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**Flash Back**

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**XB Activities**

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**June 84 - June 85**

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**Vol. 1 No. 13**

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## X. B. PROJECTS AT THE ALL INDIA LEVEL

In view of International Youth Year, the Xavier Board decided to conduct a certain number of Programmes which were meant to help the Managers, the Principals and the Staff members of our Catholic Colleges guide the youth of today and lead them smoothly into the 21st century.

### 1. THE VIIIth ALL INDIA PRINCIPALS' RENEWAL COURSE.

Thirty five participants coming from Catholic Colleges all over the country, attended the six day Principals' Renewal Course organised by the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, from May 25 to 30th, 1985, at Carmelaram Theological College, Bangalore. Fr. Gino Henriques CSSR and Fr. Jose Murickan S.J. were the Resource Persons. The participants were led through a series of thought provoking reflections and prayer on the theme: "The Principals of Catholic Colleges look at Youth Formation for the next millenium". The mission of Catholic Colleges in forming the Youth who are the "primitives" of the computer age was highlighted. To the Youth who are battered by the impact of tactile media, God-experience and Gospel values are also to be made highly experiential said Fr. Gino, stressing the need of openness and adaptability on the part of the Educators. Fr. Murickan dwelt on the social concern that has to characterise the mission of the Catholic College. The course was organised by the dynamic secretary of the Xavier Board, Sr. Hedwige A.C.

### 2. PERSONALITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS FOR COLLEGE PRINCIPALS: COURSE III

This course was conducted by the Xavier Board at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, April 10-15, 1985. College



Principals who had attended PRH Course I and II, reassembled once again after a year's interval, for PRH course III. The Captain on this voyage was Fr. Gino CSSR. Sure of the direction he was taking, he led the participants from, "Who am I"? and "How do I lead my life"? into the deep waters of maturity-Emotional, Spiritual and Affective. No tall speeches, no reams of cyclostyled stuff; but only direction and guide lines for personal analysis. It was an exercise in individual probing and searching at the deepest level of one's being. Surely it was a rewarding experience and a transforming process, contributing towards better inter-personal relations, in the Catholic Colleges and all around. May PRH service be for our Catholic Colleges the "open sesame" to that "Abundant Life" which Jesus Christ came to give us!

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP WITH A FAITH VISION.

Forty nine College Principals, Managers and staff coming from all parts of India attended a seminar organized by the Xavier Board from October 21-25, 1984, at Roshni Nilaya, School of Social Work, Mangalore. The seminar entitled "Administrative Leadership with a Faith Vision", is a unique sample of the inventive genius of the course Director, Fr. Anthony D'Souza S.J. Associate Director of the St. Xavier's Institute of Management, Bombay. It was a balanced and relevant combination of leadership in administration, with faith and Gospel teaching woven into the very fibre of each ponderous subject dealt with.

Strategies for motivation, goal-setting, achievement of goals, techniques for good listening and communication, ways and means for building self-awareness and self-confidence and attitudes to conflict situations in campus management, formed the back bone of the course. Running through every talk was a visible under-current of scriptural teaching,

a substratum that no participant could miss and which in fact enriched the course as nothing else could have.

Ice breaking at a hilarious evening at Summer Sands, the famous beach resort of Mangalore, and a sumptuous banquet at the residence of one of the participants formed a welcome part of the course. The group was very open to new ideas and in a true spirit of learning they absorbed the Faith Vision of administration against which their individual performance could be compared for effecting necessary changes in their own style of leadership.

### 4. THE Vth ALL INDIA STAFF RENEWAL COURSE

The Fifth All India College staff Renewal Course was organized by the Xavier Board of Higher Education in India at Dhyana Ashram, Madras from April 1-5, 1985. When 81 participants turned up at Dhyana Ashram, the Xavier Board rose cubits in its hope for the future. Frs. Gino, CSSR and Jose Murickan S.J. handled the retreat. The retreat theme, "The staff look at Youth formation for the next millenium" was gripping. The atmosphere was charged with astounding silence and prayerfulness and seriousness of purpose. The first two days were spent on personal renewal, decision and commitment to Christ and His values. The next three days were packed with ponderous topics to be reflected upon and prayed about—Futuristic Trends—Youth in the 21st Century—Scientific and Technological advance, along with increasing Secularization—Training the staff to a Sense of Mission in the difficult days ahead. The days were filled with prayer, thematic talks, Eucharist, intercessory prayer and personal counselling. At the end of 5 days the staff unanimously agreed that this was a retreat with a difference. The balanced approach and the intergration of spirituality with social reality—the relevance of the theme—the masterful probes into personal lives through counselling—all this, the



staff felt, led to a literal transformation of their lives. Many called it a Land Mark—a Turning Point.

