

# Association of Catholic Educational Institutions in U.P. & U.K.



**He is not here  
He has Risen!**

~ Luke 24:6



**News  
Letter**

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## Message by the President



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On 20th April we will celebrate Easter. Alleluia! Christ is risen! And so, with St. Augustine we say: "We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song. "In the Apostles' Creed we recite: "On the third day he (Jesus) rose again from the dead". The Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of Christian faith. St affirms emphatically: "The faith of Christians is the resurrection of Christ. It is no great thing to believe that Jesus died; even the pagans believe this, everyone believes it. The truly great thing is to believe that he is risen." If we do not believe in the resurrection of Christ, our faith is in vain. Belief in the death and resurrection of Christ is the foundation of Christianity.



Perhaps the oldest written testimony to the Resurrection of Christ comes from St. Paul: "For I delivered to you first of all that what I also received: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and that he was seen by Cephas, and after that by the eleven. Then he was seen by more than 500 brothers at once, of whom many are still with us and some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen by James, then by all the apostles. And last of all, he was seen also by me, as by one born out of due time." (1Cor. 15: 3-8)

The core of the testimony whether of Paul, the Evangelists or Mary Magdalene is the same: The Lord is risen and was seen alive. While the empty tomb bears witness to the fact of resurrection, the appearances of the Risen Lord to various people as mentioned in the New Testament are the decisive facts. Mary Magdalene was the first one to see the Risen Lord and ran to announce to his disciples "I have seen the Lord" (Jn. 20:18).

Affirming firmly the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus, Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa asks "If Jesus were not risen, and did not appear to his disciples to what purpose would it have been to face persecution and death for him? What material benefit would they have drawn from it?" Furthermore, Cardinal Cantalamessa reminds us: "It is not enough to observe matters historically. It is necessary to see the Risen Christ, and this is something history cannot do; only faith can."

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But it is not just the commemoration of a 2000-year-old historical event. The Risen Lord is alive and is seen and experienced even today. The good news of Easter is that we do not have to wait until we die to share in the power of the resurrection, for Jesus said: "Truly, truly, I say to you whoever believes has eternal life. ... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (Jn. 6: 47, 54). Therefore, it is not just a future possibility, but a present reality. What begins here on earth because of one's faith and divine grace is experienced in its fullness in heaven. What is experienced sacramentally here on earth will be experienced in reality in heaven. What is experienced only partially here will be experienced in its fullness in heaven.

Explaining what Easter is all about Mark Link puts it so well: "Easter invites us to let Jesus helps us trust once again, after we have had our trust betrayed. It invites us to let Jesus help us love once again, after we have had our love rejected. It invites us to let Jesus help us hope once again, after we have had our hope destroyed to pieces. It invites us to let Jesus help us pick up the broken pieces and start over again after we were ready to give up. This is what Easter is all about. It's the good news that the risen Jesus is in our midst right now..... It's the good news that nothing can destroy us any more – not pain, not sorrow, not rejection, not sin, not even death itself." That is what Easter is all about. That is the power of resurrection. Let us experience it. Let us rejoice in it. Alleluia!

I wish all of you all the blessings of the Risen Lord especially, hope, love, joy peace and life in the Risen Lord. Happy Easter!

Yours in the Risen Lord,

~ † **Gerald John Mathias**  
Bishop of Lucknow

## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Readers,

As we welcome the month of April, we also mark the beginning of a new academic year. This is a time of fresh starts, new opportunities, and renewed enthusiasm. Whether you're a student, teacher, or principal, this new chapter brings with it the promise of growth, learning, and discovery.

I take a moment to reflect on the outstanding achievements of our students, the tireless dedication of our teachers, and the visionary leadership of our principals.

I salute our students who have consistently demonstrated exceptional academic talent, creativity, and perseverance. From winning regional and national competitions to participating in community service projects, our students have made us proud with their achievements. Our students have also been actively involved in community service, volunteering their time and talents to support local charities and organizations.

Our teachers are the backbone of our educational community, and their dedication to their students and their craft is truly inspiring. From developing innovative lesson plans to providing individualized support, our teachers go above and beyond to ensure that every student succeeds. Some of them are recognized for their outstanding teaching practices and innovative use of technology in the classroom. They have been instrumental in developing our school's Progress which has had a significant impact on student outcomes.

