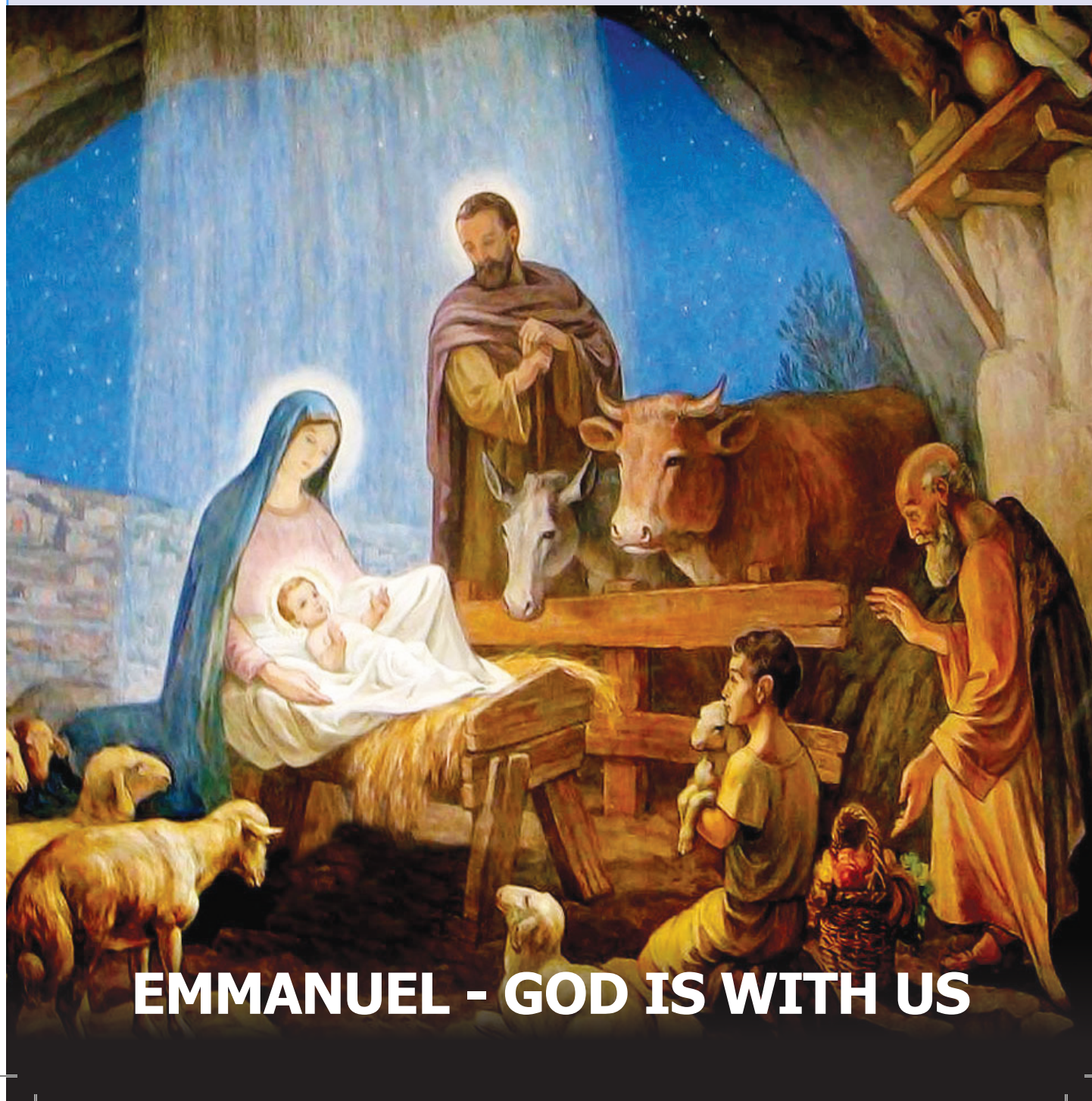


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EMMANUEL - GOD IS WITH US

'YCS' is the potential SPARK of the Church



Every experience teaches us something in life. It helps us to grow in our life. I too have grown as YCS animator. I myself became young as I see through these young people. It was a wonderful experience for me to be with the youth. They were very supportive and cooperative, ready to do whoever task was entrusted them.

When I see Youth, my thoughts roll back towards sweetest memories of my youthful days, where I enjoyed lots of activities. Yes, youth are the potential spark for the betterment of the society. They are the spark to bring harmony and prosperity. But we should never forget that this energy, this potential spark can be misled or take wrong route if they are not guided properly. Therefore Catholic Church is one of the effective organizations who tirelessly working for youth to mould in the values of Christ. There is a saying 'A Church without youth is a Church without a future. Moreover, youth without a Church is youth without a future' there is a mutual contribution between Church and youth.

In our Church we are blessed with YCS youth organization. We are blessed because their active participation in the Church activities brings more meaning, color, and joy. I am privileged to become animator of the YCS of my parish and I find it as blessing than a responsibility. The lively presence of youth, their dedication to work and unity among them makes me to jump into the ocean of youthfulness. They are ever ready to do work whenever they are approached. Whenever parish committee assigns a task or youth organizes programmes, they come together and distribute responsibilities among them and at the end of the programme they evaluate the programme. This affirms that they are conscious of the growth of the parish as well as each individual.

