

SHARED VISION: DARJEELING-NEPAL JESUIT COLLABORATORS ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, DARJEELING



Venue: SEMINAR HALL, M.R. BUILDING,
DATE: 24-25th of July, 2025

The shared Vision was organised with the following objectives and expected outcomes:

OBJECTIVES

1. To Provide structured formation programs on Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit history.
2. To Foster mutual enrichment through shared experiences and diverse perspectives.
3. To Align collaborative efforts with the Society of Jesus' Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs).
4. To Cultivate a sense of vocation among collaborators in Jesuit institutions.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Collaborators gain a foundational understanding of the Jesuit charism, the history of Jesuit education, and its source.
2. They integrate values like *magis*, *cura personalis*, discernment etc into their daily work at St. Joseph's College.
3. Jesuits and lay collaborators develop deeper interpersonal bonds, enhancing the community's apostolic effectiveness and enriching Jesuit practices with collaborators' cultural and professional insights.
4. Collaborators view their roles as a spiritual calling, leading to sustained commitment, transformative leadership, and authentic continuation of the Jesuit mission amid demographic shifts.

Day I (24/7/2025) (Number of Participants: 75)

Prayer:

The program commenced with a prayer by Fr. John Kennedy, SJ, underscoring the centrality of spirituality in the *Shared Vision* initiative. Beginning with prayer set a reflective and reverent tone, inviting participants to consciously place themselves in the presence of God

and to recognize the program as more than a professional exercise, but as a shared spiritual journey. Rooted in the Ignatian tradition, the prayer fostered interior openness, attentiveness, and discernment, enabling participants to engage more deeply with the sessions that followed. It also served to unite Jesuits and lay collaborators in a common purpose, reinforcing the understanding that their collaboration is grounded in a shared mission and guided by God's Spirit. By anchoring the program in prayer, participants were reminded that their work in Jesuit institutions is a form of service and vocation, aligned with the values of *cura personalis*, *magis*, and the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus.

Warmup Session- Introduction to Shared Vision - Fr. John Kennedy, SJ

The warm-up session, titled *Introduction to Shared Vision*, was conducted by Fr. John Kennedy, S.J., who articulated the significance and purpose of the *Shared Vision* program within the Jesuit apostolic framework. He emphasized that *Shared Vision* is an invitation for Jesuits and lay collaborators to journey together in a spirit of partnership, rooted in Ignatian spirituality and shared responsibility for mission. Fr. Kennedy highlighted the need for a common understanding of vision and values to ensure coherence in institutional life, especially in the context of evolving educational and demographic realities. Through his reflections, he underscored that authentic collaboration emerges from mutual trust, openness, and a deep sense of vocation, enabling collaborators to actively participate in the ongoing mission of the Society of Jesus.

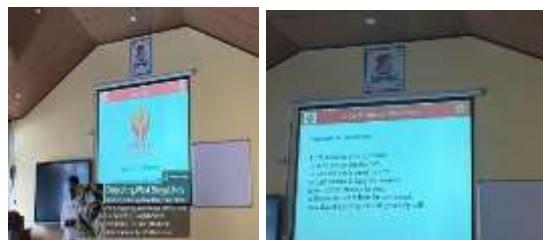
Session-I: Introduction to Christianity, Catholicism, Fusion of Cultural and Interreligious Traditions - Fr. Donatus Kujur, SJ

Session I was conducted by Fr. Donatus Kujur, S.J., who delivered an insightful presentation titled "*Introduction to Christianity, Catholicism, and the Fusion of Cultural and Interreligious Traditions.*" In his session, he emphasized that Jesuit education is firmly grounded in Christian faith and Catholic tradition, while remaining open and responsive to diverse cultural and interreligious contexts. He highlighted how the Jesuit approach integrates faith, culture, and dialogue, fostering respect for pluralism and promoting harmony across religious and cultural boundaries. He underscored that these foundational values continue to shape Jesuit institutions worldwide, guiding them in their mission to form individuals committed to justice, service, and the holistic development of the human person.



Session-II: Introduction to life of St. Ignatius and Ignation Worldview- Fr. John Kennedy, SJ

Session II, titled “*Introduction to the Life of St. Ignatius and the Ignatian Worldview*,” was conducted by Fr. John Kennedy, S.J., who offered a reflective and engaging exploration of the spiritual journey of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the enduring vision that emerged from it. He traced Ignatius’ transformation from a worldly seeker to a pilgrim guided by discernment, emphasizing how personal experience, reflection, and openness to God’s grace shaped the Ignatian worldview. Fr. Kennedy highlighted key Ignatian principles such as finding God in all things, discernment of spirits, and commitment to mission, underscoring their relevance for contemporary collaborators in Jesuit institutions. The session helped participants appreciate how Ignatius’ life continues to inspire a dynamic spirituality that informs Jesuit education and collaborative ministry today.



