is on the concurrent list.

The following names were suggested Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier (Convenor), Fr. Joye James (Joint Convenor), Fr. Leslie Moras, Dr. Fr. Lancelot D’Cruz, Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil, Fr. Francis Parmar and Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza.

Fr. Maria Charles, stated that the Salesian IT Centre in Yelagiri was doing work on collating all the information about Catholic Schools in the country. He said that DB Soft-tech could do the same for XB Colleges. It was decided to collaborate with CBCI and draw up a list of all the Catholic Colleges in the country.





The following points came up for discussion:

- Writing policies for XB Colleges: A group of resource persons for the purpose of formulating policies for XBHEI was required.
- It was noticed that some Institutions had received awards from certain agencies. After a discussion it was decided that Xavier Board, being a National Association also could give awards. We need to frame guidelines and policies for arriving at this. Two members of the Board were nominated: Dr. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ and Dr. Sr. Pearl to initiate this task.
- It was suggested that we make a study about our colleges as to how NEP affects our Institutions with respect to the number of students, how we function, etc.
- There was a felt need to update the list of all the Catholic Colleges. Dr. Sr. Pearl suggested that the list of all the Catholic Colleges in the country could be drawn up by requesting Dioceses to give the information.
- It was suggested to conduct National youth leadership programmes online in December or January. Dr. Sr. Delia Antao (Western Region) and Dr. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier SJ (Tamil Nadu Region) agreed to take the responsibility to ensure that it is done.
- It was noted that there were many new colleges and new Principals in the various regions. The Regional Executive Members were requested to send the official e-mail IDs and phone numbers of the Institutions to XB National Office.
- The members were reminded about organising Regional meetings.

After discussion the following strategies for XB were decided upon:

1. Make the church at large understand the NEP
2. Educate the public on NEP by educating through the media
3. Safeguard Minority Rights
4. Demographics of Catholic Institutions to be collated and also request AIACHE to do the same.

Fr. Antony Arackal stated that the Annual General Body meeting was scheduled for Sept. 26, 2020 (online) and that notification for the same will be sent out shortly.

The meeting came to a close at 1.00 pm with a vote of thanks by Dr. Fr. James John, Principal, St. Thomas College, Pala, Kerala.

Report of the Annual General Body Meeting (online) held on Saturday, 26th September at 10.00 am

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) commenced at 10.00am with a prayer by Dr. Sr. Elizabeth C.S Regional President, Xavier Board, Karnataka & Principal, Jyoti Nivas College (Autonomous), Bangalore. She gave the anecdote of a rainbow fish in which she highlighted that the more we give, the more we are enriched. Giving is a privilege which will make us happy.

The Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Thomas D'Souza inaugurated the AGM. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip FMM Secretary General, XB presented the annual report for the year 2019-20. She began with a comprehensive report of the 23rd Triennial Conference on 'Revisiting Higher Education in India: Challenges and Strategies for Catholic institutions' held at Don Bosco Institute Guwahati, Assam, September 13-15, 2019. She outlined the important Programs and activities including

National Youth Conference

- Progress of Academic & Administrative Audit
- Six online National Workshops using Talent LMS
- Five National Workshops on Documentation & Preparedness for Accreditation
- National seminars organized by the Regions
- National Workshops under the Paramarsh - UGC Scheme for Mentoring NAAC Accreditation Aspirant Institutions

She also congratulated and thanked all the Colleges for organizing webinars / Conferences / Workshops at the National & International level for Faculty & Students, during the lockdown period. She also presented the Audited Statement of Accounts 2019-2020

Fr. Antony Arackal President, XB delivered the Presidential address and highlighted the difficulties and challenges posed due to the pandemic and the National Education Policy 2020. He emphasised on a few main points in the Agenda:

Relationship with CBCI, Networking of Institutions, Training of Teachers in collaboration with Xavier Board, Institution of Awards for XB Member Colleges, Regional Coordinators and Membership Campaign etc.,

Presentation of the report from the Regions:

The following persons presented the regional reports.

