

**THE SPECIFIC MISSION
OF THE
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
IN INDIA**

FLASH BACK ON X. B. ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL NUMBER

SEPTEMBER '81 — FEBRUARY '82



XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

ST. MARY CONVENT

MANGALORE - 575 001

Vol. 1. No. 16

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A STUDY OF "CATHOLIC COLLEGES IN INDIA" REFLECTED UPON BY COLLEGES AT 16 REGIONAL MEETINGS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduction:

"Catholic Colleges in India" a Study by Fr. Jose Murickan S.J., sponsored by the International Federation of Catholic Universities explores, by means of a Sample Survey, the extent to which the Specific Mission of a Catholic College in India, is being carried out. The Study has thrown up certain lacks and lacunae in the particular area of concern surveyed by the writer, which has confirmed the fears of Catholic educators in the higher educational field, of factors operating often imperceptibly to undermine the Christian-ness of our institutions. The quiddity, so to speak, of the Catholic College, is embodied in its specific mission, the communication of Christian values and ideals in and through its secular teaching. While academic excellence and the all round development of the student epitomize the *raison d'être* of all institutions of higher learning, a denominational College must have something besides these two aims fully to justify its existence. In the absence of this extra something, the College has lost its quiddity, its Christian-ness-in this case its specific mission.

Regional Meetings and their purpose:

Intended to serve as a self-imposed probe, the regional meetings of which 19 were planned and 16 materialized (three having had to be dropped) did as good a job as might have been expected, of taking a hard introspective look into the condition of the Colleges which the group present represented.

With an average of 26 delegates from among Managers, Principals, Staff and Students, a fairly representative opinion was expected to emerge as also a consensus on certain local points of concern. The end-result was to be the identification of guide-lines for a plan of action to be adopted to the needs and circumstances of each particular College. Priorities were

listed out of a check list of 24 on an average the first 6 in each case to form the basis of a comprehensive plan of action, again to be adopted by each College to its needs and circumstances.

The Survey Team: Fr. Laurent Larouche S J, of Montreal, Canada and Sr. Hedwige AC the Secretary of the Xavier Board formed the team. Occasionally, the Board's President, prof. V. V. John, the Vice-president, Fr. J. Misquitta S J, and Fr. Jose Murickan S.J., the author of the survey, were also present. The conduct of the regional meetings had been planned over a period of 3 months. Every regional meeting comprised delegates from each of 3 to 10 neighbouring Colleges of a particular area, an educationist from the area, and wherever possible the Bishop of the diocese and any Church dignitary who might be interested. A suitable venue was selected, in almost every case a leading College of the region which agreed to host the meeting. While the host principal was responsible for the physical and material arrangements Fr. Larouche and Sr. Hedwige were responsible for the presentation of the Survey, discussions, and the discovery of priorities of a Catholic College in the light of its specific mission.

A questionnaire, prepared by the visiting expert, Fr. Larouche, was administered by him in such a way as to throw up opinions on what should be the priorities of a Catholic College for the next few years. In a phased process of elimination, the techniques of discovering priorities brought out revealing disclosures. Priorities were set for a plan of action, and definitions elicited of the specific Christian mission, social awareness, and social commitment, Christian values and interpersonal relationships, in the context of the Catholic Campus.

Priorities: Every regional group set down its priorities, carefully selecting them from a long check-list yielded by a brainstorming session. The first six priorities of each group were pooled together and then sorted for further classification based on the main objective they aimed at. The original 96 (6x16) choices were now reduced by combination to 50, and these 50 were found to be distributed as follows:

- I. Concern with the Christian mission of the College.
- II. Guidance, Counselling and the tutorial system
- III. a) Relationships on Campus.
b) Social Awareness and Social Commitment.
- IV. The Spiritual and Moral development of students, and value Education.
- V. Quality Education in a Christian atmosphere.
- VI. Political Education with Christian Values.

A brief explanation of the content of each of the above phrases might serve to bring out the need envisaged under each priority.

I. Concern with the Christian Mission of the College:

The communication of the Christian Mission of the College through teaching, programmes like retreats, seminars and courses, and more than ever through personal example, was felt by a substantial number of the delegates to be their first priority. A sensitive awareness of their Specific Mission in each of the constituents of a Campus body, viz. Manager, principal, staff-teaching and non teaching, academic, administrative and ministerial and students, PUC to PG is bound to show itself in the choice of ways and means and these in their turn sharpen the awareness. The atmosphere of the College Campus rests solidly on this first priority. A Campus Ministry is an important factor in ensuring the proper atmosphere for academic pursuits in a Catholic College and with this might go a campus animator, and groups like the Newman Association and AICUF which properly guided could play a suitable role in the moral and spiritual toning-up of the campus. Personal example, rightly emphasized by the regional groups, tells more strongly than the best of programmes. A staff committed to the Christian Mission and unashamed to proclaim it through their personal convictions, is an asset a Catholic College might well be proud of. The importance of the right leadership among both staff and students, cannot be stressed too much.

II. Guidance, Counselling and Tutorial System:

The present-day student is, by and large, a confused person. Surrounded by distractions of every conceivable type, he can, however, still make good if through the influence of a tutor or counsellor, he learns to analyse and appraise himself, shore up his own personal standards and learn to build himself up into someone, trusted and dependable. Guidance, personal, academic or vocational is also an important ingredient of a good tutorial structure. In recent years the opportunities afforded to College Staff through crash courses or summer sessions in Counselling and Guidance should be made the most of in the absence of long-term training in our universities. About opportunities offered by Western Universities, there seems to be no dearth of them; but the fortunate ones who get them are all too few. Hence the emphasis might profitably be shifted to indigenous facilities wherever available.

