

Missionary Visits St. Xavier High School Students

Father Charles Savarimuthu, a missionary from Chennai, located in southern India, met with St. Xavier High School students recently. Father Charles gave an informative talk about life in India. Students were able to compare and contrast life in the United States as compared to life in India. Some of the most notable differences are that marriages are arranged by the parents, and because they have arranged the marriage, parents continue to support the couple financially or wherever help is needed. In turn, it is the children's responsibility to care for parents when they get older so nursing homes are not found in India. In the Indian culture, parents and teachers are to be respected and discipline is stressed.



Cars are rarely used as a means of transportation. People walk, ride bikes or motorcycles. For longer trips, trains or buses are used. While in the U.S., meat is the entrée and side dishes accompany, in India, rice is the main food item with vegetables serving as the side dish. Most food is boiled rather than baked or fried.

Father Charles is from southern India, an area visited by St. Thomas the Apostle. Many conversions to Catholicism occurred as a result of St. Thomas's evangelization as well as that of missionary St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of St. Francis Xavier School.

Father Charles also visited St. Xavier Parish this past weekend as part of a mission appeal in the name of the Heralds of Good News Missionary Society. He is the priest and Councilor of the Order. Until recently Father Charles worked in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, for six years as the Associate Pastor and Pastor. He now serves as the Councilor of the Order in India.