



UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 7 - 10, 2017

1. *Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous), Peermade, Kerala (Catholic Students' Movement and Jesus Youth), In association with Xavier Board of Higher Education in India organises a*

***NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
'YOUTH FOR SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION'***

2. *St.Philomena's College (Autonomous), Mysuru, organizes an International Interdisciplinary Conference "Knowledge Partnerships To Advance UN Sustainable Development Goals"*

November 17-18, 2017, Mysuru, India

More details refer [WWW. Xavierboard.org](http://WWW.Xavierboard.org) (News & Events)

From the President's desk.....

We had a meaningful meeting of the Regional Education Secretaries, representatives from National bodies dealing with education and also representatives from the religious congregations. The meeting was organized by the CBCI Commission for Education and Culture. Bishop Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios and Archbishop Thomas D'Souza were present throughout the meeting. Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, the General Secretary also participated along with Hon. Minister Alphons Kannanthanam who addressed the gathering.

The Xavier Board of Higher Education in India at its Annual General Body meeting on September 10, 2017 at Hyderabad resolved to request the CBCI commission for

Education and Culture to set up a National Federation for Catholic Educational Institutions (NFCEI). It was unanimously approved by the participants present and the matter would be placed before the CBCI standing committee for approval. A committee of ten persons was constituted to take this forward. Fr. Joseph Manipadam, sdb, the dynamic secretary of the CBCI Commission for Education and Culture delivered a resourceful presentation regarding the current situation in India with clear guidelines as to how we need to be prepared to face even the worst.

As you are aware, the National Youth Conference will be held from December 7-10, 2017 at Marian College, Kuttikanam, Kerala. I request all Principals and regional office bearers to send maximum number of students and faculty members for the programme.

Sd/-

Fr. Leslie Moras

66TH ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

The 66th Annual Board Meeting Xavier Board was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad on September 8th, 2017



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, FMM, Secretary General, XB, Rev. Fr. Leslie Moras, President and Dr. Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, Vice President, at the Board Meeting

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF XAVIER BOARD

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Theme: "Current Political and Economic Situation in India and its Impact on Higher Education"

Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad
September 9th and 10th, 2017



The national conference held on 9th and 10th of September attracted 130 participants and six resource persons. The Conference began by a melodious prayer song and a beautiful welcome dance by the students of Loyola Academy Degree & PG College (Autonomous), Alwal, Secunderabad.

Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy, Regional President, Xavier Board Lighting the lamp along with Dr. J. Alexander IAS, former chief Secretary & Cabinet Minister, Karnataka Chief Guest and a student at the Inaugural session.





The lighting of the ceremonial lamp was followed by words of welcome by Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy, SJ, Regional President, XB and Vice Principal, Loyola Academy, Secunderabad.

Presidential address
Fr. Leslie Moras,
President, XB



This was followed the Presidential address by Fr. Leslie Mores. Fr. Leslie touched upon the following points during his address:

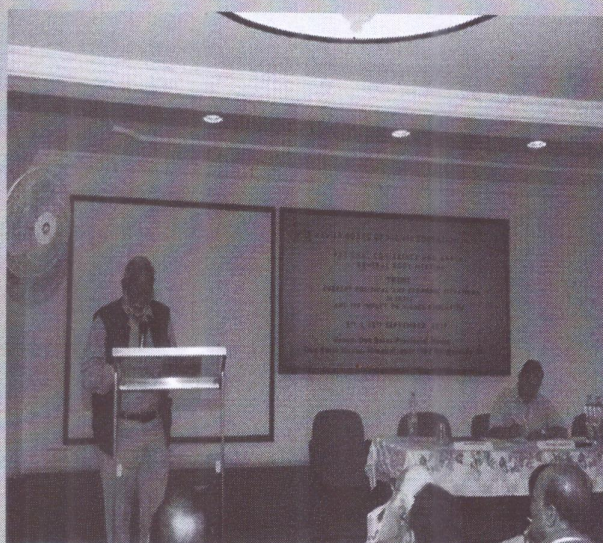
- Challenges before us during the current period
- The need to be prepared to face the challenges ahead.
- The crucial role that Xavier Board is called upon to play for which we must be prepared lest we come in breathlessly at the last minute to forge what lies ahead.



The chief guest of the inaugural function was Dr. J. Alexandar, IAS, (Retd), former Chief Secretary and Cabinet Minister of Karnataka.