- 1) Andhra and Telangana Region: Sr. B. Velangini Kumari, Principal, St. Pious X Degree & PG College, Hyderabad
- 2) East and Northeast Region-Dr. Br. Albert Longley Dkhar SDB, Principal, St. Anthony's College, Shillong
- 3) Northern Region: Sr. Pearl, Principal, Sophia College (Autonomous), Ajmer.
- 4) Karnataka Region: Dr. Sr. Venissa, AC, Principal, St. Agnes College (Autonomous), Mangalore
- 5) Kerala South Region: Dr. Chackochan Njavallil, Marian College (Autonomous), Kuttikanam, Kerala
- 6) Kerala North Region: Mr. Justin George, St. Paul's College, Kalamassery, Kerala
- 7) Western Region: Ms. Gladys D'Souza, Carmel College, Goa
- 8) Tamil Nadu Region: Fr. Santhosh Thomas, Mar Gregorious College, Chennai

Online National Youth Camps:

- a. Dr. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, SJ (Tamil Nadu Region) stated that a National Youth Programme is planned on 22-24 January 2021. A separate page will be created on the website of St. Joseph's College, Trichy for this purpose. A contact person and a group of 15 to 20 students could take part in the same. Different Online competitions such as caption competition, poster competition and short film competitions will be organised before the Event.
- b. Dr. Sr. Delia Antao, Nirmala Institute of Education, Goa (Western Region) will also organize a National Level Youth Programme.

Membership Campaign: Dr. Fr. James John, Principal, St. Thomas College, Pala, Kerala suggested to organise a membership campaign to bring all catholic institutions under the umbrella of XBHEI. For this purpose the regional co-ordinators appointed should take an active role along with the regional executives. He suggested to focus on membership drive during the months of October & November 2020.

Orientation Program for newly appointed Principals: Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip stated that there will be an online orientation Program for three or four days after about a month. The Program will take place in the afternoons.

Sharing by Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier, SJ on NEP 2020: Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier explained the New Education Policy 2020. He stated that awareness should be created about NEP 2020. Xavier Board needs to collaborate at the National Level with other organisations and bodies to challenge the policy. Fr. Joji Reddy thanked the committee with Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier (Convenor), Fr. Joye James (Joint Convenor) & other Members for the hard work and generous contribution.

Programmes conducted by XB from May 28 – December, 2020:

1. Online National Workshop on Online Teaching- Learning, Evaluation using Learning Management System (LMS).

Six online National workshops on 'Online Teaching - Learning – Evaluation' organized by XBHEI using Talent LMS between April 30 and May 30, 2020 was coordinated by Dr. Ordetta Mendoza in collaboration with 'EPIGNOSIS' (USA), 'EDIFYERS' (India). Mr. Santhosh Danawale was the other resource person.

he participants were very appreciative and gave a positive feedback.

2. Online National Workshop on 'Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation'

- 3rd National Workshop on Documentation & Preparedness for Accreditation, March 16 &17, Rosary College, Goa
- **4 Online National Workshops** on 'Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation for Affiliated and Autonomous Colleges' between April 20- and July 15, 2020.
- Online National Workshop on 'Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation' Dec. 1 -2, 2020 - St. Stephen's College, New Delhi

XBHEI Response to NEP 2020

➤ Online Meeting on Aug 7, 2020

The New Education Policy 2020 was published on July 31, 2020 and immediately XB decided to study the document and draw up a summary of the same. The UGC had also requested Colleges to send a feedback on the NEP in the form provided by the UGC. Given this opportunity XB sent out the feedback form to all member institutions to send their feedback to the UGC after making a study of the NEP document.

A meeting was held for the executive board members on August 7th evening during which Fr. Joseph Xavier, appraised the participants on the pros and cons of the NEP. It was decided to collate all the feedback that would be given by the participants and present the same to the full board at its next meeting on August 22, 2020.

➤ Online Consultative Meeting responding to NEP- Nov. 26, 2020

The following persons attended the meeting – Fr. Antony Arackal, Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy SJ, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip FMM, Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ, Fr. Leslie Moras, Fr. Joye James SJ, Dr. Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil, Fr. Francis Parmar SJ, Dr. Fr. Lancelot D’Cruz, Dr. Fr. D Sundar Reddy, Dr. Sr. Pearl MSA and Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza.

