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Search
YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 39

Vol: 3



**YOUNG STUDENTS FOR
YOUTHFUL LIFE**

STATEMENT OF THE XVIII YCS/YSM NATIONAL COUNCIL 2019

The 121 student delegates of YCS/YSM accompanied by 27 Chaplains and Animators representing various dioceses from 8 regions across India gathered at St. Joseph Vaz Renewal Centre, Old Goa from May 17-24, 2019 to deliberate on the theme “Young students for a Youthful Life”. They reflected on the three thrusts: “Self-Identity; Safe School; New Society”

The methodology of the movement “See, Judge and Act” made way for young minds to revive their youthfulness individually and socially. The YCS/YSM delegates shared that students are facing many challenges.

The confusion faced in personality formation, education and career diverts them from values and a joyful life style. The influence of social media, smartphones and dependency on artificial intelligence emerged boldly from the discussions. Undoubtedly, social media and the web with all its advancements is indeed a blessing to humankind, especially for students who draw benefit of it.

However, the tendency to get quick information and ready-made ideas on the web is minimizing creativity, exploration, innovation and self-discovery in students. Self-obsession is a common feature to the extreme of which many students end up in addictions and even suicide. Students voiced how their schools are unsafe, from poor infrastructure to the terrifying incidents they witness such as discriminations based on gender, caste, colour, faith and performance or poor sanitation in and around the school premises or psychophysical assaults on students.

Often the attitude of teachers, family and peer pressure distort their understanding of true education and overall development. The chaos in educational institutions is cutting the students off their innocence and youthfulness.

The delegates made detailed analysis and expressed their understanding of the existing reality. There is a growing feature among the students of either being workaholics or work shirkers that dilutes the phenomena of ethical development.

Some student leaders expressed their struggle balancing selflessness and selfishness; the lack of dedicated animators, concerned parents and sensitive teachers to guide them; while many struggle to discover their true-identity. A few shared about the lack of tolerance and patience, wrong priorities, sense of loneliness and disinterest in life. Values have become difficult to imbibe and practice. They are learnt through compassion, not fear. Therefore, students are free to choose wisely and ethically. However, ethics are gradually declining in daily life and curriculum so it is worth re-emphasizing them.

To resolve these concerns, the delegates were inspired to break open their paths to be the change and bring the change to build a just society – God’s Kingdom. Thus, we the delegates of the XVIII National Council of YCS/YSM India resolve:

- a) To uphold the methodology of the movement and apply it to our daily lives. We shall strive to revive and sustain youthfulness within ourselves and others.
- b) To be compassionate to one another and nature.
- c) To study and reflect upon Self-Identity; Safe School; New Society in our cells, units and make ‘SMART’ action plans.
- d) To be witnesses of the YCS/YSM Spirituality in our thoughts, words and deeds.

We understand the value of changing the water rather than changing the fish and thereby open our hearts to be receptive to divine guidance in order to make a difference for a better and peaceful world.

May 23, 2019
SJV Centre, Old Goa



NEW BEGINNING - NEW SESSION

Greetings from the YCS/YSM family

New session starts with a new excitement and with great enthusiasm. A new session means new class teacher, new classmates, new books, new chapters, everything new. Some students may be happy but while some students may be feeling a little anxious about that new teacher or friends who will accompany us in the new session! For us students, new session has begun. I think most of us got used to our new class, friends, teachers and syllabus.

With the start of new academic session, we get loaded with many new responsibilities and challenges. However, after spending a few weeks away from the school and relaxing during the holidays, it becomes a little difficult for us to get to the tiring and hectic schedule again. That is part and parcel of our life. As students we move on and learn new things for our life.

As a YCS/YSMer, it's a new beginning for us also. During the 18th National Council, we have chosen a new theme for our reflection. With new theme, new thrusts and new new team we are going to make a difference. We have chosen the theme: 'Young students for youthful life'. As young students we need to live joyfully and happily. There should be positive energy all over. Sometimes I feel sorry for my own friends who are so stressed, withdrawn, without life in them. They consider this life as a burden. During the study session we discussed a lot about the theme and the thrusts. Now is the time to implement them in our cells and units.

One of our thrusts is 'safe school'. I know our schools are safe comparing many other schools. When we read and hear about many incidents of violence and bullying in schools, we start questioning whether our schools are safe today. We need to work on this to make our schools safe. I feel all the YCS/YSMers should come together to make their schools safe. When our schools are safe, we will be able to experience a lot of happiness, joy and love.

What do you all think of a new session? I think it's the time to start anew, to improve myself, to change my mistakes, and as a student to study in a better manner. For us YCS/YSMers it is something more. For us it is spreading the joy and love that we experience to others who are not feeling so great. We can do this in our schools and colleges. Let's take small steps of making people happy during this new session and work hard to realise our goal to make every student to 'live a youthful life'

At last, I would like to wish you all very best for your new session. May God shower his blessings upon you.

LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE

Ashita Jimmy

Long live YCS/YSM

NEW JOURNEY



Never had I ever thought of being a National YCS/YSM President, but I knew that I had the capability and potential in me. As soon as I was elected as the representative from the Karnataka region I learnt more about the movement. Though I was a part of this movement for the past one year, I wasn't a very active member. In 2018, when I was elected as a DEXCO member my life changed. I became more responsible and started taking up lead in my unit and diocese. This encouraged me to grow more in the movement.

