



**FROM CECIL HOTEL TO  
XAVIER'S, DELHI**



**The Great Saga of Jesuit Education  
in the National Capital**



**FROM CECIL HOTEL TO**  
**XAVIER'S, DELHI**  
**The Great Saga of Jesuit Education**  
**in the National Capital**



*Compiled by*

**K.J. Devasia,**

Head of the Department  
(English)



*Educating for Future*

*We aim to  
form leaders in service,  
men and women of  
competence, conscience and  
compassionate commitment*

*Sketches by*

Mr. Basil Miranda  
Mr. S. Basu  
Mrs. R. R. Sharma

*Photography*

Mr. S. Sachdeva

*Published by:*

Rector, Fr. P. T. Augustine, S. J.  
St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School,  
4, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi-110054

October, 2013

*Printed by:*

Xodus Communication,  
BE 366 A, Galli No. 1,  
Hari Nagar, New Delhi.

*Only for Private Circulation*





## CONTENTS

Foreword	01
Preface	04
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
The Society of Jesus	05
Pioneers arriving in India	06
Jesuits' Patna Mission	07
The arrival of the Jesuits in Delhi's skyline	09
The Background of the Birth of a Dream	12
Search Begins for a Suitable site for the School	16
Hotel Cecil giving way to St. Xavier's School, Delhi	19
Modest Beginnings	23
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
St. Xavier's School, Delhi - 54, Inaugurated	28
Objectives of Jesuit Education	34
St. Xavier's School-the Early Years	53
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
Changing Times	59
Millennium Changes	68
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	
The Architects of Education at Xavier's	83
Other Noteworthy Jesuit Stalwarts	91
Non-Jesuit leaders of Xavier's	94
The Veterans of Yesteryears	99
<b>CHAPTER 5</b>	
Golden 50 Years	108
Hall of Fame	113
<b>CHAPTER 6</b>	
St. Xavier's School, Delhi, today	123
Navjeevan Renewal Center	154
Delhi Jesuit Mission	156
<b>CHAPTER 7</b>	
Xavier's- an Abode for Formation	158
The Shaping of a True Xaverian	161
Senior School: Ready For the Greater Glory of God!	168
A Word of Thanks!	174
St. Xavier's, Delhi Community, 1960-2013	175





This book is dedicated  
to the memory of the ...

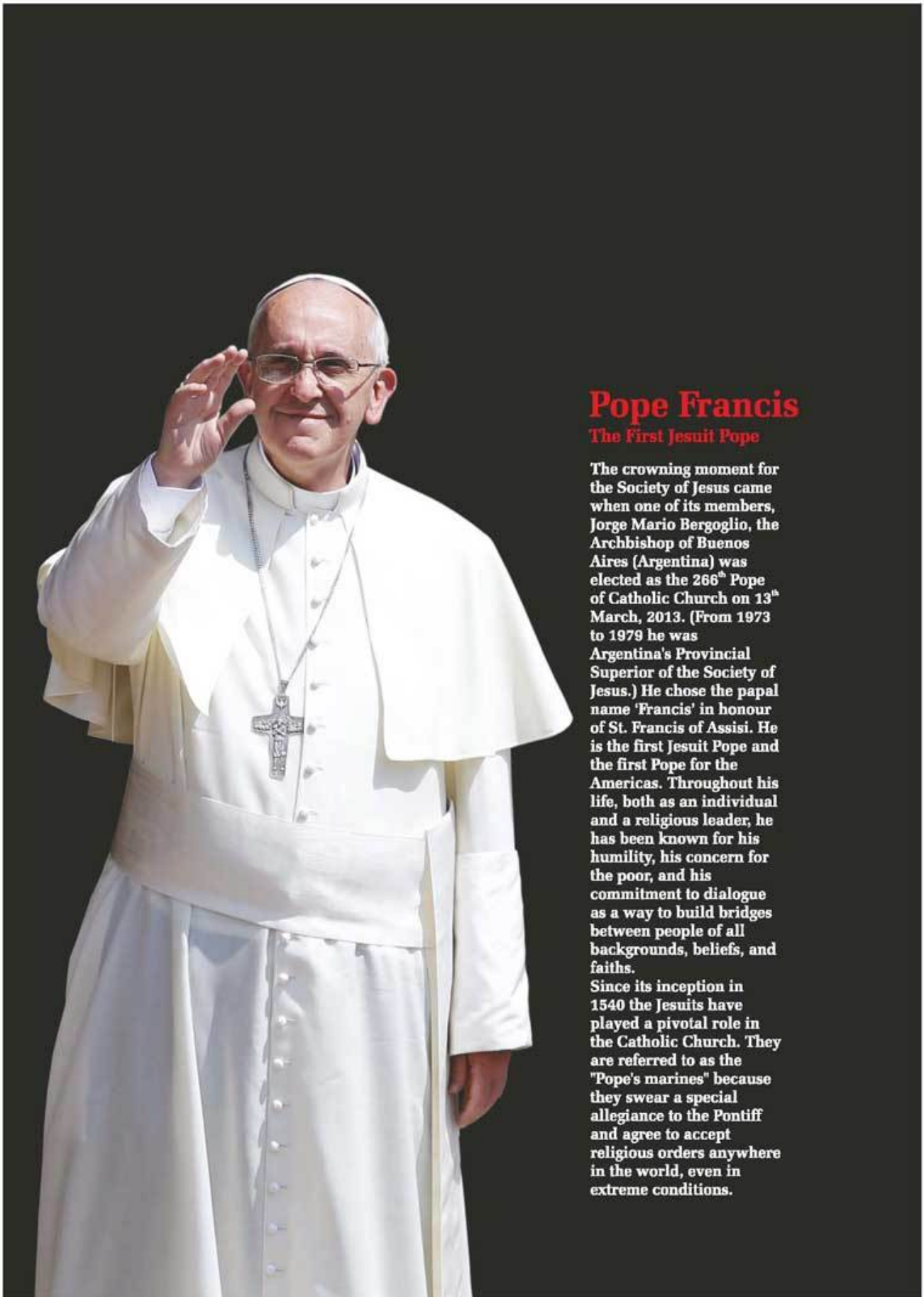
*471<sup>st</sup> Year of  
St. Francis Xavier's arrival in Goa*

*94<sup>th</sup> Year of  
the Patna Jesuit Mission*

*25<sup>th</sup> Year of  
Delhi Jesuit Mission*

*Election of the first Jesuit Pope*





## Pope Francis

### The First Jesuit Pope

The crowning moment for the Society of Jesus came when one of its members, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the Archbishop of Buenos Aires (Argentina) was elected as the 266<sup>th</sup> Pope of Catholic Church on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. (From 1973 to 1979 he was Argentina's Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus.) He chose the papal name 'Francis' in honour of St. Francis of Assisi. He is the first Jesuit Pope and the first Pope for the Americas. Throughout his life, both as an individual and a religious leader, he has been known for his humility, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to dialogue as a way to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths.

Since its inception in 1540 the Jesuits have played a pivotal role in the Catholic Church. They are referred to as the "Pope's marines" because they swear a special allegiance to the Pontiff and agree to accept religious orders anywhere in the world, even in extreme conditions.













## FOREWORD

St. Xavier's School, Delhi - 54 has always been a subject of great fascination for me. Situated in the immediate proximity to the seat of political power – the Raj Niwas – and spread over almost 16 acres of land, it has the colonial past of an elitist and exclusive five star hotel inaccessible to the natives, as the British called the people of India. Little did any of the aristocratic affluent guests of this grand luxurious hotel ever imagine that this campus would one day be the nurturing ground for thousands of youngsters who would in the upcoming years, play a vital role in the creation of a vibrant, democratic, modern India. Barely 13 years after Independence, this stately monument of colonial culture and power – The Cecil Hotel – was converted into an educational centre with a vision.

The transformation was by no means easy or abrupt. The Jesuit province and the Church authorities in Delhi had to face many challenges and overcome innumerable obstacles to establish St. Xavier's School, 4, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi - 54 on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1960. While several individuals made enormous contribution in the shaping of this new institution, the pivotal role was played by Fr. Frank Loesh, a man of great vision, foresight and dynamism. He effectively negotiated with his religious superiors in Patna, the Church authorities in Delhi, the Government machinery in the capital city and most importantly the owners of the Cecil Hotel and its vast network of employees. Within the first decade of its existence, the School was able to develop its own buildings appropriately fitted for a modern Senior Secondary School. Much of the credit goes to Fr. Frank Loesh, S.J., Fr. Charles Saldana, S.J., Fr. Francis Rodrigues, S.J. and Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal, S.J.

During the past 53 years, the school campus, with its sprawling lawns and majestic buildings reminiscent of the British era has emerged into a sacred learning place

which combines intellect, talent, passion and creativity in the most subtle and mystic way. In keeping with its motto, every child here is truly a winner. There is space for every child to grow up and blossom in his / her own unique way at Xavier's. Several thousands of men and women of character, calibre, competence and compassion have been nurtured here. They are today spread all over the world making great contributions to the development of humanity in every conceivable field. The most outstanding among them were honoured in the year 2010 when the school celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

The school has undergone several changes over the past five decades, adapting to the needs and demands of the changing times, yet firmly rooted in its ideology. Far reaching technological and infrastructural facilities have been developed to enhance the teaching-learning process while retaining the student-teacher bond. The holistic development of each child has been the driving force behind the education imparted here. The students here are passionate about everything they do and the rapport that the students and teachers share is inexplicable. There is a closeness and warmth that allows students to feel completely at ease – and yet there is also an absolutely necessary reserve, a prerequisite for any student-teacher relationship to be meaningful.

Over the years, successive groups of Jesuits, teachers and other staff members have contributed to this ongoing transformation, adaptation and evolution of this institution into a school with a difference. The students and staff have been provided with not only infrastructure par excellence, but with love and support too that transcends even their years in service. Former staff members are an integral part of the Xavier family. Those who have left for their heavenly abode are fondly remembered in prayer. The Hall of Honour and the Xavier Museum have immortalised all who ever walked on these sacred precincts.

So, today St. Xavier's isn't just a school; it is a little world in its own right which is churning out vibrant youngsters with sound values that have been imbibed through every experience they have had at Xavier's. Our founding Fathers St. Francis Xavier and St. Ignatius of Loyola are alive and thriving in the heart of every Xaverian.

In 2010, the momentous Golden Jubilee year, the idea of penning down the history of the School first took root and an appreciable effort was made by the school Xavier Times editorial board to rummage through the archives and bring to light facts about the origins of the school. They got in touch with retired staff members who shared their experiences at Xavier's. The kin of the deceased staff members were asked to express the sentiments of their loved one's association with the school. It is indeed a fortunate coincidence that this extensive, yet comprehensive, history of the school will be released on the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the Delhi Jesuit Province. I congratulate all the Rev. Fathers who have been a part of this Province for 25 years.

All that is contained in this book would have remained in oblivion had it not been for the commendable and painstaking efforts of Mr. K. J. Devasia, Head of the English Department of St. Xavier's School, Delhi. With a zeal, commitment and sincerity that is rare, he undertook the herculean task of putting together and penning down the detailed history of the school so that everyone associated with the school in the present and future can walk vicariously down the memory lane and be blissfully aware of the beginnings of this magnificent institution. He undertook the daunting task of reading through all possible documents, letters and papers available in the Jesuit archives to make this book possible. Without passion and love no job undertaken can ever be truly successful. Time is one of the most precious yet intangible commodity and the one who selflessly gives time is truly generous. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to Mr. K. J. Devasia and his team of teachers and students, who with love, passion and generosity, made this book a reality.

**Fr. P.T. Augustine, S.J.**  
*Rector*  
*St. Xavier's School Delhi*



## Conception of a Dream

Every dream germinates in the mind of a true visionary. It is then well watered and taken care of. Then there are moments of uncertainties and there is the need to surmount great obstacles. But the dream survives many a tempest and finally it becomes a reality! Here we make an attempt to unfold before you the hitherto untold story of the original vision and the initial struggles and frustrations, uncertainties, hardships and vicissitudes; yet the passionate pursuit of a dream by the founding Jesuit pioneers and its ultimate realization – **the great saga of St. Xavier's School, Delhi!**





## PREFACE

In elucidating the history of our school, right from the conception of the very idea of setting up a school in Delhi by the Patna Jesuits to its inception in 1960 and the school's journey for the last 52 years, I have tried to record, as faithfully as possible, the struggles the founding Fathers had to undergo in searching for a suitable site and finally converting a half century old Hotel complex into a modern school. Hotel Cecil complex, a Boys' only Boarding school, an Exclusive School for the Elite, Introduction of Co-education, the School Becoming Socially Inclusive, Change in the Medium of Teaching, Drastic Up-gradation of the School's Infrastructure at the beginning of the new millennium, a Modern Technology Driven School – these are some of the landmarks on the fifty two year journey of our school. Time flies and at Xavier's everyone – the Jesuits, the staff and students have been too busy and preoccupied to chronicle the various milestones in the growth of this great institution. Middle age is a time when everyone tries to look back and ask: 'How did I get here?' This reflection will help us to not only understand our past but also correct the course of our future, if needed. This thought initiated the process of bringing out a document based on the history of the School. It gives me immense joy to present this record to all the Xaverian family members at a time when Delhi Jesuits celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the inception of Delhi Jesuit Province.

***K.J. Devasia***



# C H A P T E R - 1



## THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

The Society of Jesus is a Christian religious order that follows the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, founded by Ignatius of Loyola in 1540. The members of the Society are popularly known as the Jesuits. The Society is headquartered in Rome. Presently Fr. Adolfo Nicholas, S.J., is its Superior General.

The Jesuits are primarily known for their work in education (like founding schools, colleges, universities and seminaries), intellectual research, and cultural pursuits, and for their missionary efforts in human rights and social justice. They are one of the largest educational bodies in the world. From their humble beginning in Europe in 1540 they have etched their presence in 112 nations on six continents today. Today perhaps the best known education in India is being imparted by the Jesuits. More than 250,000 students belonging to every religious, linguistic and socio-economic group receive their education in the Jesuit educational institutions all across the country.

"The first Jesuits made their mark as preachers, convent reformers, and missionaries, but in 1548 the Jesuits opened their first college intended for lay students at Messina in Sicily. It was an instant success, and petitions for more Jesuit colleges flowed into Rome from most of the cities of Catholic Europe.

"Quickly, education became the main Jesuit ministry. By 1579 the Jesuits were operating 144 colleges (most admitted students between twelve and twenty) in Europe, Asia and Latin America. By 1749 the Jesuits were staffing 669 colleges and 235 seminaries worldwide."

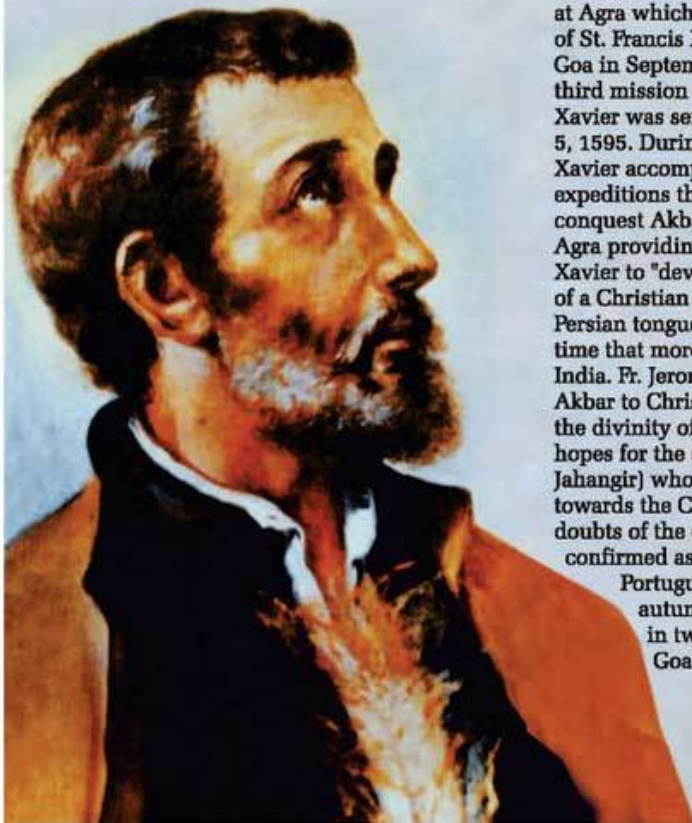


## JESUIT PIONEERS ARRIVING IN INDIA

The Society has been perhaps the only institution or organization of any size and impact in India that has been in existence practically continuously for the past four centuries and a half since St. Francis Xavier arrived in Goa on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1542. They were sent by King John III of Portugal to help on religious issues in the Portuguese empire, under the Padroado agreement. Soon after Xavier's arrival, a school was opened at Old Goa which was named St. Paul's College. Soon it became the main Jesuit institution in India which also housed the first printing press in India as well as a huge library. Soon it became the Jesuit headquarters in India. Following the outbreak of a plague in 1578 the building was abandoned and gradually it went into disuse. Later the college was moved to a new building known as the New College of St. Paul. The ruins of the old building were demolished in 1832. What remains of the old college is the façade, known as the Gate of the College of St. Paul. St. Francis Xavier was the first Jesuit in India, and many others were to follow him for the next two hundred years. Today we have a large number of Indian Jesuits working in the Society's various missions across the country.

The year of Xavier's arrival in India was also the year of the Mughal Emperor King Akbar's birth. In 1580 Akbar invited a Jesuit mission to his court. This led to the establishment of a Church and a Jesuit mission at Agra which continued till 1803. The grand nephew of St. Francis Xavier, Fr. Jerome Xavier, S.J. arrived in Goa in September, 1581. When Akbar, called for the third mission of Jesuit priests to his court Fr. Jerome Xavier was sent to Lahore where he arrived on May 5, 1595. During the reign of Akbar, Father Jerome Xavier accompanied the Emperor on various expeditions through the Deccan Plateau. During the conquest Akbar moved his permanent residence to Agra providing stability that allowed Father Jerome Xavier to "devote much of his time to the creation of a Christian religious literature written in the Persian tongue". It was approximately during this time that more Jesuit missionaries began to arrive in India. Fr. Jerome Xavier's attempt to convert King Akbar to Christianity failed as he couldn't believe in the divinity of Christ. But Xavier entertained great hopes for the conversion of his son Salim (later King Jahangir) who too had the same attitude of his father towards the Christian missionaries. But the Father's doubts of the effectiveness of his mission were further confirmed as a war broke out between the

Portuguese and the Mughal Empire in the autumn of 1613. Though peace was restored in two years, Fr. Jerome Xavier returned to Goa 'a broken man'.





## Jesuits' Patna Mission

In response to the apostolic letter *Nova in Indiis* issued by Pope Benedict XV on 10th September, 1919 establishing the Diocese of Patna, India, Fr. Vladamir Ledochowski, the then Superior General of the Society of Jesus entrusted the Jesuits of the Missouri Province with this new mission. In 1921, Frs. William Eline, S.J., Henry Milet, S.J., Edward Anderson, S.J., Patrick Troy, S.J., and Thomas Kelly, S.J., the first five Jesuits of Missouri Province, came to this mission in Patna at the invitation of the Bishop of Patna, Rev. Louis Van Hoeck, S.J.

In 1928, the Chicago Province was carved out of the Missouri Province and the Patna mission was handed over to the Chicago Province. Again in 1956, Chicago Province was divided to create a new province called the Detroit Province. Over 155 Jesuits from America, mainly from these two provinces came as missionaries and served the people of Bihar in the Patna mission. The hard work and the generosity of Missouri, Chicago and Detroit provinces, soon raised Patna mission to a vice-province and then in 1962, it became an independent province. Later Patna was split off and two provinces were formed – Delhi and Nepal. The Patna mission had many schools and churches already established by the Capuchin Fathers. The Jesuits continued their mission and increased the number of schools in the area. They worked among the Santals, the Dalits and the Chamars who were victims of oppression for centuries. Other than establishing schools and promoting Catholic education the Jesuits fostered local vocations. In 1927, Khrist Raja High School was established in Bettiah Parish. St. Xavier's School, Patna, came into existence in 1940 under the able leadership of Fr. Marshall Moran, S.J., Fr. Frank Loesch S.J. was the mission Superior at that time. Other than educational ventures the Jesuits also opened various social action centers and undertook non-formal education and adult literacy programs. In Patna they also ventured into legal aid Apostolate.



The first five American Jesuits to arrive in Patna are pictured here with Irish Christian Brothers who had been in Patna since 1870. Thomas Kelly, S.J., and Edward P. Anderson, S.J., are third and fourth from left in the rear. William J. Eline, S.J., Henry P. Milet, S.J., and Patrick J. Troy, S.J., are third, fourth, and fifth from left in the front. (Source: *Jesuit International Ministries*)

## Jesuits moving to Jaipur, Rajasthan

*The Jesuits had come to Jaipur in 1729 at the invitation of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in order to facilitate the setting up of an Astronomical Observatory.*

In 1942, Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail, the Prime Minister of the then Jaipur state visited Patna to deliver the convocation address at the Patna University. Fr. Marshal Moran, S.J., the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Patna provided accommodation to Sir Mirza Ismail at the Jesuit residence. Highly impressed by the American run St. Xavier's School the Prime Minister made an earnest request to Fr. Moran and Patna Mission's Superior, Fr. Frank Loesch, S.J., to establish a similar school in Jaipur. He assured them that the Maharaja of Jaipur would donate the necessary land and extend financial support for the new school. The Jesuits, after due consideration, responded favourably to the PM's request and initiated the opening of St. Xavier's School, Jaipur.

In July 1943, the Jesuits, at the 400th anniversary of St. Francis Xavier's arrival to India, at the request of the Bishop of Ajmer and Sir Mirza Muhammad Ismail, took over the management of St. Mary's Boy's School in the Roman Catholic Church Compound at Ghat Gate, Jaipur, which had been established by Rev. Fr. Ignatius, O. F. M. cap. in 1941. The school was later transferred to the present site and renamed St. Xavier's School in January, 1945. The construction work for the new building was started in 1950 and completed in 1952. In a short time St. Xavier's, Jaipur became one of the most outstanding schools in the country. The school has trained thousands of students who are holding key positions in every walk of life in Rajasthan, India and abroad.



St. Xavier's School, Jaipur



**ARRIVAL OF THE JESUITS  
IN DELHI'S SKYLINE**



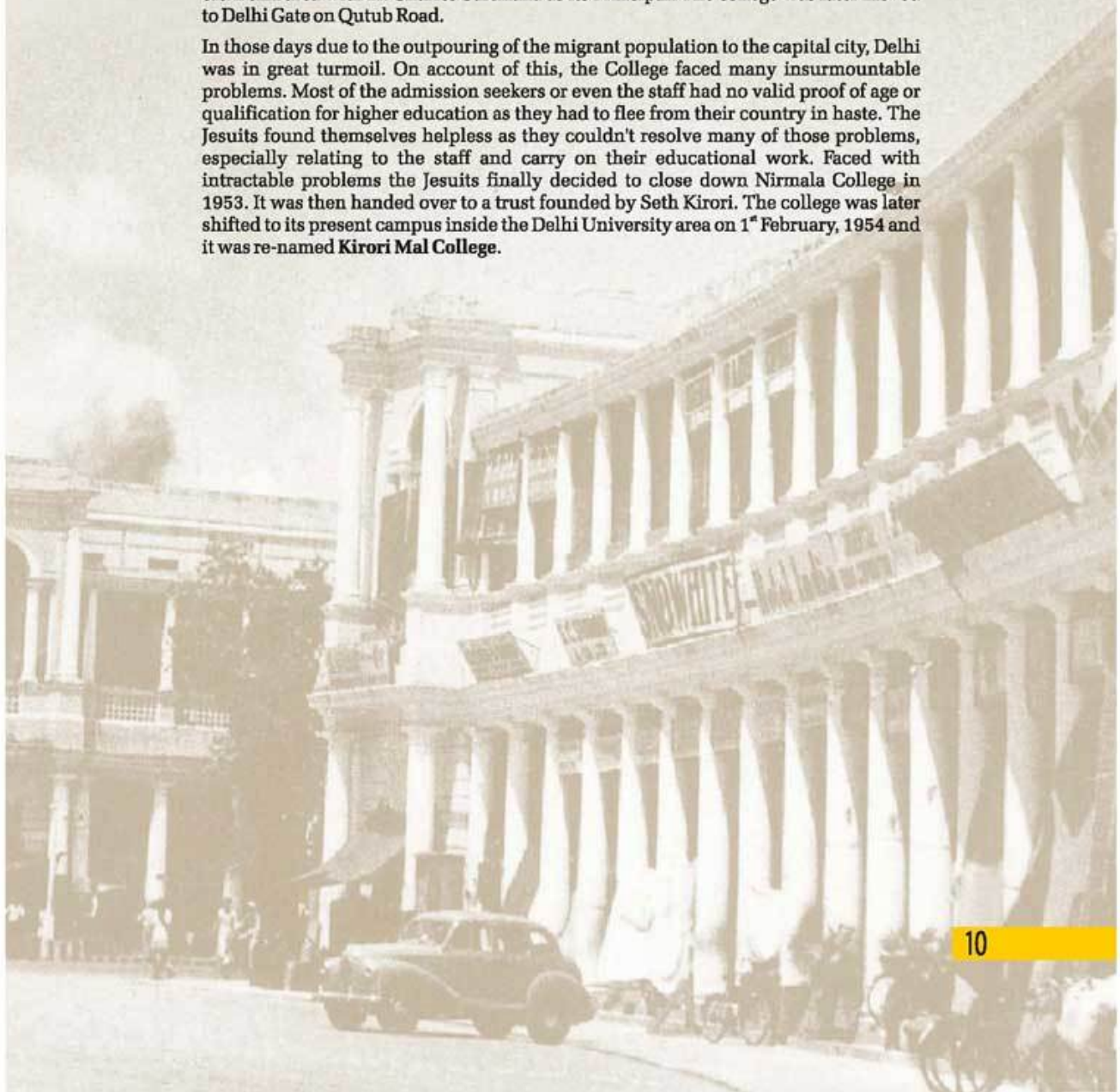
## Delhi, en route to Jaipur

The Jesuits who frequently travelled from Patna to Jaipur had to stop off at Delhi during their trips. The city acquired great prominence after India's independence. Since Delhi had become the capital city, the American Jesuits working in Patna had to visit the city very often for visa related works. Hence it was a dream of the Jesuits to begin an educational endeavour in Delhi.

## A Failed Experiment

Soon after the partition of India there was a great influx of refugees to Delhi from across the border. This resulted in shortage of schools and colleges to cater to the educational needs of Delhi's new population. In this context Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India requested the Missouri Jesuits to establish a college in Delhi. Hence in 1948 the Jesuits established **Nirmala College** at Kashmere Gate in the old Delhi area with Fr. Charles Saldhana as its Principal. The college was later moved to Delhi Gate on Qutub Road.

In those days due to the outpouring of the migrant population to the capital city, Delhi was in great turmoil. On account of this, the College faced many insurmountable problems. Most of the admission seekers or even the staff had no valid proof of age or qualification for higher education as they had to flee from their country in haste. The Jesuits found themselves helpless as they couldn't resolve many of those problems, especially relating to the staff and carry on their educational work. Faced with intractable problems the Jesuits finally decided to close down Nirmala College in 1953. It was then handed over to a trust founded by Seth Kirori. The college was later shifted to its present campus inside the Delhi University area on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1954 and it was re-named **Kirori Mal College**.





## The Ailing Problems of Delhi, India's Capital City

The Indian capital city of Delhi has a long history, including a history as the capital of several empires. It had been the seat of Islamic and British rulers until India's independence in 1947. But at the time of independence it appears that the city was least prepared for its new role. One major issue that seemed to have been overlooked by the planners of modern Delhi was the size of population it had to accommodate in the following years. Subsequent to India's partition and independence, Delhi fell into a huge turmoil on account of the large scale exodus from Pakistan and other parts of India. The population of Delhi grew by leaps and bounds from mere five lakhs at the time of India's independence to thirty lakhs in a matter of a decade.

Even though many years have passed by, Delhi is still battling with unassailable problems resulting from the great influx of people to this city of dreams. Today Delhi is one of the biggest metropolises in the world with a population of around 18 million; ironically even now nearly half of its people live in slums and unauthorized colonies without any civic amenities or access to quality education.

## Delhi, India's Power Centre

Following independence, other than the refugees many influential people from all over the country too took up residence in Delhi temporarily or permanently. As new job opportunities were created both in the government as well as in the public sector huge migrations followed. Delhi then became the city of hopes, aspirations and opportunities for the post independent young Indians.