Session-III: History, Origin, Growth of the Society & Jesuit Education- Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus, SJ

Session III, titled “*History, Origin, and Growth of the Society of Jesus and Jesuit Education*,” was conducted by Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus, S.J., who presented a comprehensive overview of the founding of the Society of Jesus and its remarkable expansion across the world. He traced the origins of the Jesuit order from its inception under St. Ignatius of Loyola to its growth as a global missionary and educational enterprise. Fr. Thanislaus highlighted how Jesuit missions adapted creatively to diverse cultural contexts while remaining faithful to Ignatian spirituality and educational ideals. His presentation underscored the enduring impact of Jesuit education in shaping intellectually competent, socially responsible, and spiritually grounded individuals worldwide.



Session-IV: Characteristics of Jesuit Education and Global Identifiers (12 Characteristics of Jesuit Education) Fr. Daniel Bara, SJ

Fr. Daniel Bara, S.J. delivered an engaging presentation on “*The 12 Characteristics of Jesuit Education*,” highlighting the distinctive features that define the Jesuit educational tradition. He emphasized Jesuit education’s commitment to the holistic development of the person,

integrating intellectual growth with moral, spiritual, and emotional formation. Fr. Bara underscored the importance of critical thinking, reflection, and discernment in the learning process, encouraging participants to move beyond mere acquisition of knowledge toward wisdom and responsible action. He also highlighted service to others and the promotion of justice as central to Jesuit education, calling collaborators to actively contribute to the formation of compassionate, socially conscious individuals.



Day 2 (25/7/2025) (Number of Participants: 71)

Session-V: Ignation Pedagogy (Ignation Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP) -Fr. Daniel Bara, SJ

Fr. Daniel Bara, S.J. presented a session on the *Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP)*, elucidating its relevance within the Jesuit educational framework. He explained the five interconnected elements of the paradigm - context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation—and highlighted how they guide teaching and learning toward transformative education. Fr. Bara emphasized that the IPP places the learner at the center, encouraging critical engagement, personal reflection, and responsible action rooted in values. The session underscored how the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm fosters holistic formation, enabling educators and collaborators to nurture intellectually competent, socially responsible, and compassionate individuals.



Session-VI : Jesuit-Lay Collaboration and Partners in Mission - Mr. Subarna K. L.

Mr. Subarna K. L. conducted a session on “*Jesuit–Lay Collaboration and Partners in Mission*,” highlighting the growing and indispensable role of lay collaborators in carrying forward the Jesuit educational mission. He emphasized that contemporary Jesuit institutions thrive on shared responsibility, mutual trust, and collaborative leadership between Jesuits and laypersons. The session underscored the shift from a Jesuit-centered model to a mission-centered approach, where all collaborators are called to actively participate in sustaining and advancing the Ignatian vision. Through his insights, participants were encouraged to recognize their roles as partners in mission, contributing their professional expertise and personal commitment to the continued vitality of Jesuit education.



Session-VII: Jesuit Jargons - Dr. Pavanbir Kour

Dr. Pavanbir Kour conducted an engaging session titled “*Jesuit Jargons*,” which introduced participants to key Jesuit terms and concepts, making the rich Jesuit tradition more accessible to lay faculty and students. The session highlighted how understanding these terms can enhance both classroom engagement and daily life, allowing collaborators to integrate Ignatian values such as *cura personalis*, *magis*, and discernment into their personal and professional practices. By demystifying Jesuit language, Dr. Kour empowered participants to actively engage with Jesuit educational principles, fostering a deeper connection to the mission and ethos of Jesuit institutions.



Session- VIII: Dimensions of Discernment and Examination of Consciousness-Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus, SJ

Fr. Lawrence Thanislaus, S.J. conducted a session on “*Dimensions of Discernment and Examination of Consciousness*,” in which he explored the global development of Jesuit missions while emphasizing the vital role of spiritual discernment in everyday life. He highlighted how the Ignatian practice of examining one’s conscience fosters self-awareness, informed decision-making, and alignment with God’s will. Fr. Thanislaus underscored that discernment is not only a personal spiritual tool but also a guiding principle for professional actions, enabling collaborators to approach their responsibilities with reflection, integrity, and a sense of vocation in the service of the Jesuit mission.



Concluding Session: Sharing Feedback with Certification

The FDP effectively cultivated a collective grasp of Ignatian spirituality, the Jesuit charism, and the historical roots of Jesuit higher education, thereby strengthening the foundational commitment to the Society's apostolic mission at St. Joseph's College. Participants gained profound insights into embedding key Ignatian principles such as *magis* (striving for excellence), *cura personalis* (care for the whole person), and discernment into everyday professional duties, transforming routine tasks into purposeful practices.

Engagements with Jesuit facilitators and peer collaborators proved invaluable, nurturing a deepened sense of community, belonging, and collaborative spirit within the broader Jesuit network. Participants consistently noted that these interactions elevated their professional roles from mere obligations to authentic vocational callings.

The program sparked heightened dedication, reflective pedagogy, and alignment with Jesuit ideals, equipping educators to infuse spirituality and ethics into teaching and administration, thereby promising sustained engagement in fostering holistic, mission-driven higher education.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS