

Loyola Hostel

Annual Report 2009-2010



Presented by

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Chennai – 600 034

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Hostel Day Report – 2009-2010

Respected Chief Guest Shri M.O.H.F. Shajahan, Minister of Public works, Collegiate Education and Transport, Govt. Of Pondicherry, Our illustrious alumnus,

Guest of Honour Shri. S.J.Surya, Film Director and Cine Artist, who is also our hostel alumnus, Rev.Fr. Rector, Principal, Secretary, Deputy Principal, Jesuit friends, Officials of the College and Loyola Hostel, Members of the teaching and non teaching staff, parents, guests, well wishers and my dearest students.

Good Evening to one and all. A hearty welcome to all of you to our Loyola Hostel Family day. Thank you for honouring our invitation through your gracious presence and support.

At the outset, let me introduce the Chief guest and the Guest of honour for this evening function.

Shri M.O.H.F. Shajahan is the Minister of Public works, Collegiate Education and Transport, Govt. Of Puducherry. He is the son of Mr. M.O.H. Farook who is at present serving the country as the Governor of Jharkhand and who has also served as the Chief Minister of Puducherry, Union Minister as well as Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. M.O.H.F. Shahjahan completed B.Com from Loyola College in the year 1986 and went on to do MBA from European University, Switzerland. He was nominated by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of India, to lead Indian Youth delegations to Saudi Arabia under Indo-Saudi Arabia Youth exchange programme. He led the delegation in October 2007 and was the first minister to lead such delegates. We are indeed proud to have such a distinguished alumni of our Loyola Hostel with us today for our Family Day.

Shri. S.J.Surya is a well known Film Director and Cine Artist. I am sure he needs no introduction to the student community here. He is known for his cool personality and he has got a gentle smile on his face always. His first movie was *Vaali*, with Ajith playing the lead in Tamil, and it was a super hit. From then on, it was a journey of success for him up to this day. He has worked with several great personalities which includes Oscar winner A.R. Rahman who is also his friend. He himself has acted in a movie called *New* which was also a hit. At present, he is working for a Telugu film *Puli* with Pawan Kalyan playing the lead. Besides all this, he is one of the illustrious alumni of Loyola Hostel. Hence, it is very apt to have him with us today for our Hostel Family day celebration.

A hearty welcome.

With immense joy and gratitude for having passed yet another successful year in the annals of Loyola Hostel, let me present the report of Loyola Hostel for the academic year 2009-2010.

INTRODUCTION:

The Loyola hostel –NEST 2009-2010 is another successful year from its origin in the year 1925. Many great Jesuits have served this esteemed institution leaving behind treasures of values, character and tradition. I consider this as a great opportunity to serve this institution with same clarity, commitment, hard work and dedication to take Loyola to greater heights of inclusion and excellence.

I. Administration:

A famous orator Benjamin Disraeli said, "Change is inevitable in a progressive country, Change is constant". The hostel too attested the factors of Change this year also.

In June 2009, the hostel administration took a new turn when Fr. Louis Arockiaraj S.J was designated as the successor of Fr. P. Susai S.J as the director of Loyola Hostel. He was assisted by a young and vibrant team of assistant directors that comprised of Br. Jayaseelan, Br. John Paul, Br. James, Prof. Robert Selvam, Prof. Sebastian Raj and Prof. Arul Jagan. It was indeed an eventful year, filled with various events and activities and I am very pleased to present the annual report on this joyous day when we come towards the culmination of all the activities in this academic year.

With utmost sense of gratitude, the hostel community remembers the services of former director Fr .P. Susai and the assistant directors, Br. Thomas and Br. Robin. We thank them for their commitment and contributions to the hostel community in the last year.

II. Admissions:

There is a famous saying that goes...

"Dream what you want to dream

Go where you want to go

Be what you want to be

Because you have only one life

And one chance to do all the things you want to do"

I am sure, it is this reason why the birds of different flocks have chosen Loyola Hostel as their Nest. Yes, it is to dream high and to come out with flying colors that the students have come here. And we are happy to be the facilitators in helping them to march towards their goals with determination and courage. We have several great personalities shining in the world today who were once upon a time part of this Nest and their lives ever inspire us to proceed with greater visions and ideals in the service of the nation.