## Education Hungry City

The rapid increase in Delhi's population led to many serious problems and the most important among them was the lack of good schools to educate the children of the new population, even the country's elite and the most powerful.

*Even in 2013 this situation remains unresolved. Every year there are nearly one lakh seats available at the nursery school level but the demand outstrips the supply and getting a child admitted to a good school is still a very daunting task in Delhi- not to mention about the short supply of seats at the higher education level.*

## Catholic Church's teething troubles in the field of education in Delhi

In 1951, Rt. Rev. Joseph Fernandes, the then Auxiliary Bishop of Calcutta took over as the first Indian Archbishop of Delhi-Simla. In 1959 Delhi became an Archdiocese but there were not many priests and religious personnel to care for the spiritual as well as the educational needs of the new generation of Delhi's Catholics because among Delhi's new migrants were a considerable number of Catholics too. Delhi didn't have enough institutions to impart education in a Catholic atmosphere, though the Church was keenly interested in contributing to the development of its people by providing educational assistance to the city.

The Irish Christian Brothers had already started a school in New Delhi (St. Columba's) but they were not able to take even one tenth of those who applied for admission. (In addition, a good number of non-Catholics in very influential positions and the alumni of Jesuit schools from other parts of India, then resident in Delhi were all eager to have their sons educated in a Jesuit school.)

It was in this context the Archbishop of Delhi & Shimla, Most Rev. Joseph Fernandes, wanted a school to be started in the northern part of Delhi by the Jesuits.



## THE BACKGROUND OF THE BIRTH OF A DREAM



Archbishop Rev. Joseph Fernandes

### Delhi Archbishop's initiatives

Way back in 1953 Fr. Frank Loesch, S.J., a member of Jesuit Patna province had mentioned to the Archbishop, Rev. Joseph Fernandes that the Chicago Jesuit Province had a plan to open a school in Delhi which could in the course of time become a college. The Archbishop was very pleased to hear this news and he then wrote a letter to the Superior of Patna Province requesting him to consider this option and suggested to him to at least buy a plot of land at Okhla, about 6 miles from Delhi. The Archbishop wrote to the Superior that since Delhi had started growing very fast, getting land would be a big problem in later years. He therefore urged the Jesuits to at least acquire some land in Delhi.

The Archbishop's other request to the Society was to provide him with some staff to begin a college in Chandigarh, the new capital of the Punjab. The Punjab Government was very anxious about the Jesuits starting a first class college 'like St. Xavier's, Bombay' in Chandigarh.

### An Attempt Nipped in the Bud

Both the requests were turned down by the Patna mission after giving it a serious thought and putting in a lot of consultations. They did so because Patna province was then a young and undeveloped mission. They had already sponsored a High School in Jaipur and given a large loan to begin the school. Hence arranging enough finance was out of their reach. Secondly the Superior also found it difficult to find enough men to work in Delhi because the Chicago mission couldn't manage to get visas for more missionaries from America to come to India for mission works. Therefore, he requested the Archbishop to approach other Indian Jesuit provinces like Madurai or Bombay for help. He even promised to put in his recommendations for the same. Most importantly he expected the Jesuits of Indian origin to undertake this new mission.



## A Dream - Nudging its Way

Time and time again the same request was put before the Jesuits who shot down the idea due to lack of men and means. Now the request came from not only Delhi's Archbishop but from various prominent people who had had the experience of Jesuit schools in other parts of the country. When the appeals became more and more widespread and when the officials began to press the point, the Jesuits finally decided to give it a serious thought.

## To be or not to be...?

One of the mysteries of human creation is 'why did God leave man with a freedom to choose?' Why couldn't He have the creation with an inbuilt finality that he would never be confronted with a conflict when he had to take a decision? Was God Himself confronted with conflicts when He decided what was to be done with man? May be He couldn't Himself arrive at a conclusion and left the decision with man. 'To be or not to be' or 'to come to Delhi or not' was the question the Jesuits had to resolve. In 1957 when the Patna Jesuits deliberated the issue of opening a school in Delhi, there were strong arguments in favour as well as against the idea of crossing over to the north of the Ganges.

## Arguments Against Delhi School

Those who opposed the idea wondered why the Archbishop wanted the American Jesuits to undertake this project and not the Jesuits of Indian origin from Bombay or Madurai province who could do the same work. Secondly, this was the time when the Patna province was reeling under scarcity of men to fulfill all the works they had already undertaken in Bihar. They were also concerned about the financial implications of the project after the property they bought for Xavier's Teachers' Training Institute had cost them much more than what they had estimated initially. They also wanted to build another portion of the institute. They were afraid to disturb the development of the institute at a time when the number of Indian scholastics at the institute was growing year after year.

The Patna Bishop had other more important considerations at this point of time. He was more concerned about pushing work in the area (Bihar) entrusted to the diocese. He wanted to build up a staunch, well educated Catholic community in Bihar. His priority was to prepare the way to draw from this same Catholic community, as soon as possible, a native clergy who could carry on the work and expand it further. He was under tremendous pressure from the higher-ups to produce as much results as possible in the diocese so that he could continue getting the help from Detroit Province.

The Bishop felt that starting a school in Delhi would cut down on his men and means which he thought was a hindrance to the mission work in Bihar. Most importantly he opined that Delhi school was less efficacious in fulfilling the larger obligations of the Catholic Church. He thought one catholic school (St. Columba's) was already there and it was enough to keep the Delhi authorities in good humour. It appeared to him that they would be frittering away man power and resources and dodging their real obligations of making the all out back-breaking, self-sacrificing, unglamorous efforts of uplifting the poor in Bihar. He felt that they were not in any obligation to make up for the Delhi Nirmala College fiasco. Hence he urged the idea to be shunned.

## Delhi School, the Need of the Hour

Those who favoured the idea of opening a school in India's capital city (Fr. Gordon Murphy, Fr. Charles Saldanha and Fr. Loesch) thought that it was an opportunity to regain their lost prestige after the Nirmala College affair. Most importantly this was an opportunity to spread the Society's work in Northern India.

As far as the issue of the personnel was concerned, they opined that they could use some of the Jesuits-in-training to work in schools. (There were many young Jesuits

who already had Cambridge School experience, nearing the completion of their religious studies.) According to them these young, though inexperienced, Jesuits could be sent to the already established schools and the senior and experienced Jesuits who worked in those institutions could be entrusted with these pioneering works. They felt that the manpower problem would not be so acute after 1960 on account of the more number of the young Jesuits already undergoing their religious studies, and who would complete their training by then.

They also thought that in the event of the shortage of Jesuit personnel, they could at least make a beginning by just opening the school with two classes which could easily be managed by one or two Jesuits. For the rest of the staff they could hire a couple of lady teachers from the local area.

Regarding finance they had various suggestions. First, they thought that Archdiocese could come to their rescue in terms of land or a temporary building etc. Another suggestion that came up was that the Society could recall some of the loans given to the other institutions or the Management of the new school could borrow on their own strength.

They were much in favour of a Delhi school because they thought Delhi would be the most convenient halting place between Patna and Jaipur – where they were already permanent and had often to stop off at Delhi on trips there. Since Delhi had become the capital city, Jesuits like Fr. Moran, who had experience in public relations and who could move easily with the officials of higher echelons, could work on the officials in getting the difficult visas for the American missionaries who wanted to come to India for evangelical works. They also foresaw that if their mission activity in villages were to be curtailed by the government in future due to certain policy changes these city schools could be convenient places for their men to continue with their works.

Finally Fr. Frank Loesch gave in writing the summary of his arguments in favour of opening a school in Delhi. They were:

1. The Delhi School would be a future source of support for the Province.

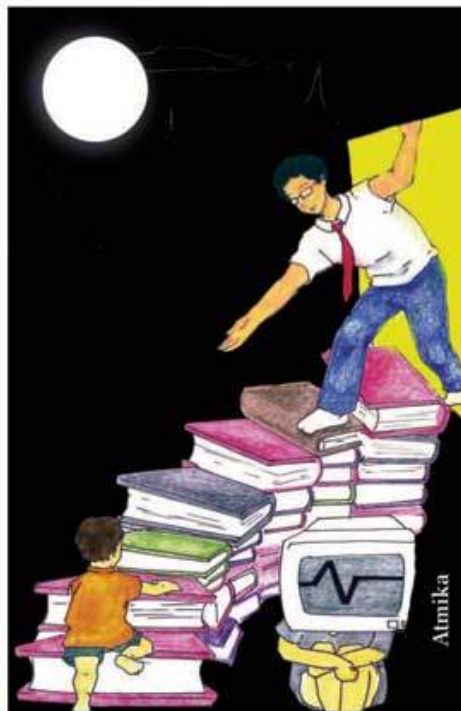
2. They were under some obligation to repair the damage done to the reputation of the Society in Delhi by the failure of Nirmala College.

3. He quoted Fr. General Ledochowski who stated that the Society in mission lands do well to retire more and more from actual preaching of the Gospel and take to the direction of schools and colleges.

4. Delhi Jesuits could give the much needed assistance to Delh Archdiocese, so poor in Catholics and clergy.

5. Jesuit trained officials of government wanted a Jesuit school for their boys.

6. He wanted the superiors to take a broader vision of the country vis a vis their own mission designated. He wanted the Jesuits to be generous to others so that they would not be in want of men and means in their own field.





## Conclusion – Ready for Delhi School

After lot of consultations the Jesuits came to the conclusion that there was no other work they could do which would be more helpful to the country than opening a school in Delhi at that time. They were thus prepared to open a school and insure its future by making an endowment of men to carry on the work because in Delhi they would be educating the sons of the then leaders of the country who in their turn would probably be among the most prominent people of their own generation. Since the clientele of the school would be from different parts of the country, the influence of the school would spread throughout the country.

*(What great vision they had! Over the years we have created hundreds of student leaders, brilliant academicians, writers, journalists, actors, bureaucrats, businessmen with a conscience and key national political leaders. Ajay Maken, Sudhanshu Mittal, Arun Jaitley, Justice Vikramajit Sen, Rakesh Mehta, Ramu Damodaran, Gopal Subramaniam, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Raghav Behl are just a few among them.)*

## A Welcome Decision!

Negotiations and persuasions continued. Finally in November 1958 Fr. Edward F. Mann, S.J., Patna Vice Provincial after having given a careful thought and prayer to the project, as well as after having discussed it with Fr. Frank Loesch, his consultants and other responsible people again and again, decided to pay heed to the Archbishop's request. ***(None was as happy as the Archbishop who extended a very warm welcome to the Jesuits, though he was not too much concerned about when that would take place!)*** They thought that no other work could be as helpful to the Church in the entire country and the welfare of the country as a whole, to say nothing of the Delhi Archdiocese, than opening of a school in Delhi. Consequently, the Patna province expressed willingness to open the school in Delhi because they felt that this work was important for the Society too as they could use their influence for various other works of the Society in future.

So Fr. E. F. Mann, S.J., deputed Fr. Frank Loesch, S.J., to try to acquire property for the new institution.



## SEARCH BEGINS FOR A SUITABLE SITE FOR SCHOOL

An enthused Archbishop was happy that he finally was able to surmount the first hurdle – the Jesuits finally got over their inertia and showed their willingness to come over to Delhi to begin their new venture, though he didn't have any ready plot or building that could be handed over to the Jesuits. The Archbishop wrote to Fr. Edward Mann making his verbal promise of giving permission to open a school in Delhi which could eventually become a college in the Archdiocese of Delhi. He was most willing in permitting the Jesuits' erecting a religious house too in Delhi, if they desired so.

Between late 1957 and April 1959 Fr. Loesch made at least ten trips to Delhi looking for an ideal property to begin a school. But he was not able to find a suitable place anywhere in the Old Delhi area, though those who helped him in Delhi had many places in their mind as possible sites for the school. But he didn't lose hope. He spared no effort to push ahead with the project that was entrusted to him. For a year and a half he searched for a suitable location for the school.

Since Delhi had grown so rapidly, the price of the land was exorbitant. It was exceedingly difficult to purchase a plot of land, especially one that was large enough for a school. Furthermore, there were very few vacant plots available in the place where a school was most necessary. He tried one place after another without success. He failed either because the price was too high, the location too poor, or because the conditions were unsuitable. Because of the high price of building materials it was estimated that 25 to 30 lakhs of rupees would be required for the venture.

Fr. E.F. Mann, therefore, requested the Archbishop to sell them thirty acres of their land in Old Delhi at the current price. He wrote "I hope and pray that you will be pleased with my request and grant it as the best solution to an otherwise almost insoluble problem."

In February, 1959 the Archbishop wrote a letter to the Municipal Commissioner, Mr. P. R. Nayak, I.C.S requesting his permission to purchase a land for a secondary school in the Old Delhi area. (The Commissioner tried to give every possible help and he deputed the Chief Architect of the Corporation, Mr. S. G. Pradhan, to assist Fr. Loesch in finding a suitable site.)

In his letter the Archbishop pointed out that for several years St. Columba's School was not able to cope with the many applications for admissions. There was a steady increase in the number of applicants from the Old Delhi area. In order to alleviate this pressure he wanted to open a school in Old Delhi, provided a suitable piece of land could be found. He brought to the notice of Mr. P. R. Nayak sites which Fr. Loesch had already located. The first site was located near Kingsway Camp but on further enquiry it was found that most part of the land was already acquired by the Municipal Committee. As an alternative site there was another site towards the East of Coronation Road. Their next choice was an area adjacent to the north of Model Town and west of Princes Road. One major problem with both the sites was that they were low lying areas and needed to be filled in to the extent of at least 3 ft.

It was the plan of the Archbishop to purchase at least 40 acres of land wherever available in Delhi because he wanted that the new institution should have residential accommodation for at least 200 boys which in due time could go up to 2000 students irrespective of caste or creed. He also wanted that the new campus should have at least 20 teachers' quarters. He had envisioned that this campus could in the course of time be developed into a college, if there was a demand for it.

In the meantime the State Architect and the Chief Commissioner gave their approval to purchase the Coronation Road property because this area was earmarked for the purpose of schools and hostels by the MCD. The university had been assigned 150 acres of land in this area and the above said 40 acres of land was adjacent to it. The permission the Jesuits got from the authorities simply meant that the area was one in which a school would be allowed, provided the Jesuits were able to purchase the land from the present owners.



## Eureka! Hotel Cecil Up For Sale!

**Hotel Cecil**, one of the three oldest and the most famous and popular British Five Star Hotels of Delhi in 1950's, was started in 1904 by Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Hotz, widow of Robert Hotez of Simla and mother of the American siblings Mr. Hans Hotz (the then Managing Director of the Hotz Hotels in India) and his sister Mrs. Pauline White. Mrs. F. E. Hotz had created a trust known as 'Hotz Trust' and it later on carried the business of hoteliers left behind by her. (Mrs. Hotz passed away on 17th October 1927.)

*There was apparently even a branch in Murree, now in Pakistan, which still stands and is called the Hotel Cecil today.*

In those days Hotel Cecil was known as the 'Country Club' because there were hosts of beautiful flowers all over the hotel complex. It was "quite popular among the British women who would often come here for idle gossip in the afternoons and would return in the evenings with their husbands for dinner and dance." (As reported by the Hindustan Times dated August 31, 2011) The lawns were well manicured and the Neem trees looked absolutely majestic. There were numerous shady trees and a variety of flowers like Rose and Dahlia on the campus.

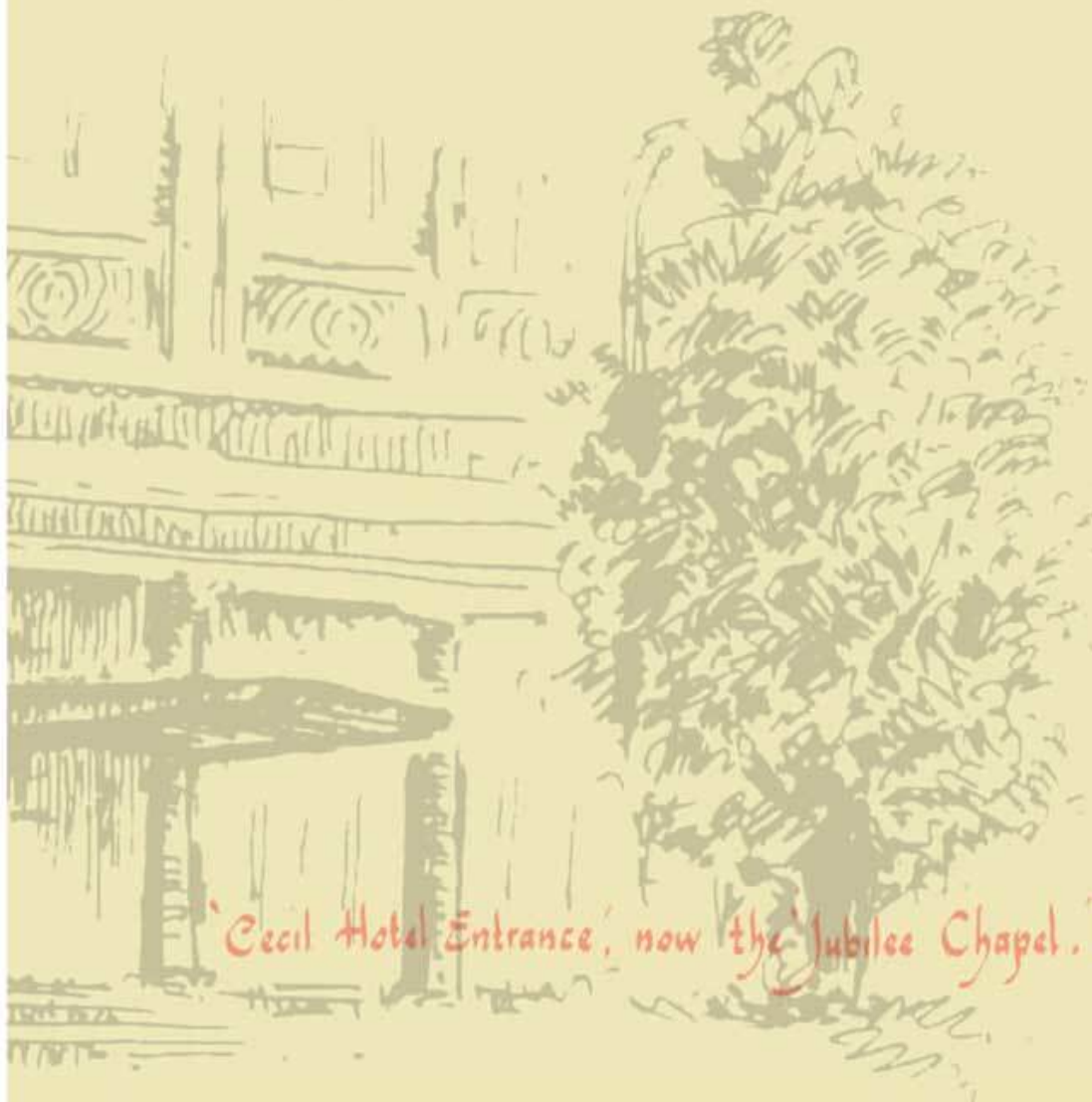
"Cecil was known for its homely environment. It had large apartment-like suites, which made it a favourite of many European families that visited India in those days. Many foreign journalists had permanent suites in Cecil....." (As reported by the Hindustan Times dated August 31, 2011) "Behind its opening there lies an interesting story. Mrs. Hotz, a woman of means from Switzerland, happened to pass through Delhi in 1897



along with her young son, Hans. During her stay here she spent two uncomfortable nights in a local hotel with water seeping through the roof. Immediately she set her mind on opening a hotel in Delhi. A few years later Cecil made its modest beginnings". (As reported by the Indian Express, dated 10th June, 1959) By the 1950's, the hotel had become a posh hotel with over a hundred rooms offering all the accompanying five star amenities including lush green lawns and a swimming pool, one of the city's finest. During its heydays, Cecil was a hotbed of glamour and politics. The guests were so impressed with the Hotel because in no other place they visited did they find the fixtures in such perfect condition!

During the Raj era, the princes would arrive in their fancy cars with royal pomp and show, which often led to traffic chaos. The Maharajas stayed in their palaces around India Gate. Those who did not have their own palaces lived in hotels such as Maiden's or the Cecil Hotel in the Civil Lines area. In February 1934, the Raja of Salempur organized a dinner for Md. Ali Jinnah at the Cecil Hotel where he was introduced to the Muslim leaders of the country.

The reason why the management wanted to sell it "is believed to be labour trouble in the Hotel. According to the management the workers, despite the fact that they were being well looked after, "were getting out of hand". If present negotiations (between the Patna province Jesuits and the Hotel Management) proved to be successful, the capital will lose a hotel the type of which is fast disappearing in an age of multi-storeyed, glittering and swanky hotels". (As reported by The Indian Express, dated 10th June, 1959)



'Cecil Hotel Entrance', now the 'Jubilee Chapel.'



## HOTEL CECIL GIVING WAY TO ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL.



*Fr. James Tong S.J.*

At the time of the sale the Management of the Hotel stated that they decided to sell the Hotel because they were unable to maintain the same comfort and standard of the hotel as in the past and they wanted to sell it to someone who would look after the campus and not commercialize it. Therefore, it was not exactly a sale for profit.

It was Fr. James Tong, S.J., (the Kentucky born Jesuit who was the chaplain of the Catholic Hospital Association of India and had been working in Delhi for a long time. He passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1986) who discovered that the Cecil Hotel was up for sale. The Hotel came up for the consideration of the Jesuits as a possible site for the new school in Delhi. This location was more than suitable for their purposes and the Archbishop and the Apostolic Internuncio were very much enthusiastic about the Jesuits purchasing it.

Fr. James Tong then initiated the negotiations between the Patna Jesuit Society and the Cecil Hotel Management for the transaction of the property. The original request was for Rs. 47 lakhs for 13.41 acres of land and well over 110,000 square feet of floor space and it was next to a public park. But the price was too high and the offer was refused; but some months later the Jesuits were asked to make an offer.

### More Problems for the Jesuits

As the Jesuits considered further they came to the conclusion that the property on Coronation Road was agricultural land and it would require a certain amount of 'fill' in order to make it suitable for buildings and play grounds. If they were able to buy this land they could build gradually according to their needs and finances. At the same time they found that the Hotel was not as big as they had thought and the price demanded by the Hotel management was well beyond their means. Though the owners of the Hotel were anxious to sell, they were still conferring among themselves.

The Jesuits felt that waiting for the Hotel management to come to a conclusion regarding the sale implied some hurdles. They might later give up the idea of selling or even if they bought it, the civil authorities might not give permission for the school here. Even if the Management would go for a reduced amount, raising that much amount within the specified time too was unlikely. At the same time the land prices were skyrocketing and they would not be able to buy the Coronation Road land later. Finally they would neither have the bird in the hand nor the one in the bush!

When consulted, the Archbishop wanted them to go for the Hotel but at the same time not give up the Coronation Road property. The Apostolic Internuncio too was of the same opinion. They finally came to the conclusion that they would buy the Coronation Road property which could either be used for the school or reserved for the college and college hostel. At the same time there was the possibility that in about a month they would be offered the Hotel site for Rs. 20 lakhs.

The Hotel would be better for school while the Coronation Road property would be better for a future college. And in their preliminary enquiries they found that the civil authorities too were quite willing to grant permission for converting the Hotel into a school.

## What conflicting decisions the pioneers had to take!

Fr. Edward Mann, S.J., and Fr. Loesch, S.J., were in a catch-22 situation. In February 1959 Fr. Edward Mann wrote to the Superior General about the conflict they encountered. "Should we arrange for the Hotel site if we can get it at twenty lakhs or should we forget about this possibility and concentrate on the Coronation Road property? If we are able to take the Hotel site how will we be able to get the money for the initial purchase? If we concentrate on the Coronation Road property and buy up to forty acres, how will we get the money to put up the buildings within a reasonably short time?"

What else can be more painful than taking a decision, particularly one that would affect the future growth of a society or community? The Jesuit stalwarts knew that Delhi would provide them with great opportunities to serve the Society as well as the Church; but where to begin? There were various possibilities but which one to choose? Every possibility had its own hurdles and challenges. If they would go for the land it would be a fine site for the school, but it required a lot of fill in (as much as three feet) which would amount to further expenses other than erecting sufficient buildings required for starting an institution. Finally the total cost would amount to as much as that of purchasing the Hotel.

Then they were told that Cecil would be available for a better bargain and here was a property which was already built up. It was far more desirable than all other sites inspected by Fr. Frank Loesch. It contained more than 13 acres of land, five large buildings, several of which were readily convertible for school purposes. The grounds were spacious. Only minor alterations were required to begin the school. It would be an ideal location and they could become financially independent almost from the beginning; but how to arrange for 20 lakhs instantly? They were encountered with more difficulties than what they had anticipated. But they were determined to pursue the case until they arrived at a happy solution to their quest in Delhi.

## Land At Sight, At Last!

In the meantime they came to know that the Coronation Road property would be costlier than their original estimate. Instead of the three rupees per square yard quoted as the proper price earlier they were then asked to pay five rupees per square yard! Even that price did not seem to be high considering the utility of the place in future. But due to hard bargaining by the owners of the land no conclusion could be arrived at.

After considering all options, Fr. Loesch took the bold step. He found that the Coronation Road property was not that much worth for the immediate purpose of starting a school and it was too far north in Delhi, away from the area where people would like to live. On the other hand Cecil's location was excellent and classes could be started immediately after they took possession. So he decided to go for Hotel Cecil. (What an excellent decision! But considering the future mission of the Society in Delhi what an irreparable loss was that they could not buy the 40 acres of Coronation Road property too!) Considering the state of the Society's finances and the price that was asked for the Hotel they couldn't afford to buy both the properties. In the meantime the Hotel management gave verbal approval for Rs 20 lakh.

Fr. James Tong, S.J., was accordingly authorized to make the offer to Mrs. Pauline White, one of the Directors of the Hotel. She felt the offer was right and requested him to hold a meeting with her brother Mr. H. Hotz, the Managing Director.

In his meeting with the Hotel Management Fr. Loesch agreed to buy the property provided he would get necessary approval from his superiors as well as the civil authorities would give permission to convert the Hotel into a school. At the same time he was hard pressed about the finance. Other than the twenty lakh, he would have to raise another one and half lakh for registration, renovation, furnishings etc. The Patna Province had already strained its finances to the limit. In the meantime, he got a written offer from the Hotel Management for the above said amount and also managed to get a non-objection certificate from the civil authorities for starting a school in the Cecil property.



## The Transfer of the Hotel Property

In March 1959, Fr. Edward Mann, S.J., Provincial of Patna Jesuit Province wrote to Mr. Hans Hotz of Cecil Hotel formally placing before him his offer of purchasing the Hotel with the intention of converting it into a school, in the light of what Fr. Loesch had intimated to him after the meeting that he and Fr. Tong had with the Cecil Hotel Management. But the offer was subjected to two essential conditions: First that his superiors approve the purchase and secondly that the government authorities concerned would permit them to open a school on the Cecil property. He agreed to pay a flat sum of Rs. 19 lakhs as the cost of the purchase including all the movable and immovable property except a few items for which the school would have no use. They also decided to take possession of the Hotel by 1st October, 1959. They offered to make the payments in several convenient installments. The offer was circulated among the shareholders of the Hotel and accepted by all.

A school was necessary in this area and it was ideally located in regard to the public transportation facilities. In the meantime the Archbishop wrote to the Architect of the MCD as well as Mr. P.R. Nayak, I.C.S. Commissioner of Delhi for their non-objection certificates to start a school in Cecil premises citing the reason that the Hotel had large grounds which could easily be adapted for the purpose of a school. He also wrote to the Director of Education, Delhi requesting his permission to begin a school in Old Delhi (Cecil Hotel). He brought to his notice the urgent need for a school here as the number of admission seekers from this area had increased considerably and St. Columba's School was in no way able to accommodate the growing number of students from the Old Delhi area. He promised that the school would be similar to St. Columba's as far as the medium of instruction was concerned. However, here both Hindi and Sanskrit would be taught up to Matriculation level. He promised that the emphasis would be laid on the study of Indian History and Culture, Mathematics, Science, character formation, and physical training through games and drills etc.

