

Hostel Day Report for 2013-2014

Loyola Women's Hostel (2013-2014) has crossed yet another splendid and successful year from its inception in 2011. The LWH is a confluence of students from four different institutions in the campus – Loyola College, LICET, LIBA and Loyola College of Education. It is also a temple of dwelling and learning place for life through quality education. For many students, it is a nurturing ground to exhibit their talents and engage themselves in creative activities.

This academic year, with the rapid expansion of the infrastructure, we were able to accommodate 450 students. We feel that it is an enriching experience for many more students to live in a multicultural milieu. We are happy to have some overseas students from Sri Lanka, Singapore, Beharin, France and from eighteen states of India.

Loyola Women's Hostel creates an excellent ambience for the rural students and economically poor students to excel in their academics. Hostel students, who are economically better off, are encouraged to support the poor students. Fifteen deserving students are benefited by the generosity of their own student friends.

Various Committees

To have effective functioning of the hostel as well as to involve the students in taking up various responsibilities, various committees have been formed.

Liturgy Committee

Students in the hostel are encouraged to participate in the daily Eucharistic celebration at the college Church. We had the blessing of the new floor in the hostel with a meaningful Eucharist by Rev.Fr. A. M. Francis Jayapathy SJ, Rector Loyola College being the main celebrant. Once a month, hostel students organize Eucharistic Celebration in the hostel premise with a specific theme. Students take strenuous efforts to make the Eucharistic celebration more meaningful. Special prayer services are conducted on special occasions like Deepavali, Christmas and Pongal in order to maintain the secular fabric and interreligious and multicultural character of the college campus. As a preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, our students were given a privilege to conduct a novena prayer in the college church. Our students

take keen interest and actively participate both in English and Tamil Choirs of the college church.

Cultural Committee

The Cultural committee organizes various cultural programmes in order to help the hostel students to tap their hidden talents by conducting various cultural competitions such as general quiz, dances, singing competition, etc on a regular basis. On the 23rd of July, Fresher's day was celebrated to welcome the new comers and make them feel at ease in the hostel. On this occasion Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Irudhaya Raja S.J., our Chennai Mission Superior, delivered a special message about the importance of women education and community living,.

Suppose Christmas celebration was organized with a pomp and show in the hostel on 10th of December with a colorful cultural programs and other meaningful entertainment staged by our students. Rev. Fr. A. M. Francis Jayapathy S.J., our Rector delivered an inspiring Christmas message.

Pongalo Pongal, the festival of harvest of Tamil Nadu was celebrated on 9th January. On this occasion we had a few competitions such as tug of war, rangoli and folk dance. Two of our own students gave talks highlighting the importance and significance of Pongal celebration and we fondly remembered all the farmers in gratitude.

Sports Committee

The sports committee geared up with all enthusiasm and instilled a great passion in the lives of inmates to play well and keep physically and mentally fit by conducting various indoor competitions such as chess, carom, volleyball, throw ball and badminton in view of the hostel day celebration.

Magazine Committee

The magazine committee has worked hard to bring out the hostel magazine 'WE LIGHT'. They encouraged the students to exhibit the writing skill through the magazine.

Food & Discipline Committee

Food committee gives periodic suggestions regarding the menu and modern culinary recipes and it helps the hostel administration.

Discipline committee and floor representatives encourage the students to do what is expected of them in time and place.

The homely and the family atmosphere is cherished among the inmates through mutual understanding and moral support to each other be it dear, near or far. The directors of the hostel take special care not only the physical needs of the students but also their psychological and spiritual aspects by offering regular counseling and guidance to the students. The hostel administration is grateful to Rev. Fr. James Rodrigues S.J., who guides the students, to handle their problems and gain self-confidence, courage and inner strength.

During this academic year, need-based talks were arranged to help the students to lead a better and healthier life. Dr. Cynthia Alexander gave a special talk on “Teen issues and Challenges” to all the U.G students and the Engineering students. It helped them to become aware of the various issues that they face in their daily life and little tips to handle their problems. We are extremely happy to have Dr. Remola, who has accepted to be available in the hostel, whenever her presence is needed. Rev. Fr. Henry Jerome S.J., gave the students a talk on “E-life in Real World, Learning Points”. It was very useful to the students to become aware of the cyber crime that is taking place in everyday life of young women and to be alert in such circumstances.

During the season of Christmas, students expressed their desire to share their joy with the elderly people in the old age home. For this purpose students contributed generously and the amount was to the tune of Rs. 24,080/- and it was used to buy some useful things and donate to the inmates of St. Joseph home for the dying and destitute at Chengalpet. The visit created in the students more respect and love towards the aging and the sick people.

Facilities

To meet the demands of more students seeking the hostel facility inside the campus itself, 21 rooms in the third floor were constructed. Grotto in the hostel has come as a big

blessing for the students. The hostel provides a serene atmosphere and clean surroundings to the students for their study and stay. In order to meet the scarcity of water a new bore well was dug. Rain water harvesting sump is constructed to collect and save water. Washing area for the plates is extended to facilitate the students to wash their plates quickly and to be on time in the college. At the request of the students, a prayer room has been arranged. To inculcate the reading habit of the students, a separate space is given and many more value-based magazines have been subscribed. Hostel e-blog is being created to bring out the creativity of the students. Hostel campus is well equipped with Wi-Fi connection and a few desktop computers with internet connection for browsing. Printing, scanning and Photocopying facility also are provided to the students. With the purchase of a few more sports equipments, students are privileged to have some indoor games. Some physical fitness instruments were bought and a separate space is allotted to do physical exercises.

Co - Workers

Salary for our co-workers was increased during this academic year. Room with the required facility is provided for the night stay of the mess workers. Two sets of uniform were distributed to them in order to enable for a clean and hygienic food preparation and quality service. Loan facilities, festival allowances, gifts for Ignatius feast, X-mas and hostel day were given to them. A picnic was organized for all the co-workers to have a day of relaxation and it helped them to deepen their relationship with one another. To inculcate in them the spiritual values, prayer is conducted periodically.

Acknowledgement

In all achievements, there is a considerable contribution of many persons. I take this opportunity to thank and express my deep felt appreciation to all who are directly and indirectly participating in the effective administration of the hostel.

I express my thanks and appreciation to Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy S.J., Rector for his wholehearted support in all the efforts that we take for the development of the hostel. I also take this opportune moment to thank all the fathers and brothers from the Jesuit Residence for the interest they have shown in the growth of the students. Whenever we approached them for any help, they were willing to lend us a helping hand. Very Special thanks

to Rev. Fr. Thomas Amritham S.J., the Campus Treasurer for his constant support and encouragement for all the initiatives and endeavors that we have undertaken this year. He has spent lot of his time, energy and showed so much interest in the development of the hostel and the formation of the students.

I gratefully remember and place on record my thanks to all the Directors, Principals and Secretaries of various units in this vast campus for their unstinting support and encouragement throughout this year.

I express my heart felt thanks to all the Asst. Directors and the co- workers with whose tireless efforts and sacrifice, LWH has started walking gigantically and treading on gloriously and steadily. I thank all the office bearers of the hostel for shouldering the responsibility with me. A special thanks goes to all the committee members for organizing various competitions.

As I conclude this report I thank God Almighty who is always with us in every activity and guides us in the true spirit of service to direct and orient the capabilities of the students in the best possible way to achieve greater heights in their lives and soar sky high. Pope Francis says, "if we are truly in love with Christ and if we sense how much He loves us, our heart will 'light up' with a joy that spreads to everyone around us." Let us light up the whole world. Thank you one and all.