



The Loyolite

2010



LOYOLA SCHOOL
Thiruvananthapuram



Staff Editors:

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Ms Vineeta Pant
Ms Roshini Joseph
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Mr Pratap Chandran
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Mr Remesan P.L.
Mr James Thomas

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Aakash Vijayan
Anand V.
Anoop S.
Antony Thomas
Cidarth Sajith
Cyril Thomas
Nitish Vijayanand
Rahul Krishnan

EDITORIAL BOARD

Publisher:

Fr. Varghese Anikuzhy S.J.
Principal, Loyola School
Thiruvananthapuram

Photography:

Mr Vinod Kumar
(Focus, Ph.9846108744)

Design and Layout:

Mr Rajesh S.(Trivandrum)
Ph: 9995361287
e-mail: rajesh_gowrinandana@yahoo.co.in

Printing:

Ramya Reprographic Pvt. Ltd.
Bangalore, Ph: 098450 44174



Foreword

The best part of education is what remains after formal examinations are over. It comprises a composite sense of values, discipline, and fellowship; a bunch of memories of indelible moments, individual achievements, and collective efforts; and of course, the fund of knowledge that was internalized with relish and is cherished for its own sake. Maybe, it takes a little while for this realisation to dawn on some people. Sometimes, it is only after the exam-oriented tips have served their immediate purpose, or failed to do so, that some students recognise the difference between a school and a tuition centre. They would eventually realise that their alma mater has been pursuing a long-term holistic ideal while the coaching centres have been specialising in short-term exam techniques.

Right from its first issue in 1968, *The Loyolite* has been one of the integral components of the holistic Jesuit vision of education because, it is meant to foster creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic proficiency in the students and, at the same time, intended as a dependable document of events on the campus. *The Loyolite 2010* follows the traditional pattern and is designed to fulfil a three-fold function: as a document for readers looking for factual details, as a canvas for aspiring artists and writers, and as a mnemonic for the home loving and the homesick.

The number of the homesick is steadily increasing because Loyolites are an ever-growing fraternity, bound together by a sense of belonging. “Set them free: if they come back, they are yours; if they don’t, they never were.” So goes the old saying. Loyola is rich because, much more than a cluster of buildings, she is an ancestral home for thousands who keep on returning to her, in person or in spirit. This fact has influenced the content of this Annual because we thought it appropriate to reciprocate their love by covering their thoughtful initiatives like the Model UN 2010 and by including two reminiscences that represent two generations of the alumni, and one poem by a teacher who left the institution 35 years ago.

The rest of the fare represents, among other things, all classes from UKG to XII. Some pieces show the imperfection incidental to tentative writing while a few others are specimens of fine sensibility. We are very happy that, among the manuscripts that materialized during the special writing session for that purpose, there was none that centred on frivolous infatuation, tearful sentiments, morbid fantasies, black magic, or any such dangerous stock-in-trade of pulp fiction and popular serials. This is a very good sign indeed. The final selection of pieces, therefore, was based mainly on a few factors like flavour, relevance, readability, authenticity, and novelty. We are sorry for having rejected a few articles lest this magazine should burst at the seams for holding too many variations on the same theme. And, we were compelled to leave out a few tour diaries because they lacked focus and dwelt too much on non-essentials. (We feel like advising prospective travel writers to cut short dry details if they do not contribute to what Matthew Arnold calls “total effect”, and to develop a perspective comparable to that of Ruskin Bond in ‘Beautiful Mandakini’).

To be sure, there are a few inadvertent failings for which the Editorial Board is ultimately responsible. Still, this little volume is dear to us because it is the embodiment of the patently Loyolite spirit of cooperation. Though many of them are not officially on the Editorial Board, almost all teachers have been with us, one way or the other, volunteering to organise the special writing session in each class, helping us in the primary selection of material, and collecting and identifying photographs relevant to the occasion. As for the Editorial Board, there has been a fairly equal division of responsibility among all members. Mr Rajeesh T. shouldered the residual burden too. The student editors did the word-processing at home, thereby setting a healthy precedent. Then, all staff editors made independent evaluation of all articles because the aggregate marks awarded to each article decided their fate in the final round of elimination. The Principal and Vice-Principal rendered much editorial assistance, sometimes editing entire pieces and many times offering insightful suggestions. Fr. Toby Joseph procured the missing photographs. Mr Robin P. Joseph provided the technical support at the pre-press stage. Finally, we are thankful to the official photographer Mr. Vinod Kumar for being so obliging, the graphic designer Mr. Rajesh S. for the attractive layout, and Mr. C.A. Joy and his team at Ramya Reprographic (Bangalore) for the fine printing. Thank you everyone for your valuable contribution, thank you very much.