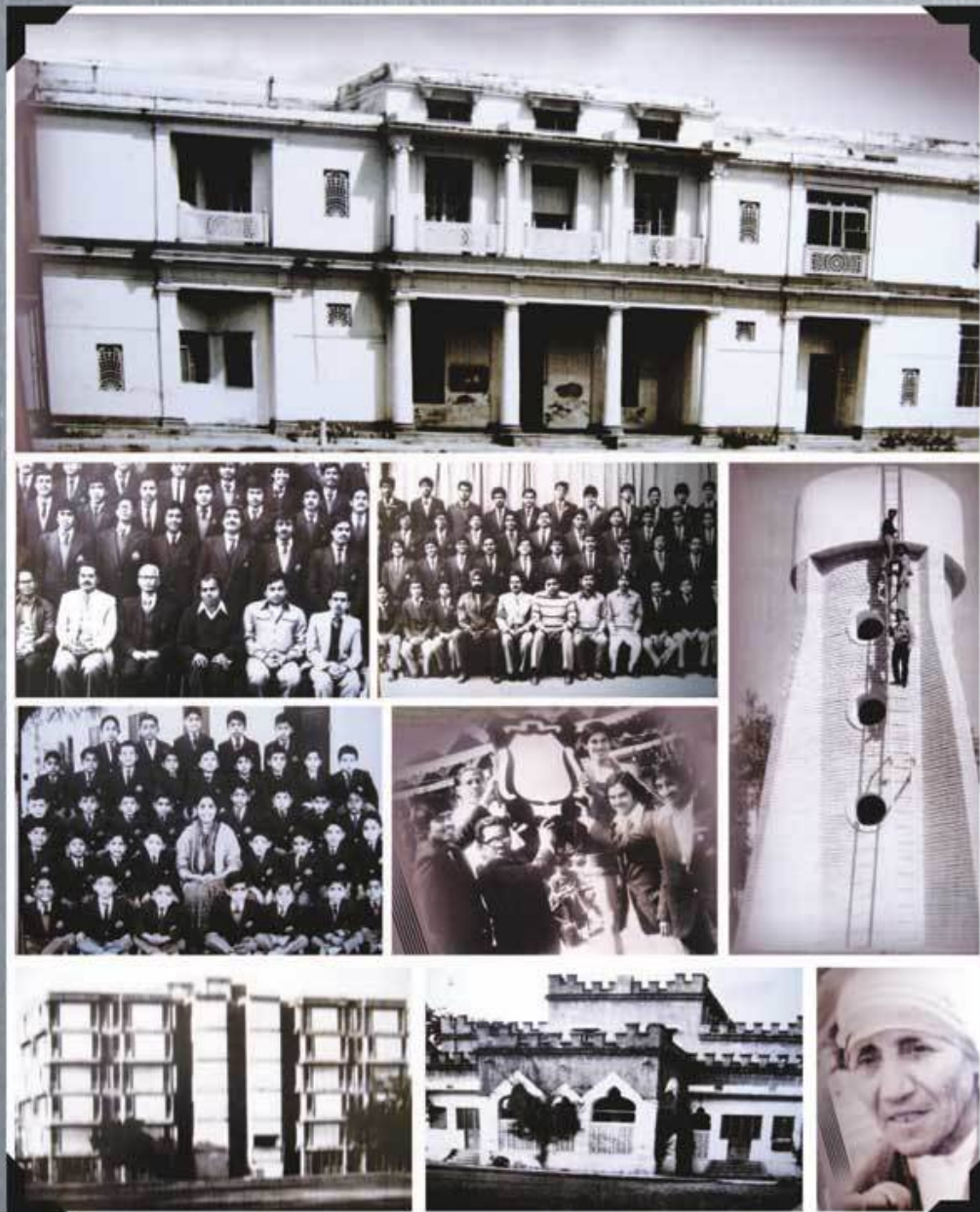
The Municipal authorities and the educational authorities warmly welcomed the idea of making a school out of the Cecil Hotel because a quality school was very much required in this part of the city. The Architect of the MCD gave his no-objection certificate for converting the Hotel premises into a modern school.

A few weeks later Mr. Hotz replied to the Provincial agreeing to sell the Hotel for Rs. 19 lakhs. But they wanted a few items excluded from sale on the basis of a mutual agreement. The Hotel Management wanted to complete all formalities of the sale by 31st December, 1959, after receiving the full payment. A formal agreement for the purchase of the property and furniture was drawn up and signed on June 18, 1959. Considering the almost insurmountable difficulties in securing a suitable site in the city, it was evident that the hand of God guided them to secure this splendid property in a location which made it possible to open a school immediately in the best interests of the Church and God's greater glory.

Even Rs. 19 lakh was well above the financial means of the Society, but after considering the prevailing property market conditions in Delhi in those days it was a real bargain. The Jesuits then stopped looking for any other sites because this cost was more reasonable than any other proposition they had already considered for the past one and a half years. Also it permitted them to begin a school almost at once without going for the construction of a full-fledged school building.

The Hotel was made up of four main buildings. After surveying the buildings the Jesuits found that in those buildings they could accommodate up to 1000 students in class rooms and 200 resident students as well as provide quarters for the staff and the Jesuits. All these could be done with minor alterations to the existing buildings. Based on their experience, the Jesuits realized that the fees should be high enough to insure sufficient independence of management. Thus, the school could perhaps shoulder a debt of five to six lakhs of rupees. So they tried their best to obtain contributions from philanthropic people who understood the serious need of a school of this type and who appreciated the fact that the school would be staffed indefinitely by a large group of dedicated Jesuit educators.

Faces that shall never fade away....





## MODEST BEGINNINGS

On 31st July, 1959, on the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola who is the founder of the Society of Jesus, Rev. Fr. Charles P. Saldanha, S.J., a 67 year old Jesuit, who was the Parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Dinapur Cantt., Bihar arrived in Delhi to take charge of the new school as its first Principal. (He was the former Principal of Nirmala College which is presently Kirori Mal College, D.U.)

He was to prepare preliminaries for the opening of the school in January 1960. He considered the school as his "Benjamin"- the child of his old age.

It was originally decided that only Stds. 1 to 5 would be opened, but many of the guardians pointed out that if they didn't have a Kindergarten Class for their five-year olds, they would have to send these little boys to distant schools while their older brothers just comfortably walked over to Xavier's! For this and other practical reasons this class was opened in October 1959, but filled up the quickest of all. Soon they had 150 boys for four sections of the Class.

Fr. Saldhana's work was greatly facilitated by a band of non-Christian volunteer workers who joined him - all highly educated and belonging to respectable families of the neighbourhood. On two occasions when he was ill they kept the office running efficiently and did everything according to his mind. The Cecil authorities too afforded him every facility, giving him free board and lodging and providing him an extra room where he could offer daily mass, which was attended by many of the Catholics on the Hotel staff.

## **Solving Various Teething Troubles**

On 28th Sept., 1959, Rev. Fr. Francis Loesch, S.J., the former Superior of Patna Mission and long associated with the building and expansion programs of the mission was formally appointed to take over the charge of the new institution as its local Superior. The new institution began to face some teething problems. Fr. Loesch attempted to find reasonable solutions to all those troubles.

## **The Future of the Service Staff of the Hotel**

As soon as it became evident that the Hotel was going to be closed down there was quite a stir among the 250 servants employed by the hotel, as they clearly saw that the School could not engage all of them. Questions were asked even in the Parliament, and there was a proposal afoot to let the existing staff run the Hotel and keep it open. They pointed out that they were suffering a triple loss: (a) loss of their jobs; (b) loss of their quarters, which they considered the most serious of all, and (c) the uncertainty of adequate compensation. To make matters worse 23 of the staff formed themselves into a registered association (apparently communist inspired) and sent legal notice to the Hotz Hotels Ltd., claiming a compensation of rupees five lakhs on various grounds.

Fr. Loesch, the Hotel Directors and a friendly Labour Union Reconciliation Officer – all worked together to handle the delicate situation with skill, and matters were never allowed to drift towards a regular law suit. Bro. Morrow, the then Principal of St. Columba's School, New Delhi gave them an excellent advice at this juncture. He suggested that they should at no time attempt to take any strong action to eject the servants from their quarters on legal grounds before the school actually opened, as public sympathy would be on the side of the servants. But once the school started functioning regularly, everybody would see that men not employed by the Jesuits had no business hanging around, and public opinion would sway to the School





Management's side. *(What a wise and seasoned advice it was!)*

Fr. Loesch took great care to employ as many of the Hotel staff as he needed for the school- both clerical and maintenance. The Hotel also gave compensation beyond what was prescribed by law, and one by one the men who had no jobs with the School left quietly, and by the grace of God a very explosive situation was controlled entirely without any untoward event or outside interference, which was greatly feared.

### Quarters for the Lady Staff

Another problem was the provision of quarters for lady teachers. They couldn't get any outside lady teacher unless they could assure her of decent accommodation. Fr. Saldanha tried everywhere for a suitable house but his efforts ended in failure. Fr. Jerome D'Souza who was visiting the Missions in the East, happened to be in Xavier's, and his advice was sought. He opined that the lady teachers could be provided an exclusive residence inside the campus.

### The First Flight

Fr. Charles Saldanha, S.J., Fr. Frank Loesch S.J., Fr. Francis Rodrigues, S.J., and Fr. Austin Reinboth, S.J.- all worked together in converting the Hotel campus into a modern public school. They began to register students for admission tests. By 26th Oct., 1959, the registration of students for the new school rose to about 600. Three sets of admission tests and personal interviews were held from the period Nov. 7, 1959 to Jan. 27, 1960. Fr. Gordon E. Murphy, S.J., the then Principal of St. Xavier's School, Patna helped Fr. Saldanha to interview the first lot of 300 boys. The idea was to take in about 800 boys- this large number was needed so as to enable the school to pay the running costs, the interest on the large sum of money borrowed to pay for the property and leave a margin to liquidate the capital debt itself. To accommodate the sons of some very respectable guardians whose boys were good students but did not know enough English, it was found necessary to open four supplementary classes corresponding to Stds. 1 to 4 and this easily enabled them to complete the 800 boys they were looking for. These special classes didn't seem to be successful and later they were discontinued.

### From Cecil Hotel to Xavier's Delhi

On 1st Nov., 1959 the Cecil Hotel ceased to function as a hotel. The property was transferred to Delhi St. Xavier's Society on 21st December 1959. It was then fully under the ownership of the Jesuits. The credit for this changeover must be given largely to Rev. Fr. Edward Mann, S.J., Provincial of the Patna Jesuit Province, who planned and sanctioned the project and raised the funds necessary for the inception of St. Xavier's School, Delhi as well as Fr. Francis Loesch, S.J., who did all the pioneering works in purchasing this property for converting it into a school.





Staff of St. Xavier's, Delhi in 1960



## The Founding Batch-1966



O V Giri



Vinod Bajaj



Rajiv Ohri



Sudhir Bhasin



Rakesh Mathur



Lalit Bahri



Pradeep Rao



Jobie Thomas



Percy Dewan



Navneen Prakash



Satbir Singh



Gubash Mathew



Ashwini Parmar



Ashok Jain



Prohvir Chakravarti



Siddharth Bhattacharya



Vijay Pal Sachdeva



Onkar Pashricha



Sarabjit Singh



Arun Khosla



Man Mohan Singh



Deepak Raj



Vikram Kaushik



Hardip Singh



Manmohanjit Singh



Amitabh Manchanda



Ajai Kumar



Loveli Khanna



Salman Masud



Divesh Narain



Promod Gupta



Sanjay K Jha



Amarjit S Sawhney



Michael Noronha



Mervyn Jeremiah



Kamal Mehra



Mathew Paul



Rakesh Jain



Bharat Rungachari



Khushwant Pal Singh



Harbinder S mahindoo



Anil Chatterji



Suresh Bansal



Karuna S Mathur



Satinder Rekhi



Deepinder S Bharara



Virendra Chawala



Surinder Singh



Deepak Shukul



Sulender Pal Brar



Arindam Sen



Terrence Reinboth



Raja Phillip



Ravijit Kalha



Vimal Kalepatwala



Ravinder S Bhatnagar



Arun Nayar



Ratnesh Singh



Arvind Thirani



Nipon C Pal



Ravi Mushran



## C H A P T E R - 2

### ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL, DELHI INAUGURATED!

On 6<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1960, His Excellency the most Rev. James R. Knox, the Apostolic Internuncio in India, blessed and officially inaugurated the school building in the presence of a large number of Jesuit Alumni in the city, who were called together by Fr. James Tong, S.J., to form a Jesuit Alumni Association. Rev. Fr. Jerome D'Souza who had many pupils among them, addressed the audience on the occasion. Since Fr. Charles P. Saldhana, S.J., the designated principal fell ill quite unexpectedly, it was Fr. Thomas Athazapadam, S.J., who addressed the first school assembly. The school was opened with 5 Fathers in the Jesuit Community (later joined by another Father in June 1960), 6 male teachers and 22 lady staff, the majority of the staff being Catholic.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1960, St. Xavier's School opened with three sections of class IV and two sections of class V. On 12<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1960, Standards II and III were opened, the former having three sections each and the latter having four sections each. On 13<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1960, Standard 1 was opened with three sections. On 15<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1960 Prep classes were begun. The total number of boys on the rolls from Classes Prep to 5 by that time was 701. On 18<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1960 recognition was granted to the school by the Directorate of Education, Delhi. On 8<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1961, Standard VI was added. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1961, No. 2 Ludlow Castle Road House and property were registered in the name of St. Xavier's School.

#### School Hostel

Another major problem the school had to face early and find a solution for, was the opening of a hostel. Most of the Jesuits were against the idea of opening a hostel for students. First of all the School did not have the staff to run it. Secondly, no Catholic school in Delhi had yet opened a hostel, either for boys or for girls. Thirdly, all the superiors that Rev. Father Provincial met in his visitation of his subjects in the Juniorates, Philosophates and Theologates in India advised him against it.

In the end, the valuable experience of the Jesuits in Patna St. Xavier's School and the idea that a hostel gave in forming esprit de corps (*the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group*) among the boys prevailed and it was decided to open a hostel for about 30 boys, and Fr. A. Reinboth was sent to St Xavier's, Delhi from St. Xavier's, Patna to look after the managements. Soon he found it necessary to increase the number of hostlers to 50 and by the end of the year there were 60 students in the hostel. The number was further increased later.



### St. Joseph's School for the Poor

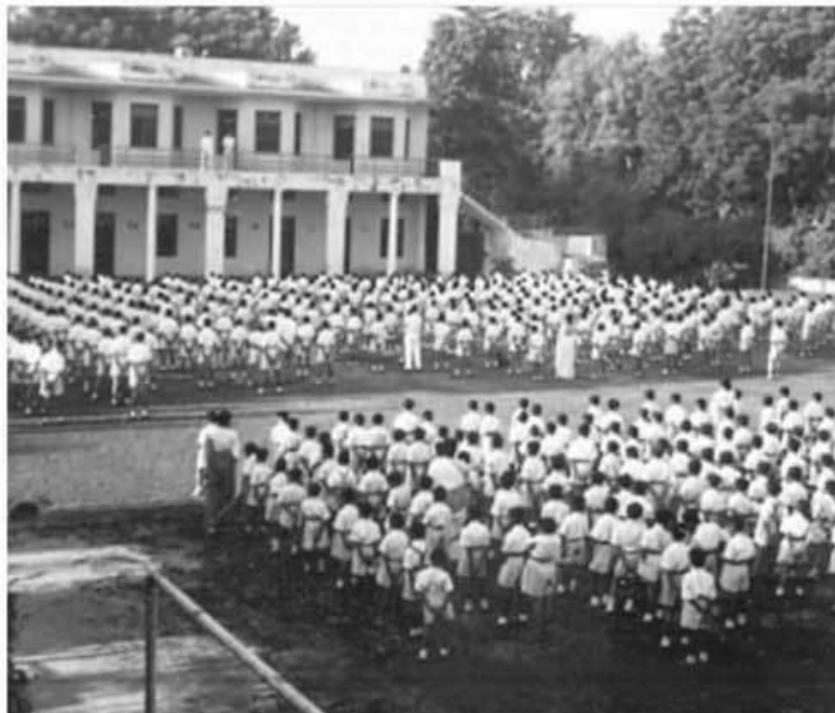
When the Hotel was taken over, some kind of a school for the poor was running on the campus which was dislodged later. With Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity taking up their residence in the neighbourhood, Fr. Loesch encouraged them to open a school in the servant's quarters for the poor. Soon children began to flock; the servants were even more content and happy. Fr. Loesch was the Director of the school and 3 sisters and three Catholic lay teachers taught in the school. It was free of cost education. By January 1961 there were about 180 students studying in that school meant for the kids of the poor parents.

### The Ministry

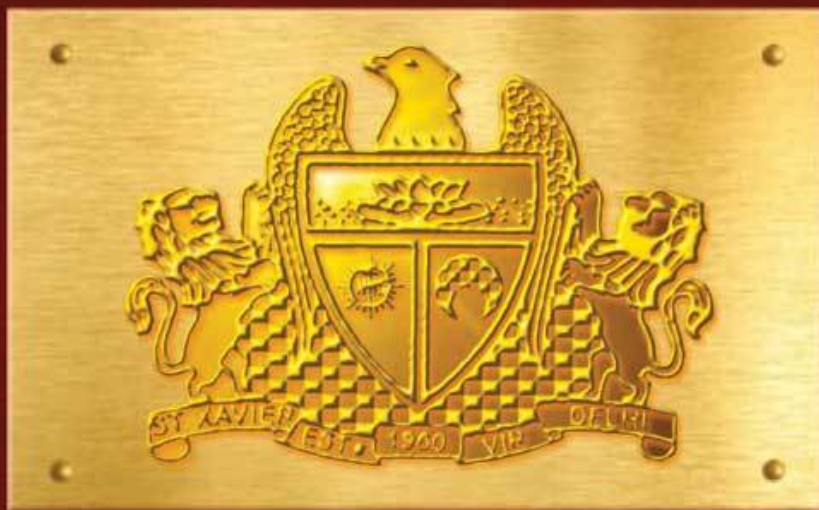
The Fathers were drawn into ministering to the Catholics of the neighbourhood from the day of their arrival here. Fr. Saldhana, on his arrival, took over the Mass that was said at the early hours every Sunday in the neighbouring Maiden's Hotel to enable the Catholic staff to get to work on time. The mass was transferred to our school from the first Sunday of December 1959. Four masses were said for the public on Sundays with a special mass for children.

### School Timings

The class timing was from 8.30 am to 3 pm (winter) and 7.30 am to 12.30 pm (summer). This was done in accordance with the timings of other Catholic schools in the city. They couldn't opt for a different timing because, if done, it would cause inconvenience to the parents who had their girl children in the neighbouring Presentation School. Furthermore, the school was using the DTC buses to ferry about five to six hundred day-scholars from all parts of the city to the school. Since the buses wouldn't be available at other times, neither in the morning nor in the afternoon, they had to fix the school timings as above.



## School Emblem



*(The following is the interpretation of the School emblem as originally conceived by Fr. Thomas M. Mackessack, S.J. & Fr. Robert J. Mayer, S.J.)*

The Coat-of-Arms of St. Xavier's School, originally designed by Fr. Thomas M. Mackessack, S.J., is majestic and meaningful. The beautiful symbolism contained in it provides a wealth of meaning and inspiration. At the top of the shield is emblazoned the lotus, the flower par excellence of India, signifying our country. On the left below, the moon-like checkered and inverted crescent is taken from the Coat of arms of the House of Xavier, symbolizing the special patronage of the Apostle of India, St. Francis Xavier, after whom our school is named. The third symbol in the crest is the sun like Jesuit sigillum or seal that indicates our school is conducted by the Society of Jesus, by Xavier's fellow Jesuits. The sun like seal contains the name of Jesus, represented by 'IHS', the first three letters in Greek of the name of Jesus, surmounted by a cross. The sun is a symbol of the light of knowledge and the quest for perfection. Jesus Christ said, "I am the light of the world." And he said this to his disciples: "You are the light of the world." The inscription written at the bottom proclaims that St. Xavier's school was founded in 1960. Our inspiring motto, *Esto Vir* (Be a Man/Play the Man), is taken from the parting instructions of King David to his son and royal successor, Solomon: "I am about to go the way of all flesh. Be strong, and SHOW YOURSELF A MAN (*Esto Vir*), and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in His ways and keeping His statutes and His commandments so that you may prosper in all you do."

On the outside, an eagle can be seen holding the shield with its wings. Since the eagle is famous for soaring high, it is used as a symbol of 'trying to reach the heights', reminding Xaverians of the watchword of St. Ignatius of Loyola: 'Seek the Greater Glory of God' (*A.M.D.G = Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*). The two lions, standing on their hind legs and supporting the shield with their forefeet- similar to the four lions at the top of Ashok pillar, are meant to hold and uphold the Dharma Chakra, the wheel of order, and carry the spirit of law and order to the four corners of the land. Like the two lions that hold the Xavier crest aloft, every Xaverian must protect and proudly proclaim the noble ideals of the Republic of India and its rich heritage, and the ideals of the Society of Jesus- the ideals for which Xavier lived and died. These ideals are enshrined in St. Xavier's School, Delhi, the ideals challenging all of us to be men for others.



**Xaverians celebrating  
the glorious moments of their school life**







## The Rapid Expansion of the School Work

The growing number of students in the school and the need for more quarters for teachers on the staff soon made it clear to the Management that they needed more houses and property. Hence when 'Bombay House', a decent sized bungalow with two annexes, was available 300 yards up Ludlow Castle Road from the School, they entered into negotiations for its purchase. It belonged to Mrs. Daisy David, D/o Dr. Saul David and W/o Mr. D. W. Lewis. Delhi St. Xavier's Society bought the property for Rs 2.5 lacs. The property was registered on Nov. 2, 1960 and the K. G. was moved there. Later on, at the beginning of 1961, two sections of the 1<sup>st</sup> Standard too were shifted to the new venue. There was also space to house several married teachers and bachelors. By 1961 the classes reached up to 6<sup>th</sup> Standard with a total strength of 1170 students and staff strength was 6 priests, 9 masters and 28 lady teachers. 50 students were Catholics and the hostel accommodated 82 boys of whom 13 were Catholics.

In 1961, Delhi St. Xavier's Society bought another piece of land measuring 7052 sq. yards, were now the Senior School Building and the assembly ground stands. It was bought from Shri. Uttam Chand Jain for a price of Rs 35 per sq. yard. The property was registered 21<sup>st</sup> March 1961.

## Alumni Association

Fr. James Tong had already organized the local Jesuit Alumni Association on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1959 and held two meetings in 1960 and one in 1961. The Delhi-Punjab unit of the Xavier Association of Secondary Schools was organized in our school in early October 1960.

## Administrative Changes

Fr. Saldanha took seriously ill during September 1960 and only two prompt blood transfusions saved his life. At the end of July 1960 he had a serious breakdown and had to be relieved from the office of the Principal of the school. Fr. Thomas Athazapadam, Vice-Principal took over as the new Principal. On his recovery Fr. Saldanha was appointed the Spiritual Father of the house, and was also given the job of taking the monthly recollection talks for the Diocesan Clergy.



## Objectives of Jesuit Education

### Men and Women for Others

*"We assert that Jesuit schools must go beyond the criteria of academic excellence, important as this is, to the far more challenging task of bringing about a true metanoia (this word, coined from Greek, refers to a radical conversion and change of heart, by which a person turns from selfish concerns to complete and unreserved generosity toward God and His Kingdom) in their students, that Jesuit schools must move more vigorously toward participation in community affairs, (and) that they must more honestly evaluate their efforts according to the criteria of both the Christian reform of social structures and renewal of the church". (Excerpts from the May 1970 Preamble to the Constitution of the Jesuit Secondary Education Association)*

Since the time the Jesuits launched their first school in 1548, they have understood that the Liberal Arts, the Natural and Social Sciences, and the Performing Arts, joined with all the other branches of knowledge, were powerful means to develop leaders with the potential for influencing and transforming society. For their commitment to education, the Jesuits were known as the 'Schoolmasters of Europe' and they believed that 'true education is all that is left when all that is taught is forgotten'. It is all about the impact we create on the personality of a student. Just concentrating on academics is not enough for the complete growth of a human being. The Jesuits had realized this right from the time of the founding of the Society of Jesus. During the Middle Ages the Jesuit schools in Europe introduced music and dramatics in their schools much to the opposition of many other educators of the time. (During that time education was primarily teaching the students the 3R's.) Today all over the world, all educational institutions lay equal stress on extra-curricular activities. These enable students to gain confidence and self-reliance, necessary to face the challenges of the world.

### All Jesuit Schools aim...

1. to develop in the student an attitude of openness to growth and to enable him to begin to take responsibility for his own growth.
2. to prepare the student to be intellectually competent: to promote the development of the intellectual skills, understanding, and mastery of the academic requirements necessary for advanced forms of education and for life.
3. to help the student to become mature religiously: to help him to know the major doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church and to learn to examine critically his own religious feelings and beliefs.
4. to help the student to become a loving person: to assist him in the establishment of his own identity and in his movement beyond self-centeredness toward more significant relationships with others.
5. to foster in the student a commitment to doing justice: to help him develop as a person for others and to prepare him to take his place as a competent, concerned, and responsible member of society.



We Aim to Form  
Leaders in Service, Men and  
Women of Competence, Character  
and Compassionate Commitment



## Educational policies of St. Xavier's School, Delhi

***"We aim to form leaders in service, men and women of competence, conscience and compassionate commitment."***

Since its inception Xavier's was a hub of various activities and the school laid special stress on music, sports, dramatics, and debates. This gave Xavier's a unique identity and ours was a school with a difference. The founding Jesuits decided to recruit a staff consisting both of Indians and Americans. They planned to follow the Cambridge School Certificate Course which would permit a student to enter any college in India. They decided to keep English as the medium of instruction but a Hindi standard, as high as that of a school where the medium of instruction is Hindi, was required. In addition to the usual Arts and Science subjects, the Catholic students would be given a thorough Catholic formation. The non-Catholics would be taught about character formation and a correct social outlook. They even wanted to teach the students some other foreign languages too. Courses in manual training were to be made compulsory.

The School would be run by means of fees and special grants which were available in those days. They were even confident of granting many scholarships to Catholics and other students of moderate means. Once the school was free of debt they wanted to give all Delhi Catholics free scholarships. The pioneers rightly envisioned that running this type of school would do more service to the country and the Church and it would be much better than any other apostolate. Their primary motive was to take care of the Catholics (they were told that at that time there were about 50,000 families in Delhi who were unable to provide quality education to their sons). These boys, they thought, would be in very prominent positions in their later life. Their experience with schools of this type both in Patna and Jaipur had shown them that these alumni do a lot of good and a school in Delhi would probably be more influential still. Most importantly the Church would be able to get good vocations for furthering its mission works.

## The Fledgling Takes to Wings Standing Tall in Delhi

With his architectural competence Fr. Loesch S.J gave the Hotel building a new shape where the lives of many students were to be destined. He got it converted into a school and built the Senior as well as the Junior School buildings.

The Senior School is a majestic three storey building built up in an area of 78,044 square feet. The four blocks of buildings built in the shape of 'T' stand on pillars and the ground floor of the complex used to be fully vacant.

The first Block which is situated next to the main road and the assembly ground was called the Science Block and it was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1964 on the Feast of St. Ignatius by Rector, Fr. Loesch. It is in this block where all the senior science labs are now located. On the ground floor, we have the Music Room and the Maths Lab, while the Chemistry Lab is on the first floor, and the Biology and Physics labs are situated on the second floor. On the third floor, there are two demonstration rooms, which once used to be the science labs for secondary classes. The classroom blocks were built by 1965 and in 1966 the Administration Block came up.



## The Junior School building

It was the second major edifice built under the supervision of Fr. Loesch. The foundation stone for the building was laid in 1967 and the construction got over in 1969. It is located on one side of the Millennium Complex. It has a built up area of 56,317 sq. feet. The six-storey school building is made up of 42 classrooms and various other rooms for providing the students with extra knowledge in academics.

## Building up Sports Infrastructure

St. Xavier's didn't follow the usual educational pedagogy followed by the then Delhi schools. While most schools in the city were academic oriented, Xavier's began to give a lot of importance to extracurricular activities, especially sports and games. Since its inception, games and sports play an important role in Xavier's. In fact it has been an integral part of the school curriculum.

Sports at Xavier's owed a lot to great coaches and teachers like the dashing Mr. Douglas Neal, the never tiring Mr. Dawson, the dedicated Late Mr. Jack Imlay, the daring Mr. A.K.V. Singh, the disciplinarian Mr. Sebastian, the kind but firm late P.N. Sharma, the judo maestro Mr. George and the unassuming wizard cager Mr. Harpreet Salariya amongst others. In the recent times we have the Sports Department headed by Mr. S.K. Sharma doing a commendable job in inculcating the spirit of competition among the Xaverian sports kids. In swimming, cricket and football students bring a lot of laurels for the School.

