



ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) ERNAKULAM

## SPEAKER'S FORUM

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2019-20

### Teacher In-charge

1. Ms. Susan Thomas Chaly, Asst Professor, Dept of Communicative English
2. Ms. Dyuthy K Mathew, Asst Professor, Dept of Management Studies

### ACTIVITIES

#### **Shri Ramakrishan Mission Essay Competition:**

The Speaker's Forum in association with Shri Ramakrishan Mission, United Nations Information Centre organised Hurtfulness Essay Event 2019 in the college. The topic for the competition was "All Love is Expansion, all selfishness is contraction". 45 students from the college took part in the competition; the last date to submit the entries was 19 September 2019. The essay competition aimed at promoting universal peace and harmony. Ms. Rejitha Sudharshan was the coordinating member from the Mission.

#### **Toastmaster Emparch 2.0:**

Three students of St Teresa's college participated in the Toastmaster competition held on 27 October 2019 at Albertian Institute of Science and Technology. Fathima Jebin, Chitra S Nair and Anna Maria participated in the Humorous Speech Contest, Presentation Mastery and Team Tall Tales Competitions.

#### **Mother Digna Debate Competition**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Mother Digna ever rolling trophy competition held in St. Teresa's College by the AstA along with the Speaker's Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 was won by Sacred Heart's College (Christina Joshy and Jomy Thomas) and the runner up position was held jointly by Maharajas (Abhinav Shyju and Sreejith K.S) and St. Teresa's College (Lekshmi Mahesh and Krishnapriya Sunil). Best speaker was awarded to Ms. Christina Joshy from Sacred Hearts and runner up Ms. Lekshmi Mahesh from St. Teresa's College. This year the focus and highlight was on the topic "Gandhi's opposition to industrialization is justified considering the ecological degradation caused by technology".

<p><b>ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), ERNAKULAM</b></p>  <p>TOPIC: "Gandhi's opposition to industrialization is justified considering the ecological degradation caused by technology."</p> <p><b>43<sup>rd</sup> MOTHER DIGNA EVER ROLLING TROPHY INTER-COLLEGIATE DEBATE COMPETITION</b></p> <p>DATE: 19<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2020 VENUE: ARTS AUDITORIUM TIME: 9 AM</p> <p>Winning team will be awarded cash prize Of Rs 7000</p> <p>ORGANISED BY: Speakers' Forum &amp; Association of St. Teresa's Alumnae (AstA)</p>	<p><b>MOTHER DIGNA DEBATE COMPETITION</b></p>  <p>Mother Digna, the former principal of St Teresa's College (1924-76 and 1972-76) was instrumental in transforming the college into a reputed academic institution and a much sought after destination for higher education for women. Sabeel, Juliana (Mother Digna) was born to T.S. Sundaram and Cecilia as their 4<sup>th</sup> child in Madras on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Mother Digna's services to our institution are invaluable. Her dedication to her vocation, her innovative spirit, her implicit faith in God, her clarity of focus and her never-say-die attitude helped the College to scale insurmountable heights. The annual debate competition is organised by the Speakers' Forum of St Teresa's College under the auspices of Association of St. Teresa's Alumnae (AstA) to commemorate the memory of Mother Digna and pay tribute to her eloquence. We cordially invite you to take part in this inter-collegiate debate competition.</p> <p>Jemma Joseph SECRETARY</p> <p>Suma Ravindran PRESIDENT</p> <p>Dr Sajimal Augustine PRINCIPAL</p> <p><b>GUIDELINES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of participants per team is two.</li><li>• One participant should talk for the motion and one against the motion.</li><li>• Time allotted per speaker is 2 minutes and a minute for rebuttal.</li><li>• Medium of communication is English.</li><li>• Registration starts at 9 am.</li><li>• Confirm your participation by mail on or before 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to susanchaly30@gmail.com</li></ul>
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The formal function began at 10:15am with the various participants representing each college along with the members of AstA, organising committee and the two distinguished judges, joining hands for a prayer led by the choir. The Candle lamp was lighted in memory of Mother Digna, then duly the formal address was delivered by the Secretary (AstA) Ms. Jemma Joseph, later by the judges Mrs.Indira Menon and Mr.S Anandan..

The distinguished judges, Mrs.Indira Menon, is an alumni from St. Teresa's College, with many achievements to her name and also happens to be an Ex-student of late Mother Digna. Her countless remarks on Mother's perseverance and methods of education were inspiring. Mr. S Anandan, is the Chief of Bureau at The Hindu, Kochi. He is a senior journalist with extensive experience reporting on issues of national defence as well as art, cinema, and culture. The Round 1 of debate began with each member being given 5 minutes to speak, with a bell being rung at the 4th minute and a final bell at the 5th minute. Each team of two members each had to speak in the order; for the motion and then against the motion. The 5 contesting teams, from Bhavans College of Arts and Commerce, Sacred Heart's College, Maharaja's College, St. Teresa's College, Model Engineering College, put in their best of words, made bold and diligent statements with grace and won the hearts of the audience.

Round 2 was the Rebuttal round wherein a lot was taken to select the opposing partner and was called forward according to their seating arrangement. In the Rebuttal round a minute was given to each to answer the sharp questions pointed to them. At the 50th second a first bell was rung and later at the end of the minute given to them. Each debater voraciously put forward their points and made this platform into a well-deserved arena for a healthy verbal sparring. A lunch break was given at around 11:30 and the teams were taken to the Central Park Cafeteria in the college campus and was given a sumptuous meal. During this break the panel of judges discussed and deliberated on the various viewpoints that each member and team put forward and the topic and vast areas they covered.



As the session was resumed, final addressal of the panel of judges were given to the participants and various factors for a healthy debate and discussion along with the importance of such debates in the modern world was addressed and with that the competitive event was concluded. The final formal session began with Ms. Suma Ravindran addressing the importance of this event and how Mother Digna played a crucial role in the upheaval of the college and her stance on Women empowerment that broke the social restrictions that chained the mindset of the people of those times and took them to the light of God and Knowledge. An aura of strength and energy was spread within the auditorium.

The judges formally announced the winners as Sacred Hearts College, with team members Christina Joshy and Jomy Thomas winning the whopping 7000 cash prize. Runner up was shared cordially with Maharajas College and St. Teresa's College. The team members were Abhinav Shyju and Sreejith K.S from Maharajas and Lekshmi Mahesh and Krishna Priya Sunil from St. Teresa's College. Best speaker was awarded to Ms. Christina Joshy from Sacred Hearts and runner up Ms. Lekshmi Mahesh from St. Teresa's College. The formal function concluded with the vote of thanks and the prize distribution.