The meeting began with a prayer by Sr. Annamma Philip followed by a welcome address by Fr. Joji Reddy. Fr. Antony Arackal introduced the purpose of the meeting and then requested Fr. Joseph Xavier to begin by expressing his thoughts on the same.

All the members expressed their concerns and identified the important aspects that we need to focus on regarding the NEP. The Members made suggestions on how XB could initiate the process of countering these concerns.

Finally after sharing and discussion, it was decided and accepted by all present for the meeting, that 4 committees would be set up to deal with the NEP 2020 document. The committees and members for these sub committees are:

1. Preparing the document to be sent to the Government: Fr. Leslie Moras (Leader), Fr. Francis Parmar, Fr. Joji Reddy and Sr. Pearl
2. Prepare a document of a model University / HEI: Fr. Joye James (Leader), Fr. Joseph Xavier and Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil.
3. Making known to the larger public, through various communication channels, the concerns and views of the Church and Academicians regarding the NEP 2020. (Publish in the Newspapers – Get Alumni to write). Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier (Leader), Fr. Antony Arackal and Fr. Sunder Reddy.
4. Legal aspects: Fr. Lancy D’cruz (Leader) and Fr. Francis Parmar. Justice Kurian Joseph and Sr. Jessy Kurian maybe contacted for their views and assistance on this matter.

It was also decided that the documents prepared will be sent to the CBCI, Secretaries of all the Bishops and all Catholic Institutions.

The meeting came to a close with the vote of thanks by Sr. Annamma Philip.



Xavier Board was a knowledge partner in the event - **HATCH 2020 conducted by St. Francis College, Bangalore** on creating a new tomorrow with the global learning community **on August 12, 2020.**

XB co-ordinator:

A communication was sent out on August 17, 2020 reminding colleges to send the details of the XB co-ordinator to XB office. A few Colleges responded and have sent the Coordinator's details

COVID -19 pandemic relief Work at XB Institutions:

With respect to the response of colleges to the COVID -19 pandemic only three Colleges (St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Trichy, Mount Carmel college (Autonomous), Bangalore and Sophia College, Ajmer) send the report of the relief work done by their Institutions which has been circulated to all the Colleges. This information was requested from the Board members' Colleges initially. To the other Colleges, letter has not been sent out, requesting the same

Regional meetings: As discussed in 71st Board Meeting, May 26th, 2020 going forward, it would be more appropriate to conduct the Regional Meetings **Online** and a report could be sent to the Xavier Board national office. The President, Vice-President and the Secretary of XB could be invited to attend the regional meetings.

Report from East & Northeast Region:

Dr. Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil reported that they held a meeting in Shillong wherein it was discussed to have a co-ordinator for each state affiliated to the region and to conduct training programmes for these co-ordinators and make it a National movement. They also reported that during the lockdown period the administrators of institutions were constantly in touch with their governments for co-ordinating the work relating to the pandemic. They had several meetings of the Think Tank (East & Northeast Region) and gave a detailed report to the Governor.

1. Consultancy services for NAAC-SSR:

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Coordinator, XB Programmes, requested the Board to consider setting up a consulting cell which could offer consultancy services to members colleges on the NAAC-SSR. The team can be decided by the Board and the logistics for the same by the consultancy team.

Campus Ministers: Institutions to ensure that the campuses be more vibrant with Catholic activities including XB activities. It was decided at the 71st Board meeting to have one person in the Institution as campus minister or campus co-ordinator who would also be the link between the Principal of the College and XB.

Individual Membership:

To the suggestion made by Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy that veterans serving in XB Member Colleges be included in XB, Fr. Arackal was of the opinion that the individual membership system could be encouraged and regular meetings could be held for them.



Xavier Board Membership:

At present Xavier Board has 360 Institutions on its roll including 5 state / Deemed to be Universities.

Life membership:

There are 212 Life member Institutions at present.