James Thomas
(For the Editorial Board)



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ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Distinguished Chief Guest Mr. P. Radhakrishnan, Rev. Fr. Provincial, Rev. Fr. Rector, PTA President, Staff Secretary, respected parents, distinguished guests, members of LOBA, well wishers, friends, my dear colleagues and students,

I am really happy today to welcome you all to this recently completed building and present the annual report of the school to you. I had a dream; nay, many had dreams about an indoor-stadium cum auditorium in Loyola School. Now it is here. With gratitude I bow down before God and the well-wishers who supported and strengthened me in getting the dream realized.

'Magis' meaning 'greater and greater' is our goal and ambition. Last year's board exam results proved it. Both ICSE and CBSE batches secured 100 per cent distinctions. State level first and second ranks were secured by our ISC students. For the ICSE we got the second rank at the state level.

Mr. Joy Thomas and Mrs. Bhanumathy S. retired officially from the school after many years of meritorious service.

The distinguished personalities who enriched our students through their talks and interaction were:

Rt. Rev. Dr. Soosai Packiam, Archbishop of Thiruvananthapuram.

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India.

Shri. T. K. A. Nair, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India.

Rev. Fr. William S. J., Professor, South Indian Common Juniorate

Mr. Ram Mohan, an ex-Loyalite, 1983 batch.

Mr. Prakash Sankar, a participant in the World Debating Championship.

Dr. Binoy S., an alumnus of 1985 batch.

Group Captain Mathew P. Thomas, an ex-Loyalite of 1975 batch

Mr. P. Radhakrishnan & Dr. Shaneeth, Scientists, VSSC

Dr. Usha John, Principal, Loyola College, Thiruvananthapuram

Mr. Manoj Kenneth and the other members of Youth for Christ team.

Dr. S. Nivedya, MCH Unit, Pangappara

Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan IFS, Former Ambassador of India

The Model UN Session organized by Mr. Govind Manoharan, Tushar Nair and Justin Thomas (all ex-Loyalites) on 2nd and 3rd of January 2010 was a thrilling experience in debate for our students.

The highlights of the year:

Academic

Ben Thomas → State-level First Rank in ISC 2009

Kiran George Koshy → State-level Second Rank in ISC 2009

Ambareesh S.J. → State-level Second Rank in ICSE 2009

Quiz

- Limca Book of Records Quiz → 2nd prize, Vishnu Mohan(XII A) & Abhishek B. S. (XII C)
- Chinmaya School Quiz → 1st Prize, Ambareesh S. J. (XI A) & Noel Johns (XI A)
- Christ Nagar Fest, Illuminati → 1st Prize, Job J. (XI A) & Nitin K. Chidambaram(XI A)

- TCS I.T Quiz → 2nd Prize, Anand Krishnan P. & Prithvilal (XII A)
- Holy Angels School, ASHA Quiz (HS section), → 1st Prize, Pranoy S. Varma & Aadithya R.(X B)
- Holy Angels School, ASHA Quiz (UP section), → 1st Prize, Rajath R.(VII B), Sachin R.(VII B) & Ajay A. Kumar (VII A)



- ICES & C. DAC → 1st Prize, Harigopal A. & Jijo Francis (IX A)

Debate

- ICSE Council's Frank Antony Debate → Best Speaker - Shyamkrishnan R. (X B)
- 1st runner-up team - Shyamkrishnan R. (X B) & Aravind Sreekumar (IX A)

Inter - School Festivals

- St. Thomas Residential School → Winners, Loyola Team
- Carme Quest of Carmel School → Winners, Ambareesh S. J. & Noel Johns (XI A)
- Sameeksha of Bharathiya Vidya

Bhavan, Personality → Winner, Bharath Ajith Sreenivasan (X C)

- NYMF FIESTA of Nirmala Bhavan, Personality → Winner, Bharath Ajith Sreenivasan (X C)
- Sree Narayana Public School → Keyboard, 1st Prize, Rino Joseph Jayan (VI B)

Literary competitions, South Zone Sahodaya

- Malayalam Versification, 1st Prize, Hari Nair S. (VII C)
- English Recitation, 1st prize, Bharath Ajith Sreenivasan (X C)
- English Recitation, 1st prize, Keshav Dev J. S. (XI C)



- Radio Mirchi, Junior Mirchi Winner, Adarsh S. R. (VII A)

Youth Festival

- In the State Youth Festival Adonis Thokalath Sunny of XII B secured 1st place with A Grade in Chakiyarkooth and A Grade in Folk Dance.

