

St.Xavier's Institute of Education

Faith Formation

Academic Year 2017-18

- Shweta Carneiro

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. ...

On the pleasant morning of 11th January 2018, the students of St. Xavier's Institute of Education could be seen trickling into the premises of Holy Family Church, Chakala. St. Xavier's Institute of Education had organized a Faith Formation Programme for the students. One could see happy faces all around clearly enjoying the break from regular lectures.

Being a catholic institution, SXIE aims not only towards academic and professional growth, but also the spiritual growth of its students. The Faith Formation Programme was a step towards this. This session was organized by Dr. Vini Sebastian, Dr. Elvina Pereira and Dr. Bijoy Thomas.

The session was organized in the retreat center Vinayala. There were four speakers: Fr. John Rose, Fr. Francis Fernandes, Fr. Charles Rodrigues and Fr. John Rose. The day begin with delicious breakfast at 9.45 a.m. The first session was given by Fr. John Rose and it was based on understanding what faith is and how to achieve spiritual growth and value based leadership. Father shared the secret of success of the 450 year old Company of Jesus started by Ignatius Loyola i.e. EXAMEN – Examining the conscience. The second session, given by Fr. Francis Fernandes, was based on the difference between information and knowledge. He emphasized the importance of concentrating on how the students become in future rather than only on what they become. The third session was conducted by Fr. Charles Rodrigues. He spoke about the sentence upon which the ideology of Jesuits is based.

Human beings are created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord, and by this means, to save themselves.

In this quote, father stressed upon the importance of different words in our life. He said that for the Jesuits, the most important word from this quote is 'to' which signifies 'purpose' in life. For future teachers, Fr. Charles Rodrigues gave the advice, "Chase your passion not your pension...".

After the third session, delicious aroma filled the hall of Vinayala. It was lunch time! All the students wasted no time in serving themselves. To go with the lunch were small *aavlas* freshly plucked from the garden by the students! After having a satisfying lunch, it was time for the fourth session. It was conducted by Fr. John Cyriac. He spoke about teaching as a vocation. He said, teaching should not be considered as just another job. It should make a difference to the society. To conclude the session, Fr. Charles Rodrigues celebrated a mass.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience! The center is surrounded with trees which creates a peaceful ambience. The session was a welcome break from the monotony of college.