Xavier's first 'Sports Day' was held in 1961. By 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1962 the full size football field was finally ready. But it was not until 1965 that the school-relay team was formed. Shaheed Mangalu, Boro Chuaan, Kamaljit Singh, Steve Wilson were some of the best athletes of 1960's. The Basketball team was started in 1962. Hockey and football had occupied a high standard in the school by 1964-65 under the expert coaching of Mr. Mendonza and later Mr. A. Singh. Students participated in various school/interschool matches and won laurels for their alma mater. Boxing was introduced in St. Xavier's in 1965 by Fr. Frank Moore. Mr. D. Neale, an ex-navy boxer trained the Xaverian boxers and brought them to a very high standard.

In the 70's St. Xavier's invariably reached the Annual Inter-School Pentangular Cricket final. Xaverians played in the Rest of India, Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Nationals. Other than cricket, boxing, basketball, football, hockey, table tennis, tennis, athletics, swimming and badminton also produced superstars.







*Onward, Forward, upward...*







### Swimming Pool

St. Xavier's is one of the few schools in Delhi to own a swimming pool. It is situated behind the Heritage building between the Prep Department play ground and the Basket Ball Court. It was originally a part of the Hotel Cecil and very popular among Delhiites. The pool was very deep (14 ft at the deep end and 3 ft at the shallow end); hence it was not safe for the small kids to learn swimming. It was also small in size (18x18); hence the swimming meet used to be held in the Ludlow Castle School swimming pool. (It was Fr. Sebastian Assarikudy, S.J. (Rector 2003 to 2009) who realized the need for a proper swimming pool for the school that could be used by all students - juniors as well as seniors. The new pool was inaugurated in 2005. The pool is always packed with enthusiasts all through the swimming season.



## House System

The pioneers were not merely satisfied with imparting the 3-R's, but focused more on character formation and personality development. They encouraged healthy competition among students in various activities and for this purpose the students were divided into four different Houses. (Their loyalty to their respective House remains even after they pass out from the school. It is for this reason, in the major competitions like Music Fest and Play Fest ex-xaverians guide their juniors to retain the supremacy of their respective House year after year.)

The House system was started in 1960 itself and the House names were given in colours. From 1961 it was changed into the names of animals and the Houses were known as 'Lions', 'Leopards', 'Panthers' and 'Tigers'. In 1971 the Houses were re-named as 'Bhabha', 'Gandhi', 'Nehru' and 'Tagore'. In 1973-74 the 1st Inter-House Talent Contest was held in the Heritage Hall. In the same year, the 1st Inter-House Play Fest was organised near the swimming pool. Later years the Inter-House Swimming Meet and Sports Meet too were started. In 1984, the Inter-House Play Fest was cancelled when Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India was assassinated; therefore, the Inter-House Play Fest is counted one less every year after 1984. It was Fr. Bernard Haas, who was in Xavier's for a short while, who started the Inter-House One Act Play Fest Competition. These competitions enabled Xavier's to produce eminent personalities like - Pankaj Kharbanda, John Gardener (Akshay Anand), Samir Soni, Sanjeev Puri, Archana Kavi and so on.







## Xavier Times

St. Xavier's School emphasizes not only the students gathering information but also on the formation of the students. Ours is not merely an institution that imparts knowledge to students but it is also a museum that holds the history of countless humans who have walked on and off the Xavier's stage during the last 50 years. One can see the story of their life printed on the countless pages of the XT published since 1965, though some of them are already weather beaten, yet the copies of which are preserved in the school library.

Fr. Richard Extross, S.J., an eminent educationist who taught English at St. Xavier's, Delhi for many years, started the school magazine Xavier Times' in 1965. The staff members who coordinated the works of the XT at different times are Fr. Robert J. Mayer, S.J., Mr. R. Bhasker, Mrs. S. Arora, Mrs. T. Arora, Mr. Basu, Mrs. S. Kohli, Fr. P. Faulstich, S.J., Mrs. Anjali Dere, Mr. B. Miranda, Mr. S. Joseph, Mrs. Bhatia, Mr. K.J. Devasia, Fr. Glenn Menezes, S.J., Mrs. N. Verma, Mrs. V. Nagpal, Mrs. N. McLaren, Mrs. M. Thomas, Mrs. Shobha Miranda, Mrs. M. Kapoor and Mrs. A. Rosario. All of them contributed immensely to the development of *The Xavier Times* during the past.







### **Xavier Fair**

XAVIER FAIR, St. Xavier's annual fiesta, caught the imagination of thousands of Delhiites since the inaugural fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1963. It was Fr. Reinboth who started the Xavier Fair for two days- Saturday and Sunday. His experience in organizing similar fairs in Patna helped him in organizing the same over here. Over the years, the Fair has grown in grandeur and success.

Since 1967, the Fair was held only for one day. Earlier it was organized to raise funds for the school building but later, it enabled the school to raise funds for the education of the underprivileged students in Xavier's. More than mere fund raising it also provides the Xaverians an opportunity to shape up their entrepreneurial qualities. Weeks before the Fair everyone is busy collecting ads for the Souvenir, selling raffle tickets and buying gifts for the class stall. Some of the gifts are brought from homes by the students and the rest are bought by taking a class collection for the same. A week before the D-day, shamianahs are set up all around the school ground. On the morning of the Fair, the stalls are set up and by 10 a.m. the enthusiasm of the students can be seen in attracting customers to each stall. During the last two years the venue of the Fair was shifted to the Junior as well as the Senior School assembly grounds and it was re-scheduled from 10 am to 4 pm.

Due to the active cooperation of the staff, parents and all other well wishers, as well as the team spirit of the students during the Xavier Fair, we have been able to set up a scholarship fund with a substantial amount to help the education of the students from economically weaker sections of the society in our school. Every year the school spends lakhs of rupees in providing quality education to the underprivileged children and this could not have been possible without the Xavier Fair.





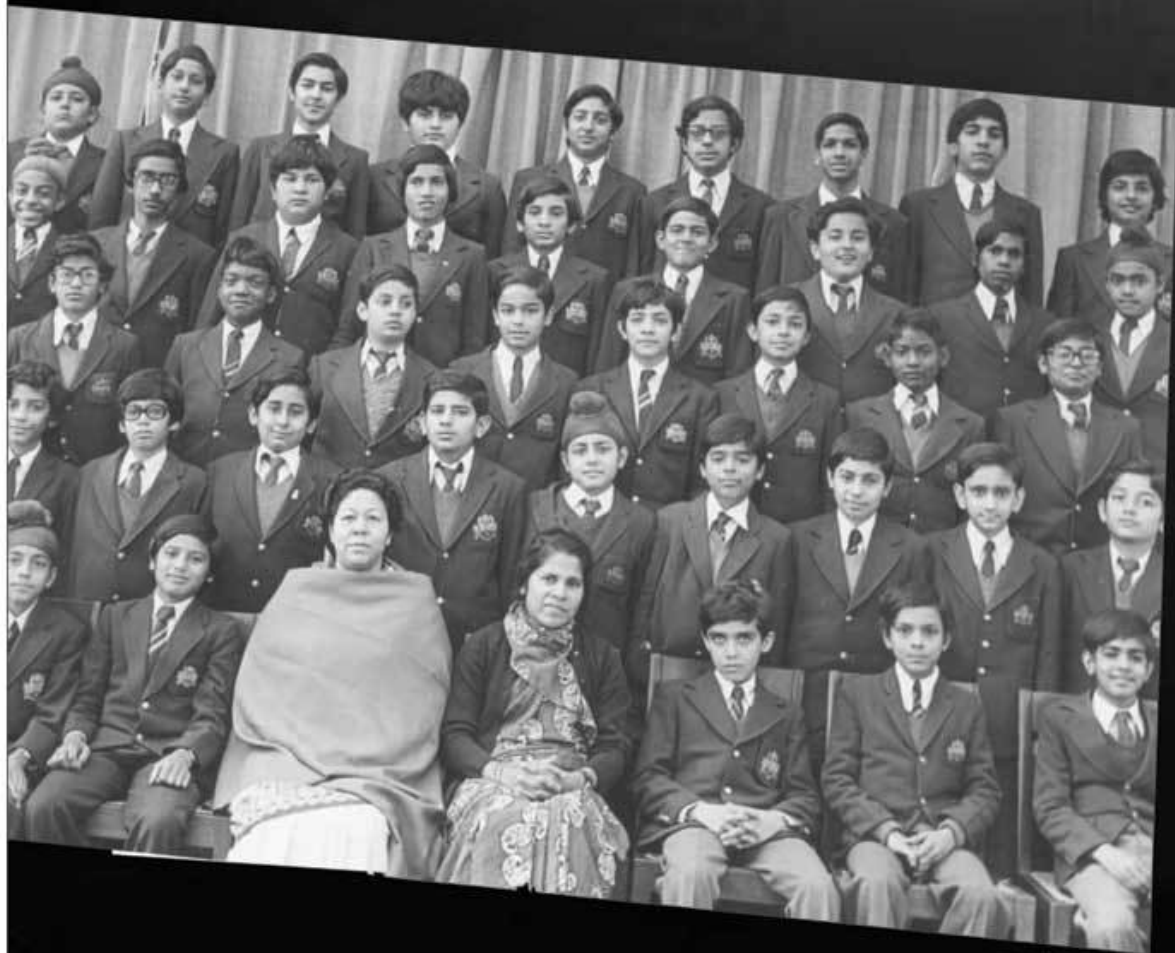
## An All Delhi, All Boys' Elite School

Xavier's was started as an 'all Delhi, all Boys' school open primarily to the Delhi elite. In a decade after its inception Xavier's achieved an eminent and enviable position in Delhi's educational skyline - a position that even today Xaverians look back nostalgically. The school provided the students excellent facilities along with a group of well-trained and dedicated staff members. The admission norms for entry into school were of high standard and only the best students could make it to the school. In the early years the students took the Senior Cambridge examination, a tough three year course, which was very challenging for the students to learn as well the teachers to teach. The first batch of students passed out from Xavier's in 1966. In 1977, the school was affiliated to the CBSE and the academic year was shifted from January-December to April-March.

The stalwarts who laid foundation to the education at Xavier's at that time were Fr. F. Loesch - the Engineer, Fr. Charles Saldhana - the Academician, Fr. Francis Rodrigues and Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal - the Administrators. A Jesuit paradigm of giving students and staff a certain amount of free space to design, to choose and to do, even while the discipline was strict, humanized the school and there was a lot of joyful and enthusiastic participation in the many academic and non-academic programs of the school. Xavier's was never a School driven by the forces of Board exams or any other competitive exams. The students were engaged in a large variety of activities, games and other events that provided scope for them to develop and prepare themselves well to face the much tougher examinations of life. As a result, the School became a centre not only for academic excellence but also various other co-curricular activities, sports/athletics, debates, dramatics, music etc. This gave Xavier's a unique identity - be it all the various activities, the Xaverian talents conquered not only Delhi's sky but they became national as well as international heroes. 'Every Boy a Winner' became the slogan of the school. We had a set of outstanding teachers, possessing both high levels of competence and commitment for the welfare of the students.

The foundation of education in the School was built by the unwavering teachers such as Mrs. Agnes Beckwith, Mrs. Bridget Halge, Mrs. Eleanor Bajpai, Mrs. Kanta Kapoor, Mrs. Rani Nicholas, Ms Zareen Panthakee, and Ms. Virginia Dominick, Mrs. Juanita Sequeira, Ms. Patsy Peters, Ms. Cissy Victor, Ms. Greta Rego, Ms. Pearl Scott, Mrs. Goel, Mrs. Agarwal, Mrs. Rose Thakur, Mrs. Mathew, Mrs. and Mr. Martins, Mr. Moses D'Mello, Mrs. & Mr. Abraham, Mrs & Mr. Bhargava, Mr. B. Miranda, Mr. Bhasker....the list is very long. These are some of the jewels in the school's crown which have made Xavier's the prestigious institution it is today.





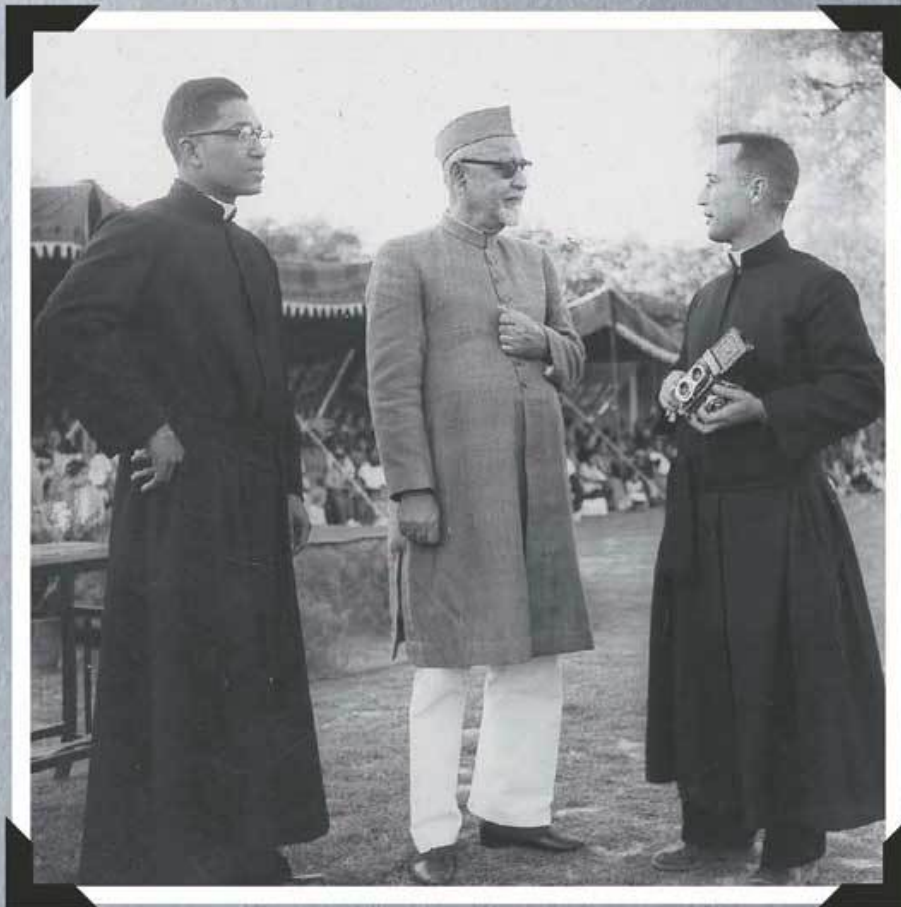






















## ST. XAVIER'S SCHOOL -THE EARLY YEARS



**Fr. Thomas V. Kunnunkal, S.J.**  
(Principal from Jan. 1962 to July 1974  
& Sept. 1977 to Nov. 1979)

Fr. Charles Saldanha was appointed the first Principal of this new school which started in January 1960. But as his health deteriorated, Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam took over as Principal in July, 1960. At the end of December, 1961, I was appointed as Principal, as I returned after studies from the United States of America. The school started in the Cecil Hotel, with classes held in the large and small rooms of the Hotel. We started with six classes – from KG to V. Cecil Hotel was an exclusive hotel, with well developed gardens and plenty of trees. So, right from the start, St. Xavier's was a school with a difference, with its green and large campus of 14 acres. The present Senior and Junior School buildings were constructed during the first ten years.

We were blessed with several excellent teachers, both for the senior classes as well as for the beginning classes. Mr. E. Mendonca, Fr. Richard Curry, Mr. Peter Rose Meyer, Mr. Basil Miranda, Mr. Vivian Halge etc., (I mention just a few of them) taught in the upper classes. Equally outstanding were our teachers in KG: Mrs. Priscilla Washington, Mrs. Agnes Beckwith, Miss Martina Pereira, Mrs. Kanta Kapur and others who provided an excellent start. As an English medium school, strong foundations were made for acquiring competence in English by our KG Teachers, by using modern methods of language teaching and setting high standards. Many of our alumni Xaverians come back, even today, to meet these teachers as they remember and realize how good a foundation was laid by them.

The school was affiliated to the Cambridge Board in London, which has world-wide reputation for its excellent curriculum and assessment strategies. Not only the curriculum but the question papers also came from Cambridge and the answer papers were also sent to London for evaluation. We stayed with the Cambridge system for ten years and then switched over to the CBSE.

As a young new school, we began to get noticed by other schools, as our young talented students began to win medals and trophies for public speaking, debates and also in sports. I remember particularly the successful cricket coaching that Mr. Mendonca (a Maths teacher) gave to the students and which enabled us to beat some of the prestigious schools of the city. We also had an excellent basket ball team and also good teams for football and hockey. So, St. Xavier's began to get more and more recognition from other city schools.



I must also record our deep appreciation and thanks to Mr. Mendonca, who decided to leave our school to start a school of his own and with the aim to provide good education for rural kids. He acquired over 20 acres of land in what is now Rohini and ran a school there for several years. He decided to donate the school and the whole property to the Delhi Jesuit Society and there, in Shahabad-Daulatpur, we have now the second St. Xavier's School.

In response to the request from many, a hostel was started. The numbers quickly swelled and we had some 180 hostel students. Many Xaverians who were in hostel would remember with joy how much the hostel contributed to their development and present success in life. We also had boxing in the school. I remember some of our young boxers, literally growing up through that boxing ring experience, as alone they stood in the ring to fight and win. Several gained self confidence and moved towards realizing the school motto, 'Esto Vir' (Be a Man). Fr. A. Reinboth was an outstanding organizer and did a superb job of providing excellent food, personal care and accompaniment to the hostellers. In fact, when the hostel closed in 1971, there were several voices requesting us to continue. With limited Jesuit manpower and with the growing strength of the school enrolment, the school needs got the preference and so, the hostel was closed.



To provide continuity for the teaching staff, many were given residential facility on the campus. We had some 60 or so resident staff members. Many of them stayed in what is today 'Sahayog' (the South end building) and which was then called the 'Snobs' Row' since in the Hotel days, the VIPs were staying in that building. Several of these teachers were also good sportsmen and regularly played with the kids, which greatly contributed to mould a good sporting and learning community both in the classroom and on the sports field. Discipline was strict and firmly enforced. But, the establishment and maintenance of a good school climate was a great contributor to the quality of the school.

The school provided a number of co-curricular activities for the holistic development of the students. Drama was an important activity for providing such developmental education. We set up a rich tradition of inter house drama festivals and which proved a powerful tool for many to grow in confidence and poise. Collaborating with some professional drama groups, the students learned the techniques of stage management, lighting system etc. Though there were teacher guides for each drama group, responsibility for much of the training and execution was taken by the boys themselves and they did a great job.

The school organized an annual School Fair, providing fun and excitement to the students and to the parents. Once systematized, it ran like a well-oiled machine. A gathering of some 10,000 on the school ground, at 8 pm, waiting for the Raffle Draw, was a good sight to see. The proceeds of the Fair went to create a Scholarship Fund. It is from that fund and not from the school fees that the economically weaker students are supported. Currently, over 60 lakhs is spent annually from that fund to provide scholarships.

The school set for itself the pursuit of the difficult goal of making 'Everyone a Winner'. Many Xaverians still remember how this energized them. An old Xaverian of the first batch (1966) reminded me recently of a certificate he had received which was given for excellent attitude for life and which read: "He does not give up till the Last Ball is bowled or till the Final Whistle is blown." He thanked me for that certificate since it provided much motivation for his successful professional career in life. To drop all students who are not certain to pass in the Board examination and thus boast about a lie that we have 100% pass was not the school policy. We gave the students who were part of the Xavier school family for so many years a chance and often they passed. To give an example: three students came for admission, as they were taken out of their former school, since they could not cope with Science. We had humanities stream also and they asked for admission in that stream. Some teachers were keen that we make a good impression in our first public examination from Cambridge in 1966. In the pre- Board test, all three of them failed badly. Should they be sent up or not? Fr. Moore told me that he would be willing to take care of one, if I sent him up and so he was cleared. Fr. Extross assured me that he will take care of the other two, if I decided to send them up. All three were sent up as part of our first batch and all three passed. Competition where only one wins ('dog eat dog' type of competition) had no meaning for us. As a matter of fact, over the years, one or a few students do fail and for me, that was a good sign of a right policy. In fact, making butter out of butter does not deserve much appreciation.

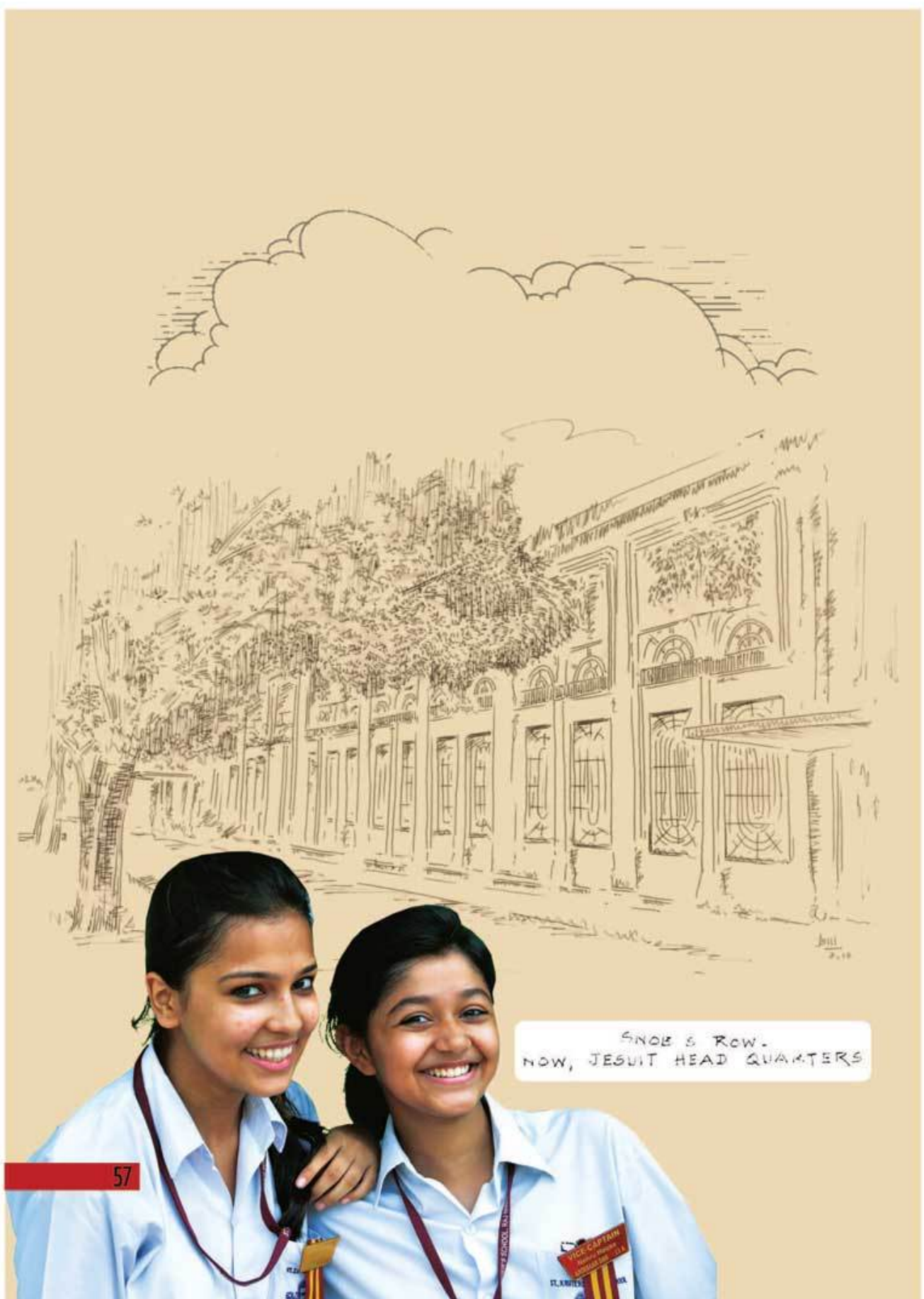
Our award system was also different from the normal practice of giving top awards to just the three who got the highest marks. To add together non-standardized marks to decide on top honours is bad Mathematics. Instead, we followed the system of setting a high and difficult standard of achievement in a subject (75% or more) and all students who reached that standard in the subject were given Merit certificates. Several hundreds of them got such certificates. Expanding appreciation and giving credit was considered a good way of developing the potential of our students. In fact, I would often appreciate the good work done by teachers also, either face to face or in writing, which they cherished and which made them happily walk that extra mile.

In those early years, it was necessary to set up systems, to establish high standards and to maintain compassionate discipline in order to provide quality assurance to the school. **This was what I tried to do.**



Mr K. N. Sharma, National Coach giving Hockey lessons





SNOB & ROW.  
NOW, JESUIT HEAD QUARTERS









## C H A P T E R - 3

### CHANGING TIMES

#### **Xavier's - A True Neighbourhood School**

The school which was started as a predominantly boarding school in the old British hotel building, closed down its boarding facilities by 1971 to provide educational facilities to a large number of students from Delhi. Thus it became a true neighbourhood school. The objective of introducing this policy was to help the students to use the school facilities even after the school time or on holidays. The parents too found it convenient to come to school any time in order to meet the teachers of their wards - thus there was a better coordination between home and school.



## Giving up the Elitist Culture

### Xavier's Becoming an Inclusive School

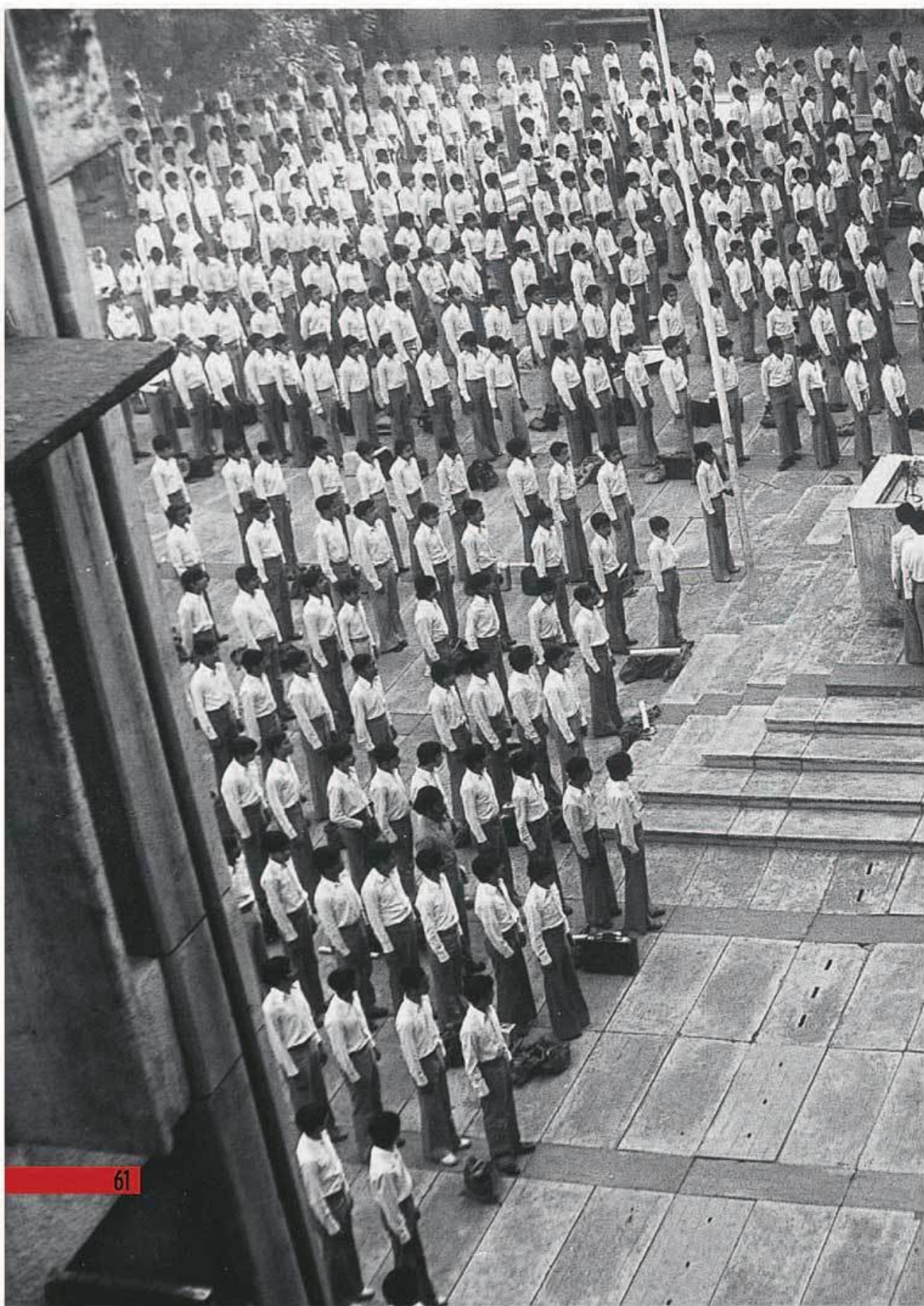
The Jesuits, the one-time 'School Masters of Europe' revolutionized the concept of modern education during the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe through 'Ignatian Pedagogy'. Today they have taken up the challenge of empowering the powerless and giving voice to the voiceless in the contemporary world. The goal of Jesuit education is 'men and women for others'. They invite students to be more concerned about their fellow human beings. Pope Francis, a fellow Jesuit, reiterated the humane face of the Church by stating that there is no faith without cross and the Holy Father expressed his empathy for the poor and the marginalized by washing the feet of poor women on Maundy Thursday this year. Christ lives among the suffering humanity.