In his inaugural address he impressed on the audience the following:

- In the madness that is prevailing in our country, we need to recall our glorious past and the sacrifices of our leaders who won our freedom.
- It is now our duty to safeguard this precious freedom and to remember that India will fall as a nation when Indians forget to be Indians.
- The need to be united and have a united voice which would be heard.
- The need to be prophets of change, not proponents, opponents or ostriches of change.
- The need to walk together and work together.

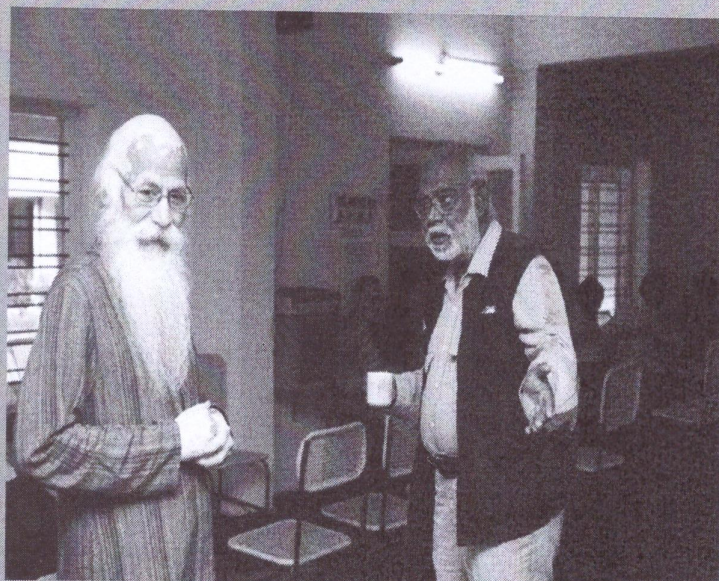


During the first technical session, the resource person was Dr. John Dayal, a leading journalist, Civil rights & Political activist and member of National Integration Council of India who spoke on the topic: 'Current Political situation in India and its impact on Higher Education'. The session was chaired by Fr. Joye James, SJ, Board member of XBHEI and Manager, Loyola College, Trivandrum. Dr. John Dayal voiced the following.

- Indians are wounded by Indians: There are Journalists who get shot for taking a strong stand for truth and justice and there are journalists who get to take selfie with the PM.
- Gauri Lankesh is an example of a dissident voice in the media.
- The church personnel need to come out to the streets in large numbers to give a visual indication that we are unhappy with the happenings, and hence we are in civil disobedience.
- Nero still plays the fiddle. It is important for us to face the wrath of Nero if needed.
- The fundamentalists ask questions but never bother to listen to the answers.

- The Supreme Court has accepted that they have made a mistake and hence ready to rectify the mistake now.
- Islamophobia in our country like in the west is a reality.
- It is high time for us to set up a think tank to respond to the government.
- People are trained to hate Christians. But be not afraid, if we are united, they can do nothing.
- Criticizing the Govt. is not a crime even though the govt. considers such persons as anti-national.
- The govt. is afraid of us in the wrong way.
- Fundamentalists are going to take over Primary education in our country. They may leave Higher Education for the elites but the poor and middle class will be influenced by the fundamentalist style of education.
- It is high time for us to align and join hands with civil societies, Muslims and other secular forces if we have to survive.

The second technical session was chaired by Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, Vice President of Xavier Board and Principal of Holy Cross College, Agartala. The resource person was Prof. Arun Kumar, a leading economist and (Retd.) Professor of Economics, JNU, New Delhi. He spoke on the topic 'Current Economic situation in the Country and its impact on Higher Education'.



Following are some of the points presented by Prof. Arun Kumar.

- Inequality has increased in India. There is a rising number of billionaires in contrast to mass poverty, illiteracy, etc.
- Many countries at the same level of development in 1947 have pulled ahead but India has lagged behind in development.
- Homo-economicus: only worried about economics and nothing else.
- Taxes were heavier on luxury goods earlier. But presently the govt. has realized it can get more taxes by taxing essential goods as they are used by all. People have become numbers not humans.