Sports

- Table Tennis South Zone → Winner, Purandaran S. (XI B)
- Cricket, Tomy Alexander of XII B is the captain of Under 19 Kerala Cricket Team.
- Swimming, ICSE meet Kerala → 1st prize in 100 mtrs butterfly stroke with record – Varun Sujit Nair (VII A)

N.C.C.

- Cdt. W/O Karthik N. attended All India Vayu Sainik Camp 2009 held at Bangalore, and he is the Best Pilot (Kerala and Lakshadweep) and All India 4th in Flying.
- Cdt. Neeraj P. S. and Cdt. Aaromal B. Maanas attended All India Trekking Camp.

At the apex of these achievements stand the trio: Aravind Sreekumar, Ashil Varghese Alexander and Balagopal U. of IX A who won the NTSE scholarship.

Some general observations force me to present to you the following.

If we inflate a balloon beyond its capacity, it will burst and our enjoyment will come to an end. Praise and admiration beyond a reasonable limit will become counter-productive. On the other hand, restraint and moderation will lay the foundation for consistent hard work and achievement. Statements like “you know, my son is the best in everything. He is the all-rounder in the class as well as in the school” will make you feel elated. Your son will feel great and stop further effort. Without a realistic

sense of inadequacy there may not be any meaningful striving to reach greater heights. Focused struggle will increase a person’s ability to face greater challenges in life and gain more commendable victories. It will also make him more accommodating and adaptable, and hence, more acceptable to others. In this context I would like you to reconsider the attitude: “We struggled in life but our children shouldn’t experience any struggle at all”. Please remember that it is fire that purifies gold.

We live in a world of market economy: Money and profit matter. A productive person is accepted. We are in a profiteering culture where duplicity, substitution, falsification, etc. are commonplace. Parents look for ‘ayas’ to look after their own babies. Young men look for ‘home nurses’ to look after their own parents. Parents and students look for ‘shortcuts’ to score more marks in the examinations. Fast-foods substitute for food prepared at home. Tuition centres substitute for schools. As a result the value system that is imbibed at home and at school are gradually being destroyed.

Entrance coaching is the new fad for students nowadays. They enter into many practices without proper guidance and sometimes without the knowledge of the parents. Youngsters go after things that are pleasant and palatable. They ignore their duty and avoid all struggles and hard work. Hence I say, think before you proceed; test before you taste; check before you continue; verify reports before you reach any conclusion. Please don’t take anything for granted. It takes time to build up anything, but it can be shattered in no time. We trust and tolerate too much. Without parental cooperation very little can be achieved. Let us put our heads together for a better tomorrow. May the good spirit inspire us to discern and act.

I thank all the parents, students, staff-members and well-wishers for their cooperation and support. Thank you all.
Jai Hind!



LOYOLA INDOOR STADIUM

Fr Joseph Edassery S.J.

We live in a world that keeps evolving and changing at an alarming speed. The process of education that was in vogue for many centuries has suddenly become obsolete and new techniques and methods are being tried and have been found to be more meaningful and relevant. Being aware of the tremendous changes that have taken place in the educational scenario, the authorities of Loyola School thought of providing state-of-the-art facilities for the students so as to equip them to face the new challenges and opportunities that await them. With this in view, Fr Kuruvilla Cheria, former principal of Loyola school (1997 – 2000), being an experienced educator and always receptive to the progressive trends in education, conceived the idea of putting up an indoor stadium for Loyola School since the Sutter Hall, hitherto used by the school, was rather small and insufficient to accommodate all the students of the school. He was a person who would dream of greater things for the development of Loyola School. He was able to visualize new ways of empowering students





through the proper and effective use of the resources of the school. In spearheading this mega project what was foremost in his mind was the integral development of the students and thus enabling them to excel in their studies as well as in the extra-curricular activities that will help them to acquire new skills which will stand in good stead for them in future. Moreover, the unpredictable and erratic rain played spoilsport especially when the school day functions were going on.