With their General Chapter of 1974, the Jesuits developed sharper awareness towards the structural dimensions of injustice in the human society and committed themselves to do what they could, to create a just and humane society. It became the policy of the school to create an egalitarian society by providing quality education to all strata of the society. This includes those without economic means, the handicapped, the marginalised and all those who are, in any sense, unable to live a life of full human dignity. In Jesuit education this option is reflected both in the students that are admitted and in the type of formation that is given.

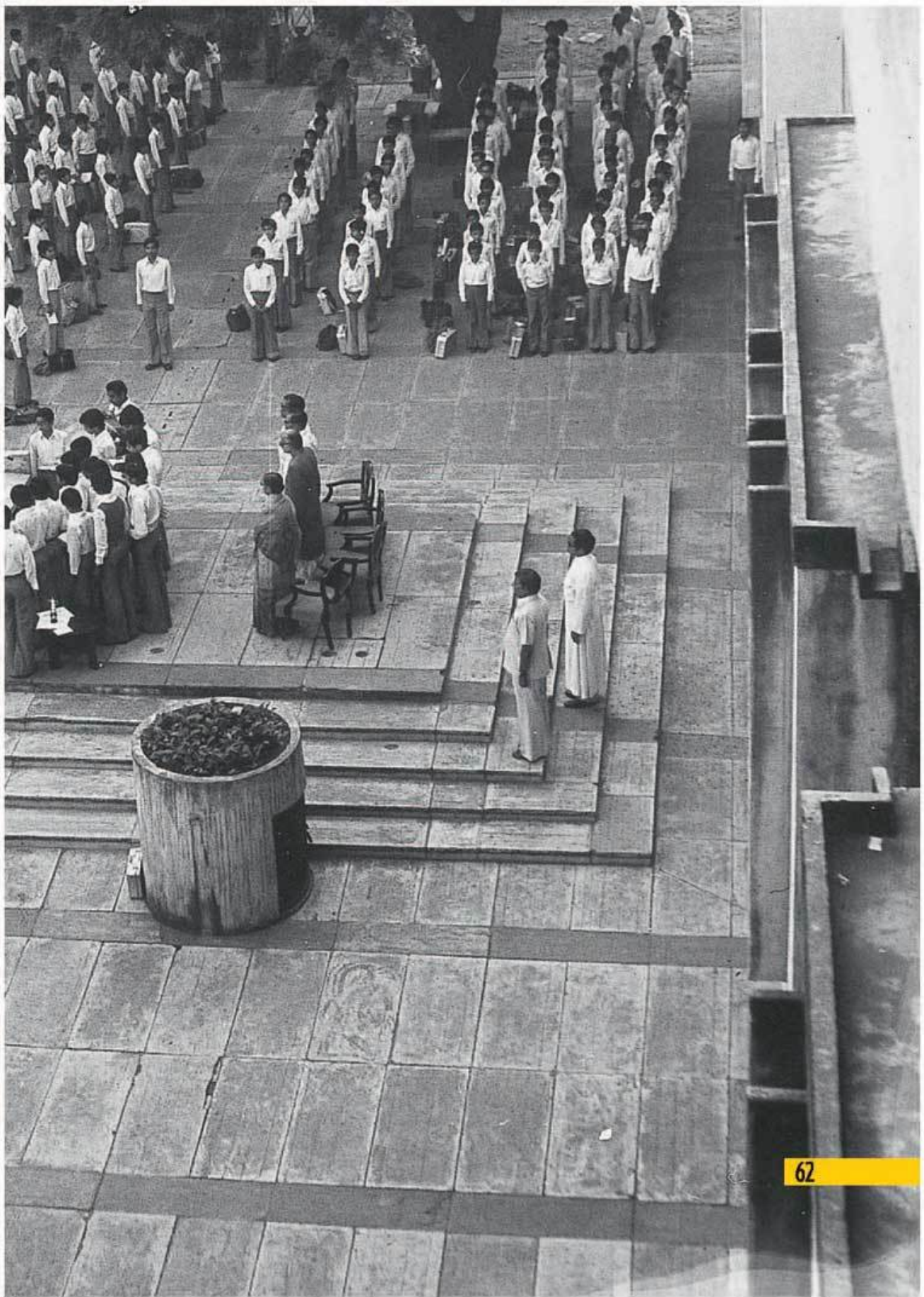
From 1980 Xavier's gave up its elitist culture of being an exclusive school and decided to be an inclusive school. The Management realized the fact that it didn't require much effort 'to make butter out of butter' but making butter out of milk was a long and dreary work. Thus, they decided to give preferential admission to the children from the socio-economically weaker sections of the society. 25% of admission is now reserved for the children of economically weaker sections from the neighbourhood. It was a great service rendered to hundreds of children over the past many years, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to avail of such quality education. The school pursues relentlessly the social thrust it initiated. Now we spend many lakhs of rupees each year in educating students from the disadvantaged sections of the society.













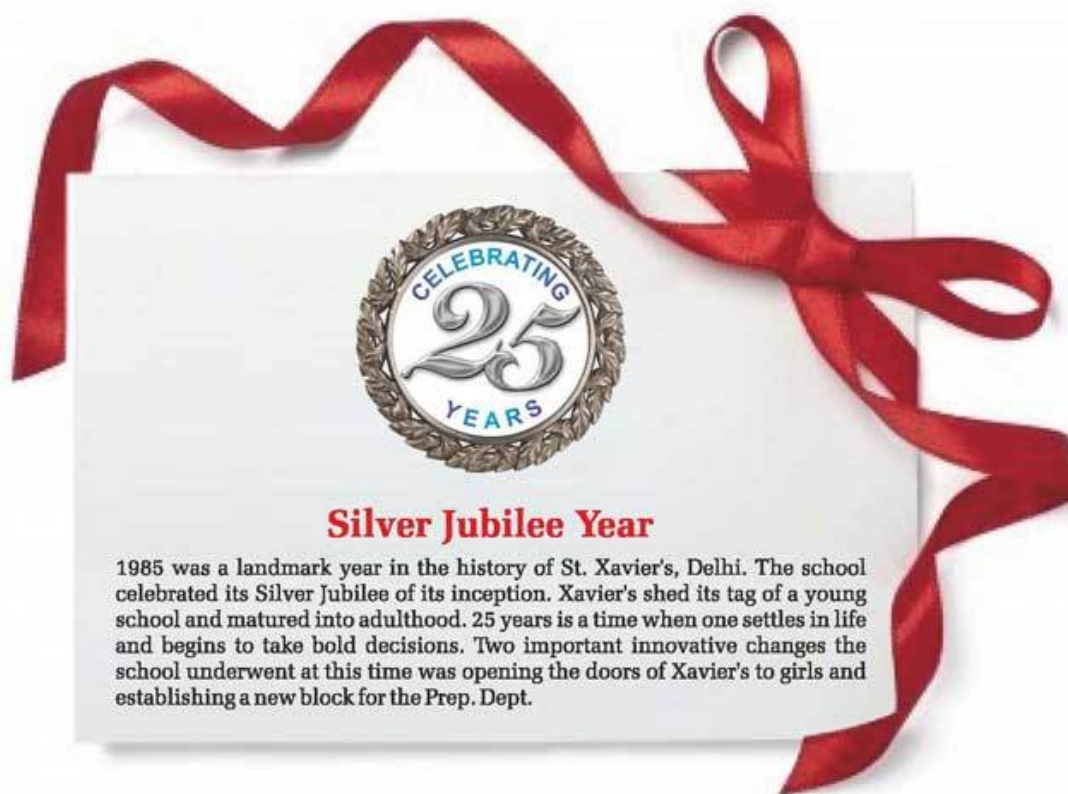
## Medium of Instruction

For two decades after its inception St. Xavier's was primarily an English medium school. The medium of instruction as well as communication was primarily English. The School catered to the educational needs of the elite and thus it maintained its high standard through imparting education in English. During this time English- both written and spoken was more emphasized so that our students would be able to compete with other schools.

But by late 70's and early 80's there was a growing awareness among the Jesuits to help the poor by empowering them through education. Hence most of the Jesuit schools began admitting students from lower strata of the society. In order to facilitate the education of poor students the medium of instruction too had to be followed in mother tongue. Thus from 1980 onwards the medium of instruction was changed to Hindi up to class 5. The Jesuit educators also realized that education is imparted best in one's own mother tongue. Difficult concepts are better assimilated when it is imparted through one's mother tongue. They argued that most leading countries in the world (Japan, France, Germany etc) students are taught in their own language than in a foreign tongue.

But in the context of globalization in 1990's and the IT boom that started in India, the Jesuit educators gave a re-thinking on the policy of medium of instruction. The utility of English became all the more prominent when India became a destination for global investment. Once again English language became predominantly the global link language for education and business. Hence there arose the need to focus more on learning English. Hence in 2009 the medium of instruction was reverted to English and the new policy was implemented from the year 2010. Now St. Xavier's is a fully English medium school.





### **Silver Jubilee Year**

1985 was a landmark year in the history of St. Xavier's, Delhi. The school celebrated its Silver Jubilee of its inception. Xavier's shed its tag of a young school and matured into adulthood. 25 years is a time when one settles in life and begins to take bold decisions. Two important innovative changes the school underwent at this time was opening the doors of Xavier's to girls and establishing a new block for the Prep. Dept.

### **Co-Education**

When established in 1960 St. Xavier's School was a Boys' only school. The founding fathers followed the age old Jesuit educational policy of providing educational assistance to the boys as they thought men are supposed to take lead in the society and the women are considered to play only a secondary role in the family and the society. It was their opinion that girls just needed only some basic education and this was imparted by the Sisters of various religious congregations.

With the ushering of the modern era nuclear families became very popular and women began to play a major role in every society world over. They not only have to look after their children but even go out to work in offices. Hence it has become very imperative they too are given proper educational opportunities to grow up. A country like India has tremendous potentialities in its women population which has been totally neglected. Today most families have become mother centered and it is the mother who spends more time with the children, helping them in their growth. Therefore, if women remain illiterate or are denied of quality education the family as well as the society at large suffers.

The Delhi Jesuits under the leadership of Rector Fr. K.T. Thomas, S.J. and Principal Fr. Joseph Parakkat, S.J. read the writings on the wall and in 1984 they decided to convert Xavier's into a co-ed school from the academic year 1985-86. Parents were informed about the change through circulars. Some welcomed the idea but many raised their eye brows. They were apprehensive how the change would impact the growth of their children. But those parents who had boys and girls found the policy more convenient as they could send both their kids to the same school. Even many of the Jesuits were not very convinced about the change. Those who opposed it were wary of its negative impacts on school discipline. They also felt that giving admissions to girls would





mean depriving the boys an opportunity to study in St. Xavier's.

But the pioneers were very firm on their path breaking decision because they knew that the merits outweighed the demerits. They argued that co-education is more natural and it teaches better values to the students. The boys learn to respect girls and learn better adaptability earlier in their life. Growing up together is more natural and they learn to balance their psychological and emotional growth. In fact co-ed ensures better discipline in the class rooms as the boys, mostly the culprits of violent behavior, learn to control themselves in front of the girls. There is also an active participation in all the school activities by both the boys and the girls. It will create a feeling of comradeship between boys and girls and allows free mixing of both the sexes without any inhibition. If boys and girls are taught together, it will develop their personality to the maximum. They will shed their inhibition and interact freely with each other. In other words co-education is the only method in which both the sexes could become useful members of the society.

The first batch of co-ed students passed out from Xavier's in 1998. Over a period of time the Delhi Jesuits found co-ed as the best way of education and one by one all Jesuit schools of Delhi and Patna Provinces have been converted into co-ed.

### Setting Up a Separate Prep Department in Xavier's:

Initially the Prep Department used to be a part of the Junior School. They being too young, the tiny tots couldn't be given the freedom to play around. Hence they were always kept in their class rooms for most part of the day. They had no morning assembly with the rest of the school. They had no games or swimming periods. Only for the break they were allowed to come out of their class rooms. Their movements were restricted because they were too young to mix with the senior students if they were all put together.

In 1984 the School administrative team consisting of Rector Fr. K.T. Thomas, S.J., Principal Fr. Joseph Parakkat, S.J. and the Administrator Fr. Zac Kunnappally, S.J. realized that the primary department is a place from where a student begins his journey of 13 years and therefore, when a child enters the portals of an educational institution for the first time, it is very important that it survives the shock of separation from home. In order to ensure its wholesome growth the new home should be very warm and hospitable. For this the child needs a well secured and quiet place, away from the usual din of the school activities. It will provide the child enough space to maneuver around freely without being bullied and learn new realities on its own. Hence, it was decided to have a separate block for the children of the Prep Class and the 1<sup>st</sup> standard.

Fr. K.T. Thomas took the lead and decided to renovate the two-storey building which was located behind the Heritage Building, and on one side of the Delhi Governor's Residence. During the hostel days the first floor of this building was used as hostel for the boys. It was from the balcony of this building that Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam addressed the morning assembly on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1960, when the school was officially inaugurated. (The building was re-modelled after its roof collapsed.) (It is the only building that used to be a part of the Cecil Hotel which is now being used as part of the school.)

Fr. Zach Kunnappally got the building ready in a very short period of time. The Prep Department was shifted to this new place in 1985. The complex has a built up area of 21,957 sq. feet. It is a protective kingdom for the little ones. The block has a play ground in front of it, which is used for assemblies and for different sports activities for the tiny tots. The play ground is equipped with various types of swings where the children play and enjoy. This is the place where you can see blooming kids enjoying the vibrant colours of life. The Prep started to have regular morning assemblies because the educators realized that the morning assembly in a school is a tremendous training program.

Fr. K.T. Thomas also took initiative in making a mini swimming pool for the Prep children on the one side of the main pool with shallow water of three to four feet in depth. He made swimming compulsory for children. The total cost incurred in making this pool was met by the parents of the Prep children.







ONCE OPEN AIR THEATRE  
NOW, MILLENNIUM HALL

## MILLENNIUM CHANGES

St. Xavier's School has had the distinction of setting a benchmark in progressive and innovative changes. The dawn of the new Millennium saw drastic changes in education at Xavier's, especially in terms of creating new infrastructure. The most prominent among the various changes initiated in the school's infrastructure by the School's Millennium Principal Fr. P.T. Augustine, S.J., a visionary of modern education, was the construction of the Millennium Complex which was indeed his 'Millennium Gift' to us.

### The Millennium Complex

When Fr. Frank Loesch was the school's Rector, he had planned to build a double storey building in which the ground floor could be used as a hall and the first floor to be used as a chapel. Since there were not enough funds available at that time for the construction of the hall, an appeal was sent to donors. In 1965, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy donated a substantial amount of money for the purpose, but the construction could not take place immediately and later the fund was used for the regular functioning of the school.

In 1997, when Fr. P.T. Augustine became the Principal he took the initiative to build this magnificent edifice; thus fulfilling a four decade old dream of the Xaverians. He decided to use the space between the Junior and the Senior School buildings for this purpose, symbolically establishing a link between the two stages in a Xaverian's life. (During the sixties and early seventies there used to be a line of small buildings here called 'Red Fort'. They were later demolished to make space for the school.)

The foundation stone was blessed on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1999 by Provincial Fr. J. Mannaravelil, S.J. The building was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2001 by Justice Mr. K.T. Thomas. On the same day itself the building was blessed by most Rev. Anil J. Couto, the then Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi Archdiocese, and who is now the Archbishop.

The complex is ultra modern, with facilities and amenities that go even beyond our four decade dream. Dignified and imaginatively structured, this immaculate building links the Junior School to the Senior School through spacious corridors. The complex consists of a large hall with a spacious stage, balcony, control room and spacious green rooms at the back stage. On the ground floor there are two Language Labs, two Computer Labs, a Creativity Centre and a Multimedia Hall. One of the main attractive features of the complex is the garden in front of it. The idea of this beautiful, well maintained garden originated from the imaginative mind of Fr. P. T. Augustine, S.J., who designed and got this magnificent edifice built.



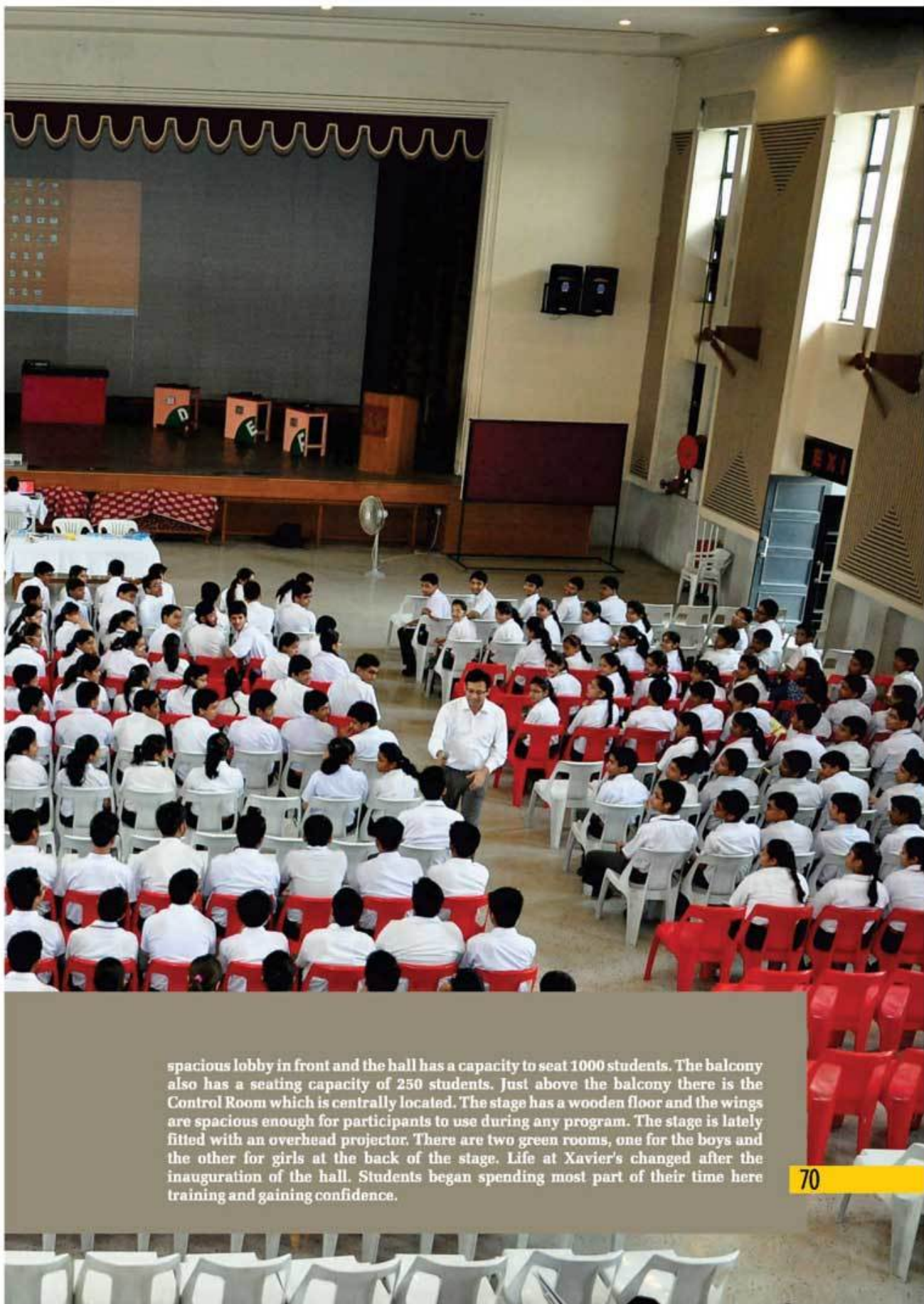




## Millennium Hall

The Millennium Hall was built with the idea of giving the students a platform to identify and develop their potentials and creative talents. It gave the students a place to practice and perform. One of the most important aspects of the Hall is that enough space is provided for various purposes and that makes this Hall distinct and unique from any other. It is a multi-purpose hall used not only for cultural events but it is also used for different rehearsals, activities, seminars, examinations and various other meetings. It has a huge stage with proper sound and light system. It has a





spacious lobby in front and the hall has a capacity to seat 1000 students. The balcony also has a seating capacity of 250 students. Just above the balcony there is the Control Room which is centrally located. The stage has a wooden floor and the wings are spacious enough for participants to use during any program. The stage is lately fitted with an overhead projector. There are two green rooms, one for the boys and the other for girls at the back of the stage. Life at Xavier's changed after the inauguration of the hall. Students began spending most part of their time here training and gaining confidence.



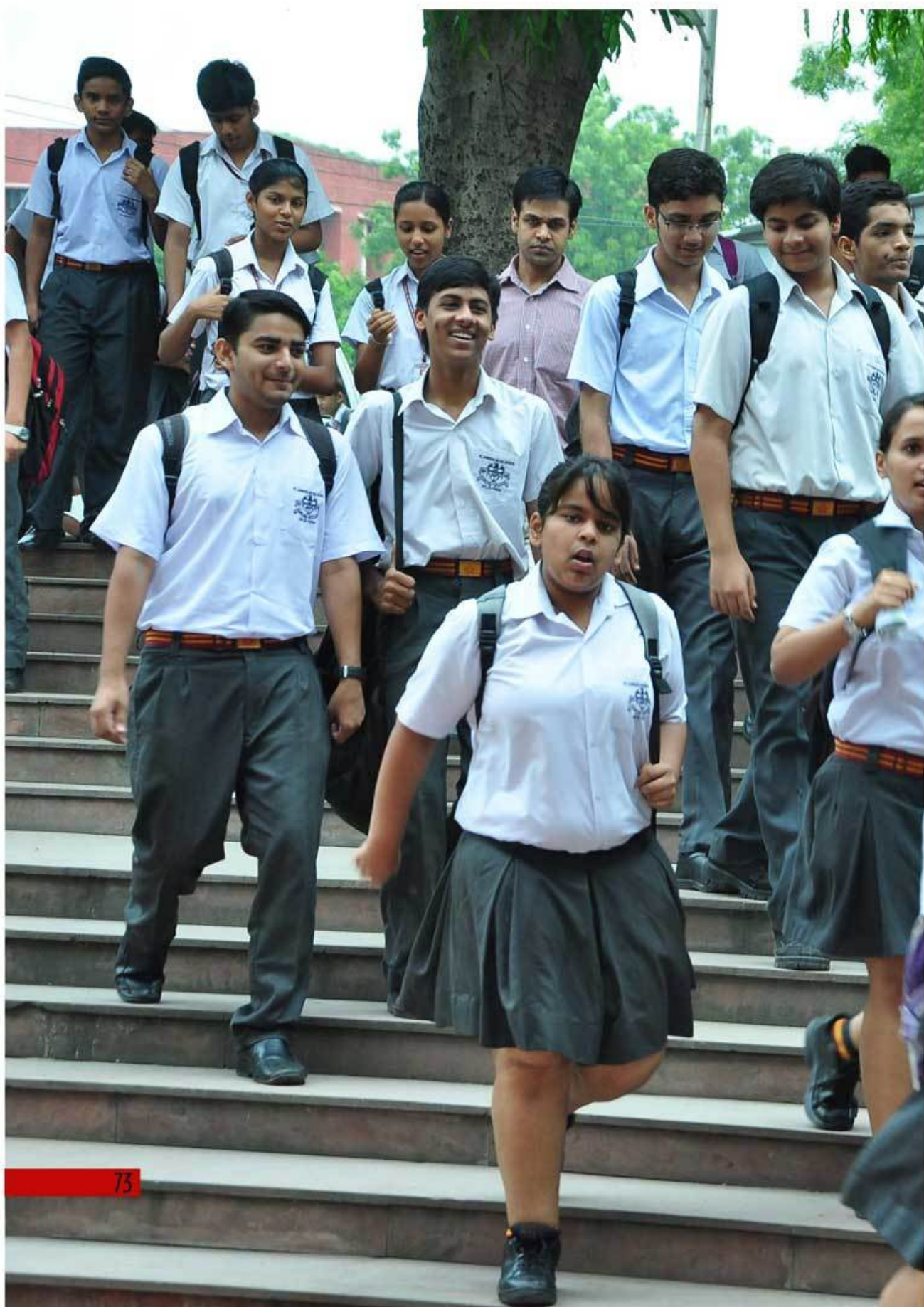


## Computer Labs

Fr. Richard Pereria, S.J., along with Bro. Ittoop had taken the initiative in introducing computer education in our school. Initially the lab was set up in the rooms in the second floor office, used by the Coordinators of Academics and Activities. At that time, there were only ten computers. This lab was later shifted to the Jesuit Residence with thirty computers. Fr. John Ari made a unique imprint in initiating the process of modernizing Xavier's computer lab by expanding it and adding more computers for the students. Fr. P.T. Augustine then shifted the Computer Lab from the Jesuit Residence to the present Maths Lab. By this time, we had 50 computers equipped with the latest and modern technology. After the construction of the Millennium Complex, the lab was shifted to the ground floor of the Complex in front of the Junior and Senior English Language Labs. The Lab has two sections - one for the Juniors and the other for the Seniors. Between the two Labs there is a server room. All the computers are equipped with the latest technology















## English Language Labs

### A new Concept in the School Education

Another important infrastructure added during the time of Fr. P.T. Augustine, S.J., as Principal was the setting up of the English Language Lab for the Junior as well as the Senior school students. He took this step because he realized the fact that in this age of globalization, English language has emerged as an international language of communication. These labs were set up with the idea of letting the students learn English in a new way through discussions, by watching documentaries, tele-films, audios and videos. The lab was first set up in the present Music Room in 1998. Mrs. A. Bhatia was given charge of the Language Lab. The English language labs are now situated on the ground floor of the Millennium Complex in front of the computer labs. Many other schools visit Xavier's to see the functioning of the lab before setting up one of their own.





## **The Millennium Complex**

### **A Unique Educational Endeavour**

The successive years proved that the construction of the Millennium Complex was a unique educational endeavour by Fr. P.T. Augustine, who is now the School's Rector & Treasurer. The complex has brought about sweeping changes in the way the Xaverians groom themselves. The multipurpose Millennium Hall has witnessed the flowering of many a Xaverian talent in music, drama, dance, speech/debates, compere etc. Already more than ten generations of Xaverians have moved out of the school gaining confidence and courage to face the world.

In the words of Fr. Glenn Menezes, the then Media Coordinator of the School: "This wonderful gift (the Millennium Complex) is a labour of love from Fr. P.T. Augustine. It became possible due to his incredible ability of making dreams come true. He combines in himself a vision of the future and a passion for excellence. He has worked relentlessly, revising plans, raising funds, obtaining the best, supervising personally every simple phase of construction. Dreaming, imagining, sparing no effort, he has achieved what once was impossible. He has been supported by the Jesuit Community and a large number of other people, to whom the present and the future generations of students will ever be indebted."







### The Tradition of Music in Xavier's



**Fr. Richard Curry S.J.**

If there is one field in which numerous Xaverians have excelled in, it is undoubtedly Music. Fr. Richard Curry, S.J., is rightly considered the 'Father of Music' in Xavier's. It was he who founded the Church Choir and the School Choir and laid the foundation for Music in Xavier's. He had founded a staff band which played during all special functions and gatherings. The School band he started, played for all the functions and programs like Xavier Fair or Sports Meet. Fr. Curry was the Head of the Chemistry Department. It was during his time that the Xavier Choir began taking part in the 'Festival of Choirs' organised by Delhi YMCA during every Christmas season.

Fr. Curry was a scientist and musician and was responsible for raising the scientific temper of the school as well as developing the musical talents of a number of students during the initial stages of the school. He loved to work with young people who were interested in learning Music. When Fr. Frank Loesch died, Fr. Curry directed the choir for the funeral mass and ten days later he too left for his heavenly abode. He died of a heart attack at the age of 45 on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1972.