- Logic of the market: it is more efficient for people to die in the developing world.
- Black money has grown in India. There is a lot of activity without productivity. It is like digging holes during the day and filling them up at night.
- There is massive inefficiency due to black money. 15 trillion dollars are missing out every year in India.
- Economic disparities have increased in our country.
- There is commercialization of education since education is driven by market economy.
- There is a lack of intellectual leadership in the country.
- The New Education Policy may not work because the teachers' voices are not heard while preparing the policy.
- Cheating is an easy way to get a good job. Plagiarism is on the increase.
- Growing alienation in society and education leads to weakening of inter linkage.
- The **vision** of Higher Education explains the challenges faced by society - Its views regarding Access, Equity and Accountability?
- There is a growing intolerance in our country: the state wants to curb dissent. If you dissent you are treated as an anti-national. But in education dissent has to be encouraged.
- Mediocrity is being promoted as we see in the case of the API score. Academic work is equated with marketization. It is good to realize that "one inspired lecture is better than 100 indifferent lectures".
- Autonomy and accountability are either formalistic or missing.
- Due to marketization, privatization has come into practice.
- Our educational institutions and educationists - highly bureaucratized - function 10 to 5.
- Academics have conceded ground to bureaucrats and politicians who have little idea of what is needed
- There is a leadership crisis in educational institutions since the leadership like VC, Principal etc., are political appointments.
- The leadership is surrounded by sycophants. Those with independent views are marginalized. In education, dissent is essence and not compliance.
- Indian intellectuals are derived intellectuals, largely recycling ideas from the West
- Loss of value of ideas

- The two noble professions no more noble.
- omRapid spread of commercialization.

Conclusion

- More Cplex Economy than any other.
- Development path can't be copied; can learn from others.
- Disruptions continue from pre-1947.
- Leadership lacks independence of thought.
- Technology creates a mist - future unclear.
- Persisting poverty and degrading conditions.
- Leads to short termism. Leadership also
- Atomization in society. Collective action difficult.
- Larger vision missing in society. So,
 - Environmental degradation acceptable
 - Growing inequity acceptable to rulers.

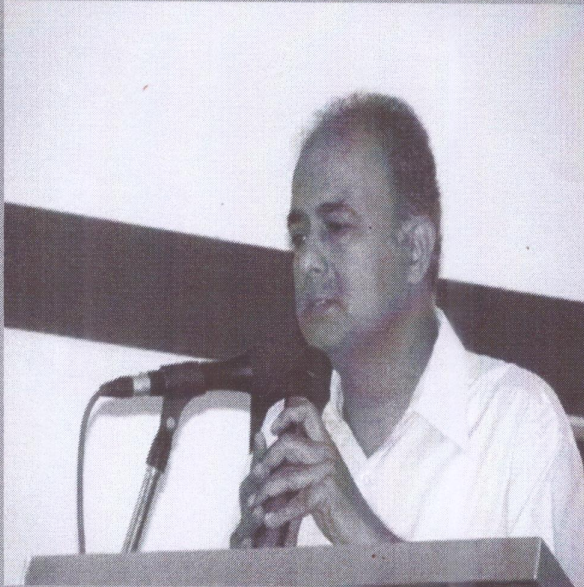


The third technical session began with the lecture by Prof. John Varghese, Principal, St. Stephen's College, Delhi. His topic was: 'Emerging Challenges to Higher Education today in the context of the ongoing political and economic developments in the Country'. The session was chaired by

Dr. Sr. Arpana, CSST, Joint Secretary, XBHEI and Principal, Mount Carmel College (Autonomous), Bangalore. He touched upon the following points:

- The economic situation is on a downward slide; We should expect a reduced funding for Higher Education;
- The media is controlled. Yet the future is bright and it beckons us.
- How relevant are we in the changing scenario of our country?
- No ONE of us is as strong as ALL of us.
- We must diversity, we must specialize and we must share our strengths. In short, we must make ourselves indispensable.
- Colleges should focus on excellence as well as on service to humanity.

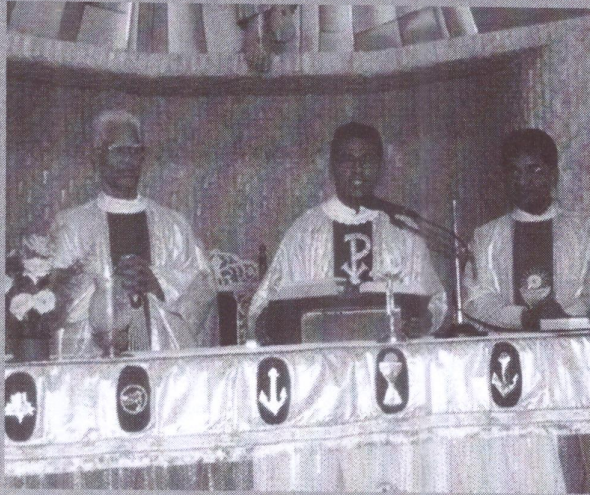
- Two best practices of the college are morning assemblies and club activities.
- We need to be wise and innocent. We cannot have duplicity when we stand in front of our students.
- John 16/33: Be of good cheer, because I have overcome the world.



