

**Loyola Hostel**

**Report 2007-08**



# **NEST - 2008**

**A REPORT SUBMITTED  
BY**

**FR. XAVIER VEDAM SJ  
DIRECTOR AND HIS TEAM**

**AT THE HOSTEL DAY CELEBRATIONS  
ON MARCH 15, 2008**

## Hostel Report

Chief Guest: Mr. Shanmugam IAS, Deputy Secretary to the honorable Chief Minister and our illustrious alumnus

Guest of honour: Thiru Gangaiamaran the well known film personality and our well wisher

With a sense of immense satisfaction and gratitude to God, I present the Annual Report of the Loyola Hostel for the academic year 2007-2008. This year I was given the responsibility of being the Hostel Director by Fr. Rector and the Jesuit Community and I am thankful to them for giving me the opportunity to serve the students in a more meaningful way. In the past ten months I am happy that I was able to spend quality time, energy and resources for the students. I have ventured upon a journey in which many have been helpful. This is a team effort.

### **Administration**

In June 2007 Fr. Xavier Vedam and his team took over the administration of Loyola Hostel passed on by Rev. Fr. Rajanayagam. We thank Fr. Rajanayagam for his dedicated service for the past three years. And his team for their commendable and constructive contribution to the hostel students during their administration

We remember with gratitude especially Prof. Emmanuel and Prof. Edwin contribution to the hostel students in the past.

## **Admissions**

In a determined effort in making the hostel a culturally enriching community, this academic year saw the inclusion of students from various social, cultural and economic backgrounds. The admission procedure was efficiently done, thanks to the enthusiastic and diligent team led by Mr. Manimaran.

This year saw an all time high of 1332 student intake, considerably higher than the previous years. In admission care was taken towards students from the under privileged and marginalized sections of society, keeping in mind the Jesuit tradition of social concern and commitment.

## **Academics**

The social milieu of the hostel has been conducive to students to excel in their course of study and come out with flying colours. This can be very well reiterated through the fact that 18 of our students have topped their respective classes, by which they have gained their special scholarship in order to appreciate their hard work and sincerity towards their course of study. As a pioneering or innovative measure every senior student has been allotted a room with a junior student so that the senior student can act as a friend and mentor. Guests of adequate scholarship and diverse interests were invited to interact with students. These sessions were quite thought provoking and resourceful.

The hostel administration has taken great efforts to help the students who are from vernacular medium to be on par with students from English medium by conducting daily spoken English classes. Mark sheets of students were posted to their home so that the parents are aware of their ward's status in the class. Though there were many grudges but still it is a blessing in disguise.

## **Fee Concessions**

To help poor students with concession has been the hallmark of Jesuits. This year too around 316 students were given fee concession for the mess fees. As years pass by, the efforts in this direction gets intensified. Dear Fr Rector, we thank you.

## **Infrastructure**

Once a famous philosopher said, ‘the landscape shapes the mind-scape of the individuals’. The surroundings in which we live have a lot of influence on our personality. Keeping in mind the above facts, this year much importance is given to upgrade the infrastructure of the hostel to make it a better place for every one to live in.

The following things were done to make the hostel accessible in a decent and proper manner;

The following things were done to enhance the infrastructure:

- All the hostel buildings were renovated and white washed before the academic year began.
- New wooden cots numbering 250 procured and provided to the hostellers. This is with the view to accommodating the increased entrants to the hostel. In a similar manner, this year, new chairs were provided in every room. It must be stated that there are students who ask for one more table in each room.
- ‘Cleanliness is next to Godliness’. In an effort to make the hostel litter free, every floor of every block in the hostel was provided with new dustbins.
- The Bar coding ID card system for every student to check in and check out the hostel premises and the mess halls will be shortly started This is a product of e-administration in the hostel.