The Review of Life- the methodology has helped me to reflect on my life and become a good leader. Through this movement and its methodology, I have seen many students changing their life and inspiring others to change. I personally feel that, all students should become members of this movement and together we can bring about a big change in the society. As part of the National team I wish to give my hundred percent to the betterment of this movement.

The 18th National Council in Goa was my first national level program. Being part of the Council gave me a wider outlook of the movement in India. Meeting new people, knowing about their culture and tradition was a treat. The study sessions on the 3 thrusts, created many questions in my mind, such as 'Is our school safe?(Safe School) What is my purpose in life?(Self Identity) Why are the youth losing their youthfulness? Through cell meetings, we tried to answer these questions. This 18th National Council has given me countless memories for life .

Promises are not always fulfilled, so we as NT/EXCO team will not promise anything instead try to work hard as a team. We will take up leadership and responsibilities which we will learn to inculcate and work for the betterment of the movement and inspire many young students of our movement.

Personally, I would like to thank God almighty for giving me an opportunity to serve this movement. I thank my parents who are my support system and encourage me to do well always. My gratitude to my diocesan chaplain Rev. Fr. Edwin D'souza, who always guides and encourages me to grow more in the movement. I thank my animators for their constant support.

To conclude, I feel blessed to have a wonderful NT/EXCO team under the guidance of our national chaplain Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado and hope to gain support from you all.

Long live YCS/ YSM!

- Deril Dsa
National President





THANK YOU

We made a difference and you made it possible

I hope we had a great National Council in Goa. We are enjoying a wonderful summer in the Northern states and some of you are enjoying rains in the South and many parts of our country. India is unique that way. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted to have a new team of YCS/YSM office bearers. I thank the outgoing team who did a wonderful job and guided the movement ably for the last three years and welcome the new team which is enthusiastic to carry forward this responsibility of bringing change, and I look forward to working with you to guide you as Chaplain.

During the Council we deliberated on the theme: 'Young students for youthful life' having thrusts, self identity; safe school; new society. Our theme and thrusts are well connected and chosen during the preparatory meetings. I remember during the planning meetings, I did not understand the theme and asked a lot of questions about youthfulness. I thought young people are always youthful!

The National Council began with the study session. Various resource people explained to us how things are changing rapidly. Young people are living in a culture of death, loneliness and are not youthful anymore. They are stressed, there is cutthroat competition and they struggle to face these challenges. When they give up, they forget to live their youthfulness. This trend is catching up in schools and we find many students giving up at a very early age and losing focus.



YCS/YSM India gives a platform for students to change this situation. We cannot run away from these problems. We belong to the same society and same school where other students experience these challenges. Our methodology, Review of Life (ROL) helps us to evaluate our life and thus bring change in self. I was delighted to see students who came for the council making their plans to face these challenges in their schools, seriously discussing and asking a lot of questions. Some of them even taking resolutions to spread this movement to other places where it is not present.

In this issue of the Search we are talking about a new beginning or a new journey. Each year brings positive change. With the new team we have prepared an elaborate action plan. We need your help to implement this plan which is a result of our deliberations during the Council.

Every new session begins with a lot of enthusiasm. Similarly every NT/EXCO team begins with new vigour and energy. I am glad that all NEXCOs participated in the first live-in programme. In YCS/YSM we don't allow the enthusiasm to die down after some time. The fire in us should keep burning all the time to bring a positive change in me and my society. I urge all the NEXCOs to remain united and work hard and take this movement to the greater heights.

Finally as I thank the outgoing team for keeping the YCS/YSM light shining all the time, I am grateful to their parents, teachers and animators for supporting them. They did very well and some of them have taken up big responsibilities and many have shown great leadership skills. My prayer is that you continue to inspire many more young students. I welcome the new team with a lot of expectations. I strongly believe that they will run this movement with their commitment and take it to a higher level.



- Fr. Chetan Machado
National Chaplain

THE POWER OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Every day, millions of 10-15 year old students walk through the door of their middle school with anticipation and great hopes for their future. Some will fall into leadership positions, but unfortunately only a few take up leadership role.

Every student has the potential to be a leader, and their teacher and administrators have the responsibility to establish a school climate that nurtures their growth as self-sufficient, engaged citizen, and to develop their leadership skills.

Social psychologist Martin Chemers defines leadership as “a process of social influence in which a person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task” Isn't that a skill we would like all our students to have? When students have the opportunity to lead they become architects of their futures and change agents in their school and communities.

Tony
NEXCO -Tamilnadu

11th International Youth Forum - ROME

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER



JESVITA QUADRAS
National Coordinator

The Dicastery for laity, family, and life organized the 11th International youth forum – a Post-Synodal meet where 350 young people from more than hundred countries participated and deliberated on how the synod on youth has been impacting in their respective countries, dioceses or even parishes. I along with Mr. Becaremeo Nongtdu were selected by the CCBI Youth Commission to represent our country at the forum. Mr. Percival Holt who had earlier participated in the Pre Synod and Synod as an auditor from India also accompanied us as an invitee. However, when I realized that I would be a part of this journey I was definitely a little overwhelmed.