The fourth session was on the topic 'Impact on Higher Education from the perspective of the UGC' by Dr. G. Srinivas, Joint Secretary, UGC, Hyderabad. The session was chaired by Fr. Antony Arackal, Chairman, St. Albert's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam. The following points emerged from his presentation.

- Secularism does not mean anti-God. Christian institutions are by and large secular in nature as the students they serve in their institutions are largely non-Christians.
- Greater dedication and committed service in the Christian institutions compared to the non-Christian ones.
- Funding for Higher Education has been on the decrease.
- Quality in Higher Education is seen only in very few institutions.
- Good teachers seem to be an endangered species. Today, the students can have access to a wealth of information from the web.
- Very little research is done in Colleges.
- There is a huge shortage of faculty in all colleges.

This session was followed by a short session by Transaction Analysts India Private Limited and they dealt with Smart Card Payment systems digitizing all the payments by the students and faculty in the campus.



The culmination of the first day was a meaningful Eucharistic Celebration in which the main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB, Provincial Superior, Hyderabad. Thanks to Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy SJ., who arranged dinner at the farm house which was a welcome change at the end of a busy day.

The Second day of the National Conference began with a panel discussion on 'Quality initiatives in Higher Education'. The session was chaired by Fr. Prasant, CMI, Board member and Principal, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Ernakulam. The resource persons were Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, former



Head, Dept. of Bioinformatics, Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai, Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier, S.J., Former President XBHEI and former Principal, Loyola College, (Autonomous), Chennai. Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas, Director, CEDBEC, Christ University, Bangalore and Dr. Ponmudi Raj, Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore. Dr. Ordetta Mendoza enlightened the audience regarding the regulations regarding academic collaboration between Indian and Foreign educational institutions.

The two basic criteria to be fulfilled are: 1) The college has to be accredited by NAAC with A Grade and the College should have completed 6 years or 2 batches of students should have passed out. She focused on the need to network among the member colleges of Xavier Board within the country and to have faculty and student exchange programs. She also spoke about the importance of sabbatical break for faculty members with the aim of improving their performance.

Dr. Joseph Xavier shared with the participants the important aspects of the Revised NAAC Manual 2017. He said the vision of NAAC is to ensure quality, the defining element of Higher Education in India through a combination of internal and external evaluation. There are basically 5 core values for NAAC. They are: 1. Contributing to National Development, 2. Fostering global competence among students, 3. Inculcating a value system among students, 4. Promoting the use of technology and 5. Quest for excellence. There has been a shift in the assessment and accreditation framework. He then, elaborated on each of the 7 criteria.

Dr. Kennedy Andrew Thomas explained the Assessment process of NAAC. He spoke about the change in the strategy of NAAC for the next 5 years. The three components that are important in the new framework of NAAC are: 1. SSR, 2. SSS (Student Satisfaction Survey) and 3. Peer Team Report. The period allotted to complete the process from the beginning of the process of NAAC would be 61 days. It is possible to make multiple applications with one-time fee paid to NAAC. 30% SGS (System Generated Score) will be required as the minimum score to qualify to apply for NAAC Accreditation and SSS is not included in the SGS.

Dr. Ponmudiraj, advisor to NAAC explained how the grading patterns are changed and also the metrics. Where there were 1000 questions, now it is limited to 121 questions and out of which 41 are qualitative and 80 are quantitative. NAAC is able to measure quality and this is done only in India as is claimed by NAAC.

After a short tea break the General body meeting commenced. (A report of the proceedings of the General Body Meeting is available separately).

In the concluding session a participant asked the question, if Xavier Board could act as a consultative body to the Govt. like many NGOs. This needs to be explored.



During the Valedictory address, Fr. Joseph Manippadam, SDB, using a power point presentation detailed the current socio-economic-religio-political situation in our country and exhorted all the participants to be proactive and optimistic and counter every lie of the adversaries with many

positive facts presented through the social media. He invited all the colleges to conduct video clip making competitions with the theme: “what do you admire about your college” and put those video clips into the social media. He concluded by saying, “India is changing – Be prepared to face the challenge”.