Meeting of the National and Regional Executives (Online):

At the recent National Executive Committee meeting, it was decided to organize meetings of the Regional & National Executives online. So far, meetings were held in the following five regions in Sept.2020.

East and Northeast, Kerala North, Northern Region, Tamil Nadu Region & Kerala South.

The meetings had very helpful and enriching interactions.

Paramarsh Scheme

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Co-ordinator of Programmes of XB was invited by St. Agnes College, Mangalore Workshop on Preparing for Assessment and Accreditation by NAAC, under the Paramarsh - UGC Scheme for Mentoring NAAC Accreditation Aspirant Institutions to Promote Quality Assurance in Higher Education on Oct. 18-19, 2019. Principals and faculty members from 6 colleges selected under the above-mentioned scheme attended the programme. The participants were highly appreciative of the input sessions and thanked Dr. Ordetta and XB for the support extended in conducting this workshop.

In this regard St. Thomas College, Palai in association with Xavier Board conducted a workshop on Documentation & Preparedness for Accreditation under Paramarsh Scheme on Sept.7-9, 2020.

State and District Coordinators:

It was decided in the Executive Committee meeting held on November 19, 2020 to form Regional Executive Board inclusive of State and District coordinators. It was decided to have the following composition for the Regional Executive Board.

Composition of the Regional Executive Board:

- a. Elected Executive Members.
- b. Coordinators of the states (if many states form a region) / Coordinators of the Districts (if region is within a single state).
- c. Elected Executive members of the previous term.
- d. Co-opted Experts/ Special invitees (maybe included by the President of the region).

It was also decided to have the registration done for the Regional Executive Board Members on XB website xavierboard.org as soon as possible. The Regional President, Vice President & Secretary were requested to follow this up.

The Regional Presidents were asked to fix a date before Dec.18th, 2020 for the meeting of the Regional Executive Board with the National Executive. East and North east region has proposed Dec. 1st week.

Tamil Nadu region has proposed Dec.11/12.

St. Stephen's College, New Delhi

Report and Feedback on the 2-day online Workshop on 'Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation' .

The IQAC of the college conducted a 2-day online workshop on 'Documentation and Preparedness for Accreditation' on December 1-2, 2020, for its faculty and office staff. XBHEI provided the resource persons for the workshop. They were Dr. Ordetta Mendoza and Dr. Joe Jesudurai. Forty five members of the faculty and staff participated. The Principal, Bursar and the IQAC Coordinator were also present.

During the workshop, the resource persons apprised the participants of the various requirements of the NAAC Assessment and Accreditation process, especially the preparation of the SSR. Their presentations dealt with the 7 criteria of the NAAC - SSR in depth, those of Curriculum Design and Planning, Teaching, Learning and Evaluation, Student Support and Progression, and Innovation and Best Practices being discussed by Dr. Mendoza, and those of Research Consultancy and Extension, Infrastructure and Learning Resources, and Governance Leadership and Management being handled by Dr. Jesudurai. They also flagged the need to look at the policy-related obligations of HEIs, and generally emphasized the good practices for all the criteria and related areas. They took questions from the participants and resolved the issues at hand as they went along. In the feedback received, most participants were highly satisfied with the content and the presentation of the resource persons. Among the suggestions given, the participants felt that they additionally needed to know how to calibrate the character and activities of the college to the requirements of quality education as expected in the NAAC framework. On the whole, the workshop served as an eye opener for the all the participants in relation to the upcoming NAAC Accreditation process, and showed them the way ahead. At the end, the experts provided the information presented during the workshop to the college, and offered to continue guiding it in future in the interest of quality improvement in the functioning of the institution. The IQAC expressed its deep gratitude to the XBHEI and the experts for a very successful workshop

St. Thomas College, Palai, Kerala

Three days Workshop on Documentation and Preparedness for NAAC Accreditation was organized by St. Thomas College Palai in collaboration with Xavier Board of Higher Education in India (XBHEI) during 7-9 September 2020. The workshop was directed towards equipping the faculty members of 5 mentee colleges under the mentorship of St. Thomas College Palai under the **Paramarsh Scheme of UGC**. A total of 40 teachers participated in the programme. The resource persons were Dr. Joe Jesudurai, former Vice Principal & IQAC Coordinator of Loyola College Chennai and Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Coordinator of Programmes, XBHEI. The local organizers were Rev. Dr. James John Mangalath (Principal), Dr. K. K. Jose (Accreditation Ambassador) and Dr. Sunil C. Mathew (IQAC Coordinator). Rev. Fr. Antoni Arackal and Rev. Sr. Dr. Annamma Philip also helped in the smooth conduct of the program. It was widely appreciated and was found to be very useful by the participants.