**Fr. Robert J. Mayer, S.J.**

Another important figure in the field of music in Xavier's was Fr. Robert J. Mayer, S.J., who used to be jokingly referred to as the 'Mayer' of Delhi!!! He was gifted with extraordinary musical talent. He came from America to India in 1951. He served in India and Nepal and then volunteered for service in East Africa. He reached St. Xavier's School in 1972 and he remained here for eleven years. Fr. Mayer composed the 'Xavier Cheer Song' which every Xaverian proudly sings. On certain days, he would go down to the assembly grounds with the choir and would walk down the rows of boys and coax each unwilling throat into joyous singing. The school song composed by him is still sung at various functions in the school. He had composed two thousand poems out of which 200 were put to music. These were published in 'Season Songs for Children'. His deep love for the Society and his Jesuit brothers was shown by his composition of sonnets at the death of any Jesuit of Patna province and poems for other occasions. He died on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2000 in the US.



**Mr. Basil Miranda**

During the successive years, Xavier's inherited the musical legacy of these two stalwarts through the hands of Mr. Basil Miranda who had joined Xavier's in 1965 as a Biology teacher. He infused music into the life blood of every Xaverian by playing his accordion. He was a man for all seasons - be it Music Fest, Play Festival, Club Activities or any other school functions his help and support was inevitable. No stage setting would be perfect without his Midas' touch. Accompanied by his accordion he filled the heart of every Xaverian with music for 44 long years before he officially signed off from Xavier's campus in March, 2009. He rendered his valuable help for the preparation of the musical 'Sound of Music' staged by the Junior School students on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Xavier's still keep seeking his service in music. He keeps coming to school to teach music to the Junior as well as the Prep children.

On the Indian musical side one cannot forget late Mr. Rajeshwar Paul who was our first music teacher. He composed the Hindi school song. Mrs. Kanchan Verma too contributed substantially to the growth of music in Xavier's.

St. Xavier's has staged various musicals. The first one was 'Oliver' in which the cast was both the staff and the students. Mr. Harold Joseph, the famous composer of the All India Radio theme song, did music direction for this musical. The other musicals presented by Xavier's were 'Mikado', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Kids Stuff', 'Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat' and 'The Ghost Train'. 'The Fourth Wiseman' was staged under the guidance of Fr. T.J. Jose, S.J., the former Headmaster of Xavier's in 2002. About 80 to 100 students participated in the choir. In December, 2009 under the guidance of the then Headmaster Fr. Shaju Varghese the Junior School staged the 'Sound of Music' on the occasion of the school's Golden Jubilee.

Among the leading musical stars, Xavier's cannot forget Mr. Param Vir who was a brilliant musician and an excellent pianist. He played piano for the first ever musical staged by the school 'Oliver'. He also directed music for the other musicals staged by Xavier's. In early 80's the school formed its first Rock Band 'The Electric Plant' which played at the Jam Session during the Xavier Fair. Rahul Ram (1981) and Sushmit Sen (1981), of the 'Indian Ocean' fame are the other luminaries of the 80's.

Xavier's, especially the Senior School, never had a trained Music teacher; but people with great passion for music who had music in their blood, came forward to carry on this great legacy left behind by luminaries. Mr. S. Joseph got in to the shoes of Music teacher succeeding Mr. B. Miranda. During 2012 13 our Music Club members participated in various Inter-School competitions and brought home trophies triumphantly under the able guidance of Mr. S. Joseph who is presently the Coordinator of Discipline and Activities in the Senior School.



**Mr. S. Joseph**











## Delhi Old Xaverian's Association (DOXA)

It is often said that 'once a Xaverian always a Xaverian'. The Xaverian identity is indelible. It is hard to find anyone (both staff and students) leaving the School campus without shedding a few tears remembering their past association with the School. Everyone cherishes each golden moment spent in the School. The alumni maintain their umbilical cord with their Alma Mater through their association called DOXA (Delhi Old Xaverian's Association). It was known as XOBAD until 1998 when it was rechristened as DOXA by Fr. P.T. Augustine when the young ladies started graduating from the school for the first time. Delhi Old Xaverian Association is now gender inclusive and it is no longer 'XOBAD'!!! (*Incidentally the Latin word 'Doxa' means 'glory' - the alumni of Xavier's, Delhi, is a glory not only of this institution, but of the whole nation*). Fr. Richard Extross, S.J., founded XOBAD (Xavier's Old Boys' Association of Delhi) and was its first moderator. Over the years, the Association has grown substantially and has a membership close to 10000, spanning across all batches that have passed out of the school since 1966. Nearly two hundred students from St. Xavier's School, Delhi, have been joining DOXA's ranks each year. The members of DOXA make enormous contribution to the human society all over the world. Today, the family of Delhi Old Xaverian's Association (DOXA) is one of the largest alumni groups in India.

# DOXA

### Former Moderators

Fr. Richard Extross, S.J.  
Fr. Jack Beez, S.J.  
Fr. M. Padyatty, S.J.  
Mr. J. A. Martins  
Mr. Basil Miranda  
Fr. Thomas Kuriacose, S.J.  
Fr. T.V. Kunnunkal, S.J.  
Fr. Glenn Menezes, S.J.  
Fr. Sebastian Assarikudy, S.J.

### Former Presidents

Brij Bindal (Batch of 1971)  
Arun Seth (Batch of 1971)  
Manu Gupta (Batch of 1972)  
Gurinder Singh (Batch of 1974)  
Vates Shourie  
Sunil Goel (Batch of 1977)  
Ravi Mathur (Batch of 1970)

### Officials of DOXA for the year 2009-13

Moderator: Fr. P.T. Augustine, S.J.  
President: Ajay Dewan (Batch of 1976)

### DOXA Healthcare Foundation (DHF)

One of the most significant initiatives, and perhaps a unique one, taken by the DOXA in 2013 is the establishment of the DOXA Healthcare Foundation (DHF) aimed at helping the teachers and the other Staff members who have served the School for a minimum of ten, and left an indelible imprint on the lives of generations of students. The preference, of course, is for those who have served longer and retired from the School. The help may be of two broad categories:



The first is financial where it is required, according to the assessment of the Governing Board of the DHF.

The second type is to be Resource Centre networking with specialized medical professionals who would provide expert medical assistance whenever required.

The DHF is an outstanding symbol of the Doxians' gratitude towards their teachers who had chiseled their mind, moulded their character and shaped their personality during the most formative and crucial years of their lives.

### Non-Resident Delhi Old Xaverian's Association (NRDOXA)

Today, the family of Delhi Old Xaverian's Association (DOXA) is one of the largest alumni groups in India and abroad. It has spread its wings outside of Delhi's Raj Niwas Marg to cover the entire globe with the formation of a Non Resident Global DOXA Chapter in 2010. Its first chairman is Mr. Yakub Mathew of 1982 batch. NRDOXA has branches in five continents, many nations, and several big cities. A huge network is quickly being built and memories being shared and multiplied. Today they form the cream of society in all continents.







## C H A P T E R - 4

### THE ARCHITECTS OF EDUCATION AT XAVIER'S

*(The Outstanding Jesuits and their Collaborators who changed the school)*

#### THE FOUNDING FATHER FRANK (FRANCIS) LOESCH, S. J.

*(Rector - October 1959 to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1965)*



Fr. Frank (Francis) Loesch, S.J., was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept., 1897 in an agrarian family that migrated to Minnesota, US, from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg about 150 years ago. His father was a school teacher but poor health forced Frank to quit the same and become a farmer. More than what he learned at school, he learned a lot at home and on the farm. He also worked as a postal clerk in the city of St. Cloud to help his family financially. Many a time his studies were interrupted due to financial constraints. Frank joined the Society of Jesus in 1922 at the age of 25. Most of his batch mates in the Society were much younger to him and hence they nicknamed him 'Daddy'. True to the name he received, he was very caring and helpful to anyone in need. He was ordained a priest on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 1931.

Fr. Frank Loesch made an unparalleled contribution in the field of architecture as well as planning and organizing projects. In 1936, he was appointed the Superior of the Patna Mission. During his term as the Superior there was tremendous growth of the mission. In 1940, St. Xavier's, Patna was established and later in 1942, St. Xavier's School, Jaipur too was born. Patna Women's College, Holy Family Hospital, and XTTI were the other grand edifices constructed under his supervision in Patna. Because of his reputation, the State government got Fr. Loesch to build some of its vital infrastructure.

In 1958, Patna province wanted to begin a school in Delhi and Fr. Loesch was entrusted with the responsibility. He purchased Hotel Cecil and got it converted into a modern school and built the Senior as well as the Junior School buildings. He, with his architectural competence, gave the building a new shape where the lives of many students were to be shaped. He was the Rector of the school from 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1960 to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1965. In the meantime, he was deeply involved in the growth of St. John's Medical College, Bangalore too.

As a person, 'Daddy' Loesch was very friendly and jovial. He passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1972. He had a normal day and enjoyed his supper with his fellow Jesuits. He had retired



around 10 at night but by midnight there were cries of distress. Though the school nurse was called in and emergency oxygen cylinder fitted, before anyone could suspect he left for his heavenly abode. Till he breathed his last he was busy with various works related to the school. To his energy, zeal and resourcefulness must go the credit for readying the Hotel rooms to serve as classrooms, for buying up new properties for school expansion, for planning and supervising the new school building and for finding the finances to keep the institution running.

#### **FR. EDWARD MANN, S.J.**

**(Rector- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1965 to 21<sup>st</sup> July 1968)**



Fr. Edward Mann was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1914. He came from a large family where two more of his brothers became priests. He joined the Society of Jesus on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug., 1932. He came to India in 1938 and was ordained a priest in 1945.

In 1953, he became the Superior of the Patna Mission. During this period, the Patna mission was just growing and a lot of work had to be accomplished. He established the XTTI (Xavier Teachers' Training Institute) in Patna. Later he became the Provincial of Bombay province and was elected President of the Conference of Religious India (CRI). He was then appointed Rector of St. Xavier's School, Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1965. By this time, he was physically worn out and had undergone a major surgery. He then returned to Patna on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1968 and began working on a project for a catechetical centre for the whole of North India. He went to the US to raise funds for the centre and joined the mission office in Chicago. He was in Evanston, Chicago, when he suddenly collapsed and died on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1977, the day of the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Fr. Edward Mann was a true Jesuit who used all his gifts 'generously for the greater glory of God'.

#### **FR. GERALD GRACE, S.J.**

**(Rector-22<sup>nd</sup> July 1968 to 24 June 1972)**



Fr. Gerald Grace was born on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1924 in Evanston, Chicago. He had his early schooling at Campion in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin as a boarder. He joined the Society of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept., 1941 and in 1948 he reached India as a scholastic and had his teaching experience at Jaipur. He was ordained a priest on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1954 and had pastoral training in Jamalpur, Chakhni and Barh. Between 1972 and 1988 he worked in St. Xavier's School, Delhi and Jaipur. He also worked in St. Xavier's School, Patna as a teacher. Later he returned to Chicago and was the superior of the Jesuit community at Loyola Academy in Wilmette. He was appointed Director of the Jesuit International Mission Office, and was the Superior of the Clark Street Jesuit community. He died of cancer on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1999.

#### **FR. THOMAS ATHAZHAPADAM, S.J.**

**(Principal-1<sup>st</sup> July, 1960 to 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1962 and Rector-25<sup>th</sup> June, 1972 to 17<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1978)**



Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam, S.J., was born on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan., 1924 at Arpukara, Kottayam Dt., Kerala. Though he was the only brother of the seven sisters, he took a firm decision early in life to dedicate himself as a Jesuit Priest for the service of humanity, leaving behind the riches and cares of his family. He entered the Society of Jesus on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1943 and was ordained a priest on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1955. He addressed the first school assembly of St. Xavier's School, Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1960, as the designated Principal Fr. Charles Saldanha,



fell ill suddenly and had been hospitalized. Later from July 1960 to December 1962, he was the Principal of the School. He was then transferred to Patna. Later still, he returned to St. Xavier's Delhi as Rector of the School and Headmaster of the Junior Section from 1972 to 1978.

Amiable, easily approachable and friendly, Fr. Athazhapadam had a very charming personality and was an able administrator. Apart from the two stints at St. Xavier's Delhi, for the rest of his active life he had been involved in a wide variety of works and services in Bihar: as Director of Formation of Jesuits, Parish Priest, Social Worker and Counsellor. He made great contributions to the Jesuit Society's administration in Patna Province. He passed away in May 2011. We were lucky to have him with us during the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

#### **FR. JOSEPH PASCHAL, S.J.**

**(Rector-18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1978 to 21<sup>st</sup> April 1984)**



Fr. Joseph Paschal joined the Society of Jesus on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1942. He was ordained a priest on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 1954. As a young priest, he was the pastor of the church in Gaya and contributed a lot in the development of the parish. He was later appointed the Hostel Superintendent of St. Xavier's School, Patna. Later he became the Principal of the same school. He was the Rector of St. Xavier's, Delhi from 1978 to 1984. He met with a scooter accident, which got his leg fractured. After he got better, he returned to St. Xavier's School, Patna. He passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb., 1990.

#### **FR. K. T. THOMAS, S.J.**

**(Rector 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1984 to 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1991)**



Fr. K. T. Thomas, S.J., was born on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1934 in Ponkunnam, Kottayam (dt) Kerala. He joined the Society of Jesus on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1955. He did his Jesuit studies in Rome for four years and was ordained a priest on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1968. He completed his B.Sc. from Ranchi University and M.Ed. from Baroda University. He was a teacher and Headmaster of Khrist Raja High School, Bettiah, Bihar. During this time, he was a member of the Bihar Board of Secondary Education. He was also a teacher at St. Michael's High School, Patna from 1982 to 1984. He was the Rector of St. Xavier's, Delhi from 1984 to 1991. Fr. K. T. Thomas was a very lively figure on the Xavier's campus and was responsible for the various new changes initiated in the school including the change of medium as well as co-education. It was under his supervision we built a swimming pool for small children. He was primarily responsible for setting up the present Prep Department. He was the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Rohini-sector-36, Delhi from 1991 to 1997. He was appointed the Manager of St. Xavier's School, Behror, Rajasthan in 1997 and remained in the post until 2000. From 2000 to 2009 he was involved in the training of the young Jesuits in Mysore. As a person, he is very friendly, social and approachable. He is a people-oriented missionary. Presently he is involved in the educational work of St. Xavier's School, Delhi - 54.

#### **FR. MATHEW PADAYATTY, S. J.**

**(Rector-21<sup>st</sup> March 1991 to 20<sup>th</sup> March 1997)**



Fr. Mathew Padayatty, S.J. joined the Society of Jesus in 1964 and was ordained a priest in 1974. He joined St. Xavier's, Delhi as an Economics teacher in 1975. He was the Rector from 1991 to 1997. As a Jesuit priest Fr. Mathew Padayatty is very simple and unassuming. He has served the Society in various capacities. He is very sincere and committed to all the works entrusted to him by the Society. Presently he is the Secretary to the Provincial, Delhi Jesuit Society.



**FR. THOMAS KURIACOSE, S.J.**

**(Rector-10<sup>th</sup> July 1997 to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2003)**



Fr. Thomas Kuriacose S.J. was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan., 1954 in Kerala, India. He was educated at St. Xavier's, Delhi and passed out in 1971. He joined the Society of Jesus on 1 July 1973. He was the Rector and Manager of the School from 1997 to 2003. At the same time, he was also the Moderator of DOXA from 1999-2003. Presently he is a Professor in Theology, working in Pune.

**FR. SEBASTIAN ASSARIKUDY, S.J.**

**(Rector-2003 to 2009)**



Fr. Sebastian Assarikudy, S.J., was born in Arikuzha, Kerala, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1953. He joined the Society of Jesus in 1974 and was ordained a priest in 1987. In 2003, he was appointed Rector and Treasurer of St Xavier's School, Raj Niwas Marg and he held this post until June 2009. He is a very silent worker who has no pretensions and has a very friendly and informal style of functioning. During his tenure as Rector, he realized the need for a proper swimming pool for the School that could accommodate both the Juniors as well as the Seniors. The old pool was renovated and the new one was inaugurated in 2005. Presently he is working for the Delhi Jesuit Society.

**FR. P. T. AUGUSTINE, S.J.**

**(Principal from 1997-2001 & Rector 2009 onwards)**



Born on 21<sup>st</sup> Dec., 1939 in Kerala, at a time when the world was recovering from the after effects of the socio-economic turmoil resulting from the two World Wars, P.T. Augustine entered the Society of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1961. An alumnus of Patna University, JNU, Delhi, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A, Loyola University, Chicago, U.S.A., Fr. P. T. Augustine, S. J., has an outstanding academic record with Master's Degree in four subjects. He was appointed Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi in 1997. During this time, he designed and organized the construction of the Millennium Complex and initiated various educational changes as the School set foot in the new millennium. He returned to Xavier's, Delhi in 2009 as its Rector and Treasurer. This provided him another opportunity to begin the process of innovation for the growing educational needs of St. Xavier's School, Delhi.

During the past 5 decades Fr. P. T. Augustine, S.J., served St. Xavier's School, Patna, Jaipur, Delhi and St. Xavier's College, Kathmandu as Principal other than holding various other responsible positions in the Society. During his years in these institutions he proved himself to be a charismatic leader, a builder of people, an architect of changes and a visionary leader who has a passion for excellence through creative and imaginative changes, innovations and modernizations. He is a man of great initiative and drive. In whichever institutions he headed change was his driving motive - be it at the administrative or academic or infra-structural developments. As a Jesuit he never stops growing. He even encourages everyone to grow for better always.

Delhi Jesuit Society is at cross roads of engaging itself in the area of higher education. They have already established a College in Jaipur. At the time when the Society is about to venture into the field of higher education in Delhi NCR by setting up a College for Management studies in collaboration with XLRI, an eminent educationist like Fr. P. T. Augustine, S.J. will remain as a rock foundation for the future growth of the Society. Presently Fr. P. T. Augustine, S.J. is also the Moderator, Delhi Old Xaverians Association and the Coordinator of the Alumni Associations of Delhi Province as well as the Head Master of the Junior School. Under his moderatorship DOXA has established its global chapter called 'Non-Resident Global DOXA'.



**FR. CHARLES SALDANHA, S.J.**

**(First Principal - 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to July 1960)**



Once, a veteran Jesuit from the Bombay Jesuit Region, Fr. Henry Westropp, asked the young professor Charles: "Charlie, are you going to spend all your life in figures and numbers?" This question proved to be a turning point in the life of Prof. Charles Saldhana who later joined the Society of Jesus on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1925 at the age of 32. It was indeed 'a late vocation' received into the Society by the Superior Fr. William Eline, one of the first five American Jesuits from Missouri who had reached the Patna Province. Charles was greatly influenced by Fr. Alban Goodier, S.J., who later became the Archbishop of Bombay. After his novitiate and study of Philosophy at Shembaganur, Charles was sent to St. Louis, USA, to study Theology. (He was the first Scholastic from Patna province to be sent to America for higher studies) The Jesuit priests Fr. Henry Westropp and Fr. Francis McMenamy had influenced Fr. Charles a lot during his seminary days. He was ordained a priest at St. Mary's, Kansas in 1933 and completed his Tertianship at St. Stanislaus College, Cleveland and returned to India in September 1935. He then began his career at Khrist Raja School, Bettiah and was made the Headmaster of the School twice- from 1938-'42 and 1946-'48. With the strictness and thoroughness of a committed professor, Fr. Saldanha dedicated himself to raise the standards of the school. He was the first Principal of St. Xavier's College, Ranchi and the first Principal of Nirmala College, (the present Kirori Mal College) Delhi University (1951-'52). He was the Vicar General of Patna Diocese (1948-'51) and Parish priest of St. Stephen's Church, Danapur and the chaplain of the Army Cantonment, Patna from 1956 to '59.

In 1959, at the age of 67, Fr. Charles was asked to take up the work of starting a Jesuit school in Delhi. (He considered the school as his "Benjamin"- the child of his old age.) The Cecil Hotel property was purchased and St. Xavier's School, Delhi was started. He was the first principal of our school from January to July 1960 but unfortunately, he fell ill and was hospitalized on the day the School was inaugurated on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1960. Then he was appointed the Headmaster of the Prep Department, but he supervised the Maths program for the entire school. He worked with Fr. Loesch, Fr. Rodrigues and Fr. Austin Reinboth in converting the Hotel campus into a modern public school. After 14 years in Delhi he returned to Patna. There too he was very active in the Jesuit community. In the fall of 1978 he returned to Delhi for his retreat and he passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1978. His mortal remains are buried in Delhi at Nicholans Cemetery. **During his life he proved that he was 'first and foremost the priest of Christ'.**

**FR. THOMAS V. KUNNUNKAL, S.J.**

**(Principal - 18<sup>th</sup> December, 1961 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1974 & 1<sup>st</sup> Sept., 1977 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov., 1979)**



Fr. Thomas V. Kunnunkal, S.J., was born on July 3, 1926 in Alleppey, Kerala. He did his schooling in a rural boarding school. He was a good athlete in his childhood days. He had heard about the poor living conditions of the people in North India and had the urge to do something for them. So, he joined the Society of Jesus on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1945. He had his University education in India as well as in the US. He studied English, Philosophy, Theology, Educational Administration and Educational Measurement. He was appointed the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec., 1961 and remained in the post till 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1974. He also had a second term as Principal from 1<sup>st</sup> Sept., 1977 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1979. He is the longest serving Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi.

Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal was the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) from 1980-'87. He has also served as a member of several National Commissions like National Commission for Teachers (1983) and National



Commission for Review of National Education Policy (1987). He was appointed Consultant to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to design and prepare a turn-key project to set up the National Open School from 1987 to '89 and was appointed Chairman of NOS from 1989 to '92. From 1992 to 1998, he was the Regional Superior of Delhi Jesuits and from 1980 to 2000 he served as the Director of Educational Planning Group (EPG). The EPG was engaged in developing supplementary materials for school use, and in conducting seminars and workshops for teacher orientation all over the country. He was the Research Director, Indian Social Institute (ISI), which is a national institute of the Jesuits, established in 1951 for research, training and action (including advocacy and campaigns) for socio-economic development and for promotion of human rights. Its priority groups are the marginalized of the Indian society, namely the Dalits, the tribals, women, rural and urban poor and he was its Director from 2008 to 2009. Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal was given the national award of 'Padma Shri' in 1974 by the President of India and in 2006 he was given 'Honorary Fellow' by the Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada. Presently he is an 'Educational Consultant, Writer & Animator', at St. Xavier's School, Delhi - 54.

As an educationalist Fr. Kunnunkal was a man of great vision who not only mentored the school during its infancy and childhood days but also initiated progressive changes in it. The future of every individual depends on the kind of guidance he receives as a child and teenager; in the same way, St. Xavier's owes to Fr. Kunnunkal for the upbringing he gave to it during the early days of its existence.

Other than being an eminent educationalist Fr. Kunnunkal has remained steadfast as the champion of the marginalized and the underprivileged. Shedding its elitist image, he opened the gates of St. Xavier's, Delhi for the voiceless and the powerless towards the latter part of his Principalship. Spearheading Mrs. Indira Gandhi's slogan 'Garibi Hatao' on the campus, he ignited the young Xaverians to grow up as compassionate and socially responsible citizens.

#### **FR. ABRAHAM PUTHUMANA, S.J.**

*(Principal- 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1974 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1977)*



Fr. Abraham Puthumana, S.J., was born on July 31, 1933 in Kerala. He joined the Society of Jesus on June 20, 1953. He had his priestly and religious formation in India and in the US. He was ordained a priest on June 9, 1966. In 1967 he was appointed Co-pastor in a mission station. He was the Hostel Superintendent and Administrator of St. Xavier's School, Delhi, from 1969-70. In 1971 he was appointed the Vice-Principal of St. Xavier's, Patna. In 1972 he returned to Delhi as the Administrator of St. Xavier's School, Delhi. He was the Province Coordinator of Formation of Patna Province from 1971 to '77. He was appointed Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1974 and remained in the same post until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1977. From 1977 to 1982, he was the Provincial of the Patna Province. From 1983 to '88, he was the Rector of Vidyajyoti Seminary, Delhi. In 1991, he founded 'ATMADARSHAN: Centre for Spirituality and Counselling' and was its Director until 2003. He was a Pastoral Social Worker at Bihar Social Institute, Patna from 2003 to 2008. From 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2008, onwards he is the Rector of XITI, Patna. Fr. Abraham Puthumana has been helping with many group animation and training programs. At the requests of authorities, he has directed and guided retreats for diocesan clergy, religious and laity. Many approach him for personal spiritual direction and counseling and empowerment programs for those working at the grass root level. While he was the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi he introduced many co-curricular activities to promote the all round development of the students. He would urge every student to compete with himself. It was during his time that the school abolished the competitive ranking and recognition in academics. Instead, anyone who made noticeable progress was given recognition. He was one of the pioneers who initiated the setting up of the Educational Planning Group in Xavier's.



**FR. JOSEPH PARAKATT, S.J.**

**(Principal- 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1980 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1985)**



Fr. Joseph Parakatt, S.J., joined the Jesuit Society on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1960 and was ordained a priest in April 1973. He obtained his B.Sc from Ranchi University in 1976 and M.Ed. from Xavier University, Cincinnati, USA in 1977. He also obtained his Masters in Psychology from St. Louis University Missouri, USA in 1979. He was a teacher and Hostel Prefect at St. Xavier's School, Delhi, from 1968-69. He was appointed Headmaster of the Junior School in 1973 where he remained until 1975. He was the Vice-Principal of the Senior School from 1975-76 and later the Principal from 1980-'85. He died of a massive heart attack while conducting a counseling program on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2003 at Atmadarshan where he had been a staff member for eight years. **He died the death of a true warrior - with his boots on.**

**BRO. ITTOOP PALLIPADAN, S.J.**

**(Principal- 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1985 to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec., 1992)**



Bro. Ittoop Pallipadan, S.J., joined the Society in 1955. He did his M.A. in Sociology from Mysore University in 1980 and completed his M.Ed. from Loyola University, Chicago in 1983. He was the Vice-Principal of St Xavier's School, Delhi from 1983 to '85 and Principal from 1985 to '92. Bro. Ittoop is an eminent Jesuit with qualities both of head and heart. While in St. Xavier's, Delhi he was deeply concerned about the development of each individual. He handled all the problems in a humane manner and was appreciated by all for his good humour and warm rapport with everyone. The greatest quality he ever had was the control that he had on all - he commanded all with love and with authority. He received 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award for Teachers' in 1991. He initiated the process for computer education in Xavier's. He also served on many different educational committees. He was a member of the NCERT team that was set up to monitor and evaluate Delhi Administration schools. Presently he is the Administrator of the Jesuit Retreat Centre, Allahabad.

**FR. JOHN ARIAPILLY, S.J.**

**(Principal - 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1992 to 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1997)**



Fr. John Ariapilly, S.J., joined the Patna Province of the Society of Jesus on 27 December, 1970. He was ordained a priest on 25 April, 1984. He was the Vice-Principal of St. Xavier's School, Delhi from April 1985 to August 1989. Later he was appointed the Headmaster of the Junior School in January 1991 and remained in the same post until December 1992. He became the Principal in December 1992 and continued in the same post until July 1997. He was the JEA Coordinator, Delhi Province - first time for a few years and later from 2000 to July 2004. In May 2004, he became the Regional Superior, Delhi Region. In December 2005 when Delhi Jesuit Region became a Province, he was appointed its first Provincial. As the Principal of Xavier's, Delhi, he was very keen about the development of all the departments. He initiated the process of computerizing the school office as well as expanding the Computer Department in the school. He enjoyed a personal rapport with all the students as well as the staff. The tradition of each class organizing the morning assembly was started during his time. It was aimed at providing opportunities to gain confidence to the maximum number of students. Presently he is the Manager of St. Xavier's School, Biwadi, Rajasthan.



**FR. XAVIER J. IGNATIUS, S.J.**

**(Principal- March 2001 to March 2005)**



Fr. Xavier J. Ignatius, S.J., entered the Society of Jesus on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1979 and was ordained a priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 1993. He was the Vice-Principal of St. Joseph's High School, Baramulla, Kashmir from 1994 to 1997. Later he held the same post in Our Lady of Snows High School, Kulu from 1998 to 1999. He became the Headmaster of Junior School, St. Xavier's School, Delhi in 1999 and in 2001 he was appointed Principal. He remained in the same post until 2005. As a Principal at Xavier's, Delhi, he took a keen interest in all the school activities. He was very committed to the work he did and was a perfectionist to the core. As a human, he is very simple and straightforward. Presently he is the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Behror, Rajasthan.