The forum was divided into a three-day discussion on three matters which was discussed in 18 groups based on the languages. On day one, the impact of the synod at the grass-root level was discussed. Day two, was for the groups to discuss on the *Christus Vivit* and the learnings that one has drawn from it and day three was for the groups to discuss on what the forum will carry back home after being actively part of the deliberations. Many revelations were again brought to light. Something really positive and wonderful that I learned was that the Youth ministry in India is truly a blessing. Many a times many of us including myself, keep complaining about the limited resources, lack of funds, support from others, etc. Regardless, of these difficulties that are present, we still need to be grateful for whatever we have. A movement such as YCS/YSM itself has helped lakhs of young students and along with this comes the support and love of Bishops, Animators and Chaplains.



Moving on to my personal learnings or inspiration that I carried back home- well I don't think this article would suffice to put in all of that. But I will mention a few key points that truly touched me and made me think in a different dimension altogether. One of the Cardinals shared how during his conversation with the Pope he mentioned that 'the youth are an important aspect of the Church'. Here, the Pope corrected him saying that they are not an important aspect of the church but 'Youth

are the Church'. This statement itself enlightened me about the level of acceptance extended towards us young people. We are called to be the protagonists today. Those to discern and lead and live the vocation we are called to follow. The next inspiration I drew was from the words of Rev. Fr. Giacomo Costa, special secretary at the synod on youth. While giving his address he said " Young people live many experiences. And they learn from them to become better." You may not find anything special about it but for some reason, it created a small spark within me. I have heard such statements before but why this touched me so deeply was because Fr. Giacomo substituted the term 'Mistakes' with 'Experiences.' I simply marveled at the fact that I as YCS'er could connect to the depth behind it because we too believe that every mistake is a learning, therefore, we give importance to the learning than the fact that we have committed a mistake. Such a positive outlook towards young people is one of the major reasons why I would like to contribute in my little way to our movement!

"young people must be grateful for the support the church renders us in our country not to forget the opportunity it extends, just to try and make us the Church. We are the Church!"

One of the best things that I learned from the "*Christus Vivit*", is the last paragraph of the book. It is actually a wish that the Pope is asking of the young people. He is asking us to run as the Holy Spirit is accompanying us. Once we reach the point where we feel we have succeeded, he asks us to wait for 'them'. To wait in patience till 'they' reach the point where we have already reached. Pope acknowledges that accompaniment is needed but also important is the factor of us young people becoming the protagonists in this journey. Just as how our YOUNG JESUS lead the way and accomplished, we too are expected to be the journey and live it in the values imbibed in us through Christ. The spirituality of our movement also asks us to take Jesus as an example and walk the path he did. Moreover, YCS/YSM also helps us to change ourselves thus

becoming change-makers and student leaders!

The synodal journey had begun long ago. But it may take some time to see the impact of the synod. And, therefore we need to wait in patience. As for me, I believe my contribution, in whatever little way will help me personally and socially to embrace the spiritual and intellectual factor that lies beneath. Wherever I go, I will surely not forget to add on my pinch of experience on my learning and try and implement it in my actions too. We definitely cannot deny the fact that the Synod has its deep-rooted impact on us here in India. Maybe in different capacities. But it has! And that is where each of us, young people must be grateful for the support the church



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renders us in our country not to forget the opportunity it extends, just to try and make us the Church. We are the Church!

At the back of my mind, however, I always wonder if five years ago, hadn't I decided to be a part of YCS/YSM would I have gotten the opportunity of being who I am today or even learning the many values and meeting people worldwide? Therefore, I ask you, my dear YCS/YSM'ers, as this journey has just begun take the opportunities that YCS/YSM provides. Carry back the learnings and most importantly try and be the agents of change.

Oh yes! Not to forget. I met the Pope too! And my little conversation with him also made me realize this: "When you and I are willing to take and walk the journey, God somewhere-somehow is preparing a surprise just for you. And it is a blessing in disguise! Truly."

My word of Gratitude to the movement for giving such a wonderful platform...

I am ready for a new Journey! Are you?

Jesvita Princy Quadras

National Coordinator

Former National President (2016-19)



National Chaplain's Activities

1. 2 May - In Chennai for audit work/ Office work
2. 7 May - EC meeting of CCBI, Bengaluru
3. 13 May - Village Exposure programme for YCS Mangalore
4. 15-16 May - NT/EXCO meeting, Goa
5. 17-27 May - 18th YCS/YSM National Council, Goa
5. 2-13 June - ACT - Animators and Chaplains Training Programme at NBCLC
6. 17 June - In Delhi for 'the Search' work
7. 20-21 June - Summer Camp for YCS students in Faridabad
8. 24-25 June - Office work, Bengaluru
9. 27-30 June - YCS- NEXCO live-in Programme, Udupi
10. 30 May- Left for Asian Cafe, Indonesia

Future Programmes:

1. 12-13 July - YCS Animators Training - Vasai
2. 28 July - YCS Training - Khandwa
3. 1 Aug - National Council CBCI meeting - Chennai
4. 11 Aug - National Youth Sunday
5. 24-25 Aug - National Youth Directors meeting, Chengleput
6. 30 Aug -10 Sept 2019 - World Council, Nigeria

(Kindly send your reports and articles to : thesearchycsystemindia@gmail.com)



For details contact:

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National Chaplain
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I never dreamed of visiting another country before earning, This was a dream come true when I got a chance to attend the Aian CAFE programme in Jakarta, Indonesia. This was my first time flying experience. I was very much excited for the programme and at the same time was nervous to meet new friends from all over Asia.