In the secularized society of today where our Colleges have to struggle to keep the faith alive it is consoling to the organizers that intense, closed retreats hold the secret of spiritual rejuvenation. They work like a miracle in restoring lost faith and the values of the Kingdom.

#### 5. THE 1st ALL INDIA COURSE ON THEOLOGY FOR COLLEGE STAFF :

The course was conducted at Jeeva Jyoti Centre, Muvattupuzha, Kerala, from the 20th to the 30th of May. The resource persons were Fr. Joseph Putti, S.d.b., Fr. Thomas Kalam C.M.I. and Fr. Thomas Tharayil, S.d.b.

This course was a precious opportunity to clarify and deepen one's understanding of the faith. It aimed at presenting all the main tenets of the Christian faith in a simple, direct and relevant manner. It was meant to both nourish the spiritual life of the participants and at the same time help them to communicate their faith more meaningfully and effectively, be it to their own children or to the students they have to deal with.

The course had three main parts :—

1. Understanding the Scriptures and their role in the life of the Christian—Themes touched upon here included Bible formation, terminology, Synoptic problem; inspiration and inerrancy in the Bible; interpreting the Bible today; Biblical criticism, Textual, Form and Redaction criticisms; Bible and Prayer.

2. Understanding and appreciating Christian moral teaching—Themes dealt with: General notions of morality;

natural law and evolution of morality; scriptures on morality; Church's teaching authority and moral issues; conscience; love as the summit of Christian morality; understanding sin today; human sexuality in general; issues of sexual growth—masturbation, homosexuality, pre-marital and extra-marital sexuality; birth control—methods, techniques and morality; Humanae vitae and its relevance; social concerns of the Christian today.

3. Understanding the basic tenets of the Christian faith as they are presented today—Themes dealt with: Revelation—centrality and meaning; Faith—nature and significance; God who saves; Christ the God-man; God the Holy Spirit; Triune God; Man, creation and Original sin; the Church of God; Sacraments—means of encounter between God and man; Mary: the summit and mirror of the Church; the mystery of the eschatological realities (judgement, heaven, hell, purgatory); Church and the world.

The setting for the course was not merely academic. It was that of a group of Christians, living together and, in word and action, discovering the richness of their faith and its significance to their day to day life.

#### 6. THE 3rd ANNUAL THEOLOGY SEMINAR

Nineteen students of the Do-It-Yourself Correspondence Theology Course participated in the 3rd Annual Theology Seminar held at the Retreat House, Hyderabad, from 27th April (evening) to 30th April (evening).

At 6.00 p.m. on 27th, Frs. J. Misquitta & S. G. Nieto concelebrated Mass for the participants. In his homily Fr. Nieto said the purpose of the seminar was not so much to acquire knowledge, "but to have our hearts burning within us". After dinner, the Organisers and participants assembled in the Hall to plan the programme for the following days.



On the 28th, the First Session was taken by Fr. Nieto who spoke on the topic "Can Non-Christians Be Saved?" He cited St. Augustine's argument, "God wants it. He can do it. He does it." Fr. Nieto observed that baptism does not work automatically like magic. To be effective it is necessary to have the mind of Christ. Hence, in the case of adults, instruction precedes baptism. It is possible for non-Christians to have the mind of Christ. Therefore, they can be saved. In the subsequent 2 sessions, the participants discussed the topic in small groups of 6 members. In the last session, the Secretaries of each group read out the reflections of each group to the whole assembly, after which a general discussion on each question followed.

On the 29th, Fr. J. Misquitta dealt with the "Encounter with other Religions". Before Vatican II, the Exclusivist view prevailed according to which there is no salvation outside the Church. This view created a superiority complex among Christians. The Vatican Council recognises the authenticity of non-Christian Religions and teaches that they contain seeds of truth. The broad category known as the Inclusivist view or Model endeavours to express this teaching. This broad category includes a number of theories such as the Fulfilment Theory & Anonymous Christianity. According to the Fulfilment Theory all Religions prepare the way for Christianity which completes and perfects them. Karl Rahner's Anonymous Christianity teaches that though baptism is not necessary for salvation, salvation always takes place in and through Christ.