Loyola Hostel is indeed a 'mini global village' with students hailing from different nations, classes, cultures and religions. There is a total of 1350 students in the hostel. We are fortunate to have variety of students from Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Srilanka and from all over India. Around 200 LIBA students, sports men and day scholars also make use of the mess facility thereby extending the services of the hostel to over 1500 students. The office staff has taken great effort in making the admission process flow smoothly.

III. ACADEMICS:

Loyola hostel is indeed a place to grow into a beautiful personality as persons 'fully alive and fully active'. Academics indeed is one of the areas of primary concern for the Jesuit management as we are the pioneers in education. The students are strongly motivated by the hostel administration to give priority for their academics. The fruit of our labour was seen substantially during the last semester results with 15 students standing first as rank holders in their respective classes, 70% of our students passing in all the subjects and only a bare minimum failing in more than 2 subjects.

The attendance report and semester mark statements of the students were collected to check their academic performance.

IV. Fee Concession:

One of the salient features of the hostel is its care for the students of all categories. A total of 300 students receive Mess fee concession amounting to rupees one lakh per month. The amount is received from three sources, namely the Jesuit management, the Alumni director and the Hostel director. I thank them, especially Fr. Rector who is with us today, for creating such a facility for helping the poor and the needy.

This year the maximum amount of concession per month was increased from Rs.300 to Rs.500 taking into consideration the most disadvantaged section of students. I also take this opportunity to thank the well wishers and parents for their generous contribution.

V. Facilities:

Various Facilities are provided to the students in the hostel in order that they may excel in all that they do as the motto of the Founder St. Ignatius goes: "To do all things for the greater glory of God"

First and foremost, there are spacious and the regularly well maintained rooms that are white washed every year. Recently, around 50 new cots were provided for the students in common rooms. Mess halls were also white washed this year. New utensils, fly catcher Pest o flash machine, New weighing machine and other items were bought to improve the facilities in the Mess.

Sauliere Hall stage was renovated and now it wears a bright and attractive appearance inviting students to perform on the stage. Various programmes were conducted here by different departments and clubs in the campus. The domestic staff and workers

were provided with 2 sets of uniforms. Musical instruments like Tabla, Key board, and Parai were bought in view of encouraging the hidden talents of the students in music. Digital camera and L.C.D Projector were also bought newly for the hostel. We were able to provide another 150 chairs to improve the seating arrangements in Sauliere hall. Thanks to the generous contribution of our parents.

New cables were laid to advance electrical facilities in the hostel. This has been a great help for running the motors, pumping water, sewage motor, functioning of kitchen and various other needs comfortably. Though there is a large number of inmates and there exist water scarcity, we managed to provide water facilities for everyone.

Every facility provided in the hostel is for our dear students to excel not only academically but also in every area of life.

VI. Activities:

A.

Cultural Forum:

The hostel is a platform for the students to develop all their talents. With the theme 'Sown to Bloom' Freshers' day was organized with variety of entertainment programmes. It was indeed a springboard for many to begin well. This was followed by various programmes under the able guidance of the cultural team as well as the assistant directors.

A musical Concert was organized in October to mark the Environment day. 'Karnan', a one act play by film actor Mr.Nazer was an enthralling and enriching experience for the hostellers. TALENTS' EXPO-2009 Inter Blocks Cultural competition, wore an elegant caption of Exhibit- Encourage- Enjoy. The students' potentialities and capacities were brought to limelight. Team spirit, feeling of oneness, sharing of resources, learning the art of organizing and building up leadership qualities were the fruits of such a show.

The cultural team organized a fantastic Christmas programme bringing joy to both the participants and audience. During the LOHO Alumni meet held in January the forum came out with a variety of entertainment programmes under the theme 'United to Cherish' which led all the alumni to nostalgic memories of the golden days they spent in the hostel.

English Movies as well as documentaries were shown regularly to help the students improve their accent as well as to enjoy their weekends. To celebrate Human Rights day, a documentary film on human rights was screened followed by discussion.