- The beautifications of the garden and the landscaping of many places give the hostel a new face and have made the campus more eco friendly. One such visitor was Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, our former President who addressed the LIBA students on February 01, 2008.
- The guest rooms were renovated and fully re-furnished this year and the room atmosphere is made cozy and comfortable. Parents of our students now feel better to enjoy our hospitality.
- Block 13 of the Hostel campus is been thoroughly restructured after a lapse of 65 years which is a exemplary model in way how all the other buildings can be remodeled.
- The Hostel Administration Block is undergoing remodeling and it will have a new look.
- The Hostel has a new Drainage canal around the campus, which facilitates in keeping the rain water away during the monsoons.
- The Veg and North Indian Mess halls are also being restructured.
- Construction of a new side gate behind the hostel administration block made it possible for the students to pass by in orderly and disciplined fashion.
- The fencing around the hostel has been completely renovated to ensure the safety of each and every student and to maintain order in the campus.
- We thank Fr. Rajanayagam for initiating the project of constructing new hostel mess. The kitchen wears a healthy look.

## **Facilities**

The following are the unique facilities that are made available for the students from this academic year, to make their stay a memorable one.

- **E – Administration:** The hostel office was computerized fully with new computers and new software, making the office efficiency swift and hi-tech. Since much of the student’s information is data based, everything is fed into the computer and the usage of computerization made it one touch accessibility to any

information about the student or the hostel. Another important aspect is the computerized billing which is a product of e-administration. This has a positive response from the student's community, it helps them to seek information and receive the same swiftly. This has made the hostel administration more transparent and efficient.

- Dispensary - the hostel not only gives importance to psychological and intellectual growth and care but also to physical care of all the students. We are happy to say that on request and special arrangements, we have a resident doctor Dr. Mr. Jacob M. S. a neuro surgeon, who is very generous with his timings for the students and is on call even at the middle of the night. Hence, parents need not have any worries about their sons.
- LOHO IT shop a new stationary and cooperative store was opened with the availability of all provisional items and the facility for photo-copying which was introduced this year at student friendly costs.
- Keeping in mind the heterogeneous mixture of hostellers a new mess (North Indian) was opened.
- A new complex of bathing and toilet rooms was opened this year to help students use toilet facilities without much congestion.
- The hostel now features a new reverse osmosis water purifier to provide students the best drinking water in various spots in the hostel premises.
- Keeping in perspective the holistic development of the personality, students are regularly encouraged to participate in the holy mass, every morning both In Tamil and English.
- The hostel features a brand new grand 42" flat screen television with a home theater system and a cable connection with many channels. This helps the students to stay connected with the rest of the world and keeps them updated in every possible way. We have one more T.V for students to follow English programmes.

## Activities

- Bertram tournament : the Bertram memorial tournaments were held as per every year by the college administration. Usually the hostellers take part in large numbers and make their presence felt. This year is not an exception. Hostellers participated in large numbers and won. The sports forum is a testimony to the achievements of the students in sports arena.
- There were sessions of YOGA classes for a short period for the new comers of the hostel to develop healthy practices for body, mind and soul, as they take up the new phase of life.
- Block wise meetings: there is a block wise biannual meeting chaired by Fr. Director in which the students of every block come together and air their suggestions and grievances. This acts as a bridge between the administration and the student community.
- Orientation: the orientation for the new comers was held to welcome all the new faces and to expose them to various aspects of hostel rules and regulations, and to help them feel at home.
- Inaugural prayer service: within the very first few days of re-opening an inaugural prayer service was conducted to invoke the blessings of God almighty to lead and guide us through out this academic year in all our ventures.
- There was a Christmas celebration conducted just before the Christmas holidays were declared. All the students participated in the program as a family and carol singing was held through out the hostel. Fr. Samuel Savio the professor of theology in Poonamallee seminary had come to deliver the Christmas message to the students.
- We Hostellers deeply mourn the un timely death of one of our hostel staff Mr. Farooq, the soul who served this institution for 24 long years. We pray that he may rest in peace and share the unending bliss. Mr. Farooq began his service in

Loyola Hostel as a mess worker and then as a watchman. He was known for his sincerity and hard work as he took care of us while we were asleep at night.

