

## **REPORT ON PARENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMME-2017**

**By Ms. Poonam Ahuja, Dept. of Botany**

Inspired by the response of the parents to the parent orientation during the last academic year, the Parents' Council, headed by Dr. Ronald Mascarenhas organised an orientation programme for the parents and guardians of the new students who have enrolled for various courses this year with renewed enthusiasm. The idea behind this programme was to help partner with the parents who along with the management, staff and students are important stake-holders in the pursuit of imparting holistic education to help our students become men-and-women-for-others.

A half day orientation programme was held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for the parents of students studying in first year B.Sc. courses, BCA, first year M.Sc. and M.A. courses. On 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the same was held for the parents of the students enrolled to the first year B.A., BSW, B.Voc. and B.Com. courses.

On both the days, the programme began with the registration of parents where they were given a folder and a 4 page printed handout with important details about the college, functioning of the college, important persons to contact in different situations, facilities offered by the college and so on. Around 1100 and 1050 parents/local guardians attended the programme on day 1 and day 2 respectively.

Dr. Priyanka Parmar was the MC on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017, while Ms. Latha Paul was the MC on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Following a short general welcome, the formal programme began with the Welcome by the Emcee followed by the College Anthem rendered by the College choir. The Registrar and Vice Principal (Administration) of the College, Rev. Fr. Clarence D'Souza SJ, invoked the blessings of the Almighty by a prayer. Followed by the prayer, the Principal of the College, Rev.Fr. Dr. Victor Lobo SJ, delivered the Inaugural address. He stressed on the importance of parents to be role models to their children and encouraged them to take active part as members of the Josephite family to be an integral part in the formative years of their children.

The parents were then presented with a video of the college which gave a very comprehensive idea about Jesuit philosophy of education, a glimpse into the various activities and facilities of the college along with the highlights of staff and student achievements. Following this was a power point presentation titled "How the system works?". Dr. Priyanka Parmar, on day 1 made this presentation while on day 2, Ms. Poonam Ahuja presented the same. The presentation focussed on important points to be kept in mind, norms and rules that the students are expected to follow, facilities and opportunities provided by the college, examination pattern and various other practical details which the

parents should know for their knowledge as well to help in the smooth and comfortable transition of their wards stay at the college.

To enlighten our parents on autonomy and to address any queries and concerns of parents, a panel discussion was held. On day one, Ms. Ria Saha led the panel discussion while Ms. Amita Priyadarshini led the same on day two. Of the three panel members - Dr. Etienne Rassendran, Dr. Michael Rajamathi and Dr. Stephen Titus spoke on the Concept of Autonomy, Challenges of Autonomy and Opportunities in Autonomy respectively. Dr. Mohana Das, along with the other three panel members answered questions of the parents. On day two, panel members - Dr. Cheriyan Alexander, Dr. Michael Rajamathi and Dr. Subhashini M spoke on the Concept of Autonomy, Challenges of Autonomy and Opportunities in Autonomy respectively and they also took queries from the audience along with the COE – Dr. Mohana Das.

Dr. Rameela Shekar a practising Child and Adolescent Mental Health Professional, who is currently the Dean of the PG Department at Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore was our invited guest speaker. She enlightened the audience on Parenting of Degree Students. She spoke on the art of parenting at length and encouraged them to be a motivating parent. She struck a chord with every person in the audience with her candid nature and her enterprising and engaging talk.

Under the able guidance of Lt. Akshay Mandlik, the college dance team brought much life and energy to the ambience in the auditorium by their enthralling dance performance.

The executive Committee member of the Parent Council, Dr. Aruna Newton is Associate Vice-President Global Head – Diversity, Inclusion, Sustainability, Governance and Reporting, Infosys. A very enthusiastic speaker, Ms. Aruna spoke on parenting adolescents and explained “How the parents can contribute to the Parents' Council”. She encouraged and urged the parents to be a part of the Parents' Council.

Rev. Fr. Brian Pereira SJ, the Rector of the college highlighted the pillars of Jesuit education. The future developmental plans of the college were presented to the parents. He also made an appeal to all parents to become collaborators in any which way possible and to be our companion in making St. Joseph's a bigger and a better place.

The formal programme concluded with the National Anthem on both days.

The parents joined us for lunch and they interacted with the management and staff. Many parents registered themselves as a part of the Parents' Council. Also, many parents responded to the appeal made by Fr. Brian Pereira SJ with an overwhelming response. Overall, it was a fruitful and enriching experience for the parents, management, staff and all members of the Parents' Council.