The day I landed in Jakarta, I fell in love with that country and the people there. The people always greet everyone with broad smile and bow their head. I was so happy and amazed to see this. The LOC were so friendly and cooperative, they were willing to provide us with the best they had each time.

Apart from this the sessions which were very important and interesting regarding social media, safe school and a detail study about “CHRISTUS VIVIT” gave me and all the other animators and chaplains a clear idea that church is young and young people are not the future of the church but they are the present.

The exposure visit to the Islamic school and mosque was enriching where I saw people praying to have peace and harmony between religions and have respect towards each other. We also visited the Cathedral where we celebrated mass and prayed.

Talking about the food of Indonesia, it was difficult for me as to eat non spicy and boild food but as the days passed, I started relishing it and now I miss that food. More than food and other activities I miss the people I met there. I just didn’t want to come back form there. I want to tell all the participants of 7th Asian CAFE programme that I’m missing you all, hoping to see you all soon .

I’m privileged to get an opportunity to be a part of this CAFE and made many friends and created tons of memories for life. I thank our national chaplain Fr. Chetan for giving me this golden opportunity to learn and contribute to the movement. I congratulate and wish Jimmy Pdang and Fr. Anil good luck for their mission as the Asian Team



- Deril Dsa

YCS/YSM National President

Raffle draw WINNERS

1st prize: No. 6556

Mob. 986292557

Maria shslur

2nd prize: No. 7650

Mob. 7640895540

Rosqline vanlalruati

3rd prize: No. 9422

Mob. 9845835695

1st attractive prize

No. 16937

Mob. 8435468113

Mr. Habil Ekka

2nd attractive prize

No. 16936

Mob. 9406564728

Mr. Chndan

3rd attractive prize

No. 18440

Mob. 9903237702

Fuzail Khan

4th attractive

No. 21981

Mob. 9748425679

Veronica Gomes

5th attractive prize

No. 9954

Mob. 9481954662

Lavena D'souza

Kindly collect your prizes by 15 September 2019. Contact 9891792505

REFLECTION

VIII NATIONAL COUNCIL, GOA



JIMMY PDANG
YICS-Asian Coordinator

The VIII, National Council of YCS/YSM India was held from 17th to 24th May 2019 at St Joseph Vaz Renewal Centre, Goa on the theme “Young Students for youthful life.” Both of us (Asian Coordinators), participated throughout with great enthusiasm and shared a strong bond with the participants. The participants came from different regions of India having different cultures, languages and from different faiths. We got a chance to witness our unity in diversity as they shared the bond of unity and solidarity; the spirituality of our movement binds us and strives towards a common goal for the betterment of the human community. During the study session, and workshops, group sharings were conducted on different topics which dealt with the aspect of youthful life, challenges of youthful life, self identity, values and campaign on safe school and to promote a new society. During the Council proper, the Asian Coordinators were also given time to share about YICS Asia with the students of YCS YSM India.

“YCS is not just about work, but it is a matter of relationship, ” said one of the resource persons. In YCS one need to answer to the question who am I? And how is my relationship with others, my neighbors, with nature and my relationship with God and with myself. Our whole journey in YCS is to seek the purpose of our life and to be aware of the things around us with the spirit of action to change ourselves and from bad to good, from good to better, from better to the best and to be an agent of

change to others in the community that we live in, be in school or in the village. These words inspired me the most and I believe, knowing our own identity will help us in facing and experiencing the reality of life. We, then, will be able to be grateful and appreciate the good things that we have. We will be practical with our actions in solving our problems. When we know ourselves, we will be able to build a good relationship with others, nature and with God.



I remember, at the end of the study session and Council, tears rolled down from our eyes as we bade farewell to one another. This made me realize, that the success of the National Council was not entirely

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based on how well it was organized rather how participants during the council lived as brothers and sisters and build a strong



relationship with each other to the extent of shedding tears. The thought, “imagine! All of us from different places and different backgrounds got to know one another and we, who were once strangers, now live like real friends, brothers and sisters as one family! Isn’t that great and peaceful?” What more do we need, than to continue this relationship when we go back to our own respective places and help our community members who have never gotten this type of experience to feel the same joy. We may forget what the speakers told us during the sessions. But we would never forget the time we spent together, our talks, fun, jokes, respect for each other for a long time. Isn’t this the module of the new society that we want to build? Isn’t this that we as YCS strive to achieve by practicing all the good values that we experienced during the Council in our daily lives and help our friends and the whole community to do the same when we go back to our own places? What success could be measured more than this? I feel this little thing is the greatest strength of our YCS Movement.

For every thing and steps that we need to take ahead in our life, we must never

forget that having a better relationship is a must. If we are students, good relationship with our teachers, principals, fellow friends and good relationship with our books and studies is important. If we are workers, healthy relationship with the higher authorities and among workers is required, if we are teachers, we will be able to teach and help our students better only if we understand them and maintain a good relationship with them and among teachers, and it goes so on and so forth. And so for YCS, the strength of our movement lies not only on how much of the things one can work. More than the work, our strength lies on the question of how is our relationship with each other, and perhaps if we have a good relationship, work will become easier and things will go on to the best. Such relationship can be built on trust, love and respect. What I have learned from other participants is to be friendly with one another through values of love, respect, humility, understanding, care, honesty, discipline, kindness, compassion, and to be able to acknowledge my mistakes in a positive way. Others have taught me to be courageous, optimistic and to be a responsible person.