Archbishop Daniel Acharuparambil Memorial Lecture Series:

St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Kochi, in collaboration with Xavier Board of Higher Education in India organised the 5th Archbishop Daniel Acharuparambil Memorial International Lecture Series on Saturday, 12th December 2020 from 03.30pm IST. Prof. (Dr.) Isabel Capelo Gil, Rector of Catholic University of Portugal & President of International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), delivered the lecture on 'The future of Higher Education: Special emphasis to Catholic Higher Education Institutions'.

Prof. Isabel stated that the Catholic educational institutions should be rooted in our faith and as educators ensure that Catholicism is reflected in our values. She emphasized that it is not 'either' or 'or' but imperative to stand by our faith and perform by being true to our mission and our values. Her session lit a spark and fanned the flames among the participants and stimulated their thinking to question their understanding on the new National Education Policy (even though she never mentioned anything about NEP). The new thought that is derived questions whether we are seduced by the glamour of the new National Education Policy, and are we still struggling to find how a Catholic institution will fare under the new NEP.

As a token of our gratitude to Ms. Isabel Gil, an NGO has planted ten trees of Oil species to control forest fires, prevent soil erosion, landslides and add to the greenery of the land in the Himalayan region whose certificates and photographs were presented to the speaker. The session stimulated interaction with the participants.

Training for Peer Team members for XB- AA Audit

As discussed at the 72nd Board Meeting, August 22nd, 2020 XB would be conducting training programmes for XB-AA Audit team members. Board members or any serving or retired Principals and retired or serving Professors who wish to come for the training are welcome. Participants need to be available for auditing institutions. Participants need to have good writing skills to write the audit reports which is given to the institution before the team departs from the institution. The training will begin once the pandemic eases.



Forth coming events...

The **International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) – Training Department** in collaboration with **Xavier Board of Higher Education in India** will be conducting a Leadership Programme for Women Principals of Catholic Colleges in India (Online) webinars Feb 15 – March 29, 2021. For further information contact xavierboard@gmail.com

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza

‘MASTERMIND – WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN LEADERS WITHIN COLLEGES’ - How to find your real place as a female leader in the academic environment

RESOURCE PERSON: MADAM EDITH LASSIAT – A women who has held 3 careers – in marketing for luxury and media groups, an artist *cum* author and therapist. She has been conducting ‘Mastermind’ programmes for several groups of women and individuals especially on finding their Leadership DNA. Recently, She has conducted a Programme for the members of the Women’s Task Force of IFCU.

National youth leadership programme **“Catholic University Online Youth Fest 2021”** is being organized by St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous), Trichy, TN. The programme is scheduled on January 22-24, 2021. Online competitions will be conducted before the programme. Different competitions such as caption competition, poster competition and short film competitions are part of the programme.

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‘FRATELLI TUTTI’. These were the words of Saint Francis of Assisi when he addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel. St. Francis expressed the essence of a fraternal openness that allows each one of us to acknowledge, appreciate and love every person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives.

St. Francis of Assisi, the saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy, inspired Pope Francis to write the Encyclical ‘Laudato Si’, and prompted him once more to devote a new Encyclical to fraternity and social friendship. St. Francis felt himself a brother to the sun, sea and wind, yet he knew that he was even closer to those of his own flesh. Wherever he went, he sowed seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters.

XBHEI will be organizing a webinar on the Encyclical ‘FRATELLI TUTTI’, in January 2021. It will be open to XBHEI member colleges including faculty and students and to other religious and lay people. A



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AT CHRISTMAS
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