It is said the all great ideas start in a



minority, nay in the mind of an individual. With his spirit of imagination, excitement and innovation, he was able to push through his plan of the construction of an indoor stadium. As is the case with any new venture, he had to answer innumerable queries and provide satisfactory explanations to them. In short, he had to move heaven and earth to realize this great plan of providing an indoor stadium for Loyola school. Right from the inception, given the support he got from the parents, he was quite sure that this project would run on its own steam.

Even though this spacious indoor stadium was Fr Kuruvilla's brain child, due to his unexpected transfer from Loyola, the realization of his dream fell on the shoulders of Fr Varghese Anikuzhy who became the principal of the school in May 2000. He went about this pet project of Loyola with the animation of a crusader and almost single-handedly supervised the entire construction of this massive, awe-inspiring structure. He





Sri T. K. A. Nair, I. A. S.

but slowly. Another hurdle to be overcome was the permit for the building from the civil authorities. With the generous support of some of our parents we managed to get the necessary permit from the Corporation of Trivandrum.

Once all the spadework was done, an Indoor Stadium Construction Committee was formed in order to supervise and to give technical advice to the principal. The Chairman of this committee - Dr G. C. Gopala Pillai - rendered yeomen service to Loyola as an ardent supporter of all the developments of the

could conceive a grandiose building project that was estimated to cost more than one crore. And this magnificent edifice stands as an assertion of the indomitable will and perseverance of Fr Varghese Anikuzhy, and thereby he has proved himself to be a great builder. It is said that Rome was not built in a day. From the planning stage to the completion of the auditorium it took almost ten years. Since it was a mega project, permission had to be obtained from the headquarters of the Jesuit Society. The mills of Rome roll surely





Builders of the edifice

school. He was always available here to tackle any eventuality that came in the way of the construction of the Indoor Stadium.

Thus, with a clear vision and strength of purpose and the magnanimous support of all the parents Loyola can boast of an Indoor Stadium that stands head and shoulders above almost all the stadia in the city. Despite the pulls and pressures of the time, Loyola was able to realize the dream of Fr. Kuruvila. This has a captivating sight with a well laid-out lawn and an impressive car porch. With folded hands let us gratefully raise our hearts and minds to the Almighty for enabling us to complete such an impressive structure as a sign of the indomitable spirit of the Loyolites and for the greater glory of God.

Milestones in the making of Loyola Indoor Stadium:

- Dr Abid Hussain, former Indian Ambassador to the U.S.A., inaugurated the construction of the auditorium and unveiled the plaque on 28 January, 2005 in the presence of our students and a large number of parents.
- The corner stone of the Indoor Stadium was blessed and laid by Fr M. Thomas S.J. at 9.30 a.m. on 26 May 2005.
- This graceful imposing

structure was blessed and dedicated to the glory of God and for the use of our students on 18 July 2009 by His Grace Dr Soosai Packiam, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Trivandrum.

- On 26 July 2009, Shri T. K. A. Nair, I. A. S., Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, formally inaugurated our Indoor Stadium cum auditorium during a colourful and memorable function. During this function, the school acknowledged and honoured all those who were behind the construction of our impressive Indoor Stadium.





Dr. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM'S VISIT



24 July 2009 will linger long in every Loyolite's memory. It was on this day that our former President and distinguished Jesuit alumnus Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam visited our school and endeared himself to everyone around by his enthusiastic exhortation and inimitable interaction. Instead of mystifying the audience with abstruse oratory, he came down to the level of his listeners and spoke of great things in an idiom intelligible to the youngest student in the stadium. He established such an instant rapport with the audience that almost all hands went up when he took a count of students interested in asking him questions. As it was rather





impossible to satisfy all aspirants, he preferred to entertain questions mostly from the younger ones, his preference being reflective of his professed belief: "Child is the first scientist. The whole foundation of science is questioning. As parents and teachers will know, children are the source of unending questions."

The entire Loyola fraternity salutes this true celebrity for being an immaculate embodiment of his own conviction: "Total commitment is not just hard work, it is total involvement."