As suggested by Fr. Misquitta, the participants tried to work out a third model which would have the strengths of both views and the weakness of neither, in the group discussions. However, no satisfactory 3rd model emerged.

On the 30th, Fr. Misquitta explained Pluralism, a 3rd Model put forward by several Protestant theologians.

In the next session, instead of the usual discussion, Ms. Mercy Mathews, one of the participants, spoke about her mission work in a village. When she commenced her work among them she soon discovered that the villagers considered themselves as monkeys of the forest. She worked with them as an ordinary labourer for 3 years thus experiencing first hand what it means to be exploited. She has succeeded in making them realise their human dignity and improving their lot to some extent. Mercy's activities were discussed by the participants in the next session with a view to improving their own apostolate among non-Christians.

Mass was concelebrated daily by Frs. J. Misquitta and S. Garcia-Nieto at 6.45 p.m. before the evening meals. After meals there was an Entertainment Programme for an hour on 28th and 29th. On the 30th there was a Holy Hour.

On 1st May at 6.45 a.m., Fr. Nieto offered Mass in Indian style. As there was no time for an Evaluation Session, he requested the participants to send in their constructive criticism by post. Then Breakfast and farewell.

## 7. PROJECT OF GOSPEL STUDY GROUPS.

Forty-one Colleges started Gospel study groups among their Christian students and adopted the book "Jesus is Alive" as reference material for their study. Copies of the book were despatched to these Colleges during the months of June and July so that most of the groups might be initiated at the beginning of the academic year. In some other Colleges teachers made use of the book to give talks on various Gospel passages.

During the following months, Fr. H. Morissette, csc, visited forty-three Colleges in order to meet the Principals or the Staff members and inform them about the projects of the Xavier Board in the fields of religious and moral educa-



tion. He also consulted them regarding the preparation of a study which is being made at present on "The Mission of the Catholic Colleges in India." In some places he conducted seminars on the animation of Gospel study groups or on value education.

### 8. ABSTRACT OF COLLEGE-WISE PROJECTS SUBSIDIZED BY XAVIER BOARD

JUNE 1984 - JUNE 1985.

Participant States	:	6
Participant Colleges	:	30
Programmes	:	34
Staff Participants	:	397
Student Participants	:	4,793
Teachers and Students	:	750
Subsidy	:	Rs. 34,150.00

Abstract of Xavier Board Projects at All India level  
June 1984 - 1985.

Participant Principals	:	60
Participant Staff	:	139
Total Expenditure	:	Rs. 34,099. 17
Grand Total	:	Rs. 68,249. 17

The Xavier Board wishes to extend its most sincere thanks to its munificent benefactors without whose help none of the X.B. Programmes would have been possible. God bless our donors for their sharing in solidarity.

### 9. VISIT TO VARIOUS COLLEGES

The Secretary of the Xavier Board, Sr. Hedwige, AC., covered twenty-seven Colleges besides conducting two meetings of the Curriculum Development Committee, two meetings of the Executive Committee and one regional meeting of all Catholic Colleges in Kerala.

### X. B. PROJECT IN KERALA

1. As part of the Gospel Study Cycle, the Gospel of John was introduced to the students this year. In most of the women's Colleges and in some of the men's and mixed Colleges, regular classes or study circles were conducted.
2. Two-day seminars introducing the Gospel of John to the College Staff were given by Fr. Sebastian Painadath SJ, the Regional Coordinator, at the beginning of the academic year in the following centres:

Centre	Colleges represented	Staff participants
L.F. College, Guruvayoor	1	50
Newman, Thodupuzha	1	71
Assumption, Changancherry	3	33
St. Joseph's Aleppey	1	50
St. Joseph's, Irinjalakuda	4	80
BCM, Kottayam	5	130
St. Mary's, Trichur	8	74
St. Theresa's, Ernakulam	1	33
St. Michel's, Shertallai	1	46
St. Xavier's, Alwaye	5	33
Total	30	600

3. Eight-page tracts on John's Gospel were printed and about 14,000 copies distributed to the students as material for the classes and study circles.
4. Some Colleges conducted Bible Festivals which aroused an enthusiastic response from the students. A rich



variety of artistic and literary programmes based on the Gospels was presented by the students.