This strikes me the most when it comes to the success of the National Council of YCS YSM India for me personally, being one of the participants from the beginning

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till end. The relationship between regions of India with the National Office and with each other, the strong bond of the former National Executive Committee members under the good guidance of Chaplains and Animators, and the good relationship that the participants of the council have with each other build a strong network of cooperation and thus made the Council a fruitful one.

Thus, to promote kindness; be compassionate, help and appreciate each other, acknowledge mistakes. Be humble and grateful is the action plan that I would personally carry home from the Council and it begins today. I also look forward to strive ahead in building that same

relationship between National Movements in IYCS Asia for the benefit and growth of our young students in Asia region. Finally, I sincerely thank Fr. Chetan Machado, my National Chaplain and the NEXCOs (2016-2019) of YCS-YSM India for inviting us to the National Council and providing us an opportunity to learn and grow in the spirit of YCS. My short reflection wouldn't end without extending my heartfelt gratitude to the participants of the National Council, from whom I have learned values and courage to continue living and carry forward the spirit of our movement.

A big Thank You to all of you!

JIMMY PDANG
Asian Coordinator.

EXPERIENCE

Come June July and we all begin a fresh academic life. We really don't know what this new year is going to bring to us but we need to be ready for whatever it may bring with a positive mindset. If we have determination, zeal and will power, we will overcome all odds. It also means a fresh start, new goals and a year to make your dreams come true. So be determined and persevere.

As YCS/YSM members it is a new beginning for each one of us. It was a very enriching experience being part of the 18th National Council apart from that there was a feeling of pleasure of hosting this great event. Young Students for Youthful Life was the theme and it had 3 thrusts Self identity, Safe School and New society.

This programme helped us individually to develop our personality. After attending the session on self identity it personally helped me to look at the good in myself. It also helped me to build my self confidence and motivate others to do good by changing myself.

Safe schooling was a perfect thrust which helped students open up and speak out different problems and situations they face as students in the schools. There were suggestions by students themselves to solve their problems. We also had an opportunity to see the culture and diversity of different states. We had memorable experiences interacting with students of different states in India and even learning a few words in other languages. Truly blessed to be an Indian.

I would like to thank Fr Savio and our animators who saw the potential in us and encouraged us to move forward. I thank Fr. Chetan Machado for his guidance and Fr. Edwin for moderating this event. I am very grateful to God almighty for blessing us with this NT/EXCO team. I pray to God to help us to be the change we want to see in the world.

Long Live YCS/YSM.
—*Caleb Evans Dmello*

BRIEF REPORT

VIII NATIONAL COUNCIL, GOA

In the election held at the 18th National Council of Young Catholic Students/ Young Student Movement (YCS/YSM) - India at St. Joseph Vaz Renewal Centre, Old Goa on 23rd May 2019 Mr Deril Dsa of the diocese of Udupi was elected as the president (convener) along with other office bearers from different regions of India.

Most Rev. Dr Ignatius Dsouza, the Bishop of Bareilly and the Member Bishop of CCBI Youth Commission exhorted the newly elected office bearers to be fruitful in the ministry entrusted to them being vibrant active in the movement. Rev Fr. Chethan Machado, the National Chaplain of YCS/YSM India administered the oath to the NT/ EXCO members in the presence of around 150 delegates, animators, chaplains and guests from across the country.

The Council and the election was preceded by a study session which commenced on 17th May with a formal inaugural program. Rev Fr. Juze Remedios, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman presided over the inaugural ceremony with Captain Viriato Fernandez who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The program

was inaugurated by hoisting the National flag and the YCS flag by the chief guest. Addressing the gathering Capt. Fernandez asked the students to lead from the front through initiatives. Rev Fr. Chethan Machado, the National Chaplain of YCS/YSM India welcomed the gathering and firmly stated that “we need leaders who contribute” and urged the students to evaluate their lives, to SEE the needs of the society and people, to JUDGE them with sensitivity and to ACT with precision and effectiveness.

The inauguration was followed by the Eucharistic celebration with Rev. Fr. Juze Remedios as the main celebrant. In his thought provoking homily, Rev Fr. Savio Dsouza, the Diocesan Chaplain of Goa challenged the youth to break open the paths and be the first just as Jesus did and urged the youth to do so.

The initial 5 days of the Council deliberated on the theme, “Young students for youthful life: self-identity; safe school and new society” which also paved a way for the theme and thrusts for the next 3 years of the movement in India.



The National Council began on 23rd May 2019 with the high mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Prakash Sagili, former National Chaplain of YCS/YSM India. The mass was followed by the commencement of the Council presided over by Ms Jesvita Quadras, the National President. This gathering included the National Executive Committee of YCS/YSM India (2016-2019), regional leaders from 8 regions that

together constitute the National Council, together with a few invitees associated with the movement.