Our principals provide visionary leadership and guidance, shaping the direction of our educational community and ensuring that every student receives a world-class education. They have been instrumental in implementing program which has improved student engagement and academic achievement. They have fostered strong partnerships with local businesses and organizations, providing our students with valuable learning opportunities and experiences.

We are grateful for the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our students, teachers, and principals. Together, we are building a vibrant and supportive educational community that nurtures the minds, hearts, and spirits of our students.

Sending you all prayers and best wishes, ■

~ **Sr. Smitha HCM**  
Secretary ACEI in U.P. & U.K



*A special prayer that God will bless  
your Easter Day with happiness.  
And may His love be ever near  
to bless and keep you through the year.  
**A Blessed Easter !***



## DEFINITION OF “HOSPITAL” BY POPE FRANCIS

- ❖ “The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches...
- ❖ They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports...
- ❖ It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.
- ❖ A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...
- ❖ In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...
- ❖ A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...
- ❖ A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor...
- ❖ It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design. And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing.
- ❖ The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.
- ❖ A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.
- ❖ This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.
- ❖ Do not criticize your body too much.
- ❖ Do not complain excessively.
- ❖ Do not lose sleep over bills.
- ❖ Make sure to hug your loved ones.
- ❖ Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.
- ❖ Material goods must be earned by each person—do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.
- ❖ You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect...
- ❖ Listen, perfection does not exist.
- ❖ A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.
- ❖ Here, we are given an opportunity to learn.
- ❖ So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now.
- ❖ Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you.
- ❖ Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.
- ❖ Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!
- ❖ And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator.” ■



~ Pope Francis



## TRUE EDUCATION LEADS TO HIGHER DIMENSIONS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

**“Life is a journey, when we stop, things do not go right.” ~ Pope Francis**

Years ago Albert Einstein had said, “Learn from yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” In this endeavour of mine I had been questioning about many things. Now, lo and behold, I found myself standing and staring at the evening of my life. I, now realize that throughout the morning and afternoon phases of my life I was driven by the dictums of my false self, the ego. It was too huge. Then I realized there is nothing smaller in life than your ego and nothing is bigger or greater than serving the great cause of others.



Pope Francis did brilliantly express our predicament, “It is not necessary to believe in God to be a good person. In a way the traditional notion of God is outdated. One can be spiritual but not religious... Some of the best people in history did not believe in God, while some of the worst deeds were committed in His name.” Moving forward in this direction a quote from Sam Harris gives us the courage to see at ourselves as we are. Here is a quote from him, “It’s not so much religion per se, it’s false certainty that worries me, and religion just has more than its fair share of false certainty or dogmatism. I’m really concerned when I see people pretending to know things they clearly cannot know.”

In my quest for the Divine as I was constantly tossed between spirituality, science, metaphysics and religion I felt strengthened by the words of wisdom of Pope Francis who said, “In this quest to seek and find God in all things, including in education, there is still an area of uncertainty. There must be. If a person says that he met God with total certainty and is not touched by a margin of uncertainty, then this is not good.”

No one has the absolute certainty about God and His ways. However, we believe and claim that we have been given that certainty by Jesus Christ who is the Son of God. Jesus is the visible face of God. With this unwavering certainty one has to finally surrender in humility and embrace the Spirit of Jesus. It is His World in which we live. It is His Word by which we live. Until and unless you totally align with the Spirit of God and then think, act, feel and do like God, you cannot be certain about God and of His ways.

The fact is that Christianity has some fundamental views which can’t be swept under the rug. From this fundamental view arises our educational authority. All our Educational efforts unless they are centred on the person of Christ, our efforts lead to material prosperity. For an “Educational Spirituality” we have to adopt “Inner Spiritual Technology.” It is totally opposed to science based outer Technology. A glimpse of this Inner Educational Spiritual Technology, we get it in the writings of the St. Francis of Assisi, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Paul etc. But to the modern generation Artificial Intelligence, Digital world, Instagram and innumerable other soft digital technologies are sufficient. For them the old Spiritual, Inner Technology of prayer, Meditation, Visualization, Silence and Contemplation are out dated technologies. All problems of men arise from his inability to sit quiet and know that “God is God” (not man is God). Man needs to be practicing stillness to know his inner world.