- In order to help the lay Staff in handling questions of life-orientation and value education, two day seminars by Fr. Rossi Rego SJ were offered in the following centres in July / August:

Centre	Colleges represented	Staff participants
St. Theresa's, Ernakulam	6	60
BCM, Kottayam	7	120
Mar Ivanios, Trivandrum	5	40
St. Joseph's, Irinjalakuda	7	100
Nirmala, Muvattupuzha	3	60
Total;	28	380

- During the academic year 1985/86 the Gospel of Matthew will be introduced to the Staff and students. Training programmes are now being conducted. With this the Colleges will have covered all the four Gospels.
- Now that in the course of the last three years the Staff members were given a solid introduction to the Gospels, the XB will be offering hereafter a variety of seminars in the Colleges in view of fostering an on-going theological formation of the Staff.
- In collaboration with Sacred Heart's College, Thevara, a new series of tracts introducing the basic values of life will be published during the academic year, 1985/86. This is meant as material for moral instruction/life orientation programmes.

## MEETINGS

### 1. GENERAL BODY MEETING OF COLLEGES

A General Body Meeting of the Catholic Colleges in India took place at St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam, on the 23rd of March 1985. The meeting was convened for the purpose of passing the amendments to the Constitution in view of the Registration of the Board. Fifty Principals and Managers were present.

All the amendments proposed were accepted with slight modifications. The Secretariate is now busy with the final formulation for the Registration of the Board.

In reference to the International Youth Year, Fr. Gino Henriques, C.Ss.R. gave a talk on "Youth for Christ" and Fr. Leo Tagore, S.J. spoke on "The International Youth year and what the Colleges can do."

### 2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF I.F.C.U.

The next General Assembly of I.F.C.U. will take place in Santo Domingo, R.D., from the 5th to the 9th of August 1985. The delegates from India will be Fr. J. Vallamattam, Fr. G. Francis, S. J., Dr. Sylvia Kamath from St. John's Medical College and Sr. Hedwige, A.C.

Within the framework of the International Youth Year as decreed by the United Nations for 1985, the I.F.C.U. will bring the delegates to reflect on the following theme: "The expectations of Youth and the Catholic University." It is proposed that the analysis and studies of the theme be done in the following way:



### First session :

- **Opening address:** socio-psychological approach.  
“Students in 1985. Situation and characteristics. The challenge of encounters between faith and cultural diversity.”
- **Panel:**  
“Expectations of youth in Catholic Universities. Who are these young people? Questions to be raised and contemporary challenges: power, solidarity, responsibilities, human values...”
- **Workshops:** according to language.  
Parallel discussions of the theme.

### Second session :

- **Theological conference:**  
“The evangelical inspiration of the University in order to meet the expectations and concerns of youth. The University as a privileged milieu where the Gospel is lived and where Christic vision is achieved. Evangelical perception of values.”
- **Panel:** reexamination of the spiritual dimension of expectations done in three sections.
  - \* The developed and industrialised countries.
  - \* Third World predominantly Christian.
  - \* Non Christian Third World.

### Third session :

- **Conference:**  
“The society of tomorrow. Expectations of the future. Future shock. Evolution and challenges. The Catholic University preparing youth for the year 2000.”

### Fourth session :

- **Workshops:** by language groups.  
Elaboration and recommendations of initiatives and action to be undertaken by each institution and by I.F.C.U.: pedagogy, professional life, pastoral services, foreign students.
- **Address:** synthesis and recapitulation.

### Fifth session :

Life of Catholic Universities, members of I. F. C. U. Crucial situation of Catholic Higher Education in the world.

### 3. NEW EDUCATION POLICY :

The Xavier Board has been requested by the CBCI Commission for Justice, Peace and Development to join them at a meeting to be held on August 1 and 2, at Bandra Retreat House, Bombay to reflect on the New Education Policy and offer suggestions to the Government regarding the same. The Xavier Board will meet once again on September 7 and 8, to discuss the new draft which the Government is expected to publish in the third week of August. A response will be made to this new document from our side.



## A COLLEGE PROGRAMME FOR THE I Y Y :

The following programme has been prepared by a co-ordinating committee at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. The Programmes are divided into three types,

### 1. PROGRAMMES DURING THE WORKING DAYS:

1. Speech Competition,
2. Competition in essay writing,
3. Debates,
4. Competition in light music,
5. Seminars on youth welfare,
6. Lectures on political awareness,
7. Religious meetings for spiritual development,
8. Group dynamics for personality development,
9. Programmes for national unity,
10. Inter-collegiate cultural competition,
11. Quiz programmes, and
12. Staff - students games

### 2. PROGRAMMES DURING HOLIDAYS :

1. Leadership course,
2. Leadership camps,
3. Youth Involvement in Community Development,
4. Science Exhibition, and
5. Educational Excursions.

