



### **College Life - "Towards a Brighter Future" - by: André Gomes**



I guess no young person is as excited as when schooling days are over and the prospect of going to college arises. The thought of college life invokes feelings of freedom, independence and bliss. No more school uniforms, no more heavy school bags and no more hard time schedules. It is also followed by the prospect of new friends some of whom will trudge along with us through the rest of our lives. For many of our young men and women, college life must seem like that of new chickens just hatched and struggling to find their feet in the world. While it may seem a new world, it is also the challenge of making an impression to people we'd meet from different backgrounds, discovering the real you and building that self esteem that would carry you safely for many years together.

When we think of college, the prospect of new clothes, new footwear, new bags, make-up kits and colognes seem to be priorities. While it is good to indulge in these within limits, one must remember that they are only meant to accessorize. The real 'YOU' still remains within! And that needs to be highlighted and presented to the world outside with care. And just as we tend to hide the dark spots around our face, one must subdue the negative side of our personality and bring out our positive self. We must nurture these positive traits and let them be noticed by others.

God has bestowed us with so many virtues and entrusted us with the responsibility of taking care of them. Virtues such as love, patience, kindness, peace, happiness, holiness, respect and understanding are the ones we find in most of ourselves. We are encouraged to use these virtues to benefit others and give glory to God. When faced with challenges and temptations in life, we are urged to employ these virtues to tide over our adverse situations.

In college we often find people who are very different from us; from different backgrounds and with diverse personality traits. Some of these traits may stem from inherently good family values, whereas some traits may be born out of unfulfilled needs. Some of these unfulfilled needs may be the lack of love at home, or physical abuse, or excessive greed or even lack of discipline. These may often result in treating persons as objects and not as human beings, objects to satisfy that desire that is unfulfilled. As Christian young men and women we are called to stand on our guard at all times, to be wise in our dealings with people, to act with prudence in matters of individual dealings, so that we may present this body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, as a holy and worthy sacrifice to God.

We remember three very important virtues that we must never compromise with in life. These are the very fabric of our lives, and once destroyed or torn apart, we would never win the same respect that we had earlier. These are:

1. **Self respect:** It is often said that money lost can be gained, health lost can also be gained, but respect once lost is not easily or ever gained. We must always stand for certain principles in life, for what we believe in, for what we have learnt in our Christian faith. Very often a casual word from our lips even in a matter of sharing smutty jokes with friends can lose us that self respect from people around us. We may not realise it then, but would eventually. Self respect is also earned with the way in which we present ourselves. Our dressing, our walking, our talking, would all decide who we really are and enable others to see us as we enter those college doors and make that first remember. Remember, if do not respect ourselves and our bodies, no one would!
2. **Discipline:** There is much confusion around this term, yet much admiration for those who adhere to it. Whether it is discipline in time terms, in compliance with duties or even in relating to others, this important aspect must never be neglected. While there appears to have freedom in college life, there must also be discipline in following a time table that we must set ourselves. Time to gain knowledge that would help us find that right job, time to present ourselves for classes and impress our professors (who we can often go back to for those much needed references) and time to help a friend in need. Lack of discipline often results in a waste of precious time with friends who do not help build our careers, but only take us down the path of ruin.
3. **Diligence:** Better expressed as hard work, diligence is a virtue that I believe every individual should strive for early in life. I have a little plaque at my desk that reads: "Every day, I remind myself that my life is based on the labours of people both living and dead and that I must exert myself to give off my best." We are here because of the hard work of others and we must do likewise if we have to give our children a better future. In challenging times,

if we do not strive hard with the little things in life, we would neither be able to afford the good things in life nor the respect we would otherwise have earned. Hard work never hurts anyone so we must continue to strive. In college, we must move about in the right circle of friends where we encourage each other in learning about future career prospects. We can even gain valuable knowledge in our spare time by attending Diplomas or Certificate courses in other academic disciplines.

The other aspect of college life that we must quickly realise is that these years of formation are destined to prepare us for better professional opportunities later in life. A good grade in college would help us get a better job and a good career path would help us with a suitable and relevant job befitting our abilities. Let no one ever state that, "I am not smart" or that, "I am not talented", for our God is not a selfish God, to give a better brain to some and not to others. Let us realise that all of us have been bestowed with talents, and we must exert ourselves to give off our best.

Yes, we all want the comforts of life, but there can be no rewarding satisfaction than if we earn them ourselves. As Christians, we are born for greater things and we must never forget that. Let nothing come in our way and let no silly things in life steer us away from the course of demonstrating our true abilities. Let it not be said many years later, that while our friends have succeeded, we have failed to make the mark. The success or failure of our lives lies in our hands and let us pledge to write that success, no matter what it may take us. It is rightly said; **"Success is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration"**. Let us vow to make those grades showcasing our talents and choosing wisely our friends who would encourage us and walk with us to a bright future. Remember, God is with us every step of the way, let us not forget to walk a few steps to the church every day too, to meet him in personal prayer. AMEN!

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## **Society of St. Vincent De Paul, St. Peters Conference**

**Rustombagh. Bangalore 560 017**

### **REACHOUT PROGRAMME**

The members of St. Peters Conference with their family members visited the home for the aged run by the Little Sisters of the Poor at Hosur Road, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012

We, 10 members with some of their family members assembled at the Church premises at 09:30 am and proceeded to the Home for the Aged. We reached there at 10:00 am, we were received by the Sr. Superior and taken round the home. We met the inmates interacted with them, prayed with them for an hour. Totally 105 inmates stay there. Later at 11:00 am we attended the Mass at their Chapel. After the Mass we went over to their dining halls and once again shared their feelings and during lunch we distributed the gifts we had brought for them i.e. toothpaste and Amrutanjan bottles. We also donated in cash for a non-vegetarian Lunch, which will be served for all the inmates. We really had a fruitful time with the inmates. The Sisters were also very happy with our visit.

Life is known by one's character

It is the life measuring charter

If not lost life's every quarter

When so no need to flatter

Life is known by one's parents

They are the roots of child's talents

Build your future on Christ's teachings

If not ruins the purpose of your birth