In view of the hostel day, many competitions were held under the leadership of the cultural team such as Singing, Adzap, Debate, Tamil poem writing, English essay writing, drawing, poster making and Rangoli competitions paving way for the students to come out with the best in them. It was a true platform for the development of several hidden talents with a few of them even mentioning that it was for the first time that they had come on the stage. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Prof. Robert Selvam and Prof.Sebastian.

B.

Environment Forum:

The environment forum has taken a lot of initiatives during the past year to build awareness among the students with regard to the need to protect the mother earth. This has been a matter of great concern for the Jesuit community all over Tamil Nadu as we have dedicated this year for awareness on environmental protection.

The lush garden at the entrance attracts the eyes of one and all entering the hostel premises. Environment day was celebrated in a meaningful way with Major Porres, General Manager, HCL technologies and an alumnus of Loyola Hostel, as the chief guest. As a mark of the day, he planted a sapling on the stretch of lawn towards the church and urged all students to become aware of the ecological degradation and take measures to protect the earth and thus protect oneself. We have also planted grotons on the sides of the blocks and laid new banana saplings in the Rapinath garden. Further, the environmental forum conducted a Drawing and Poster competition on 'Treasure the beauty of environment' as part of the hostel day competitions. Thanks to Sch. John Paul,SJ and Prof. Arul Jagan.

C.

Nutrition Forum:

The mess facility of the hostel deserves special note of appreciation. I am sure all our students as well as the alumni have very high regard for the way we function our mess here. Loyola Hostel mess provides very nutritious food to the students with the help of an efficient mess manager assisted by a team of dedicated mess workers. Here again the energetic and enthusiastic mess delegates deserve praises as they have been of great help in the running of the mess along with Sch.Jayaseelan.SJ our Deputy director during the year. We are also proud to say that though the price rise had become a great challenge this year, we were able to manage the bill considerably without difficulties and were able to go on with the usual menu. In fact we have introduced beef every fortnight in the Non-Veg mess for dinner on Tuesdays.

The hostel mess caters to brothers from other congregations, sports men and some of the college staffs too. Students from the college come to the mess during the working days to avail the mid day meal scheme. Besides this, our mess is ever ready to serve meals for the official functions of the college like, Ovation, Christmas gathering as well as all the Conferences conducted by various departments. This year, two groups of foreign students who had come here for exchange programme also enjoyed the delicious food in the hostel mess. We place on record our hearty appreciation for every worker in the mess for providing us with sumptuous meals.

D.

Knowledge Forum:

Orientation programs were organized for the students in different batches in the beginning of the year. Fr. Donald.SJ, Fr. Peter Xavier.SJ, Fr. Ignacimuthu.SJ, Fr. Jacob.SJ and Fr. Bella.SJ were the resource persons who inspired every student to set the target for the year.

To empower and motivate the students, workshops were held by eminent resource persons within the campus. We gratefully remember Fr. Emmanuel SJ, Fr. Francis Xavier SJ, Fr. Henry Jerome SJ, Fr .Selvin SJ and Prof. Siluvai Raja from LIBA who handled various topics such as Self esteem, Time management, Career guidance and social dynamics. There was a workshop on Astronomy as well as a seminar on Nuclear Non-Proliferation by Prof. Shankar from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

'The Finishing Touch' a training programme on Soft Skills and Life Skills was conducted for the outgoing third year U.G and Second year P.G students in the month of December. Students have been very avid in attending all these and I am sure many have benefited a lot for their future career.

E. **Sports Forum:**

Sports play a very vital role in keeping us fit and energetic. And it is something very dear to the young people specially. Loyola Hostel is very much interested in the holistic growth of the students and hence we have every reason to be proud of our sports forum that on various occasions brought together the hostel student community through the several sports events. The Loho Foot ball Tournament between Freshers and Seniors was held during the Fresher's day. We are indeed happy to announce the introduction of the Sauliere Trophy - Inter blocks Foot ball Tournament this year. We are also happy to have sent teams for Bertram and Murphy Tournaments. Indoor games like chess, caroms, table tennis and Basket ball match were conducted in view of the hostel day. Thanks to Prof.Arul Jagan.