**FR. JOSE PHILIP, S.J.**

**(Principal - April 2005 to July 2010)**



Fr. Jose Philip, S.J., hails from an agrarian family in Kerala. He joined the Society of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan., 1977. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and took his final vows in the Society of Jesus in March 1995. He was appointed the Assistant Headmaster of the Junior School, St. Xavier's School, Delhi in April 1990. It was followed by his being appointed the Headmaster from December 1992 to March 1995. He was appointed Principal in April 2005. As the Principal, he was a great 'fatherly figure' among the students. He was very kind, compassionate and understanding. He believes that changes, if they are to be genuine and lasting, should be initiated from within and not imposed upon. He was very patient and tolerant while dealing with difficult situations. He took great personal care in every aspect of school life and was very much committed to the service of the institution. As part of giving more importance to the overall development of the personality of the students, he introduced the 'Xaverian Excellence Award' in Xavier's. He was the Principal up to July 2010. Presently he is the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Rohini, Delhi.

**FR. JOSE JACOB, S.J.**

**(Principal since July 2010)**



Fr. Jose Jacob, S.J., the incumbent Principal of St. Xavier's School was born in Kerala. He had his early education both in Kerala as well as in St. Xavier's School, Jaipur. He joined the Patna province of the Society of Jesus in 1980 and was ordained a priest in January 1995. He began his mission in the Society as a teacher in K.R. High School, Bettiah in 1988. In 1991 he was appointed Vice-Principal of St. Michael's School, Patna where he worked for two years. He was then transferred to St. Ignatius School, Aurangabad as Principal in 2001. It was the shortest appointment he had so far. He reached St. Xavier's School, Jaipur as Vice-Principal in 2002. Three years later he became the Principal there. After five years of successful stewardship in Jaipur he reached St. Xavier's School, Delhi in 2009. All those who ever worked under Fr. Jose Jacob would unanimously agree that he possesses the rare quality of being brazenly honest and confident as well as sublimely humble at the same time. He has a vision for the school and ensures this vision becomes a reality. A man of action, his tenure has seen several abstractions metamorphosed into concretizations. His passion and zeal to see the school reach new heights is truly laudable. Though very jovial and approachable, everybody knows that when he means business it is so.



## OTHER NOTEWORTHY JESUIT STALWARTS

St. Xavier's, Delhi also benefited a lot from the services of many other noteworthy Jesuit stalwarts. **Fr. Pat Rebeiro** and **Lockwood** were among the early stalwarts of Xavier's. **Fr. Francis Rodrigues, S.J.**, was another prominent figure in Xavier's. He managed the finances of the institution. He wanted to develop and improve the community services. Finally he too greatly desired to spend his last days in the lap of Xavier's and so it was. He passed away due to cancer on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1986. **Fr. Richard Extross, S.J.**, was an eminent educationist. He taught English at St. Xavier's, Delhi for many years. During his tenure he started the school magazine 'Xavier Times' in 1965. He also founded XOBAD (Xavier's Old Boys' Association of Delhi) and was its first Moderator. He passed away in 1999. **Fr. John Beez, S.J.**, was the moderator of XOBAD from 1968 onwards. He taught English and was the H.O.D of the English Department. **Fr. Joseph Kochupura, S.J.**, was the Administrator of the School for some time. **Fr. Joe Purayidam, S.J.**, was the Vice Principal of the Senior School as well. **Fr. Thomas Paruvanani, S.J.**, was the Sports Instructor of Xavier's. **Fr. Z. Kunnapally, S.J.**, was the Treasurer of the School for many years and contributed a lot in the construction of the Millennium Complex. **Fr. Fredric Moore** taught English in the Senior School. The Xaverians could not have achieved anything in Music if it were not for the Beethovans of Xavier's **Fr. Richard Curry, S. J.** and **Fr. Robert J. Mayer, S. J.**

**Fr. Joseph Matheikal, S.J.**, was the Vice-Principal from 1966 to 1969 and the H.O.D. (Chemistry) from 1973 to 1983. He played an important role in building the



Fr. Tony Andrade, S.J.



Fr. T.J. Jose, S.J.



Fr. K.P. George, S.J.



Fr. Shaju Varghese, S.J.



Fr. Richard Pereira, S.J.



Fr. Edward Niesen, S.J.



Fr. N.V. Mani, S.J.



Fr. Joseph Matheikal, S.J.



Fr. Glenn Menezes, S.J.



Fr. P. Faulstich, S.J.

Chemistry lab of St. Xavier's, Delhi. He organised social awareness camps to make the staff and students more socially conscious. **Fr. P. Faulstich, S.J.**, worked in Xavier's from 1983 to '89. He taught English in the Senior School. He was actively involved in taking photographs of the various school activities as well as moderating articles for Xavier Times. He was the Secretary to the Regional Superior from 1989 to 1994.

**Fr. Glenn Menezes, S.J.**, reached St. Xavier's, Delhi in 1997 as the Director of Media Education and remained in the same capacity till 2007. The construction of the Millennium Complex provided him with plenty of leeway to guide students in media related programs. He made many documentaries and sensitized students towards many social problems. He video-graphed all the major school activities like Music Fest and Play Fest and provided the students for the first time an opportunity to watch the recordings of their own performances. He greatly contributed to the development of the Xavier Times. He showed his creative talents in preparing its lay-out.

**Fr. Paul Wenish, S.J.**, was the Coordinator of Discipline/Activities, Senior School from April, 2008 to Feb 2010. He was a very charismatic Jesuit who took lot of interest in all the school activities. He worked very hard to make the Golden Jubilee celebrations a memorable one.

**Bro. John Purackal, S.J.**, joined the Society of Jesus in 1961. During the course of the past 51 years he has shouldered various responsibilities and has been an administrator for most of the time. Presently he is the School's Administrator.

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOME EMINENT JESUITS TO GROWTH OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL:**

The Junior School has had some very eminent personalities as Headmasters/Headmistresses.

**Fr. Joseph Koilparambil, S.J.**, was the Headmaster from 1963 to '68. He was known for his limitless energy, enthusiasm and interest in all his works. His kindness and cheerful disposition endeared him to everyone. He was very much interested in drama, athletics and elocution.

Sr. Marie Beatrice and Sr. M. Helen, Stephen Ramchanant, Thomas Vilangupara, Johnson Vallamattam, Fr. John D'Mello, S.J., Fr. Chacko Kavatt, S.J., Br. Neville Burrows, S.J., Br. Abraham Chempothanady, S.J. and Br. K.C. Joseph were at the helm of affairs in the later years.

#### **Fr. Edward Niesen, S.J. (Former Headmaster)**

Fr. Edward Niesen, S.J., was a major figure among the Headmasters. The Junior School teachers remember him as a wonderful person to work with. He had a good grasp of the working of a school, the complexities of administration, and he proved this in Patna, later in Kathmandu, and finally in Delhi. The place did not matter; he could master the system in short order. He knew the rules of all the games and athletics and was a good referee for various matches. He was a fountain-head of ideas and the most innovative.



#### **Fr. N.V. Mani, S.J. (Headmaster from 1985 to 1988)**

Fr. N.V. Mani S.J., entered the Society of Jesus in 1955 for the Patna Province. He was ordained a priest in 1967. He was the Head Master of Junior School from 1985 to 1988.

#### **Fr. Tony Andrade, S.J (Headmaster from 1995- 1999)**

Born at Udupi in Karnataka on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1946, Fr. Tony Andrade, S. J., joined the Society of Jesus in 1964 and was ordained a priest in 1978. Fr. Tony joined St. Xavier's, Delhi as the Headmaster in 1995 and remained in the same post until 1999. In 2001 he joined the Senior School as the Student Counsellor, a post he held for three years. He was very successful as a mentor, guide and friend to all.



**Fr. T.J. Jose, S.J. (Headmaster from 2001- 2004)**

Fr. T.J. Jose, S.J., entered the Society of Jesus in 1984. He was ordained a priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1999. He joined St. Xavier's, Delhi as the Minister and later became the Headmaster in 2001. The staging of the musical 'Fourth Wiseman' added a new feather in his cap. He is very soft spoken and kind hearted, yet he managed the school affairs very skillfully. He started the first Music Fest in the Junior School. He himself is a great musician and plays harmonium very well.

**Fr. K.P. George, S.J. (Headmaster from 2005- 2008)**

As the Headmaster of the Junior School, Fr. K.P. George was a very strict disciplinarian but kind at heart. He insisted on spoken English in all student-teacher interactions and wanted all announcements to be made in English by both the students and the teachers. He took personal interest in the remedial classes organized after school for the economically weaker students. He was also very particular about cleanliness.

**Fr. Shaju Varghese, S.J. (Headmaster from 2008 to 2012)**

Fr. Shaju Varghese S.J., joined the Society of Jesus on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1997 and was ordained a priest on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. He joined Xavier's as the Headmaster of the Junior School in July, 2008 and remained in the same post until March 2012. He was a very dynamic personality. He was actively involved in every activity and always made sure that the school functioned smoothly.

**Fr. Richard Pereira, S.J. (Former Prep Director)**

Fr. Richard Pereria, S.J., was a seasoned educationist and the ex-principal of several Jesuit High Schools. He entered the Society of Jesus on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1930 and was ordained a priest on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 1946. He reached St. Xavier's Delhi in 1980. He was a prolific writer of various books on Computer education. He was also the Director of the Prep Department. He was very sensitive, helpful, gentle and loving. It was his view that a child has to be taught how to think creatively. He left Xavier's on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1998. He passed away at the age of 94 in Mumbai.

**The following is a comprehensive list of the many Rev. Jesuits who contributed to the growth of St. Xavier's, Delhi - 54 at various times from 1960 to 2013**

Rev. Francis N. Loesch, Thomas Mathew Mampira, Athazhapadam, Frederic Moore, Robert Mayer, Thomas Karthanam, Charles Saldanha, Austin Reinboth, Joseph F. Wilmes, Stephen J. Francis Rodrigues, Eugene Lockwood, Ramachanatt, Joseph F. Paschal, Thomas Kunnunkal, John Lane, John Alfred T. Poovattil, Abraham E. Beez, Joseph Koilparambil, Jesus Chempothanadiyil, Cedric Kenny, Montemayor, Devasia Puthiakunnel, Thomas Paruvanany, Thomas Richrd Curry, Richard Extross, Vilangupara, Alphonse Crasta, Edward F. Mann, Joseph Matheeikal, Chacko Kavatt, Zacharias Kunnappally, Chandy Moolayil, Joseph Thalanany, Ittoop Pallipadan, Paul J. Faulstich, Joseph Vellaringatt, Benedict Thomas T. Kaduvathookil, Joseph Mendonca, John D'Mello, Roman Kochupura, Richard A. Pereira, John Lewicki, Joseph Purayidam, Joseph Ariapilly, John Purackal, Jose Philip Kochukunnumpuram, Gerald P. Kavanadiyil, Johnson Vallamattam, Grace, Varghese Kampalath, Edmund Zacharias Varikamakil, Anthony Montville, Mani Nedumattam, Andrade, Thomas Kuriacose, Glenn Edward H. Niesen, Edmund Rebeiro, Menezes, Augustine Peedikamala, George Mlakuzhy, Joseph Parakkatt, Gyanprakash Visuvasm, Jose J. Neville J. Burrows, Philippose Thaiparambil, Xavier Ignatius, Manthara, Joseph Kizhakekara, Sebastian Assarikudy, Sebastian Mathew Padayatty, Abraham Mukalel, George P. Kaiprampatt, Paul Puthumana, Richard Cherry, John Wenish, Shaju Kalathingal and Joseph Chrysostom, Bernard D. Haas, Eugene Jacob Vilakunnel, Hattie, Wargiss Kappamoottil,

## NON-JESUIT LEADERS OF XAVIER'S

'Guided by the Ignatian pedagogical model, Jesuit colleges and universities are places of intellectual integrity, critical inquiry, and mutual respect, where open dialogue characterizes an environment of teaching, research and professional development'. Jesuit educational institutions give a lot of freedom to the staff to operate in their own fields with limited interference from the higher authorities. They encourage everyone to take initiative and become leaders in their own respective fields. They allow their collaborators to become a part of administration in schools and colleges and St. Xavier's, Delhi is no exception to it.

### **Mr. Augustus Martins**

**(Principal 4<sup>th</sup> Nov., 1979 to 31st March, 1980)**



Mr. Augustus Martins was the first lay member to join the Management of Xavier's. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1917 in Goa. He had his early education in Goa and Ajmer. He did his M.A. and B. Ed. from Regional College, Ajmer. He started his teaching career at St. Anselm's School, Ajmer where he was the H.O.D. of the English Department as well as the Head of Dramatics. He joined Xavier's in 1967 as a senior English teacher. He also taught Civics. Later he became the Vice-Principal of Xavier's from 1978 to 1983. He was also the Moderator of XOBAD (now renamed as DOXA). He was

responsible for the first Directory of XOBAD. He was appointed Acting Principal of Xavier's from 1979 to 1980. He retired from service in 1983 and passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1997.

### **Mrs. Anjali Dere**

**(Vice Principal 1989 - 1994)**



Mrs. Anjali Dere was a student of Queen Mary's School, Mumbai from where she completed her Senior Cambridge. She reached Delhi because her husband was a pilot in the Indian Air Force and was posted in Delhi. While looking for a school for her small kids she too began hunting for a job as a teacher in a Delhi School. Though her sons managed to get admission in St. Mary's School, Palam, she couldn't get the same there. It was then she was called for an interview by Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal at St. Xavier's School, Delhi and was selected for the post of P. G.T in English. While she was at

Xavier's she was selected for the Fulbright Scholarship in America for one year and later for the Post Graduate Teacher Trainer's Course in Plymouth, U.K. After her studies, she re-joined Xavier's in the same post and became the Vice-Principal in 1989 when Fr. John Ari went abroad for higher studies. She took an early retirement in 1994, after 22 years of dedicated service to the institution. She was the first lady and the second non-Jesuit to join the administration in Xavier's. Hers was a very popular choice. She was well versed in Xavier traditions as well as the Jesuit approach to education.

### **Mr. Basil Miranda**

**(Vice Principal 1994-2001)**



Mr. Basil Miranda hails from Manapad, a small fishing village near Kanyakumari. He joined Xavier's in 1965 as a Biology teacher. From the time he joined the school he was in charge of the Church choir as well as the School choir. Other than Music, he is interested in painting and calligraphy. Till he retired he played his accordion at the school assembly daily. From 1971 onwards every year, he also took part in the 'Festival of Choirs' organised by YMCA. He was the H.O.D. of Biology Department and in 1994, he was appointed Vice-



Principal. In 2001 he retired from the post of Vice-Principal but continue to teach the Xaverians Music.

**Mr. Santosh Joseph**

**(Coordinator of Discipline from July 2001 to March 2009 & Coordinator of Discipline & Activities since April 2010)**



Mr. Santosh Joseph joined Xavier's on July 13, 1983 as a teacher in Economics for the senior classes. He became the Coordinator of Discipline in the Senior School in July 2001. He retired from Xavier's on March 31, 2009. Later he rejoined in April 2010 as the Coordinator of Discipline & Activities. As a father of two daughters who are now medical practitioners and teacher, he understands better than anyone the trials and tribulations a student has to undergo these days. As a disciplinarian he is impartial and kind to everyone. He coordinated the Leadership Training Service in the school for many years.

**Mrs. Neera Verma**

**(H.O.D., English, Coordinator of Activities from 2001-2004 & Headmistress 2004-05)**



Mrs. Neera Verma reached Delhi in 1980 and became a member of the Xavier family on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1980. She was the Head of the English Department from 1994 to 2004. In 2001, she was appointed the Coordinator of Activities. During this time, the school's extracurricular activities received a boost and different clubs were formed. She was very meticulous in planning and organizing many important school functions. She was a great leader who could inspire people to work. Xavier's English Literary Society was the brain child of Mrs. N. Verma. After her retirement from the Senior School in

2004 she was appointed Headmistress of the Junior School for one year. She was awarded 'Dr. Sarvpalli Radhakrishnan Memorial National Teaching Millennium Recognition 2000' by the All India Independent Journalists and Writers Association, for outstanding contribution to education.

**Dr. (Mrs.) Marina James Thomas**

**(Coordinator of Activities 2004-07)**



Dr. (Mrs.) Marina James Thomas joined Xavier's in 1995 as a Post Graduate Teacher in Biology. She was the Coordinator of Activities from 2004 to 2007. In 2007 she left Xavier's to join as the Director, Student Welfare and Cultural Activities, Padma Shri Dr. D.Y. Patil University, Navi Mumbai.

**Mr. Thomas Mannila**

**(Coordinator of Discipline, Junior School 1993-2003)**



Mr. Thomas Mannila joined Xavier's in 1975 and taught Maths, Chemistry and Physics to classes 8, 9, and 10 up to 1980. He also taught English to class XI for some time in the absence of Late Fr. Mayer. Mr. Mannila was also the House Master of Tagore House from 1976 to 80. He resigned from Xavier's in 1980 and migrated to Nigeria where he taught Methodology of Teaching Science and Maths at Arabic Teacher's Training College, Bauch State, Nigeria. After eight years, he returned to Delhi, re-joined the Junior School in 1989, and taught Maths and Science to classes VI and VII. From 1993 to 2003, he was the Coordinator of Discipline in the Junior School. For six

months, he was the acting Headmaster in the absence of Fr. Tony Andrade. After his retirement, he was appointed substitute teacher in the senior school more than once. As a teacher, he was very charismatic and had a very good rapport with the students he taught. Teachers of his eminence is a rarity in the teaching fraternity.

**Mrs. B. Kang**  
**(Coordinator of Discipline, Junior School 2003-2012)**



Mrs. B. Kang is from Rothak. She had her schooling in Patna. She was a teacher in St. Michael's School, Patna as well as St. Xavier's School, Jaipur. Before joining St. Xavier's, Delhi as a permanent teacher in 1988 she had worked here twice as a substitute teacher. She became the Coordinator of Discipline of the Junior School in 2003 and remained in the same post till March 2012.





*Heritage Building*









## THE VETERANS OF YESTERYEARS

St. Xavier's could not have achieved anything but for the committed services of many eminent teachers. We place on record our heartfelt gratitude to all those pioneers of education in Xavier's. It is difficult for us to prepare an exclusive list of all the staff, but here we have the names of most of those great personalities of Xavier's who spent a major part of their life during the yesteryears giving shape to the lives of all Xavierians who came under their care.

To begin with, the English Department of the Senior School grew under the guidance of great veterans like Mr. Moses D'Mello who worked for 30 long years before he retired in 1989. He taught English, SST and Moral Science in the Senior School. He had joined the school in 1959, even before it was started, helping Fr. Saldanha. Another eminent English teacher was Mrs. B.P. Joseph who retired in 1985. Mrs. & Mr. Martins were two strong pillars of Xavier's English Department. Mrs. P. Martins took the English play festival into her heart and helped students a lot in putting up various plays year after year. Mr. Smith's, Mr. Tony Rozario's names too figure among the earliest English teachers of our school. Mrs. S. Abraham (1964-1996) taught English in the Senior School and was very patient and soft spoken. Students found her very approachable and she was willing to help everybody. Mrs. Anjali Dere (1976-94) was another strong personality the senior English Department had. She was very charismatic both as a teacher as well as an administrator. On her departure from Xavier's in 1994 her students described her as a 'prized possession' of Xavier's. During the 80's Mrs. Neera Verma (1980-2009) and Mrs. Noreen McLaren (1985-2007) joined the English Department as teachers and were universally loved by all the students. Though Ms. Soumya Nagpal (1993-2003) worked only for ten years in Xavier's, still she left behind an indelible mark among the students of her time.

The Hindi Department of Xavier's had great eminent personalities like Mr. Rajesh Bhasker (1963-93), Mrs. Veena Nagpal (1960-98), Mrs. S. Bhargava (1969-97), Mrs. P. Gupta (1966-91) and Mr. D.N. Zutshi. Mrs. S. Segal (1967-98) taught Sanskrit. Many outstanding teachers contributed to the development of the Science Department in the Senior School. Mrs. Mary E. Mathew (1963-89) taught Biology. Her fields of specialization were cell biology, genetics and oceanography. Mrs. Afsari Khan was a very benevolent and much respected Chemistry teacher. She joined on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1972 and retired in 1989. The other eminent Science teachers of the Senior School were Mrs. S. Flory (1972-87), Mr. Rosemayer, Mr. V.K. Sarin, Mr. B. Miranda (1965-2009), Mr. M. T. Joseph, Mrs. A. Jacob (1969-2003), Mrs. A. Thomas (1971-99), Mr. K. D. Thomas (1978-2008), Mr. Suresh Pal (1967-2001), Mr. S.K. Bhargava (1968-90), Mr. Jose Paul, Mrs. E. Koshy (1977-88), Mrs. Devadas, Mrs. Marina Thomas (1995-2007), Ms. Daisy Jacob (1992-2003), Mrs. A. Singh (1972-89) ....the list is very long.

The Social Science Department had eminent personalities like Mrs. M. Hala (1968-87), Mrs. K. Tandon, Mrs. L. H. Jacob, Mr. S. Joseph, and Mr. S. Kumar. The Maths Department in the Senior School grew under the guidance of seasoned teachers like Mr. J. Chhauddha, Mr. P. J. Abraham, Mr. S. K. Malhotra, Mrs. S. Krishnan, Mr. S. S. Sharma, Mrs. Mariamma Thomas and so on. Mrs. S. Devasundaram also taught Maths and encouraged Music, Art, Drama and Journalism. Mr. D. D. Malik taught Commerce for a short while before he left for eternity leaving behind an indelible mark on the minds of his students. Mr. P. Bablani taught Commerce and left the School in 1985. Mr. Joseph Thomas (ex-Xaverian) taught Commerce in the senior class. Mr. George Anthraper taught only for a short while but he was very famous among the students. He died in 1975. Mr. R.K. Chopra retired in 2010 after putting in many years of service in the Senior School, Commerce Department. Mrs. A. Venkataramanan (Computer department), Mrs. A. Singh (Senior School Counselor) Mr. M. L. Kaushik, Mrs. S. Sood, Mr. Jacob Uralil, Mr. M. Robinson, Mrs. A. Ghildiyal, Mrs. Bahadur- all contributed a lot to the development of their respective departments. The Accounts Department couldn't have done such marvelous works without the committed services of Mr. P. K. Joseph, Mr. P. M. Thomas, Mr. P. Fernandez and Mr. Roshan Lal- all





put in a service of life for the School. The office staff Mrs. P. Nazareth, Mrs. Gemma D'sa, Mrs. S. Noor and Mr. D. Ballet helped the School machine run smoothly. Mr. T.V. Jacob, Mr. Frankie D'Souza, Mr. George Thomas and Mr. F. Salema were very committed personalities among the non-teaching staff. Mr. Jack Imlay made a great contribution as a craft teacher. The Physical Education Department grew under the guidance of Mr. Douglas Neale, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Ben Moss, Mr. Peterson, Mr. P. N. Sharma, Mr. A.K.V. Singh, Mr. George, Mr. Sebastian, and Mr. H. S. Salaria.

The Junior School too has a long list of veterans. Mrs. Pearl Scott had the distinction of serving Xavier's since its inception. Her accomplishments related to the Junior School Maths lab were outstanding. She retired on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1988. Miss Liza Arakal (1966-88) taught English, Moral Science, SST, and Handwriting. Other eminent teachers were Mrs. R. Robinson (1964-92), Mrs. S. Goyal (1963-2000), Ms. J. Murphy (1967-98), Mrs. D. Singh (1966-87), Mrs. U. Tangiri (1965-2003), Mrs. Marlene D'Souza (1967-99), Mrs. Mary Regis who had joined in 1968, Mrs. T. Arora (1960-90), Mrs. Bhagwar (1968-90), Mrs. S. Das (1963-89), Mrs. K. Thakur (1966-90), Mrs. S. S. Kohli (1969-2004), Mrs. R. Tuteja (1972-98), Mrs. T. Safir (1976-2001), Miss Annie Jose (1978-2000), Mrs. Kanta Kapur (1970-2009), Mrs. I. Malvea (1973-95), Mrs. U. Nanda (1970-94), Mrs. C. Pinto (1970-93), Mrs. A. Singh (1970-87), Mrs. A. Lazarus (1972-2007), Mrs. A. Ramaiah (1970-90), Mrs. G. Bhatt (1973-90), Mrs. E. Mathew (1968-91), Mrs. L. Jacob (1971-92), Mrs. Lily Abraham (1971-2009), Mrs. S. Aggarwal, Mrs. S. Dutta, Mr. Rajeshwar Paul (1965-92), Ms. S. Rangarass, Mrs. M. Dayal, Mr. U. Joseph, Mrs. Kanchan Verma, Mrs. Virginia Dominick, Mrs. P. Sinha, Mrs. D. Seth, Mrs. C. Fernandez, Mr. T. Mannila who retired as the Coordinator of Discipline, Mrs. Gladys Sarang ... the list is very long.

On this occasion, we also specially remember all those great pillars of education, who were entrusted with the dual role of educating and building the character of the little ones in the Prep Department. Mrs. Agnes Beckwith Tullet, Mrs. Bridget Halge, Mrs. Zareen Pantakee, Mrs. Rani Nicholas, Ms. Eleanor Bajpai, Mrs. P. Washington, Mrs. N. Umrigar, Mrs. Carol Edwins, Mrs. Kanta Kapoor, Ms. Martina Pereira, Mrs. M. Jeremiah, Mrs. A. Devasia, Mrs. V. Sharma, Mrs. R. Mathur, Mrs. R. Jacob, Mrs. M. Dhingara, Mrs. Agatha Joseph, Mrs. T. Thomas (Hema)- all formed a dedicated team that stood the test of time. These veterans will always be remembered by their students whose life they touched in one way or the other.

At the time when the School celebrated its Golden Jubilee we made an attempt to remember all the former staff who contributed to the growth of the School- yet we know that we might have left out a few more names for want of an exclusive list. We pray that God may shower upon all of them His choicest blessings abundantly.