The new National Team was elected during this Council and will lead the movement in the country for the coming 3 years. The elected members are as follows; Deril



D'Sa of Udupi – the convener (President), K. Mac Melvin of Hyderabad– the general secretary, Caleb D'Mello of Goa – the treasurer, Anjalina Ekka of Delhi – liturgy and cultural secretary, C. Tony of Madurai and Ashita Jimmy of Indore – editors of the Search newsletter. Other members of the National team are; Cyphan Mascarenhas from Goa, Arpit Katara from MP, Abolon Taro from Guwahati, A. Anusha from Kottar-Kanyakumari, L. Joseph Reddy from Hyderabad and Oscar Martin from Bareilly.

The national council came to an end with a solemn concluding programme, evaluation and an exposure visit on 24th May 2019.

Fr. Anil D'Sa

COLOURS OF COLOURS

After death,I went to heaven
And God gave me an offer to rebirth.
Looking at the sadness on my face,
He said: "as a colour, not human."

Now, out of many I had to pick one
And wear it forever.
They stood in front of me
And I recalled how humans treated them
Back when I was alive.

"I loved you when I was child.
You are combined with red and white
Describing love and femininity."
But I reject pink for being
Overly optimistic, racist and very unrealistic.

"You are the shade of the sea and the sky.
You convey peace and calmness.
You inspire loyalty and responsibility."
But I don't like getting polluted by humans.
There I reject being blue.

"Decades ago you were found everywhere.
Animals and birds think you are lifeline.
People on Earth treat you badly."
I reject green as my life span
Would be less than a year.

• "You are the most acceptable colour.
• People love you for being beautiful and pure.
• Though you are optimistic,
• You are dominating, proud and rude.
• Goodbye white.I hated you the most."

• Here comes the mysterious one.
• It's scary, pessimistic and aggressive.
• But elegant, formal and authoritative.
• It is loving as night.
• That's why I wear black.

• I was reborn.
• But cruel humans. They find me inferior.
• They think I lack hope
• And wear me on funerals.
• I wish to go back to heaven
• And never come back as a human, colour or
• anything else.

• - **Vinora Saldanha**
• **Udupi diocese**



REFLECTION

ENVIRONMENT & CHURCH

Celebrating International Environment day
- June 5 in view of *Laudato Si*



Fr Charles Menezes
IYCS Chaplain

Laudato Si (2015) states there is a strong ethical basis for environmental awareness, and using technology to help build a sustainable future through responsible development. It is a call to humanity to care for our common home through the proper and ethical use of technology to preserve and improve our environment and the lives of all on Earth (Pope Francis)

SEE

There are various attitudes among people about climate change:

- ♣ Some say - It's nothing serious to worry about – Denial;
- ♣ Some say - let's clarify the issues at stake first – uncertainty;
- ♣ For some this crisis is secondary - Who cares about the polar bear while people are starving and fleeing war;
- ♣ Some justify saying - caring for the environment and caring for the people is one and the same task;

♣ Others declare, we are doomed.

Church's stand, 7 theological insights:

1. Prophetic/Liberative:

Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (LS 49)

2. Ascetic: Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. (LS 222)

3. Mystic: The universe unfolds in God, who

fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. While facing the "elitist temptation" in nature spirituality, we need to acknowledge the need to find the roots of our spirituality in creation (LS 233)

4. Sacramental: Our conviction that, as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. (LS 89)

5. Wisdom: Given the complexity of the ecological crisis and its multiple causes, we need to realize that the solutions will not emerge from just one

way of interpreting and transforming reality. If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it. (LS 63)

6. Ecclesial/

Communitarian:

Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. This task will make such tremendous demands of man that he could never achieve it by individual initiative or even by the united effort of men bred in an individualistic way. The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a

community conversion. (LS 219)

7. Eschatological: We need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair. Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems. (LS 61)

Integral ecology is an alternative paradigm of Scientific, Economic, Social, Cultural, Human and Spiritual approach. *Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein."*

JUDGE

Many economists today, including those from liberal schools of thought, are fully aware that the

dramatic increase of inequalities needs to be reversed. It is not sustainable even within capitalism, and it is a sign that markets have several failures and require corrective actions that can only be offered by policy-making. Even the proposal of global governance based on more trust among people, communities and nations is not utopia. There is a spiritual and ethical void, an absence of scope in today's technocratic society that needs to be filled, and this Encyclical contributes to fill this void. It clearly states -

- Caring for the Earth needs change, "Change is something desirable, yet it becomes a source of anxiety when it causes harm to the world and to the quality of life of much of humanity."
- Care for the poor, care for the planet, care for nature, care for the communities, care for people, care for God's creation – "Caring for our common "
- Caring for the Earth is inseparable with social justice. "We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers,



political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.”

- Undeniably, the poor are the victims “We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”.

Hence, Church gives us 5 key principles: Universal good, Subsidiarity, Solidarity, Justice and Preferential option for the poor.

It is certainly a very hard and difficult task. Gandhi and Mandela have shown such trust to be possible, so why shouldn't the same be true in the face of the risks of survival of the planet?

Numbers 35:33 “You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.”

ACT

How can we try the green actions proposed by Pope Francis (LS 117)

- Avoiding the use of plastic and paper,
- Reducing water consumption
- Separating refuse
- Cooking only what can reasonably be consumed
- Showing care for other living beings
- Using public transport or car-pooling
- Planting trees
- Turning off unnecessary lights
- Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it.

All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. When done for the right reasons, it can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.