**Knowledge Forum:** A special Study- skill orientation session was conducted by Dr.Fr. Susai Sebastian for the students in order to make them understand their commitment towards academic performances. A special lecture on, “Financial freedom: methods to achieve it”- it helped the students to understand the importance of saving money for future benefit. A documentary movie named ‘VIDUTHI’ was shown to make the students understand the global reality that, ‘Today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders’. An exclusive nature of Book reviews was started. This encouraged students to inculcate the reading habit. This has also helped the students in enhancing their capability for critical analysis thus the forum is gaining momentum very significantly.

**Cultural forum:** The forum came up with an exclusive idea of inter – block cultural celebration in the new year, where students from every 3 blocks were clubbed together to form a team and compete with other groups. Mr Kumari Muthu and Mr Jaguar Thangam spoke at length on the need to develop our talents, as they were invited to grace the occasion. The students came up with excellent ideas in their performances. This served as a platform to nurture their creativity. And students who didn’t participate this year are very much awaiting their turn next year. Thus this forum identified hidden talents among students. This forum also screened films of different languages.

**Nutrition Forum:** this year the biggest difference that the forum brought was the revised menu for the vegetarian and the non-vegetarian mess. Food varieties of More nutritional and taste were included in the menu. Special items were served on certain days.

### **Excellence**

- Appu a first year student of history had participated in the Asian Kudo championship and won the first place and brought laurels to his career and our institution.
- R. Aravindhan second year sociology student had participated in the Republic day Parade in Delhi – 2008 and won All India silver medal.
- Gold Praveen a third year student of B.Com Shift –II had been selected to be the youth ambassador of our country in Singapore for the youth exchange program.
- We are proud to have them all in our Loyola family.

### **Workers Welfare**

In appreciation of their hard work and dedication, ‘the mess workers’ were taken on a tour to cochin for 3 days. The entire tour was sponsored thus making it a unique experience to all of them. Apart from this to incorporate spirituality among the working staff section of the hostel, a holy mass has been scheduled exclusively for them on Sundays.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the dignitaries who have shared a part of their life and valuable insights with us especially Fr. Rector for his thoughts, Fr Secretary for his making available the infrastructure facilities at Loyola College, Fr Principal who is the ex-officio Director, for his silent and solid support and Fr Deputy Principal for his warmth and care.

In a special way I also thank our guests who were present Mr. Shanmugam IAS and Mr. Gangaiamaran for gracing the ‘NEST08’ occasion and delivering their thought provoking words that have enriched our students.

I would like to thank in public my team of administrators who have been supporting and co-operating with me in the administration.

Fr. Maria Joseph, the Deputy Director a man with concern for the poor, a person who always has been caring for the students in every manner as a guardian who serves the last year as the Deputy Director and assistant director Prof. Robert for his hard work and plans for the hostel through out the academic year. I want to place on record my sincere thanks to our Assistant Directors –

Fr. Babu Vincent who believes less in words and more in action,

Fr. James a person who worked timelessly for the betterment of every student in the Hostel, Dr Amalraj and Mr. Anthony for their dedicative support. Our prayers are with them as they carry on with their life. May the good Lord bless them in all their endeavors.

I also thank Fr. Louis who was the deputy director in the first few months of this academic year.

I thank Mr. M.G. Anthony Sami who served us as a hostel block attender for 11 years who has retired recently.

And I also thank Mr. Anthony our mess manager and his team for their efforts to provide good and nutritious food through out the year. And I thank Mr. Manimaran and Paul raj and other office team workers for their tireless hard work.

Today's great moments are tomorrow's wonderful memories; I thank every one and hope to continue the good work wherever I am.

Thank you, one and all. May the grace of God be with us.

Two student representatives of the Loyola Hostel Team namely, Allan Anderson (06-SO-047) and Praveen Kumar (06-EL-003) assisted in compilation of this Hostel Report 2007-08.