III. Relationships on Campus:

Rated equally with Social Awareness, this is nevertheless a different problem calling for a different solution. In a Catholic College/Christian institution, much more than in a non-denominational or Government institution, interpersonal, inter-group and inter-communal relationships are more often than not a symptom of the degree of well-being characterizing it. The more cordial and supportive these relationships, the greater the feeling of security in each constituent group and by and large in each individual. In an atmosphere of friendliness and security much is possible which insecurity merely destroys. Strikes and gheraos for individual gains, disturbances over minor provocations and generally speaking, recourse to violence which obviously cannot but harm the best interests of the institution and slow upon its progress, are mainly the result of disgruntlement among the less disciplined. Counselling is likely to be helpful both in the maintenance and restoration of campus relationships. But other methods of dealing with the problem of dissatisfied elements on campus are sure to suggest themselves to both staff and students; and it would be wise to take decisions together. An atmosphere of love and service in which discrimination has no place, is the answer; and though easier

said than done, it is a part of wisdom not to wait to lock the stable door till the horse has been stolen.

III. b) Social Awareness and Social Commitment:

Social awareness has rightly received a high place in the priority list. Much of our present social malaise in India is traceable to a lack either of awareness of or sensitivity to the ills of the disadvantaged. Our caste and communal prejudices, our indifference to our villages and to social evils like rape, bonded labour and child labour, our unwillingness to share our wealth with the economically backward including students themselves from poor homes, make for rifts between the under-privileged and over-privileged groups, and breed a hardness in the rich, which the future can only worsen, not mollify or cure.

And to think, leadership groups like NSS, and AICUF exist in so many of our Catholic Colleges! They are known to conduct village and slum camps, and put on leadership courses, but until they begin to be the biblical leaven on their campuses, social awareness will at best be an academic slogan, the profession without practice, of a condescending elitist philosophy. We must begin with campus ills and imbalances, if we are to make social awareness a genuine concern of Catholic higher education. Much thought and more action has to go into this all-important issue.

IV. Spiritual and Moral Education; Education in Values:

While group Spiritual exercises have necessarily to be limited to certain days and periods of the academic year, a class a week for religious education for the Catholic student and of Moral Education for all or at least for the Non-Christian, is a bare necessity. Value education should be an undercurrent running through the entire gamut of the syllabus, emphasising the higher values at once human and spiritual such as the preservation of the species, the evils of philosophies and teachings undermining human life, the success motive and the extent to which it may ethically be pursued, the evils of bribery and corruption whatever the temptation or the excuse, the enormities of the oppression of poor, non-vocal groups and a hundred and one such other evils. Unless the College management, Principal

and Staff set a perfect example in areas of this kind, even the teaching of these values can mean little. So, the emphasis on the Christian mission through the life and example of the teacher, which fittingly received the highest priority, is not a mere accident.

We talk of Gospel values. At one time they were inculcated through school catechism books and re-inforced in College through a course in religion. Today they are all but forgotten. Lamentations cannot carry us far—Let us get down to brass tacks, pin-point our omissions and see where and how we can insert the values—the values of the Beatitudes.

V. *Quality Education with Christian Values:*

Quality Education and academic excellence should be the aim of every College worth the name whether Catholic or Non-Catholic, Governmental, denominational or sectarian. An institution of higher education should without any question whatever, be the purveyor of quality in the various fields of knowledge it professes to teach, be it in the humanities, the pure and applied sciences, the life sciences, the social sciences or other new disciplines. This is axiomatic. But what needs to be established or perhaps re-established, is the specific mission of the Catholic College against this quality setting. The task of making Christian values felt in and through the various academic offerings is beset with difficulties. The large Non-Christian student clientele, generally the majority, the materialistic approach to all intellectual pursuits, the unprecedented accent on success in every field, the desperately high standard of achievement demanded for admission to professional courses agnostic and atheistic tendencies in the young, the crying demands of social justice all these and appurtenant factors, have made the Christian educator's task a decided challenge. It is time he sat up and scratched his head for an answer. The problem is one of the most difficult he faces today, in a non-Christian country; and ways have to be devised which suit our particular situation. Colleges and Universities in the Christian west may have different problems to face, sex and pot perhaps being prominent among them. But a well-coordinated Campus Ministry, Counselling and Guidance

Graduation services, Newman clubs, and integration of knowledge with faith and values, have their unquestioned place in the set-up. While an announcement of objectives in the College calendar, periodical reflection on the College's motto and coat-of-arms in morning and evening assemblies, debates and discussions on the right kind of social service, stress on Gospel values in the search for social justice, greater integrity in admissions and financial matters, the absence of discrimination on grounds of caste, creed and language and above all uprightness, clean hands and a clean life exemplified by the staff all these are bound to uphold the Catholic reputation of the College, something needs to be planned for particular situations by the staff or by a special group of staff and students for a leavening of the teaching itself, the knowledge purveyed which should leave no room for any doubt as to the College's Christian identity.