Here is a quote from Pope Benedict XVI from his homily: “How many winds of doctrine we have known in recent decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking... The small boat of thought of many Christians has often been tossed about by these waves – thrown from one extreme to the other: from Marxism to liberalism, even to libertinism; from collectivism to radical individualism; from atheism to a vague religious mysticism; from agnosticism to syncretism, and so forth. Every day new sects are created and what Saint Paul says about human trickery comes true, with cunning which tries to draw those into error (cf Eph 4, 14). Having a clear faith, based on the Creed of the Church, is often labelled today as a fundamentalism. Whereas, relativism, which is letting oneself, be tossed and “swept along by every wind of teaching,” looks like the only attitude (acceptable) to today’s standards. We are moving towards a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one’s own ego and one’s own desires.”

**Source:** *Homily of Pope Benedict XVI (when Cardinal Ratzinger).* ■

~ **Fr. Lawrence Fernandes**

*Education Director, Diocese of Allahabad*

## YOUR DREAMS FOR A BETTER WORLD

*“Dream is not what you see in sleep. Dream is something which does not let you sleep.”*



Dreams have always been something fascinating to humans. They give us a clear thought of what we want to do in our lives. I have dreamt of a world full of peace, joy and harmony.

Illiteracy is the major reason of many social evils that prevail in the world today. Widespread illiteracy leads people to choose the wrong path in life giving rise to crimes, slavery and poverty. I dream of providing education to everyone, to ensure that no

one is deprived of their basic right to education. Making this world a better place to live in is a long journey and education is its first step.

Corruption means to compromise on people’s right to gain personal benefits. I dream of creating a world free from corruption where there are no social barriers between the ordinary men and people in high positions. Everyone is equal and is dedicated to his nation and the world on the whole. We should stand together to fight against corruption.

Racism is another social evil which should be eradicated. Oprah Winfrey, one of the richest women in U.S.A. faced racism because of her skin colour. Barack Obama, the former President of U.S.A. also faced racism while assuming the office, but soon he gained the trust of all countrymen and was re-elected as the President. We should remember that it is not our race but our actions that define us.

Terrorism is a global problem. It causes destruction of both life and wealth. Many organizations have come up to eliminate this malicious evil. We should also stand together to fight this threat of terrorism. I therefore dream of a world where everyone is united and leads a happy life without any fear or discrimination. I believe that these small steps taken by us will surely transform our lives. ■

~ **Manvi Saini**

*St. Mary’s Convent High School, Kanpur*

## FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

When we reflect upon the present scenario 'a paradigm shift' has taken place in the world during the last 10 years resulting in the formation of a new world called the VIRTUAL WORLD today we live in a world created by the latest development in technology – the mobile technology, the information technology and social networking sites. We live in this changing world which has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience, a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.

We know more about war than we know about peace, more about destruction than about living.



Today's children are born with computer mouse in their hands. Before a child is one year old, he begins to hold mobile to his ear. Even KG children know to browse through Google. Internet, Computer and smart Phones are at their disposal every time. As many as 60% of them are addicted to WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Reels and Facebook. This has become worse since COVID - affected the world. They spend long hours in chanting and watching unnecessary videos. Children explore everything at a tender age without knowing the dangers hidden in them. Gradually they wish to experiment what they have seen in the internet and videos. Many parents, who do not know how to use these gadgets, provide them to their children because of their passion to make them smart overnight. We have noticed in the children that they spend too lavishly, laugh too little, drive too fast, stay up too late, get up too tired, do too little, watch TV too often and reflect too seldom that is the reason they find it difficult to face the challenges of their lives.

The greatest challenge the parents, guardians and the teachers face today is to unravel the gems hidden in each child and enable him/her to train them to become an instrument to profound social transformation. This is possible only when we teach them the values of life. Once they inculcate the values, no power on earth can change their attitude. Here below we propose a few reflective guidelines on how to educate our children in this complex situation of virtual world.

