



Loyola College Society, Chennai.

05Sep2022

## HAPPY TEACHERS' DAY

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Teachers' Day. As you celebrate the day, I would be holding meetings in the Jesuit Mission in Nuremberg (Germany) after addressing the Jesuits in Nairobi (Kenya). But I would be thinking of you gratefully for your academic services especially for forming the students who come to Loyola Campus. Thank you.

Teachers are architects of a nation and the society, for they teach, uphold and live out values of unity, integrity, and harmony. They teach the individual equality, dignity, and rights as well as responsibilities. When we talk about Kodikatha Kumaran we not only think of his defending the flag but the nation and the people it represented. Similarly, a teacher does not represent a profession but a vocation of forming students as leaders with social responsibility.

They teach the students, in addition to academic syllabi, that each one is unique and each one has much to offer to the good of the society. They become aware, through encountering and caring for the students, that all students are not uniform but they are to build up unity and harmony. They teach the students that the world is not just and fair; and that the world is filled with people of truth as well as people of lies; but they convince their students that truth alone will emerge as victorious; and truth alone would set them free. They bring home the point to each student that each one should stand for his/her conviction for the good of all. Thus, the learning of teacher crystalizes as the conviction of students. This is the academic fullness.

We need and appreciate role models in life to imitate and to emulate: We have Dr Radha Krishnan, a teacher of life-philosopher. We observe Mother Teresa's day as well. She was a teacher of humanity through love and service. She taught humankind how intellectual richness should become service of love. In these two great teachers we see the embodiment of Gnana-, Karma-, and Bhakthi-marga/yoga.

As teachers let us teach and live out what we teach. People may come and go in life but values stand the test of time. And the summary of all values is: be good and do good. This is lived out as sympathy which becomes empathy, that is, feeling for the other makes one become the other.

On this teachers' day let us become conscious of each student entrusted to our care and let us see the world of a student from his/her eyes/perspectives and that would help us lead him/her better. Happy Teachers' Day.

With kind regards,

Francis P Xavier SJ