VI. *Political Education with Christian Values:*

Subjects such as political science, political economy, constitutional history, civics and the like are normally to be found in a humanities curriculum. Political education as such for a political career, which is probably the priority set down by the group, is a suggestion which comes from a desire to rid politics as we know and see it, of the overweening desire for power and self characterizing Indian politics today. A constructively critical attitude towards civic and national affairs, and a forum for a discussion of these from various angles, are bound to go a long way in preparing young men and women for political office. The values stressed elsewhere in the curriculum, viz. integrity, other-centredness, God-consciousness, human feeling, social awareness, are as much needed in politics as in other careers. Much will however, depend, on example and the heuristic quality of collegiate education. Like good manners, political virtues are caught rather than taught and the entire gamut of higher education has to be infused with the right Christian and human values, for every student Christian and non-Christian, to absorb them.

Conclusion: There is hard work ahead for every Catholic educator be he manager, principal, professor or lecturer. The word 'commitment' though hackneyed by use, is the word

which fits the situation best. With spiritual teaching and example and up-to-date quality education as the warp and Christian values the woof of the rich texture, the Catholic College will contribute its best to church and country.

REGIONAL MEETINGS - TABLE SHOWING PARTICIPATION

| Dates | Host College | No. | Colleges Represented | Manager | Principal | Staff | Sts. | Ed'n'ist | Others | Total |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|------|----------|--------|-------|
| Nov. 81 25, 26 | St. Xavier's C. Bombay | 1 | St. Xavier's C | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 2 | St. Xavier's Inst. of Edn. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 3 | Nirmala Neketan | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 4 | Sophia C. | 1 | — | 4 | 2 | — | — | 7 |
| | | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | — | 16 |
| 28, 29 | St. Xavier's College, Goa | 1 | St. Xavier's C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | 5 |
| | | 2 | Carmel C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 3 | Nirmala Instt. of Education | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 6 |
| | | | | 3 | — | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 18 |
| Dec. 81 5, 6 | Mar Ivanios College, Trivandrum | 1 | Mar Ivanios C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 | 7 |
| | | 2 | Mar Theophilus C. | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 3 | St. Xavier's C. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| | | 4 | Loyola C. of Social Sciences | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 5 | All Saints C. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 6 | Fatima Mata National C. | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 7 | St. Jude's C. | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| | | | | 7 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 10 | — | 30 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---|-------------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|---|----|----|
| 8, 9 | St. Berchmans' College, Chan- ganacherry | 1 | S. B. College | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | — | — | 12 | |
| | | 2 | St. Aloysius C. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| | | 3 | Assumption C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 6 | |
| | | 4 | St. Joseph's Trg. C. | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | |
| | | 5 | St. Dominic's C. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| | | | | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 6 | — | 25 | |
| 10, 11. | St. Thomas C. Palai | 1 | St. Thomas C. | 1+1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 12 | |
| | | 2 | St. George's C. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| | | 3 | St. Stephen's C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 6 | |
| | | 4 | Alphonsa C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 | 7 | |
| | | 5 | B.K.C. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 4 | |
| | | 6 | B.C.M.C. | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | — | 5 | |
| | | 7 | St. Thomas Trg. | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | |
| | | | | 7 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 39 |
| 13, 14 | St. Teresa's College, Cochin | 1 | St. Teresa's C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| | | 2 | St. Joseph's C. | — | — | 4 | 2 | 1 | — | 7 | |
| | | 3 | Sacred Heart C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 | 7 | |
| | | 4 | St. Xavier's C. | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — | 5 | |
| | | 5 | Bharat Mata C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 6 | |
| | | 6 | St. Michael's C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 4 | |
| | | 7 | St. Albert's C. | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | 1 | 4 | |
| | | 8 | St. Paul's C. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| | | | | 8 | 6 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 43 |
| 16, 17 | Vimala College Trichur | 1 | Vimala C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| | | 2 | St. Mary's C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 5 | |
| | | 3 | Mercy C. | — | — | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | 6 | |
| | | 4 | Carmel C. | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| | | 5 | Little Flower C. | 1 | — | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | |
| | | 6 | St. Joseph's C. | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | |
| | | 7 | St. Aloysius C. | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| | | 8 | Deva Mata C. | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| | | 9 | St. Thomas C. | 1 | 1 | 7 | — | — | — | 9 | |
| | | | | 9 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 45 |
| 18, 19 | St. Joseph's C. Calicut | 1 | St. Joseph's C. | — | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | 10 | |
| | | 2 | Providence C. | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 | |
| | | 3 | Nirmalagiri C. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | — | — | 9 | |
| | | | | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 1 | — | 23 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 21, 22 | St. Aloysius College, Mangalore | 1 | St. Aloysius C. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | | * | St. Agnes C. | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | | 3 | St. Ann's C. of Education | — | — | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| | | 4 | School of Social work | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| | | 5 | St. Aloysius Ev. College | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 6 | St. Mary's C. | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 6 | | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 28 |
| Dec. 28 29 | St. Joseph's College, Bangalore | 1 | St. Joseph's C. | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 5 |
| | | 2 | St. Joseph's C. of Commerce | — | — | 3 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 3 | St. John's Medical College | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 3 |
| | | 4 | Mt. Carmel C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 5 | Jyoti Nivas C. | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| | | 6 | Christ C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 4 |
| | | 6 | | 2 | 3 | 11 | 7 | — | 2 | 25 |
| Jan. 82 9, 10 | Bt. Joseph's College, Trichy | 1 | St. Joseph's C. | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 | — | — | 10 |
| | | 2 | Holy Cross C. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | — | — | 8 |
| | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 11 | 3 | — | — | 18 |
| 13, 14 | Fatima College Madurai | 1 | Fatima C. | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | — | 1 | 9 |
| | | 2 | St. Justin's C. for Women | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 3 | Holy Cross C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 4 | Jayaraj Annapackium C. | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 5 | Arul Anandar C. | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 3 |
| | | 6 | St. Xavier's C. of Education | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 7 | St. Xavier's C. | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 7 | | 1 | 4 | 13 | 5 | — | 1 | 24 |
| 16, 17 | Loyola C. Madras | 1 | Loyola C. | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 7 |
| | | 2 | Stella Maris C. | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 6 |
| | | 3 | Sacred Heart C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 4 | Stella Matutina College of Edn. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 5 | Providence C. | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 6 | Auxilium C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 6 | | 1 | 5 | 11 | 9 | — | — | 26 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 21, 22 | Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada | 1 | Andhra Loyola College | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 6 |
| | | 2 | Maris Stella C. | — | 1 | 3 | 2 | — | — | 6 |
| | | 3 | J.M.J.C. | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 1 | 4 |
| | | 4 | St. Francis' C. | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| | | 5 | St. Joseph's C. | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 6 | St. Ann's C. of Education | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| | | 7 | St. Teresa's C. | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 7 | | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 24 |
| Feb. 82 4, 5 | St. Xavier's College, Ranchi | 1 | St. Xavier's C. | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 6 |
| | | 2 | Nirmala C. | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 5 |
| | | 3 | Loyola C. of Edn. | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 3 |
| | | 4 | Ursuline C. of Edn. | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 5 | Patna Women's College | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | 3 |
| | | 5 | | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | — | — | 18 |
| 13, 14 | Jesus and Mary C. Delhi | 1 | Jesus and Mary C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 7 |
| | | 2 | Sophia C. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | 7 |
| | | 3 | St. Aloysius C. | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 4 | Sacred Heart C. | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| | | 5 | St. Joseph's C. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| | | 6 | St. Bede's C. | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 4 |
| | | 6 | | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | — | 22 |

