

20th May, 2020.

## Message for the faculty and support staff of St. Xavier's College

Dear Staff Members,

Now that the lockdown has been extended till at least 31st May, and with no telling how this crisis will play out, all of us are beginning to feel some uncertainty and unease, perhaps even some distress. So I want to reach out to all the professors and support staff of our college. I am deeply concerned for each one of you and for your health and well-being. As I have assured the students, I wish to assure all of you that we are all in this together as a community joined by the common bonds of mutual trust and dependence. If anyone should at any time feel the need for counselling or just someone to talk to please remember that the college counsellors are available to listen and help. I, along with the Vice-Principals, am always available by mail or phone.

But there is also an upside to all of this. I do believe that this can also be a time for reflection, to take stock, as it were, of things as they were and things as they must be. We as members of a truly noble profession have to chart new directions and reconsider and refine our roles as shapers of men and women for a better tomorrow. So this is indeed time to meditate on how we can adjust ourselves to possible new realities of the modes and methods of teaching and learning as well as the content and context of what we disseminate. I know that we have already begun to ideate and process the winds of change, and the evidence of this is the commitment and effort with which the entire teaching community has put its mind and shoulder to the task of completing syllabus online in different modes of teaching and evaluation. I take this opportunity to extend my deep thanks to all faculty for reaching out to our students with every kind of support and guidance, academic and otherwise.

My prayers and blessings are with each one of you. Together we will stand united with support and strength to each other. God bless us all.

Rev. Dominic Savio, S.J. Principal St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.