- Fix time and limit the use of electronic devices and social media.
- At least one hour before sleeping, let us not expose our children to harmful radiation from the electronics devices, in order to have a sound sleep at night.
- Encourage children to use electronic devices such as desktop, laptop, I-Pad and others in public areas i.e. common sitting areas and monitor them regularly.
- All members entrusted with the care of the children encourage them to do activities interacting with them and develop a strong bond so that they look up to parents and guardians for support and to solve issues rather than using virtual world.
- Encourage physical games rather than online games.
- Let the motto/trust for the year 2025 – 2026 would be "FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY." Let us work together to enable our children, to dream of a better future, a better society, a better country and a better world and BETTER PARENTS. ■

***A Joint effort by:***

**~ Rev. Fr. Archibald D'Silva, Principal, St. Aloysius' High School  
and Fr. Lawrence Fernandes**

## A FRAGMENT OF TRANQUILLITY - THE PURSUIT OF WORLD PEACE



In a world where conflict and violence dominate the headlines, the idea of achieving peace may seem like a distant dream. Yet, it's a dream worth striving for. World peace is not just a Utopian ideal, but a necessary step towards creating a harmonious and prosperous global community.

Imagine a world where nations and individuals live in harmony. Where resources are shared equitably and where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. So how can we attain a fragment of tranquillity in our world? The answer lies in recognizing that peace is a journey, not a destination. It requires effort, patience and understanding of every individual. We must foster a culture of empathy, tolerance & respect for diversity, where we listen to other's stories, share our experiences and celebrate our differences. To achieve this, we must address the root causes of conflict: poverty, inequality and discrimination.

We must work towards economic development, social justice and human rights, ensuring that everyone has access to basic needs like food, water, shelter, education and healthcare. This requires a commitment to sustainable development, fair trade and social welfare. Dialogue and diplomacy are also crucial in resolving conflicts peacefully. We must encourage open communication, negotiation, and mediation, supporting international organizations and initiatives that work towards peace and reconciliation. This means engaging in difficult conversations, seeking common ground, and finding creative solutions to complex problems. Furthermore, we must recognize the importance of education and cultural exchange in promoting peace. By learning about different cultures and perspectives, we can break down stereotypes and build bridges of understanding.

In conclusion, attaining a fragment of tranquillity in our world requires a collective effort. By working together, we can build a culture of peace, address the root causes of conflict, promote dialogue and diplomacy and cultivate inner peace. It's a journey that requires patience, persistence, and dedication, but its reward is a world where everyone can live in harmony, free from violence and fear. ■

~ **Niharika Singh** (XII-D)

St. Mary's Inter College, Allahabad

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*"Peace begins within; cultivate it in your heart to spread it across the world."*



## Giving Hands, Grateful Hearts

Every twelve years, the sacred tide of devotion sweeps through the heart of India, as millions of pilgrims' journey to the Maha Kumbh Mela — a testament to unwavering faith and spiritual longing. This year, as waves of devotees passed by St. Mary's School, they discovered not just a pathway, but a sanctuary of care and compassion.

With humility and grace, St. Mary's opened its doors to the pilgrims, embodying the true spirit of service. Under the thoughtful guidance of our dedicated sisters and supportive teachers, a seamless network of kindness unfolded.

For hours, and across countless kilometers, these silent guardians of goodwill ensured that no pilgrim went thirsty or hungry. Volunteers distributed food and water, their hands moving with purpose and their smiles offering weary travelers a glimmer of warmth amid their arduous journey.



This was more than an act of charity; it was a living lesson in humanity. The school grounds became a beacon of hope, resonating with the footsteps of those walking towards divinity, supported by souls who found their form of prayer in service.

This collective effort served as a reminder that faith is not solely practiced in rituals but also in the love we extend to one another. SMC did not just witness the pilgrimage — it became an integral part of it, proving that even the smallest gestures of care can connect us to the divine.

As the pilgrims moved forward, strengthened by the support they received, they carried not only sustenance but also the enduring message that kindness is a sacred duty. For St. Mary's, this was one of the most profound blessings of all.

~ Sana Hashmi

Teacher

St. Mary's Convent School, Prayagraj.