ABSTRACT SHOWING PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL MEETINGS

| Date | College (Venue) | Town | No. of C's Rep. | Participants | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | | Man. | Pr. | Staff | Sts. | Ed'n't | Others | Total |
| Nov. 81 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25, 26 | St. Xavier's | Bombay | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | — | — | 16 |
| 28, 29 | St. Xavier's | Goa | 3 | — | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | — | 18 |
| Dec. 81 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5, 6 | Mar Ivanios | Trivandrum | 7 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 10 | — | 1 | 30 |
| 8, 9 | St. Berchmans | Changanacherry | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 6 | — | — | 25 |
| 10, 11 | St. Thomas | Palai | 7 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 39 |
| 13, 14 | St. Teresa's | Cochin | 8 | 6 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 43 |
| 16, 17 | Vimala | Trichur | 9 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 45 |
| 18, 19 | St. Joseph's | Calicut | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 5 | 1 | — | 23 |
| 21, 22 | St. Aloysius | Mangalore | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 28 |
| 28, 29 | St. Joseph's | Bangalore | 6 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 7 | — | 2 | 25 |
| Jan. 82 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9, 10 | St. Joseph's | Trichy | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 3 | — | — | 18 |
| 13, 14 | Fatima | Madurai | 7 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 5 | — | 1 | 24 |
| 16, 17 | Loyola | Madras | 6 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 9 | — | — | 26 |
| 21, 22 | Andhra Loyola | Vijayawada | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 24 |
| Feb. 82 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4, 5 | St. Xavier's | Ranchi | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | — | — | 18 |
| 13, 14 | Jesus & Mary | Delhi | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | — | 22 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 days | 16 | 16 | 91 | 35 | 62 | 190 | 100 | 16 | 21 | 424 |

COLLEGES NOT REPRESENTED AT THE REGIONAL MEETINGS

| Sl. No. | College (Alphab. order) | Town | State |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | Christ College | Irinjalakuda | Kerala |
| 2. | Kuriakose Elias College | Mannanam | Kerala |
| 3. | Loreto College | Calcutta | West Bengal |
| 4. | Loreto College | Darjeeling | West Bengal |
| 5. | Milagres College | Kallianpur | Karnataka |
| 6. | Newman College | Thodupuzha | Kerala |
| 7. | Nirmala College | Coimbatore | Tamilnadu |
| 8. | Nirmala College | Muvattapuzha | Kerala |
| 9. | Salesian College | Darjeeling | West Bengal |
| 10. | School of Social Sciences | Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh |
| 11. | St. Aloysius College | Edathua | Kerala |
| 12. | St. Anthony's College | Shillong | Meghalaya |
| 13. | St. Edmund's College | Shillong | Meghalaya |
| 14. | St. Francis' de Sales College | Nagpur | Maharashtra |
| 15. | St. Ignatius Training College | Palayamkottai | Tamilnadu |
| 16. | St. John's College | Anchal | Kerala |
| 17. | St. Joseph's College | Darjeeling | West Bengal |
| 18. | St. Joseph's Training College | Cochin | Kerala |
| 19. | St. Mary's College | Shillong | Meghalaya |
| 20. | St. Mary's College | Tuticorin | Tamilnadu |
| 21. | St. Philomena's College | Puttur | Karnataka |
| 22. | St. Teresa's Institute of Education | Bombay | Maharashtra |
| 23. | St. Xavier's College | Ahmedabad | Gujarat |
| 24. | St. Xavier's College | Calcutta | West Bengal |
| 25. | Xavier Labour Relations Institute | Jamshedpur | Bihar |

SIX TOP PRIORITIES DISCOVERED THROUGH A SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUE BY EACH REGIONAL GROUP

GROUP AT ST. XAVIER'S, BOMBAY:

No. of Colleges represented: 4.

