

## Report of Religious Meet II

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### Celebrating Consecrated Life

*Two Roads diverged in the wood  
I - I chose the less travelled.  
And that made all the difference.*

*Robert Frost (The Road not taken)*

One day seminar on “Celebrating Consecrated Life” was conducted for all religious, priests and seminarians who are studying at Loyola College on 8<sup>th</sup>, February, 2015 from 9.45 a.m till 6.00 p.m. Nearly 200 people participated in the seminar. The seminar started at 9:45 am with an invocation song “Bind us together Lord” sung by all participants. Fr. M. S. Jacob, SJ gave the dynamics of the seminar - a call from the Pope Francis, to look into our own selves introspectively. Then Dr. S. Arulmozhi, the Coordinator welcomed the officials of the college, all the dignitaries on the dais and also the gathering of all seminarians and religious who promptly responded to the invitation in spite of their busy schedule being Sunday.



*Dr. S. Arulmozhi welcomes the gathering*



*Fr. Principal addresses the gathering*

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Fr. G. Joseph Antony Samy, SJ, our beloved Principal addressed the gathering. He challenged the religious and seminary students how effectively and committedly we need to live out our own vows in the campus among the students community and how we can show them the real love through our own words and deeds. How we can identify the real students and help them come up in life.



*Fr. Secretary & Fr. Principal being honoured*

Fr. Secretary in his address gave the salient features of the papal encyclical on consecrated life. How we need to develop the joy of living our consecrated life in a meaningful way. Consecrated people should be first and foremost joyful people. As pope invites all the consecrated people saying, wherever consecrated people are there, there is joy and always joy. Hence all of us need to possess this joy and hope that would cloud our hearts all the time. After the coffee break, Fr. Jerry Rosario kept the gathering spell bound with his talk.

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Fr. Jerry Rosario, SJ, being a dynamic and simple personality, delivered a thought provoking inputs on consecrated life elucidating the reasons for pope's declaration of this year as "Year of Consecrated Life".



*Dr. Mary Swornambal welcomes the Chief Guest Dr. Jerry Rosario with bouquet.*

He said that religious life is really difficult and challenging amidst consumerism, modernism and he also said consecrated life suffers from 3'P's

- P - Power
- P – Prestige and
- P – Position

He invited all of us how we need to become the consecrated people of conscience and compassion citing life of the pope as an example – how his own simplicity, humility, poverty and charity inspire the entire world. Then there was a lunch break.

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### *The talk by Fr. Jerry Rosario*

After that, there was a panel discussion moderated by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel (AICUF Chaplin). The panelists Dr. Bernard D'Sami and Sr. Valarmathi, ICM spoke culling out a lot of examples from their own experiences in their respective fields.

Dr. Bernard D'Sami called on us how we need to live out our own commitment in the context of Globalization, Internationalization and migration of the poor and refugees. Sr. Valarmathi, ICM invited all of us to reflect on the theme how we need to accompany the domestic workers, especially the vulnerable girls who are physically abused by the house owners. How we need to show the light of life to them as women religious. Then all were divided into 10 groups and each group was given a question to reflect and present the report at the general session.

The questions for the Group discussion are the following

1. Are we basically happy to pursue this life of consecration? If Yes, What are the factors, events, and people instrumental in giving joy to our consecrated life?
2. How does your prayer life (both personal and community) help in finding fulfillment in your consecrated life?

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3. Worldly ambitions, manipulations for achieving power, desire for accumulation of gadgets.. etc. What does the vow of poverty mean to me?
4. Physician heals thyself .... Gap between preaching and practice , credibility etc
5. How do I get out of my complacency?
6. Do we feel the restlessness of love? Do we believe in love for God and for others? Or are we unconcerned by this?
7. How do we live our consecrated lives as edifying people?
8. Are we anxious about the future? What are our pre occupations? Are we able to live in the presence here and now?
9. What are things that block us from acting as other centered people?
10. Are we able to read the sign of the times and make our consecrated life relevant?

All felt it as a fruitful exercise. At the end, Fr. Emma and Fr. Jerry wrapped up the general session. After which we had a tea break followed by Eucharistic celebration presided over by our Rector Fr. Francis Jayapathy, SJ who based on three 'P's invited all of us to pray and pioneer in reaching out the unreached and including the excluded through our consecrated life.



Audience

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Finally Ms. Jeeva proposed vote of thanks extolling all the efforts of LSSS.