## Hall of Honour

Hall of Honour is the first hall on the ground floor of the Prep Department. This hall has been renovated and on its wall hung the photos of all the former staff members. The Hall of Honour immortalizes the fond memories of all those who were a part of the great Xaverian family over the years. *(Due to insufficient record we regret that some names may be missing from this list.)*



Mrs. P. Scott



Mrs. V. Nagpal



Mrs. P. Washington



Mrs. S. Kohli



Mr. R. Bhaskar



Mr. M. D'Mello



Mrs. Kanta Kapoor



Mrs. S. Sehgal



Mrs. Marina James Thomas



Mrs. Sheela Noor



Mrs. Agnes Beckwith Tullet



Mr. P. M. Thomas



Mrs. H. Hala



Miss. M. Pereira



Mr. J. A. Martins



Mrs. P. F. Martins



Mr. S. Pal



Mrs. C. Edwine



Mr. R. Paul



Mrs. Monica D'Souza



Mrs. A. Joseph



Mrs. P. Nazarth



Mr. P. K. Joseph



Mrs. M. E. Mathew



Mrs. Gemma D'Sa



Mrs. K. Tandon



Mrs. L. Abraham



Mrs. Lilly Jacob



Mrs. S. Flory



Mrs. Usha Nanda



Mrs. Kanta Kapur



Mrs. A. Parakh



Mrs. Ann Thomas



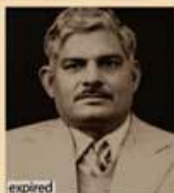
Mrs. Elizabeth Mathew



Mrs. A. Ramaiah



Mrs. A. Lazarus



Mr. S. K. Malhotra



Mrs. G. Bhatt



Mr. S. K. Bhargava



Mrs. S. Bhargava



Mrs. A. Khan



Mrs. T. Arora



Mrs. I. Malvea



Mrs. M. Dayal



Mrs. S. Goyal



Mrs. R. Robinson



Mr. Jose Paul



Mr. V. K. Sareen



Mr. B. Miranda



Mr. K. D. Thomas



Mrs. N. Dutta



Mrs. D. E. Jones



Mr. Jack Imlay

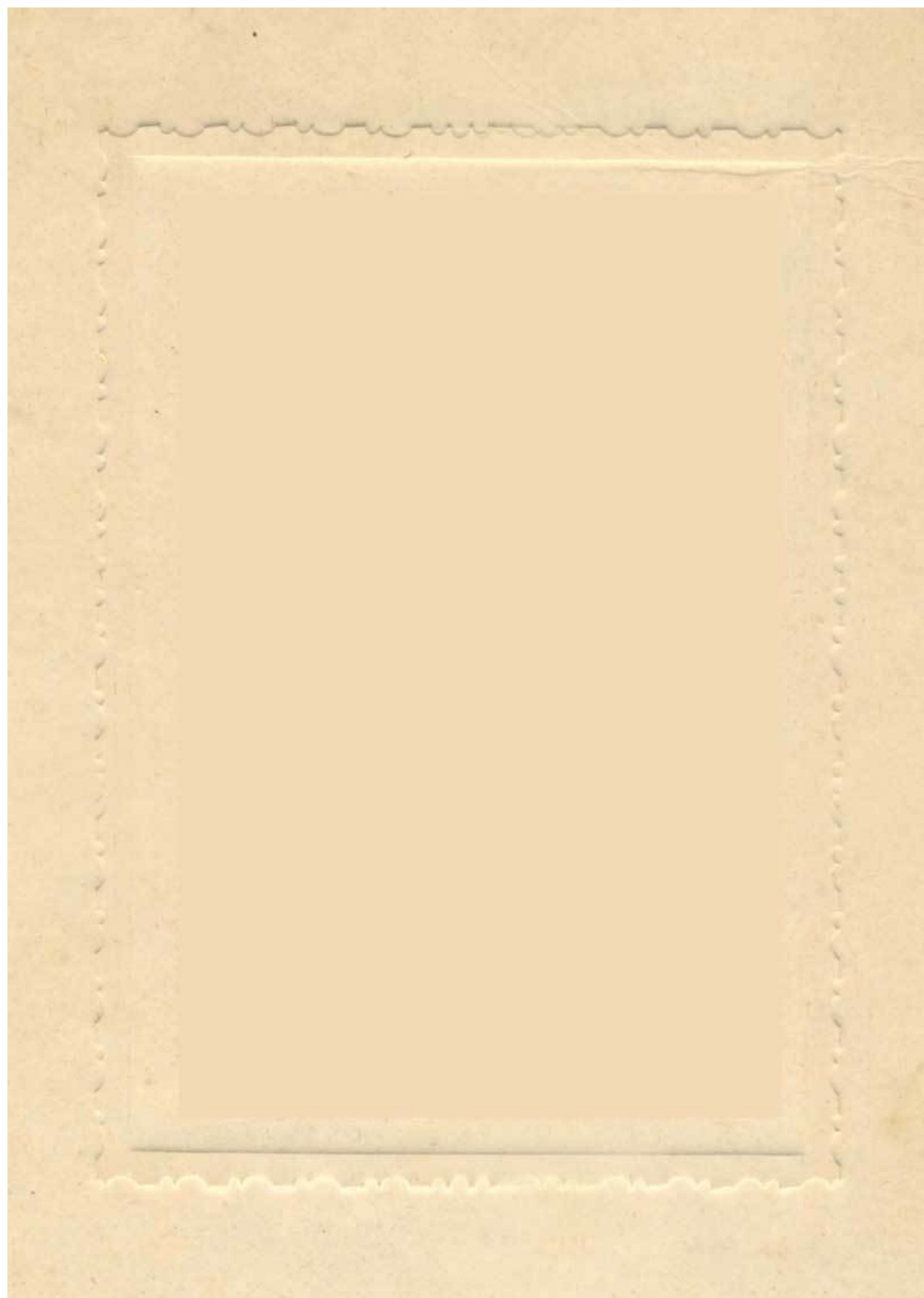


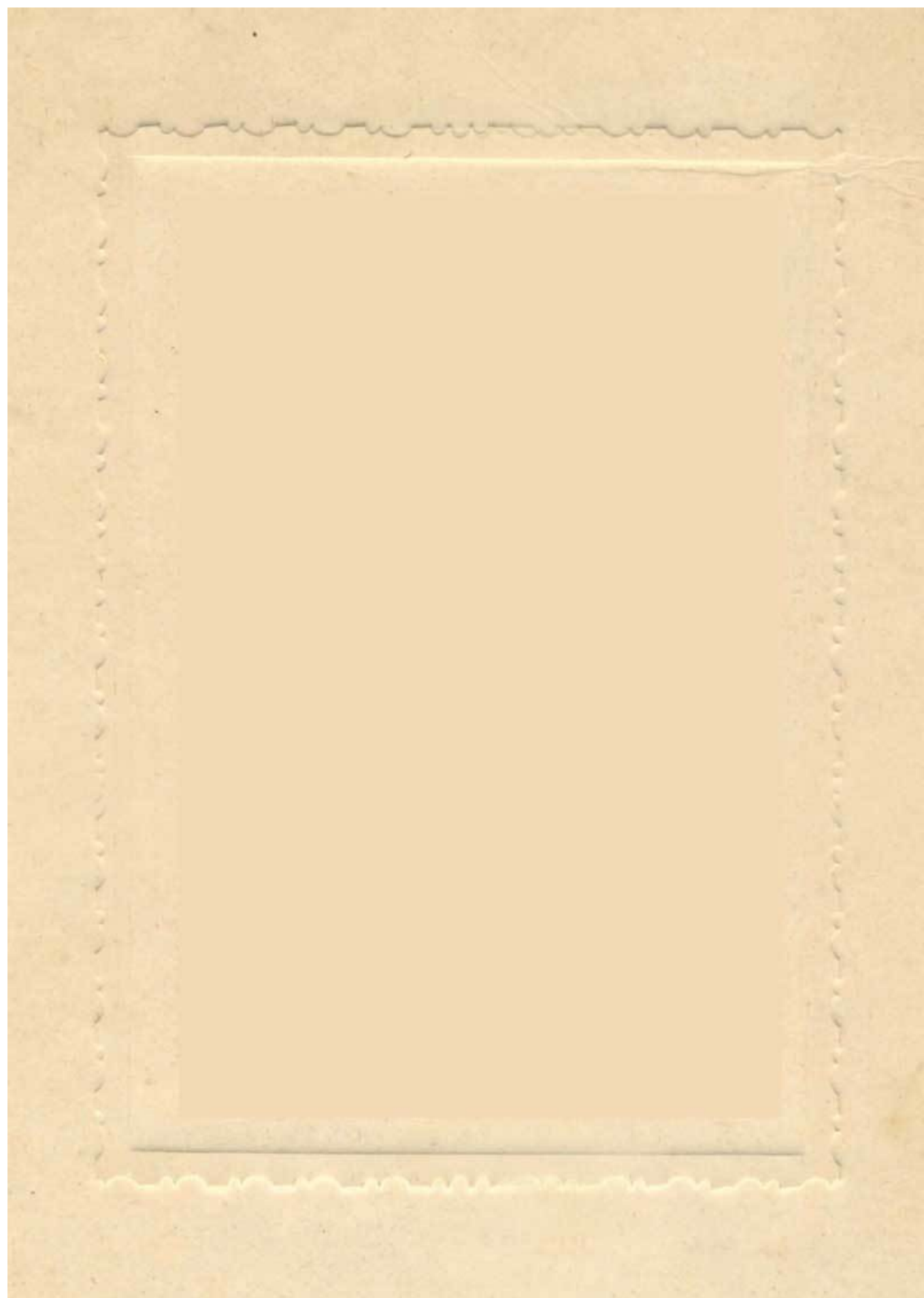
Mr. D. N. Zutshi



Mrs. Annie Jose











Mr. F. Salema



Mrs. B.P. Joseph



Mr. M. T. Joseph



Mrs. B. Kang



Mrs. A. Venketaramanan



Mrs. Neera Verma



Mr. T. Mattappally

Camera shy:

Mr. M. Robinson, Mrs. G. Sarang, Mrs. A. Jacob, Mrs. Kunti Thakur, Mrs. M. Bhagwar,  
Mrs. L.J. Zachariah, Mrs. Alice Devasia, Mrs. P.S Sinha, Mr. Peter Fernandez



## C H A P T E R - 5



Since its inception in 1960 Xavier's underwent a lot of changes and transformed the lives of innumerable students and teachers, withstood the ravages of time and succeeded in bringing about new educational policies in Delhi's horizon. As a true Alma Mater, for 50 long years she nestled generations of students in her arms who took to wings to different parts of the globe.

### **Kick-Starting Golden Jubilee Celebrations (July 2009 to January 2010)**

The Golden Jubilee year had many grand scale events, which further elevated the spirit of completing 50 years. It commenced with a special assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, on the eve of the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus. A special common assembly was organized on the main grounds of the School. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal, the longest serving Principal of our school, was the chief guest for the occasion. He released a short history of our school prepared by Mr. K. J. Devasia, H.O.D. (English). The grand program was concluded with the Jubilee song, ushering in the great Golden Jubilee year, throwing light on the importance of love, prayer, brotherhood, gratitude and lifting the pall of hatred, selfishness, slavery and division.

### **Grand Golden Jubilee Cultural Evening**

The Senior School organized a special cultural evening on 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The programme commenced with an appropriate prayer song 'Thank You Lord'. Shri Ajay Maken, Hon. Minister of the State for Home Affairs and an ex-Xaverian of the '82 batch, was the Chief Guest. The



other distinguished guests were Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal, other former principals and principals of many other prestigious schools along with a number of our dear former staff. An interesting array of performances dotted the stage. A vibrant colorful Rajasthani puppet dance had the audience enthralled with a mesmerizing sight of puppets moving in unison to the foot tapping rhythm. The Senior School music club presented two melodious songs 'We are the Champions' and 'Azadi', filling all Xaverians with a great sense of pride. A Biblical musical skit 'Lifehouse Everything' had a deep impact on each one present. It was a story in dance, set to beautiful music and lyrics, a time for soul searching and introspection for all. There were two short plays presented- 'Mother's Day'- saw some sterling performances by characters who were able to sensitize the audience to some very pertinent issues related to role of mother in a family. The second one was a Hindi play which, with excellent and perfectly arranged props and stage settings, captured the attention of the audience. It transported everyone to the world of demons, kings, queens - highlighting the message that good always triumphs over evil. The 'Margam Kali' dance presentation was a marvelous display of grace, rhythm and elegance - performed in perfect unison, in spotless off white - all aglow with the radiant light of the lamp. The Bharatnatyam dance was characterized by smooth, graceful and perfectly coordinated movements in colorful costumes. An enchanting qawwali session by the students of class VIII - all replete with traditional dress and music was much appreciated by all. The Hon. Chief Guest Ajay Maken addressed the gathering and spoke fondly about his days at Xavier's-which he described as "A child in its mother's arms"! He recalled fondly the Play Fests, the Music Fests, elocutions and of course, the teachers and the Jesuits who groomed him into a confident, sensitive human being and a proactive member of the society. The program concluded with the Jubilee song with the message of brotherhood and fellowship, of prayer and gratitude.

### Sound of Music

It is truly said: "There are painters who make the sun a yellow spot, but there are others who with their imagination and creativity convert the yellow spot into the sun".

The Junior School presented a dramatization of the all time family favorite- The Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer blockbuster- 'The Sound of Music'. A two and a half hour long play- almost a re-run of the movie on the stage, had the audience gripped with a 50 odd lively choir, outstanding choreography, settings and stage props, perfect costumes and of course brilliant acting performances. Everyone had to strive for perfection in all what they did. There were two shows- one on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 when Mr. Arun Jaitley, M.P. and the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009 when Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam, the Principal in the first year of the school, were the Chief Guests. The play was a great success with beautifully rendered timeless classics, the evergreen numbers that still haunt music lovers and non-musicians alike. The elaborate and beautifully designed props and stage settings transported one to the splendorous magnificent mountains of Austria and to the luxurious and majestic dwelling of the Von Trapp family. Ornate stairways and doorways, embellished railings and furniture - all took one to a bygone era- elegant and tasteful. The costumes added the final





sparkle to the already glittering performances. Care was taken to look into every little detail - be it the dresses of the children made from drapes, to the exquisitely crafted ballroom gowns of the affluent acquaintances of Captain Von Trapp. The actors of the Junior School gave in their best expressions, language emotions - all to the superlative degree. The combined efforts of the teachers and the large team of over 300 students resulted in this stupendous presentation. The teachers of the Junior School truly deserve to be applauded for the months of grueling efforts which turned out to be truly fruitful.

### **Fund Raiser Dinner at Hotel Oberoi**

One of the mega events of the Golden Jubilee year was the grand dinner at the Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi on Saturday, 9 January, 2010. M/s Amit Goel and Vinay Mehra of 1981 batch took initiative in organizing the event. It was attended by many eminent personalities of Xavier's. It was a well spread buffet and the food was delicious, living up to the reputation of the Hotel. The purpose of the dinner was to raise funds for the developmental projects of the school. It was a great success and the assembled alumni contributed wholeheartedly for the cause.

### **Prep Department Celebrating the Golden Jubilee**

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of the school, the Prep also put up a memorable function on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009. The Chief Guest for this grandiose event was the honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Sheila Dikshit. The program began with a prayer dance to thank God for His benevolent mercies upon our school. The dedicated works of the Jesuits were highlighted by a pageant. It brought out their immense contribution to humanity in the field of education and social service. The Christmas play brought with it the message of salvation, joy and peace to the dying world. It was the birth of the savior Jesus Christ two thousand years ago that brought the good news to the shepherds and kings. This was beautifully enacted by the children. The colourful dances and Santa Claus brought a cheer to every heart. The Punjabi dance was an ode to the grandparents who were the special invitees for the function.

### **Annual DOXA Dinner**

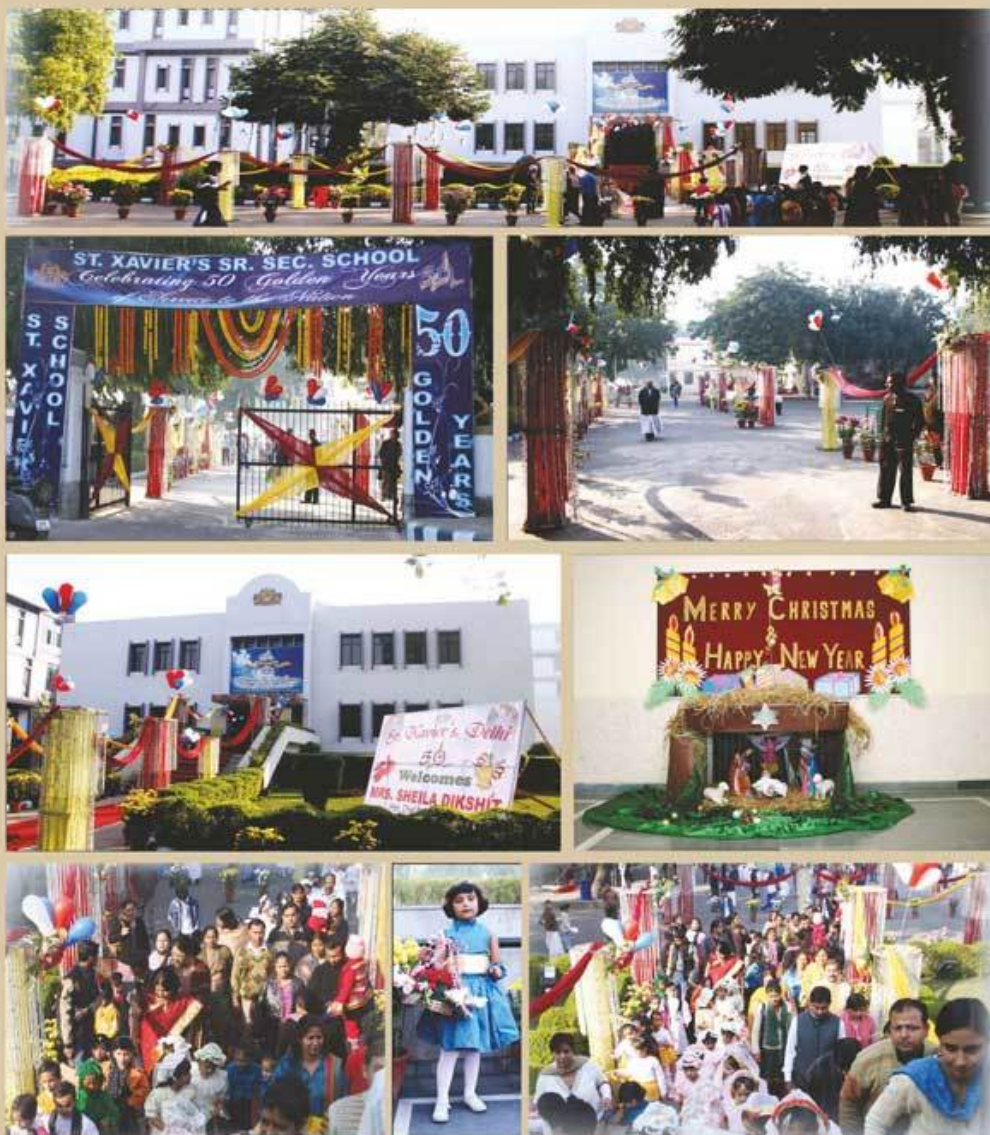
The annual DOXA dinner was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Golden Jubilee Year. It was organized by DOXA EC Members on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. The event was held on the Xavier's grounds which were magnificently decorated for the dinner from 7:30 pm onwards. The students of the School were the flag bearers carrying the majestic school flag and the flags of four Houses - Bhabha, Gandhi, Nehru and Tagore. The event started with the recital of the School Cheer Song. Rector, Fr. P.T. Augustine, S.J., Principal, Fr. Jose Philip, S.J. were also felicitated. The mega event was attended by 1200 DOXIANS from all over the country and abroad with their families. Although it is an annual event but being a special year it witnessed the reunion of many Xaverians after a long time. The program was so entertaining that it lasted till mid-night. The food was lip smacking. Many of the present and the former staff members of the school also attended the reunion with their students. Each moment of the dinner was mesmerizing for the alumni.

### **Treasure Hunt Challenge**

Another important event organized by DOXA was the Treasure Hunt-Challenge, the first of its kind organized on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009. The event was held at St. Xavier's School, 4, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi. It was graced by the presence of Mrs. Prabha Thakur, Rajya Sabha M.P. The participants were ex-Xaverians along with other student volunteers. In the Treasure Hunt, participants had to decode the 10 clues which were provided to them. The clues were hard to crack and they had to search for them all over the city. The time limit was 3 hours, in which they had to search for the correct answers. The competition started from the school and it also ended there. The participant who cracked the maximum clues in the stipulated time was awarded with coupons for a 3-day stay in Goa. A grand lunch was also organized after the program on the Prep Department grounds. The event was a soaring success.



## Golden Jubilee Celebrations







## HALL OF FAME



23rd December, 2009 was a historic day for St. Xavier's School. On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee the Delhi Old Xaverian Association organised a special function in the Millennium Hall to present 'Lifetime Achievement Award' and 'Xaverian Excellence Award' to the Xaverians whose contributions have been outstanding in the service of humanity. Honourable Minister of Human Resources Shri. Kapil Sibal, Rector Fr. P.T. Augustine, Principal Fr. Jose Philip, former principals Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam and Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal were the Chief Guests for the program.









## Winners of LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2009

**Lt. General Deepak Raj:** A Xavierian of 1967 batch, Lt. General Deepak Raj is a recipient of 'SENA MEDAL' for Gallantry of an Exceptional Order from the Union Govt. of India.

**Air Marshal Dhiraj Kukreja:** A Xavierian of 1967 batch and a recipient of the Vishisht 'Seva Medal' and the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' from the President of India, Air Marshal Dhiraj Kukreja was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in 1972 after his preliminary training at the NDA.

**Justice Vikramajit Sen:** A Xavierian of 1967 batch of Xavier's, Justice Vikramajit Sen is the Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka from December 2011.

**Dinesh Dhamija:** A Xavierian of 1967 batch, born in Australia as the son of an Indian Diplomat, Dinesh Dhamija was awarded 'Entrepreneur of the Year' in 2003 in UK for being one of the leading businessmen in Europe.

**Rakesh Mehta:** A Xavierian of 1968 batch and alumnus of St. Stephen's college, JNU and London School of Economics and Political Science, Rakesh Mehta is an IAS officer of 1979 batch. He was appointed the Chief Secretary of Delhi in December 2007.

**Arun Jaitley:** A Xavierian of 1969 batch, Arun Jaitely is a senior BJP leader and a former Union Minister of India. He, currently the Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha in the Indian Parliament, is a distinguished lawyer and prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

**Dr. Ashok Alexander:** A Xavierian of 1969 batch and an alumnus of DU as well as the Indian Institute of Management, Dr. Ashok Alexander is presently the Director of Avahan, the Global Health Program's HIV prevention initiative in India.

**Dr. Shekhar Aggarwal:** A Xavier Gold Medal winner of 1969 batch, Dr. Shekhar Aggarwal is the founder of Sant Paramanand Hospital, Civil Lines, Delhi.

**Anirudh C. Uppal:** Anirudh Uppal, a Xavierian of 1969 batch and an alumnus of St. Stephen's college, is an IPS officer of 1976 batch. In 2010 he was appointed the head of the CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Harish Manwani:** A Xavierian of 1969 batch, Harish Manwani is a winner of CNBC Asia Business Leader of the Year Award.

**Ramu Damodaran:** A Xavierian of 1970 batch, Ramu Damodaran is the Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement, in the United Nations Department of Public Information's Outreach Division.

**Harsha Vardhana Singh:** A Xavierian of 1974 batch, Harsha Vardhana Singh is the Deputy Director General of World Trade Organization in Geneva.

**Alok Verma:** A Xavierian of 1974 batch and alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Alok Kumar Verma, is an IPS officer of 1979 batch. He is the Director General of Police, Puducherry.

**Gopal Subramaniam:** A Xaverian of 1974 batch, Gopal Subramaniam is the former Solicitor General of India. In 2011 he was appointed to represent the Maharashtra government and the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) as a special counsel.

**Dr. Arun Sethi:** A Xaverian of 1975 batch and an alumnus of Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Dr. Arun Sethi is a senior consultant at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi.

**Upamanyu Chatterjee:** A Xaverian of 1976 batch and an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, and an IAS officer of 1983 batch, Mr. Upamanyu Chatterjee is an Indian author and administrator, notable for his work set in the milieu of the Indian Administrative Service.

**Raghav Behl:** A Xaverian of 1979 batch, Raghav Behl is considered to be India's Rupert Murdoch. He heads TV 18 which is one of India's leading full play media conglomerates.

**Ajay Maken:** Union Cabinet Minister, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and a Xaverian of 1982 batch, Ajay Maken is the grandson of the great freedom fighter Late Shri Om Prakash Maken and nephew of Late Shri Lalit Maken.







## Winners of Xaverian Excellence Award 2009

**Anil Sarin:** A Xaverian of 1968 batch, Anil Sarin is the Managing Director of Anant Raj Industries.

**Amitav Banerjee:** A Xaverian of 1969 batch, Amitav Banerjee is the Secretary in the United Nation's office in U.K.

**Sunil Malhotra:** A Xaverian of 1969 batch, Sunil Malhotra is Entrepreneur, Executive Member and one of the pioneers of New Delhi Traders' Association.

**Lovleen Singhal:** A Xaverian of 1969 batch Lovleen Singhal is currently pursuing opportunities in renewable energy technologies.

**Major General Philip Campose:** A Xaverian of 1970 batch and commissioned as an officer of the 9th Gorkha Rifles regiment of the Indian Army in Dec 1974, Major General Philip Campose is doing an important assignment at the Headquarters of the Strategic Forces Command at New Delhi.

**Michael Pinto:** A Xaverian of 1972 batch, Michael Pinto has been recognised for his contributions in the field of Global Banking.

**Deepak Dewan:** A Xaverian of 1973 Deepak Dewan is the CMD of Cardio Fitness India Private Limited.

**Atul Punj:** A Xaverian of 1975 batch, Atul Punj is the Chairman of Punj Lloyd.

**Ishwar K. Puri:** A Xaverian of 1976 batch, Ishwar K. Puri has served as Professor and Department Head of Engineering Science and Mechanics (ESM) at Virginia Tech since 2004, where he also directs the Multiphysics Research Group (MuRG).

**Alex Kuruville:** A Xaverian of 1977 batch, Alex Kuruville is a veteran of the Indian media and entertainment industry.

**Pinaki Misra:** A Xaverian of 1977 batch and an alumnus of St. Stephens's College and the Faculty of Law, Delhi University, Pinaki Misra is a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India and a Member of Parliament from Puri, Orissa.

**Amit Tandon:** A Xaverian of 1979 batch and an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, FMS, Delhi and University of Cambridge, UK, Amit Tandon is the Managing Director, Fitch Ratings, India.

**Sudhansu Mittal:** A Xaverian of 1979 batch, Sudhansu Mittal is a senior political strategist for the BJP, especially during elections.

**Ajay Kumar:** A Xaverian of 1979 batch, Ajay Kumar is a seasoned business leader with nearly 25 years of diverse experience working across functions, geographies and industries.

**Arvind Mehta:** A Xaverian of 1979 batch and alumnus of St. Stephen's College and Delhi School of Economics, Arvind Mehta is an IAS officer of 1984 batch.

**Arun Khurana:** A student of 1977 batch, Arun Khurana was the first Xaverian to play Ranji Trophy and was a member of the Rest of India XI team.



**Tarun Vij:** A Xaverian of 1981 batch and an MBA graduate from the University of Michigan, USA, Tarun Vij is presently the Country Director of American India Foundation, New Delhi, India.

**Sameer Gupta:** A Xaverian of 1981 batch and an alumnus of Bombay University as well as IIT, Delhi, Sameer Gupta is the Managing Director of Barclays Bank Plc (Dubai).

**Sunil Gujral:** A Xaverian of 1981 batch, Sunil Gujral is a Technology professional.

**Amit Goel:** A Xaverian of 1981 batch, Amit Goel is the co-owner of the Pioneer. His group also owns two magazines--Namaskar, an in-flight magazine of Air India and 'Exotica' an in-room magazine of several leading five star hotel chains.

**Yakub Mathew:** A 1982 batch of Xavier's and an alumnus of St. Stephen's College, DU, Yakub Mathew is a Senior Vice President, HSBC and based in New York.

**Joby Joseph:** A Xaverian of 1982 batch and alumnus of SRCC and FMS, Delhi University, Joby has worked in the Financial Services Industry as well as the Outsourcing Industry.

**Nikhil Mohan:** A Xaverian of 1985 batch, Nikhil Mohan is once in a generation entrepreneur who pioneered the setting up of India's largest Men's Clothing Brand-Blackberry's.

**Samir Arora :** An Indian-born, American-based, a Xaverian of 1985 batch, Samir Arora is the founder of Glam.com, the world's No. 1 website for women.

**Niket Kaushik:** A Xaverian of 1989 batch and an alumnus of College of Business Studies and Faculty of Law, Delhi University, Niket Kaushik is an IPS officer of 1995 batch.

**Sachin Malhotra & Rohit Aggarwal** representing 1989 batch were given a special award in appreciation of their batch's contribution for the success of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

**Note:** The posts and portfolios of the awardees mentioned in the above two categories are based on the information received in 2009





### **Alma Mater Salutes Gopal Subramaniam**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 when St. Xavier's School, Delhi concluded the Golden Jubilee celebrations, Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, a Xaverian of 1967 batch was conferred with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by his Alma Mater. In the function organized in the school's Millennium Hall, the Chief Guest, Archbishop of Delhi, Vincent Concessao and the Guest of Honour Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal, S.J., did the honours for Gopal Subramaniam. In his acceptance speech Mr. Gopal Subramaniam urged the young Xaverians to celebrate every moment of their life, which is a precious gift from God. He asked his juniors to devote their life to the service of humanity as there are so many people who are in need of our service. He remembered the occasion when the aircraft he was travelling to Mumbai landed safely, after a tumultuous flight. He is sure it was a providential escape that he had on account of his great devotion to Mother Teresa.



## Curtain Falls for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The 50th year of Xavier's inception was an eventful year for all the Xaverians. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were kick-started on a grand level on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 and for the next six months there were various events organized to celebrate the jubilee in a meaningful way. Finally on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 a grand finale was organized in the Millennium Hall. Rev. Vincent Concessao, the Archbishop of Delhi and Rev. Franco Mulakkal, the Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi, Fr. Thomas Kunnunkal, S.J., the former principal of our school, were the Chief Guests for the occasion. The program began with the arrival of the Chief Guests at 11 am. Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, the Solicitor General of India, was a special invitee for the function as he was to be conferred on the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the School. Principal Fr. Jose Philip, S.J., delivered the welcome speech. The dance item 'Chak de India' presented by the tiny tots of the Prep Department, the group dance presented by the Junior School students and the beautiful musical 'Lifehouse Everything' presented by the Senior School students were all marvelous. Incidentally there was a positive note that connected all the speeches as well as the dance presentations. When the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' recipient Mr. Subramaniam wanted every Xaverian to value life, Bishop Franco urged all to work hard as there is no short cut to success. Finally, Rector Fr. P.T. Augustine thanked everyone who made the Golden Jubilee program very successful!