1. Academic excellence and the development of the total personality of the student.
2. Integration of knowledge with faith and a periodic review of the knowledge, skills and values imparted to see whether they conform to the Christian mission of the College.
3. The uplift of the socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the College community particularly the Catholics.
4. Help students handle their crisis of faith.
5. To provide an intellectual atmosphere in which students are trained to hold personal convictions.
6. Witness to Christ in our programmes, teaching and individual example.

GROUP AT ST. XAVIER'S GOA:

No. of Colleges represented: 3

1. Enable the College personnel to live in a Christian family atmosphere and help them to interiorize Christian faith and values.
2. Build up character on the foundation of human values so as to form and shape committed leaders for God and country.
3. Self-analysis and personal development of staff and students through programmes.
4. Help students to rise above caste and other distinctions, and initiate social change in the College and outside.
5. Value-oriented education together with academic excellence.
6. Enable students to critically evaluate current ideologies and situations in the light of the Gospel and human values.

GROUP AT MAR IVANIOS, TRIVANDRUM:

No. of Colleges represented: 7.

1. Appoint a Campus animator to implement the Christian mission.
2. Develop a team of really motivated and committed teachers, with a sense of mission.
3. Tutorial system for the guidance and counselling of students.
4. Development of teacher-student and student-student relationship.
5. Take measures for the spiritual development of students by providing a Christian atmosphere on the campus.
6. Develop social awareness among students.

GROUP AT ST. BERCHMANS, CHANGANACHERRY:

No. of Colleges represented: 5.

1. Camps, seminars, and courses for College teachers to understand the Christian mission of the Catholic College.
2. Quality education in an atmosphere of Christian values.
3. Prepare Christian leaders from among staff and students who will be the catalysts of social change
4. Motivate the entire College community by involving their representatives in the planning and decision-making process.
5. An atmosphere of love and service on the College Campus.
6. Appointment of dedicated teachers who will understand the weaknesses and feelings of students.

GROUP AT ST. THOMAS, PALAI:

No. of Colleges represented: 7.

1. Witness to Christ in our programmes, teachings and individual example.
2. Provide opportunities for teachers to participate in camps, retreats and programmes to understand the Christian mission of the Catholic College.
3. Integrate faith and Christian values with the subjects taught.

4. A core of committed teachers to plan for Christian witnessing.
5. Introduce systematic value education.
6. Provide facilities for guidance and counselling.

GROUP AT ST. TERESA'S, COCHIN:

No. of Colleges represented: 8.

1. All-round development of staff and students in a Christian atmosphere.
2. Character-building on the foundation of human values.
3. A systematic and effective campus ministry for the moral and spiritual growth of staff and students.
4. Educational Institutions to be instruments of social change and social justice.
5. All sections of the College community to have a complete understanding of the Christian mission.
6. Witness to Christ through life, teaching and programmes on the College Campus.

GROUP AT VIMALA, TRICHUR:

No. of Colleges represented: 9.

1. Witness to Christ in all our programmes, teaching and personal life.
2. Create a Christian atmosphere in the campus together with quality education.
3. Enable Catholic staff and students to develop an intimate relationship with Jesus.
4. Witness to Christ by radiating love and a spirit of service.
5. Build character on the foundation of human values.
6. A united effort to eliminate party politics from the College Campus.

GROUP AT ST. JOSEPH'S, CALICUT:

No. of Colleges represented: 3.

1. Create an atmosphere of Christian faith by seminars, retreats, lectures.

2. Develop in students a sense of social justice, sound morality, and attachment to Jesus.
3. Update religious and moral education to instil Christian values in Catholic and non-Catholic students.
4. A committed and competent team to plan, implement, evaluate programmes designed to implement the Christian mission.
5. Deepen faith in students through books and other media.
6. Reduce conflict among various denominations.

GROUP AT ST. ALOYSIUS, MANGALORE:

No. of Colleges represented: 6.

1. An all-out effort to foster social awareness and commitment to justice as the most important way of bearing witness to Christ.
2. Programmes for the spiritual and moral formation of staff and students through Campus Ministry.
3. Enable staff and students to be instruments of social change by a commitment to social justice in the light of the Gospel.
4. Curriculum complemented by programmes for social concern and social justice.
5. Witness to the Christian mission through unity among management, staff and students on the College Campus.
6. A staff that is committed to Jesus Christ to revive faith which is dying out among students.

GROUP AT ST. JOSEPH'S, BANGALORE:

No. of Colleges represented: 6.

1. Witnessing to Christ by an all-out effort to build the character of students in general, in the light of the Gospel; and accent on Christ-centred formation of Catholic students.
2. Emphasize formation in social awareness and social justice in the light of the Gospel, among management, staff and students, stressing social justice on the Campus itself.
3. A healthy, Christian inter-personal relationship among staff and students.