IYCS - What actions can we do: Advocacy and Preaching, Worship and Spirituality, Education, Networking and Build alliances, Transform habits and Finance. (We need to

do practical actions based on our local reality and capacity)

Remember:

- Caring for the Earth is living Integral Ecology
- Caring for the Earth is eco-witnessing.
- Caring for the Earth is ending environmental changes
- Caring for the Earth is caring for biodiversity.
- Caring for the Earth is embracing the interconnectedness of everything
- Caring for the Earth sustains and strengthens our ecological faith, in the lights and shadows of our climate action
- Caring for the Earth leads us to contemplation
- Caring for the Earth is caring God's creation – which is nature, our common home

Proverbs 27:18 “Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored.”❖

Avoid Plastic & Save Environment



NEXCO live-in programme- Udupi



“Well began is half done.” The first NEXCO’s live-in programme was held in the diocese of Udupi from 27 to 30 June, 2019. As the program was held in my own diocese, I had many responsibilities and duties. The three days of programme went on so swiftly like three hours. It was the first time that all the NEXCOs were present for the live-in programme. I could attend only first two days because I and Fr. Chethan had to attend the IYCS Asian CAFE so we left a day earlier. But the two days spent with my team is full of learning and memories for life.

My experience in the live-in was wonderful. I learnt the true importance of cell meetings, methodology and many more things about the movement. As leaders of the nation, we

were given preferences to take initiative, speak and conduct and learn some animations so that we would improve ourselves. Each one of us had to share our own life stories, happy and sad moments, difficulties of our lives. We were explained about our roles in the national team. As a part of the programme we were taken to the exposure visit around Udupi. More than the visits the time we spent in the bus while travelling will be cherished for a long time to come.

I’m grateful to Fr. Edwin YCS Chaplain of Udupi diocese for hosting this live-in programme and providing us with excellent facilities and also thank Fr. Chethan and Ms. Jesvita who are and will be guiding us throughout our journey.

We have started our journey well and now its upon us to take forward the movement and help the students thorough the movement and expand our movement. I believe that we can do well and carry forward the Movement

Deril Dsa
National President

EXPERIENCE

18 National Council

Being a part of YCS is a blessing as well as a golden opportunity for me and I understood its depth as I attended the 18th National Council of in Goa. It was a great experience as we all together made the new action plan for the next three years. Every region as well as observers were given equal rights to keep their views and opinions in front of all which was commendable to see. We were also taken for an exposure visit where I totally understood the methodology of YCS /YSM, ‘See ; Judge ; Act’. I want to thank and appreciate the efforts of the Council management for our stay and study sessions. I too want to wish all the best to the new NEXCO’s for next three years. Thanks to all the student delegates as their presence made this council a success. Let YCS /YSM light shine

- Muskan Bhagore
Madhya Pradesh region



Search

REPORTS

NORTH EAST REGION

DIOCESE OF DIPHU

1st Summer camp and Dexco election

The first summer camp and DEXCO election was held from 8-10 July 2019 at Cathedral of Risen Lord, Karbi Anglong Diphu. There were 200 Delegates with 22 animators from 11 schools of the Diocese. The theme of the program was according to the National Theme. The Chief Guest for the programme were Vicar General of the Diocese of Diphu Fr. John Timung, DYD of Diphu Fr. Anthony Ingti, Sr. Aluti Rabha Regional Coordinator for YCS/YSM Northeast Region, Ms Inaliza ICYM National Editor and NERYC Regional Spokesperson, Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharjee YCS/YSM coordinator of Archdiocese of Guwahati, Miss Jurika Teronpi Diocesan coordinator of Diphu and Abolon Taro NEXCO. The programme included study session, group dynamics, cell meeting, Animation, Dexco election, Oath Taking, Pledge, Animators Training, cultural night and Ice breakers. We hope and pray with the new Dexco Team and group of Animators we can contribute as much as we can to the YCS/YSM movement.

- *Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharjee*



ARCHDIOCESE OF GUWAHATI YCS/YSM Inter-religious Exposure 30th June 2019

The YCS/YSM members of Don Bosco School Sonaighuli took the initiative of conducting an INTER RELIGIOUS EXPOSURE. We started the journey from a church by attending the Holy Mass. After that we went to a Buddhist Monastery, attended the morning prayer and took the blessing from



the Monks. After that we went to Tirupati Balaji temple. We prayed there and attended the morning Arti, learned some Mantras from the priest and proceeded to a Gurudwara. After reaching there we prayed with them and joined them for the community meal called 'lungr'. After our lunch the students cleaned the food court.

Last but not the least we went to our next destination that is an Islamic Darga. The Maulana prayed for our good health and studies. Then we ended our day by visiting an orphanage home 'Shenalaya'.

Our intention was to make the students mind broad to accept and respect all the religions and cultures and also to build a New Society with no discrimination between any religion.

- *Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharjee*

NORTHERN REGION

ARCHDIOCESE OF DELHI YCS/YSM orientation 15th June 2019

YCS orientation was organized on 15 June by the Archdiocesan YCS which was attended by 49 students from 5 different parishes. Orientation programme began with an action song. The students and the volunteers showed equal amount of enthusiasm and energy. The session was wonderfully conducted by Fr. Vijay, Ms Vanshika in which they appraised the students about the movement, its importance, hierarchy and the history. They elaborated on the beginning of this movement. An interactive session was also held where fellow YCSers, Anjalina, our NEXCO member, Vanshika our ex NEXCO

member, Binit our treasurer and Anisha, shared their journey and all that the movement had taught them over the years.