Dr. J. Alexander IAS presenting Sr. Hedwige award (2015-16) to Sr. M. R. Basil Rose, Principal, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil.



Dr. Sr. Arpana, Principal, Mount Carmel College, receiving the Sr. Hedwige Award 2016-17 from Dr. J. Alexander IAS.



The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, the Secretary General during which she profusely thanked the following persons / groups:

1. Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar, SDB, Provincial Superior, Hyderabad and the Salesian community at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad for their generous hospitality.
2. Dr. Fr. Joji Reddy, S.J., Regional President, XB and Vice-Principal, Loyola Academy, Secunderabad and the Principal & Management of Loyola Academy Degree & PG College (Autonomous), Secunderabad in helping to organize the conference successfully through financial support, sponsorships and human resources.
3. Dr. Sr. Mary Kutty, P.J, Regional Vice-President, XB and Principal, St. Ann's College of Education(Autonomous), Secunderabad for taking care of the accommodation details, resource persons and program support.
4. Sr. G. Manikyam, Regional Secretary, XB and Principal, St. Pious X Degree & PG College for Women, for her availability and assisting with the accommodation details.
5. Dr. Sr. Christine Fernandes, Principal, St. Francis College, Hyderabad for hosting a dinner for the Board Members.

And to everyone who made the program a great success!

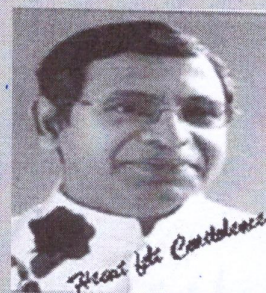


The General Body meeting ended with a concluding prayer by Sr. Aradhana, AC, Joint Secretary, XBHEI. The conference concluded with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Leslie Moras, the President.

In Memoriam

Rev. Fr. Dr. Jose T.M. CMI (Late)

Born in 1964 at Kanjirappily village, Thrissur District, Kerala, he had his early school education from St George's Lower Primary School, Thoompakode, and further at St Sebastian's High School, Kuttikad and St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Pavaratty. He passed the SSLC examination as the school topper with 80% marks. He had his pre degree studies from St Aloysius College Elthuruth with 82%. He had his graduation in Chemistry with 88.6% and third rank from Calicut University and Post Graduation in Chemistry with 76.2%, both from Christ College, Irinjalakuda.



Former Principal,
Christ College,
Irinjalakuda,
Thrissur Dt,
Kerala,



He joined Christ College as a Junior Lecturer in 1996 and completed the Doctoral degree in Computational Chemistry in 2007. He was promoted to the post of Principal in 2007 and continued in this post since then.

Besides acting as the head of Christ College, Dr. Fr. Jose discharged the following offices too: Member of the Senate of the University of Calicut and member of the Students' Grievance

Redressal Committee of the University, Chairman of the Ethics Committee of Amala Institute of Medical Sciences, President of the Association of Christian Higher Education Institutions under the University of Calicut for the last seven years, Member of the Advisory Council of Academic Staff College, University of Calicut as well as a member of several other committees and academic bodies.

A dynamic Principal and regularly attended all the Conferences & meetings of Xavier Board.

"Death is not the extinguishing of the light, it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come"- Paul Claudel

Yes, the Eternal Dawn came in the life of Fr. Jose, rather untimely and now he is in the company of the blessed.

Invitation to Life Membership:

At present, Xavier Board has 197 Life Member Institutions. **Institutions who have not yet enrolled as Life Members are invited to do so as early as possible.**

The Life Membership / Annual Membership rate is as follows.

Sl. No.	Strength of the Institution	Life Membership	Annual Membership
D	Colleges with Students Strength below 1000	Rs.5,000/-	Rs.1,000/-
E	Colleges with Strength above 1000 / Training & Nursing colleges	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.2,000/-
F	Professional, Engineering, Medical colleges / University	Rs.20,000/-	Rs.5,000/-

Annual Contribution:

Thanks to the 59 Colleges who have paid the Annual Contribution for 2017-18. It is a reminder to other Colleges to pay the Annual Contribution as early as possible.

Scholarships (Merit cum means):

Scholarships for deserving students are available. Two scholarships per region Rs. 5000/- per student. Principals are requested to select a deserving student and forward the application to the regional president, who in turn, will select two students from the region and forward their applications to the Xavier Board office.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip FMM
Secretary General
Xavier Board