4. Christian leadership formation to promote Christian values and to initiate social change.
5. Quality education in an atmosphere of Christian values.
6. Reduce the tendency to elitism on the college campus.

GROUP AT ST. JOSEPH'S, TRICHY:

No. of Colleges represented: 2.

1. Healthy interpersonal relationship among management, staff and students.
2. Total formation of students in a Christian atmosphere.
3. A clear understanding of the specific Christian mission of the college, by management, staff and students.
4. Opportunities for self-evaluation for staff and students through retreats, camps and seminars.
5. Development of leadership for social change.
6. Updated methods for Christian formation of Catholics and ethical formation of non-Catholics.

GROUP AT FATIMA, MADURAI:

No. of Colleges represented: 7.

1. Witness to Christ on the College campus through personal example, teaching and programmes, and by imparting quality education.
2. Prepare the students to meet the challenges of modern India specially by formation to service of the under-privileged and social justice in the light of the Gospel.
3. Healthy interpersonal relationship among management, staff and students.
4. Emphasis on the integrated personality of students with special stress on emotional maturity.
5. Institutional self-analysis with all the constituents participating.
6. Opportunity for political education in the light of Christian values, for management, staff and students

GROUP AT LOYOLA, MADRAS:

No. of Colleges represented: 6.

1. Develop a team of highly motivated teachers with deep Christian values and a sense of mission.
2. Develop in staff and students a distinctly Christian philosophy of life.
3. Provide conditions for the all-round development of students in a Christian atmosphere.
4. Healthy interpersonal relations between the students, staff and management.
5. Opportunities for self-evaluation for teachers through retreats, camps and seminars.
6. Motivate staff and students to take the programme of moral and spiritual education seriously.

GROUP AT ANDHRA LOYOLA, VIJAYAWADA:

No. of Colleges represented: 7.

1. Prepare a team of committed and motivated staff.
2. Witness to Christ through our teaching, programmes and personal example.
3. All-round development of staff and students in a Christian atmosphere.
4. A clear understanding of the Christian mission of the College, by management, staff and students.
5. Build up the character of students on the foundation of Christian values.
6. Institutional self-analysis in the light of the Christian mission of the Catholic College.

GROUP AT ST. XAVIER'S, RANCHI:

No. of Colleges represented: 5.

1. Educate students to be aware of the various challenges in life in the light of the Gospel.
2. Full human development of the College community based on Christian values.

3. Christian interpretation of human knowledge and development.
4. Formation of committed citizens firmly rooted in Gospel values.
5. Special consideration to the under-privileged at the time of admission and an all-round effort to promote social consciousness and social commitment among the students.
6. Elimination of communal feelings so as to build a united community on the College Campus.

GROUP AT JESUS AND MARY, DELHI:

No. of Colleges represented: 6.

1. Provide all-round education to students in a Christian atmosphere with special stress on emotional maturity.
2. A clear understanding and awareness of the Christian mission by management and staff.
3. Witness to Christ through our individual example and our programmes and teaching and reveal Christ to others in the same way.
4. Foster a healthy interpersonal relationship among management, staff and students.
5. Inculcate in students the Christian attitude towards social problems like abortion, euthanasia, pre-marital sex, etc.
6. Motivate staff to identify areas in the syllabus which they can enrich with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTED

1. Almost 80 per cent of the respondents asked for more Seminars of this type either College-wise or region-wise.
2. A brochure to be brought out by Xavier Board, containing clear ideas about:
 - (a) The Christian mission of Catholic Colleges.
 - (b) The philosophy of Christian Education.
 - (c) The theology of Christian Education.
 - (d) A clear definition of the Christian atmosphere of the Catholic College.
3. To steer clear of the danger of equating quality education with Christian education-Christian education includes quality education, but the latter need not imply the former. Include the phrase "Christian formation" in a statement of the College's objectives.
4. Follow-up the priorities chosen by the Colleges.
5. Xavier Board should focus its attention on the personal renewal of teachers.
6. A seminar on Social Change, pointing up the fact that the Specific Catholic Mission of our Colleges lies in that direction, and it is all a question of relevance.
7. Certain burning issues, side-tracked by this seminar, must be faced squarely and courageously:
 - (a) Capitation fees.
 - (b) Admission and selection policies.
 - (c) Lack of moral and spiritual education in mens' Colleges, specially in Kerala.
 - (d) The charge of being elitist.

REPORT ON EVALUATION THROUGH QUESTIONNAIRE ON SEMINAR HELD AT REGIONAL MEETINGS

The evaluation of the Seminar was made through a short questionnaire, intended to elicit the frank opinion of the participants of all categories together. On the effectiveness of the seminar, the propriety of the subject of discussion, and the appeal and aptness of the technique used by the visiting expert Fr. Laurent Larouche. Suggestions were requested from each group, for use in action plans for revitalizing the specific mission of the Catholic College.

The four questions were:

1. Were you satisfied with the matter of the seminar ?
2. Were you satisfied with the manner in which it was conducted ?
3. Was the seminar useful in understanding the Christian mission of the College ?
4. Have you any useful suggestions to offer

Q. 1. There seems to be hardly any question about the timeliness and acceptability of the theme of the seminar. About the only regrets expressed were a lack of time for an in-depth study of some of the problems and the omission of the extra-curricular duties of the total campus body. A few expressed doubts as to the practicability of carrying out the Christian mission of the College in the Non-Christian Indian setting in which our Catholic College finds itself. Most of the participants were grateful for the opportunities provided them of being involved in a close study of the specific Christian Mission of the Catholic College, which they said they had understood for the first time.