After a few animations Rohini took a session on the methodology which was followed by a cell meeting to clear any doubts the students might have on how to conduct one. Role playing and games kept the students engaged and interested throughout the day.

The program was a huge success thanks to Fr. George Manimala parish priest of Our Lady of Health Church, Okhla, the youth group of Okhla parish and Fr Vijay Baretto.

*- Rohini Gosh
Dexco Delhil*

18 National Council

EXPERIENCE

Greetings of joy!!

My name is **Andy Fernandez** and I am from MP region presently serving as diocesan president of YCS in Bhopal and completed one year of service. The 18th National Council, Goa was the first council for me. It was an amazing experience to be an observer and to experience the seriousness of the council and the presidium.

I was able to understand how YCS is a student movement as the chairperson and presidium members of the council were students!

And also meeting IYCS members and know how the movement works at the international level was fascinating. Meeting my old friends was amazing part of the council. I thank my region for selecting me to attend the Council which is the supreme body of YCS.

Once again thank you all.....

Dear YCS/YSMers...Greetings to all

We had our XVIII National Council from 17th to 24th of May 2019. Talking about me, I had a great experience in this council. This was my first ever program at the national level.

I came to know what our movement YCS/YSM is all about. We made friends from different regions. It was a great fun to know about others' culture, living style, their language etc. When I went there, I had friends only from my region, but now I have friends from every region.

This council gave me the strength, courage, self-confidence that I needed to be a good leader. Also the work of the presidium, the whole place looked like a small parliament.

I am so happy that on the last day I was selected as the national newsletter 'The Search' editor. It's a great honor for me. At last I would like to conclude this with a small note that YCS/YSM gives the greatest opportunity, God can ever give.. thank you

*Ashita jimmy, National Editor
Madhya Pradesh region.*

TESTIMONY

My name is **Anisha Tirkey from Northern Region**. Before joining YCS/YSM, I was shy, had stage fear, and there was no confidence in me. I joined YCS/YSM just for fun and summer camp but when I attended sessions during the summer camp, I got to know that this movement is more than fun or camps, and there is a big history behind this movement. I am in this movement from past 4 years. I love this movement because it teaches me many things like how I can become a good person in life. It gives me many opportunities which I will never get from any other movement nor in my school. YCS/YSM has developed my self confidence and I don't have any stage fear. I use YCS/YSM methodology in my personal life it helps me to solve my day to day problems easily. At last I want to conclude by saying that I thank Jesus for giving this opportunity to me...

UNDERSTANDING THRUST

SAFE CAMPUS/ SAFE SCHOOL

Every single school, college and university goes to great lengths to protect its students. The most visible reminder of that is usually the campus police force or security staff, but that's really just the beginning of most college safety measures. Building/dorm security systems, call boxes in parking lots, campus escort services, and other student protections are commonplace.

Actually, college campuses tend to be safer, on average, than the average given town or city. So, let that soothe our mind if you're worried about staying safe on campus! However, even though all these campus security precautions are great, it's important to remember that campus safety is also a personal responsibility.

Sarah Brown, a 2016 University of Utah graduate now working as a safety expert for Safe Wise, an online security resource, says every student should give serious thought to safety factors. "I lived on campus for three of my four years of college, and campus safety was always on my mind," she says. She advises students to do the same and offers these tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings when walking on campus.
- Avoid walking alone, particularly at night.
- Let people know where you're going.
- Get to know your roommates and neighbors.
- Always opt-in to get campus alert texts sent to your phone.
- Lock your dorm when you're not there.

(from various sources)

CONGRATULATIONS NEW IYCS ASIAN CHAPLAIN

Fr. Jacob Anil D'Sa SDB is appointed as the new Asian IYCS Chaplain. He took charge on 5th July 2019 during the 7th Asian Cafe Programme held at Jakarta, Indonesia. YCS/YSM India congratulates him and wishes him all the best. Ms Jessica from Taiwan and **Mr. Jimmy Pdang** from India were elected as Asian Team during the last Asian Council Session in Taiwan.



Sr. Lidwin Fernandes UFS is appointed as the Executive Secretary of the Womens Commission. She served the movement as the National Coordinator from 2018-2019 and spread the movement to new dioceses. YCS/YSM India thanks her for her service and congratulates her on her new appointment and wishes her all the best.

OUTGOING NEXCO TEAM (2016-2019)



**We are grateful to you for your services to
YCS/YSM India - THANK YOU**

YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



18 National Council



Inter-Religious Exposure



NEXCO Live-in



ATMA JAYA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA
BANDUNG CAMPUS
30 JUNE - 06 JULY 2019

7th Asian Chaplains and Animators
Formation Exchange (CAFE)

IYCS Asia new Chaplain



18 National Council



Inter-Religious Exposure



Summer Camp, Diphu

YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS
YOUNG STUDENTS MOVEMENT
Diocese of Diphu
1st Summer Camp
Theme: Young Students for Youthful Life
Self-Identity, Safe School, New Society
Date: 05 to 10 July 2019

Young Christian Students/Young Students Movement, (An Unit of CCBI Youth Commission)
YCS/YSM National Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, 25 Rosary Church Road, Santhome, Chennai - 600 004
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