

Jesuit Alumni Association of India  
Central Zone  
BNR Chanakya Hotel, Ranchi  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2013

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**WELCOME ADDRESS:** - Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, S.J.

Principal, St. Xavier's School, Ranchi

Rev. Fr. Alex Ekka, Director, XISS, the key note speaker,  
The officer bearers of Jesuits Alumni Association of India, Central Zone namely  
Mr. Pratim Banerjee, President; Mr. Sudhir Uggal, Secretary; Mr. Ronald D'Costa,  
Treasurer and other valued members,  
Respected Coordinators of different provinces of Central Zone  
Respected Principals of our esteemed educational institutes  
Our cherished alumni members from our various institutions, and  
Esteemed Organizers of this Zonal Meet, Doranda Old Xaverians.

It is a rare and amazing privilege to welcome you all. I feel proud to greet such an extraordinary and august assembly of eminent personalities in the beautiful capital city Ranchi. We are here as the sons of that great father who wanted to see a world with everyone working for the greater glory of God. We are great contributors in the realization of this eternal mission that our founding father saint Ignatius of Loyola left behind as a marvelous heritage.

The Jesuit mission in education began in 1548, when the people of Messina, Sicily, asked St. Ignatius of Loyola to build a school for their children, the Collegio di San Nicolo. It is almost 465 years now and the Society of Jesus operates the largest international educational network the world has ever seen.

From the earliest period, a Jesuit education has been characterized by "cura personalis" or "care of the whole person." In every Jesuit institute, you'll find an educational environment that is person centered, attuned to the unique talents of each student, and attentive to the needs of the whole person - mind, body and spirit. The heart of Jesuit education is the belief that it is of the utmost importance for everyone to attain personal freedom through the development of their intellectual and moral capacities, so that they will be free to pursue what they have a desire to achieve.

We live in a corporate world today and hence, networking of millions of students who graduate from our esteemed institutions is but the need of the hour. If we want to get our values into the veins and mainstream of our society, we will have to create a better and stronger platform. Our coming together from time to time at regular intervals is a great tradition in this regard.

The world is experiencing the onset of so many ideologies and the rushes of ultra modern technological advancements. The discovery of today becomes the subject matter of history tomorrow. We are constantly faced with the undreamed of changes. However, we cannot just sit laidback and be dumb onlookers. The world does not identify with the passive spectators. Rather it just exterminates those who do not fit into the scheme. It would not be an exaggeration to mention here that the smarter we try to be; the more challenging our life seems to be.

Hence, we, as the priceless seeds of Jesuit value system, possess the most invaluable vitality to become an eternal tree. Yes, we are the various branches, leaves and fruits of this ever-growing tree. Since generation we have been feeding upon the hope and perpetual light of getting the ultimate and everlasting answer to the concerns of our world today.

Making a difference is no mean task by any standard. Every day we hear of people and individuals trying to create a different and a better world. Some sit on dharnas while others use the cyber world to spread their perspectives in this regard. However, it is a well known fact to all of us that nothing moves if one does not start from the scratch. Leadership should start right from the core of the heart before it touches the others. Jesuit system is trying to do just that. We as leaders of various groups in the Jesuit value system are already achieving wonders and it is expected of us that we connect with the larger and main lot to improve upon the dismal thoughts and actions ravaging our beautiful life.

Life is the best part of God's creation. It is the core of everything in the world. You and I are living the best part of the creation. Each and everything in our world moves because of it and we are here because we want to move ourselves to better heights of life. So it becomes our natural duty to respect it and work for its eternalness. By becoming pro-active and pro-life we can attain the fruits of vision that we dream every moment in various capacities.

We can move forward with this outlook only when we have personal reasons to be together. Our coming together must become most innate and instinctive that we might be one body with various organs wanting to live a dignified life. Moreover, our convergence should prove to be the life-blood of millions of people associated with us in various places in the country.

I would like to heartily thank one and all for having come with this revelation in one's respective life. The day is certainly going to be eventful leading up to the brighter side of our life as Jesuits and its integral cooperators.

Let us open ourselves to the day's angels who are going to guide us throughout to recognize our strengths and help us conquer over our challenges.