

## **Loyola College (Autonomous)**

**Chennai - 600 034.**

### **Bestowment of 'The Ordre des Palmes Académiques' on Dr. Navis Sybil Abarna Roy, Department of French The Chevalier Award Ceremony 2023**

The *Ordre des Palmes académiques* is a national order bestowed by the French Republic on distinguished academics and teachers for their valuable service to universities, education, and science. Originally established in 1808 by Emperor Napoleon as a decoration to honor eminent members of the University of Paris, it was changed into its current form as an order of merit, making it one of the oldest civil honors.

On Wednesday, 22 March 2023, the Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai honored two eminent French teachers with 'The Ordre des Palmes Académiques' award for their dedication to the promotion of French Language.



Lise Talbot Barré, Consul General presented the awards to Dr. Sumitra Muthukumar, French teacher at Alliance Française of Madras, and Dr. Navis Sybil Abarna Roy, Assistant Professor of French at Loyola College, Chennai. On the account of the Francophonie week, the awardees were decorated with the honor at the Alliance Française of Madras in Chennai during the event held between 6 and 7.30pm. The awardees expressed their gratitude to their mentors, family and friends in this bilingual ceremony. To give an Indian touch, a themed dance form was exhibited by a trained Kathak dancer from Pondicherry, and to retain the French mode, it was followed by a high-tea.

The Chevalier award winner, *Dr. Navis Sybil Abarna Roy*, was acknowledged and honored by her academic institution on the same evening. Loyola College, Chennai organized a Felicitation Ceremony for the awardee at 8 pm in LS hall. This official event commenced with a prayer song, followed by the welcome address by Dr. Durga Devi, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages. During the Ceremony, Chevalier *Dr. Navis Sybil Abarna Roy* was felicitated with a bouquet, shawl, and gifts by the Secretary & Correspondent, *Rev. Fr. Dr. B. Jeyaraj, S.J.*, the Principal, *Rev Dr A. Thomas, SJ* and the former Head of the Department, Chevalier *Dr. Xavier Raj*, respectively. While the Reverent Fathers addressed the gathering, they appreciated *Dr. Abarna Roy* for her excellence in service and wished her to continue to accomplish more success as a Faculty of Loyola. Father Principal exclaimed that the Legacy of Chevalier has continued in the Department through *Dr. Abarna Roy*, also mentioning Chevalier *Dr. Xavier Raj*, her guide and mentor. The Institution has attained a hat trick on receiving the Chevalier: notably *Fr. Pierre Ceyrac* received the Chevalier Legion d'Honneur and *Dr. Xavier Raj & Dr. Abarna Roy* have received the Chevalier de l'ordre des Palmes Académiques.



Succeeding the formal exchange, was a showcase of an audiovisual consisting of the greetings and wishes from her mentor, colleagues, and closed group. On behalf of the Department of Foreign Languages, the organizer & the Master of Ceremony, Prof. Mithiya K John welcomed the academician to address the gathering. The overwhelmed beneficiary expressed her gratitude to her mentor, and to the people that she had been associated with in her career and also specially thanked her family members mentioning them individually. On her behalf, the recipient's sister extended thanks to the institution for enabling her streamlined growth. To complete this emotional, proud occasion, Prof. Stefi pronounced the vote of thanks, which was followed by a relishing dinner at the Loyola Food Court. This event will always remain a memorable one.