F. **Liturgy Forum:**

"Without inner peace it is impossible to have world peace", says Dalai Lama. Spirituality is one of the ways of inculcating a peaceful mind and heart in us. Our formation in Loyola Hostel gives due importance to spirituality and spiritual activities that help in making us integrated persons. We had special Eucharistic Celebrations for the hostellers on the Freshers' day, on the feasts of Our Lady of Vailankanni, St. Francis Xavier and St. John de Britto. We also have the Litany prayer service on every Tuesday. 'Born to free' was the theme for the X'mas programme this year. The liturgy forum also conducted Christmas day celebrations. We had Fr.Maria Arul Raja,SJ from Jesuit Theological Institute, Arulkadal, who inspired the students through his Christmas message. This year, a team of students went to different institutes in the campus singing carols during the advent.

Annual Retreat was held for the hostellers separately under the guidance of Jesuit Theologians from Arulkadal. Active participation of students was visible all throughout the retreat. Thanks to the campus minister Fr.Jacob, SJ.

Our students led by the Liturgy forum have also participated actively by taking up the decorations during Corpus Christie procession, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Christmas and Pongal. They have been conducting the Way of the Cross during the Lent regularly. It was indeed glad to see the active participation of the student community in all spiritual activities throughout the year. We appreciate Sch.James,SJ and the members of the Liturgy forum for their hard work.

VII. Obituary:

We feel sorry to mention the passing away of two of our students Ilangovan from Commerce Department and John Felix from Tamil Department. We express our heartfelt condolences to their bereaved family members. May their souls rest in peace.

VIII. Retiring staff:

The tireless works of our committed staff is always the secret of our reputation. Mr. L. Suvarkeen our carpenter has rendered 32 years of service. He has taken care of all the wooden works in the hostel campus. The cots, doors, windows, wooden parapet are all the outcome of his hard work and creativity.

Mr. K.M. Pandian, our head cook for the Non – Veg. mess has served us for 37 years. The Non veg items like beef and chicken of our hostel has a special taste appreciated by all. He played a major role in providing us with tasty food. He cannot be compensated and we will indeed miss him and his culinary skills a lot.

Mr. M. Arockiasamy, our Tiffin master has been serving the hostel for 14 years. We thank him for his hospitality and kindness.

We acknowledge the tireless works of all these retiring men and wish them all God's Choicest blessings and for every one of their family members. We will miss you a lot.

IX. Acknowledgements:

I would like to specially mention the services of the deputy director as well as all the assistant directors who have accompanied the students in their formation. They have also taken a lot of efforts to co-ordinate various programs successfully in the hostel. I take this opportunity to thank them for their support and co-operation. I enjoyed working with such dedicated persons.

We must also remember and thank the contributions of all the office workers, mess workers, block attendants and domestic staff in making Loyola hostel a better place to live in.

Thanks to Fr.Victor and Fr.Joe Malikal for guiding our students as counsellors. I also thank all the Jesuits who helped me all through the year in every possible way.

With all these ingredients put together in its proper proportion, Loyola Hostel has remained as a 'home away from home' for students from a variety of backgrounds. Therefore we have every reason to thank the Almighty God for having protected us and kept us all safely in this abode.

Once again I earnestly thank the Chief Guest of the day, Shri. Shahjahan, and the Guest of honour Shri.S.J.Surya for your loving presence and inspiration.

Let me thank each and everyone present here for your support and encouragement in making this Hostel Day celebration, NEST 2010, a momentous and memorable one for all of us.

Finally I thank the heroes of the Loyola Hostel - My dear Student friends. You have been part of the great history of Loyola and in particular Loyola Hostel. We are proud of you. Now stretch your wings to the reality outside and create a history wherein Love, Peace and Justice reign supreme. You can make it. You have the power within.

Never....Never...Give up. Look at the past with satisfaction and look at the future with hope and confidence.

Thank you.

Date: 13-03-2010

Fr. A. Louis Arockiaraj, SJ
Director

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