

BCS Academic Awards 2019

The 29th Annual BCS Academic Awards event was held on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at St Michael Auditorium, Mahim. 102 scholarships were awarded, in addition to 24 Merit certificates for SSC and ICSE top scorers.

The event began with the BCS Anthem and a welcome to the awardees and their parents. The Bombay Catholic Sabha President, Adv. Raphael D'Souza, congratulated the winners and their parents. He asked those present to stand up for the truth (in the context of the new Citizenship Amendment Act) and invited all to participate in the various activities of the BCS.

The guests of honour were Prof. Mrs Lilla D'Souza, an eminent educationist who had headed the BCS Academic Awards Committee for 24 years, and Ms Mishal Queeni D'Costa, a young IRS officer of the 2017 batch (now working in C&IT), who had been awarded the Union Finance Minister's Gold medal at the end of her probation for the best overall performance. They delivered a stirring message to the young people and the parents in the auditorium. Prof. Lilla advised the youngsters to participate in college activities and to hone their talents. They must be dynamic in all that they do and strive for excellence. Ms Mishal D'Costa urged the awardees to make a difference by getting into Civil Services, not to be armchair critics. She explained how she had grown in her understanding of the system of Indian bureaucracy. She later fielded questions from the audience.

Fr Felix D'Souza, Ecclesiastical Adviser to the BCS, reiterated the need to aim high; to move into decision-making bodies.

The awardees (from Ph.D. to Class X) came up to the stage to receive their certificates from Prof. Lilla and Mishal, and were cheered enthusiastically by the audience. An awardee, CA Abigail Luis, and a parent, Benedict Mascarenhas, appreciated the BCS for organising the event.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by the BCS Secretary General, Vinod Noronha, who appreciated the work of the Academic Awards Committee and the volunteers.