

AICUF Orientation (31st July 2025)

On **31st July 2025**, the AICUF unit of Loreto College attended an orientation programme at **St. Xavier's College, Kolkata**, coinciding with the **Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola**, founder of the Jesuits. The day began with a solemn Mass at the chapel, highlighting values of service, faith, and compassion central to Ignatian spirituality.

The formal orientation introduced the **organizational structure, ethos, and mission of AICUF** (All India Catholic University Federation), established in 1924 at St. Xavier's College. Initially serving Christian students, AICUF has since expanded to embrace inclusivity, welcoming students from all faiths. Built on principles of faith, empathy, and social awareness, it encourages meaningful engagement with societal issues. St. Xavier's currently has two AICUF units—the Main Unit for Christian students and the Xavier's National Unit, open to all faiths—which are in the process of merging into a unified inclusive body.

Students from Loreto were placed with the **Human Rights Unit**, where the president explained its mission of promoting justice, awareness, and advocacy for marginalized communities. Emphasizing Gospel-inspired compassion, the session invited students to suggest events and campaigns, fostering collaboration. The openness of the unit highlighted AICUF's role as a transformative movement rather than just a representative body.

Additionally, the **Justice Unit leaders** introduced their work, which extends beyond human rights to include **animal rescue, welfare, and environmental justice**, reflecting AICUF's holistic approach to care for people, animals, and nature alike.

The orientation concluded by underscoring the value of **faith-based activism, inter-college collaboration, and inclusive engagement**. It inspired Loreto students to reflect on their roles as change-makers and the impact of small, collective efforts in building a just society. Overall, the event laid a strong foundation for deeper involvement in future AICUF initiatives.