Q. 2. The method employed by Fr. Larouche has evoked unequivocal appreciation from all. The drawbacks in this

particular section appear to have been a lack of time, which after the emphasis received by priorities, left little scope for a detailed discussion of problem areas. The technique has been described by many as scientific, interesting, democratic. It made for a freedom in discussion which students greatly appreciated who might normally have felt restrained by the presence of their teachers and other College authorities. A little inequality of weightage appears however, to have been inevitable, owing to the preponderance in some of the meetings, of religious over lay participants. A large number have felt participation should have been wider, more Colleges, more Principals and more students been involved and a larger part of the two-day discussions given to action plans than was possible with the priorities claiming a solid part of the timetable.

Q. III. The usefulness of the seminar in understanding the Christian mission of the Catholic College, need never be doubted from the responses received, some of them exuberant in their appreciation, others happy at having had the Mission clarified. Almost everyone wished there had been time for a more detailed discussion and better sharing of views.

What understandably has bothered the participants, however is whether the execution of the Mission is practicable. No one questions the theory, the ideal; but may wonder how much of it can be translated into practice.

It is no Micawberism in the realm of higher values, to feel the means to ends will 'turn up'. The effort accompanied by prayer is all that matters; "the rest will be added unto you".

IV. Suggestions:

Among the numerous valuable suggestions which have been received in response to the fourth question, a few are selected for their immediate usefulness and value and their near-universal applicability. These are

Frequent if possible, annual self-evaluation seminars, regional and college-wise.

A seminar on Social Change.

A printed handbook defining such terms as Christian values, Christian atmosphere, Christian mission.

Participation of non-Christian Staff in such seminars.

Emphasis on personal renewal needed for College renewal.

XB to keep in touch with those who have submitted their priorities.

The tackling of thorny issues which were side-stepped in this seminar e.g. capitation fees, admission and selection policies, conduct of examinations, lack of catechetical and moral instruction in men's Colleges, the charge of being elitist. The whole of Kerala is ridden with malpractices of this kind and it seems contradictory to sit inside and plan for Christian values, says one group of respondents. Unity among Colleges to help against forces destructive of Christian Education.

Means to be thought out for making non-Christian students understand the Christian mission of the College.

More participation by staff and students in such seminars, and also by alumni.

Orientation for Managers through summer courses.

Catholic heads of schools, technical and professional institutions and administrators, to be invited as observers.

XB circulars to reach staff and students.

A similar seminar to be organized for student representatives alone.

Findings of seminars to be cyclostyled and distributed.

Talks on the Christian Mission to freshmen by competent people.

Live-in seminars for better concentrated work.

Full-time counselling by persons appointed for it.

Something to be done to ensure participation by the majority, rather than by a minority of persons.

Managers to take the initiative and not remain passive, for anything to materialize.

Duration of seminar to be extended to 3, 4, 5 or 7 days to ensure fuller discussion, and vacation time to be fixed to ensure fuller participation.

XB to give the necessary guide-lines, resource persons, questionnaires etc. for student evaluation of teachers and also for self-evaluation by teachers.

Separate seminars of this kind for staff and students for better fruitfulness.

If possible, a similar seminar for Catholic Schools in India.

A succinct expression of the Christian mission in the College calendar.

Problems of staff to be taken up.

Regional language at regional seminars.

Managers and Principals to be made to feel more concerned since they are to implement the priorities.

A questionnaire or suggestion bank for follow-up purposes.

Let such seminars be preceded by a day of recollection.

Origin and Development of XB to be explained.

Authentic Christianity, not narrow, parochial Christianity-adapted to the modern world and to contemporary India to be emphasized.

Some such seminars separately for youngsters who are to run Catholic institutions in the future.

A permanent campus co-ordinator and a systematic campus ministry.

An evaluation of the Christian activities in each College, before such a seminar.

CBCI to be persuaded to participate to ensure implementation of suggestions.

XB to take steps for Catholic institutions to share views.

Advance information and home work and thus full participation by all sections of the Catholic community.

A good many of the suggestions as to the conduct of the seminar and how it could be more effective with wider participation, advance information and questionnaires and the involvement of more managers and principals and more staff and students per participant College, are likely to prove useful in the planning of similar seminars in future by XB for each region or by the Colleges for themselves. While many look forward to an annual exercise of this kind, a year is too short a period to base evaluation of policies on; but every year's achievement in the pursuit of values is bound to tell over a period of time, and a three-year or five-year stretch is sure to throw-up enough matter in the way of problems solved and problems to be faced, for a good College-wise or regional seminar on the Christian mission. The pace of progress is slow where divers groups and views are involved. But a breakthrough has been made and some of the above suggestions are sure to help in a follow-up programme.

CONCLUSION

While Xavier Board and the Catholic Colleges in India may congratulate themselves that a major break-through has been made, to stop here would be fatal to the cause. It is only determination to face the odds that can take the mountain climber to the peak he is after. Both the follow-up suggested and the region-wise priorities set down call for a tremendous effort chiefly of the mind and spirit. But every cause, good or bad, gathers strength as it proceeds. The Xavier Board is entirely hopeful that given the cooperation it needs by the various sections of the College body namely, management, principal, staff, students and ministerial employees, nothing can stop it from proceeding with its plans and efforts to make the specific mission of the Catholic College come alive on the College Campus.