## You're Invited



Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters,

I am delighted to announce that the Association of Catholic Educational Institutions in U.P. & U.K. will be hosting its Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) cum Seminar on 27 - 28 August 2025, at Christ King College Jhansi.

**Key Highlights:** • **Dates :** 27 - 28 August 2025. • **Time :** 8:00 a.m. onwards • **Venue :** Christ the King College, Jhansi  
• **Revised Registration Fee :** Rs. 3000/-- • **Revised Annual Membership Fee :** Rs. 2000/- (if any due, please update)  
• **Expert Speaker:** Dr. Rev. Fr. John Ravi SJ. (Secretary, JEA, South Asia)

### Topic for the Seminar:

“The challenges and possibilities in the mission of education in the emerging Indian socio-political context and the strategies to equip Catholic school leaders with skills to lead effectively and to respond to these challenges courageously.”

### Registration and Payment:

• NEFT/RTGS payment in favour of "Association of Catholic Educational Institutions in U.P." • Payable at South Indian Bank, Gomti Nagar Branch, Lucknow. • On-spot payments are not feasible. • Participation form available on ACEI website: [www.aceiup.in](http://www.aceiup.in). • Dead line for registration: 22 August, 2025 • Please inform us of your arrival in advance to facilitate arrangements. • Accommodation provided for those who register on time.

**Contact Information:** Secretary, ACEI **Mobile: 9696394171 (WhatsApp)**

We look forward to your participation and wholehearted cooperation!

**Alert! Dead line ... 22 August 2025.**

With warm regards,

~ Sr. Smitha

Secretary ACEI



## Association of Catholic Educational Institutions in U.P. & U.K.

Post Box No.-70, Bishop's House, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001



### Annual Competitions Among 600+ Member Schools - 2025

Do you think your ideas can change the world?  
Now is your time to shine!

Hello... Students Get  
Ready for the Ultimate  
Showdown

Dear Father/ Brother/ Sister,

I am happy to announce that our annual competitions are open to students from 600+ member schools! This is a golden opportunity for students to showcase their talents, compete with their peers, and gain valuable experience. I look forward for your whole hearted cooperation.

Kindly send the best two entries from your school by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Read the directions before sending the entries.

1. Students should write only their name and class on the paper.
2. Neither the name of the School nor seal to be put on the paper.
3. Principals are requested to send the list of participants with their name and class on the School pad with a covering letter.
4. Conduct the competitions under your supervision on any day suitable to you and send only the BEST TWO ENTRIES to the Association Office.
5. Make sure that it is students own hand writing
6. Only the member schools will participate in the competition.
7. Quote your School membership number in your covering letter. (given on the right hand corner of the address )

Sr. Smitha, HCM

Secretary – ACEI

### Essay Writing Competition



#### Competitions Categories:

- **Group - 1 Classes IX - XII**

**Topic: 'The Importance of Free Speech in Democratic Society'**

- **Rules**

- The essay should not exceed more than 350 words.
- Should be original and written in student's own handwriting legibly.
- Hindi Medium students can write the essay in Hindi and English Medium in English.
- Make sure it is original and not copied from any source.

- **Group - 2 Classes VI - VIII**

**Topic: 'Social Media has done irreparable damage to Human Relationships'**

- **Rules**

- The essay should not exceed more than 300 words.
- Should be written in student's own handwriting legibly.
- Make sure it is original and not copied from any source.

▪ **Deadline Alert: 15th May 2025**

- **Exciting Prizes and Recognition for Winners.**
- **Attractive Certificates for all participants**

### Art Competition



- **Group - 1 Classes IX - XII**

**Topic: 'Nature at its Best'**

- **Rules**

- Use 12 X 9" Size Drawing sheet (thick).
- Use Water Colour

- **Group - 2 Classes VI - VIII**

**Topic: 'Nature at its Best'**

- **Rules**

- Use 12 X 9" Size Drawing sheet (thick).
- Use Water Colour

- **Group - 3 Classes III - V**

**Topic: 'Your Dream School'**

- **Rules**

- Use 12 X 9" Size Drawing sheet (thick).
- Use Crayons / Colour Pencil

▪ **Deadline Alert: 15th May 2025**

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