

NEWS FLASH

'STUDENT LEADERSHIP'

The Student Council workshop titled 'Student Leadership', held for our Student Council members from the six Kolkata Loreto schools was organized by the Education Office on the 10th June 2025 at Loreto House, Mary Ward Hall.



The day began with active support from the Loreto House student Council members, their teachers, staff and Mrs Bagchi. Fr Sacaria Joseph was the resource person for the day. With 189 members and six coordinators, the session commenced at 9:00 am with a touching prayer service by Loreto House which was followed by the welcome address and an introduction of the Resource person.



Father Shaju's approach was widely different and this in the recent times was the first such venture undertaken. Instead of using the visual media, he focused on story-telling. That approach was much appreciated by the student audience and livened them up. True to his forte, he creatively encouraged them to listen to his stories, analyse and then apply that to get the "Profiling of an ideal leader". At the end of each story was a brain-storming session with representatives from the various schools sharing their thoughts and impactful phrases. With this, the profiling that came through were :

- Vision
- Focus
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Practical sense
- Grace to be able to ward off pressure and stay calm

However, it was the students who figured it out that the tools required for the profiling were :

- ☒ Problem- solving
- ☒ Presence of mind
- ☒ Using wisdom
- ☒ Rational thinking
- ☒ Practicality
- ☒ Common sense to being put to best use
- ☒ The no -panic zone



Before the close of the session, Fr Sacaria asked the students what they would take back and question themselves on . It was interesting to see how eager these student leaders were to share their concepts and thought- processes, With clarity the summed up to project that they would:

- o Envision a vision
- o Have the ability / potential to transform that vision to reality
- o Have a mindset to work
- o Possess the tenacity to hold on and get work done till the end
- o Not compromise with virtues such as honesty, integrity and self-respect
- o Adopt a practical approach

With pre-dominant thoughts on : Do I make a mess of my common sense and wisdom ; my ethical sense and do I explore , the students were guarded in their views and left the workshop searching for the answers to these questions .



While summing up, Fr Shaju made it quite clear that 75% of a leader is the profiling whereas the remaining 25% is what you build along in the journey.

What was remarkable is the Vote of Thanks, proposed by the Head Girl of Loreto Day School Bowbazar where she beautifully touched upon their thought- provoking perceptions . With a representative from each school acknowledging the session, it was a heart warming gesture to see them thanking father with the promise that they would use these take-aways when they go back to their schools.

At the closing of the three hour session, the refreshment boxes from the Kolkata Mary ward Social Centre was handed over to each member who was present there. It was satisfying to note that students mingled with one another during the stretch- break and during the refreshment time.