I conclude with a thank you which words can convey only very partially our gratitude to all who have borne the burden of the day and the heats. I begin with the host Colleges. To name them is but a poor acknowledgement of their service rendered with Christian love and care for detail. We are thankful no end to each of them for the dedication and seriousness of purpose with which they organized the Regional Meetings. This kind of whole-hearted co-operation was very encouraging to the Xavier Board. Where a College could not host a meeting we turned to the Ordinary or the Diocese or his representative and we are proud and grateful to report we were never turned down. So among the hosts other than Principals are the following to whom our gratitude is unbounded: The most Rev. Benedict Mar Gregorias of Trivandrum, Fr. Vanchipura Vicar-General of Palai Diocese; The Most Rev. Paul Chittilapally Vicar-General of Trichur Diocese and the Most Rev. Archbishop Padiyara of Changanacherry.

And talking of cooperation, there could hardly be a better example to cite than that of His Excellency, Augustino Cacciavillan, Pro-nuncio of India present at the Delhi Regional. He unhesitatingly commended XB's effort, giving valuable comments on Fr.

Murickan's Study. His Excellency also recommended the Study at the inaugural session of the CBCI Conference at Tiruchirapally. Of the CBCI members, we were privileged to have the following with us at the meetings in their respective regions: The Rt. Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil of Palai; Bishop Thumma of Vijayawada, Vice-Chairman CBCI, Archbishop Arulappa of Hyderabad who has been a constant champion of the Xavier Board cause; the Rt. Rev. Ferdinand Fonseca, Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay, and Fr. John Vallamattam, Additional Secretary-General of the CBCI whose familiarity with XB as its former President has often been responsible for exposing him to arduous tasks for the Board's welfare.

Above all the presence of the Hierarchy, even though just a "token presence" considering the number who, for one reason or another, could not attend was a source of comfort and encouragement. We are certain more and more of our prelates will, in future, give us the support for which we have longed for years.

If those who were most closely associated with the Regional programme come last in the catalogue of thank you's it is because a special stress is due in regard to their services. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who attended and sat through the regional meetings discussing the issues raised, and thereafter responded to the questionnaire. This note will remind them that the future of the project lies very largely in their hands. To Fr. Murickan; to our President and Vice-President; and to others who helped to lighten our labours in divers ways, we say a most sincere thank you; and this brings me to our visiting expert, Fr. Laurent Larouche. Fr. Larouche's was a labour of love and zeal—He let India grow on him and has already written to tell us he is prepared for a follow-up trip!

There are some thank you's which we shall never have done saying and one of these is to our generous sponsors, the International Federation of Catholic Universities. Nothing of what we have accomplished could ever have been possible without their bounty. So FIUC (as we love to call the Federation)

deserves all our gratitude and much of the credit for whatever we have been able to achieve.

With this account we come to the end of the first lap of the race. The best is yet to be!

Sister M. Hedwige A.C.
Secretary-General.

OTHER X. B. ACTIVITIES DURING THE TERM

1. De Rance Projects: (June 1981—May 1982)

While detailed reports of projects for every year, are regularly put out in brochure form, it seems in place to append a brief advance resume of each project to this special Flash Back we are bringing out this year. The figures will be presented here, not exactly as they are in our books, but rounded off for easy perusal and assimilation.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Organizer Colleges : | 50 |
| Participating ,, : | 100 |
| Programmes of Various kinds : | 65—about 55 for students and 10 for staff or staff and students together. |
| No. of students who participated : | 10,000 |
| No. of staff who participated : | 800 |
| Both together : | 500 |
| Total expenditure : | 1,15,000 |
| Total XB Subsidy : | 68,000=60% of Expenditure (approx) |

De Rance has done XB proud and we close our resume with a grateful thank you.

2. *Administrative Leadership with a Faith Vision:*

This workshop-cum-seminar for Principals and Vice-Principals was conducted and directed at the Bandra Retreat House, by Fr. Anthony D'Souza S.J., Rector, St. Xavier's College, Bombay from 18th to 23rd April 1982, ably assisted by two experts in the administrative field, Mr. George Menezes and Dr. Dennyson Pereira the Director outdid himself in this masterful session. The 26 participants who attended in spite of public examinations, teachers' strikes, visit of commissions, and summer vacation planning, went back refreshed. The special feature of the seminar was the faith-vision thread which ran through the talks and discussions.

We thank Fr. Anthony and his helpers from the bottom of our hearts for the elevating draught of administrative wisdom of which the eminent participants drank freely in the session.

3. *Staff Retreat at Shembaganur:*

As many as 72 college staff availed themselves of this annual XB event. The Director, Fr. Gino Henriques, spared no pains to make the experience spiritually exhilarating. Talks, exhortations and counselling sessions were all without exception appreciated by the group. The group itself deserves special commendation for its superb response. A full report is currently in the press.

We cannot thank Fr. Gino adequately, nor the Shembag authorities. Mention must also be made of Sr. Cleopatra CMI, Mr. Albert Selvanayakam, Miss Olga Noronha and Miss Eva D'Cruz who ably assisted Fr. Gino in planning, discerning and counselling.