### 3. PERMANENT PROGRAMMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR :

1. Forming Registered Youth Clubs in villages,
2. Employment guidance,
3. Self-Employment Training Scheme,
4. Pre-marital Counselling Service,

5. Earn-While-You-Learn-Schemes
6. Students' Counselling Service,
7. Sex Education Course,
8. Career Guidance,
9. Documentation Service for information,
10. A Course in Yoga,
11. T. A. Study for Personality development,
12. Sports and Games,
13. Associations to develop skills and talents—  
(Photography, Wild life, painting, etc), and
14. Tamil and English Associations' activities

### 4. MONTH-WISE PLANNING OF PROGRAMMES

In the academic year up to December 1985, the holiday programmes are conducted during September and December holidays. The other programmes are planned during the remaining months.

#### JULY 1985

1. Speech competition,
2. Lectures on Political awareness,
3. Forming Registered Youth Clubs for youth programmes in the villages,
4. Earn-While-You-Learn Schemes,
5. Students' Counselling service, and
6. Associations to develop skills and talents.

#### August 1985

1. Religious Meetings for God Experience,
2. Group dynamics course,
3. T.A. study, and
4. Sports and Games activities.



### September 1985 (Holidays)

1. Essay writing competition
2. Staff-Students' games,
3. Course in Yoga,
4. Career Guidance.

### Holidays:

5. Leadership Course,
6. Leadership Camp and
7. Youth involvement and community Development.

### October 1985

1. Quiz Programmes,
2. Debates on Youth Topics,
3. Sex Education Classes, and
4. Self - Employment Course.

### November 1985

1. Inter-Collegiate cultural competitions,
2. Tamil and English Associations' Celebrations,
3. Seminars on Youth topics,
4. Pre-marital counselling service for out-going students, and
5. Employment guidance for out-going students.

### December 1985

1. Programmes for national unity,
2. Science Exhibitions

### Holidays:

3. Educational tours, and
4. Documentation service by Librarian for further education.

### 5. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION.

Regarding programme implementation, all the staff members are given charge of different programmes. Some of the programmes will be given departmental responsibility. If necessary, the individual staff members are to be sent for training to implement the programmes. The N. S. S. Unit will be involved directly in implementing the programmes along with other students. The staff steering committee is formed to help the students.

### 6. FINANCE:

Funding these programmes can be achieved from:

1. Students' contribution,
2. Contribution from the Management,
3. Local public and
4. Voluntary agencies.

### CORPUS FUND.

An effort is being made at present to build an office-cum-research Centre for the Xavier Board. Although generous donors are willing to meet us half way, they insist that the Catholic Colleges, for whom the Xavier Board exists, should contribute a matching share. We are very grateful to the 66 Colleges who understood our need and have contributed to the Corpus Fund. We request and urge the others to follow their example at their earliest.

### PUBLICATIONS UNDER PREPARATION

#### 1. "THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC COLLEGES IN INDIA"

In the months of February and March, after consulting Fr. S. Painadath, S.J. and Sr. Helen Vincent, FMM, members of the coordinating committee, Fr. H. Morissette, C.S.C. established contact with various resource persons



who were invited to collaborate with us in the writing of papers on "The Mission of the Catholic Colleges in India." The first part of this study is now completed, and the other papers should reach us by the end of October. We foresee to release this book before the next Triennial Conference. Seminars and workshops will be organized in different regions in order to give an opportunity to those who are interested to pursue their reflection on this matter.

**2. "RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGE OF POVERTY IN INDIA."**

Most of the papers prepared by experts have already been submitted and a few more are yet to come. The Curriculum Development Committee will meet to review the papers and to plan a follow-up to train the Staff in the use of this book for value education.

**3. "X.B. RENEWAL RETREATS NOTES."**

The notes collected since 1984 during the retreats conducted for Principals and Staff members are now being compiled and will be published soon.

**4. "GROW FREE.....LIVE FREE."**

This is a book of Moral Science for College students prepared by a group of Youth Animators from Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. The authors make a near comprehensive treatment of the various aspects of an individual's life: social, economic, political, affective, creative and religious. Being truly secular, the book draws inspiration from the various religious and cultural traditions of the world. Its aim is not so much to make suggestions as to invite all, especially the young, to reflect and make plans for the future. The book will be published shortly. We strongly recommend this book for value education. Those who wish to have a copy will kindly write directly to Kristu Jyoti College, Post Box 12, Bangalore - 560 036.