

**Rev Dr Francis P. Xavier SJ**  
Rector | Vice President



## **Loyola College Society, Chennai.**

Dear Staff and Students,

Greetings. The second wave of Coronavirus is literally destabilizing us. The shortage of oxygen and vaccine is causing concern; and the number of the dead, according to the media, is too numerous to handle. There seems to be breakdown of medical and administrative machinery in helping the affected and the needy. We are confused and we are losing hope.

I think of a similar instance that took place about 20 centuries ago. A group of friends were sailing on a little boat – There raged a storm. Though the friends were experts in sailing for their daily routine of fishing, they became frightened as death was staring into their eyes. But one of the group was fast asleep on the boat. He was woken up as the tension grew. And he brought in calm outside and peace inside of his friends. It was Jesus of Nazareth (Mk 4:38-40). The Lord of Creation is sailing with us, though apparently silent!

The eye of the storm is always calm – And God would be there in the calmness amidst the crisis. We need to turn to the silent God who is the ultimate refuge and hope for us all. As Ignatius would say: After doing everything as though everything depended on you, turn to God as though everything would depend on God. After one year of all our desperate efforts, we feel our hopelessness and helplessness increase. Let us turn to gods we believe in and trust in and at the same time, without getting discouraged or disappointed, let us continue to do our best to follow the SoPs and to build up our immunity.

A few of our staff members and their family members have been affected – Let us face the grim situation together. The second wave of coronavirus seems to target the youth. It is strange but we see it is true. Let us help the young members in our family or neighbourhood not to lose heart and let us instill in them courage and confidence to go ahead. A few medical personnel view the situation in a positive note, namely many getting infected might bring in community immunity. Let us imbibe this optimism.

The members of the Jesuit Community in Loyola Campus (Chennai) express their solidarity with you, especially with the affected. As we, Jesuit Priests, go to the altar of God, we take along your concern, worries, and needs. Let us build up first our inner immunity, namely All-will-be-well attitude and then let us trust in God who would see us through this crisis. Of course, we need to take all precautions to stay safe and healthy. Let us hope that the crisis would be soon over and we would once again come together and walk along the road of life with joy and happiness. My best wishes and prayers go with each one of you. See you soon in the campus.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis P. Xavier'.

Francis P Xavier, SJ  
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