It is a joy to see that they have a lot of respect and love towards elders as well as their younger brothers and sisters. Their behavior is remarkable in the society. My personal feeling is that YCS organization makes our youth to spend their energy in productive and fruitful manner and Church remains as the light house to guide these youth. My heartfelt wishes to the youth is 'let this potential spark never quench rather bring more and more people to Jesus who is the source of this spark.

I had a wonderful and memorable experience with them. I learned many things through them. We always think that the youth are a little irresponsible in their life. But in my life I had a different experience. I found them very responsible. I am very privileged and proud to say that I am a YCS animator.

Today this experience as an animator has taught me a lot in my life. Today I want to say one thing to the youth; Enjoy life but enjoy with responsibility. Freedom with responsibility will reach you to the top of the world.

- Ms. Molly Vas

- Animator, YCS of Mangalore Diocese

EDITORIAL



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TWO WAY PROCESS

Greetings to all my dear YCS YSM'ers.

We have been surrounded by the festive season and celebrations for a while now. Our places of living - in and around have been lit up and filled with colours. And while these celebrations were on, there has been one activity that most of us have been continuously doing. Perhaps we haven't thought about it. Let me tell you what it is. It is the process of giving and receiving. One doesn't work without the other. However, one little thing observed here, is that many of us follow this activity only during festivals or on special occasions. The rest of the time we get "back to reality" where one does what one wants only.

The New Year has just begun and all of us may or may not have jotted down our resolutions. For those of you who have a new resolution you might have already found ways to complete or fulfil the resolution whereas some might have simply left it to the go with the flow process. However, one question that lies hanging here is, what have we carried forward from the past year into the beginning of this new year? Do we end the year with a complete fullstop and start of completely living a new life? As said earlier, our year ends with our festive activities of giving and receiving. Perhaps we could learn something from this. The process of giving and receiving could be made a part of our life rather than just living it during the festive times. Well, what exactly could be exchanged?

To start off with someone in need may require a helping hand; perhaps lend one. Who knows when you too may be in need of it. The companion may be in need of a minor or a major help; do what you're able to. It need not necessarily be in huge amounts. If you, yourself are not able to help, may be you could at least show them a path of help.

Lending a helping hand could result in you receiving help some day.

Share your positive emotions. This could be considered as an important element of exchange. A



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simple smile could make someone's day. Your vibe of positivity could always touch another being. If something has made you happy, share the happiness with others too. If someone's day is going low; lift his/her spirit high. At the end of the day the person may be grateful that he/she had an opportunity of meeting you and making oneself happy.

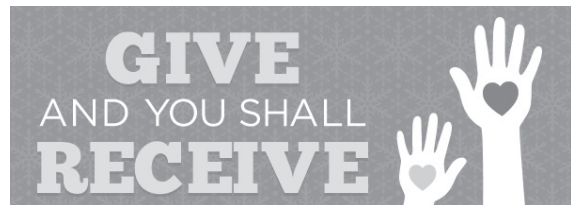
Our Scriptures too say that only if you give, you receive. This act however does not take a lot of your time, no money needed of course. All it needs is a bit of goodwill to do good. Therefore, as YCS/YSM'ers, let's give and spread positivity and happiness. Let us carry this value of the festive season forward into the new year. Let us be more loving in our deeds and words. Let us be generous in giving and helping others.

Wishing you all a Surprising Happy New Year!

I'm ready to give and receive! Are you?

Let YCS/YSM light shine

Jesvita Princy Quadras
National Convenor



Becoming part of YCS that stands for Young Catholic Students is such an amazing opportunity. It is really beautiful and memorable. YCS goes by the term preach what you practice and it is very true in every direction. I personally have learnt a lot from it. Starting from group activities and working with people and helping out those in need has given me all the experience of real life. One of the best quality I have learned is leadership. Leading from the front and leading together. A lot of activities form as part of YCS forum. As a team when we got an opportunity to represent at the National level in Kolkata, visiting those in distress and comforting them and spending time with one another are the great things. Opportunities to meet physically and mentally challenged and especially abled children and spending some time with them was really heartfelt. In tune with our Moto we did get a chance to raise funds for a family of three especially abled kids and do something for them that would bring a change. YCS has taught everything I need to know in life. Starting from empathy to team work and also making new friends on the way. The journey has been very memorable and something that I would cherish along the way. Participating in activities such as cultural festival and programmes representing our parish are wonderful. This has helped in many ways unseen and I am really grateful to all who have helped me in my journey of life.

- Arvin Roy D'Souza, Udupi

CHAPLAINS CORNER

WHAT'S YOUR

NEW YEAR'S

RESOLUTION?

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The name “January” comes from the Roman god Janus, the god with two faces, one looking to the past and the other looking to the future. This is indeed a time to look back at the year that has just ended and to look forward to the new year ahead of us. How did I spend this one year of my life that has just passed? Did I use it to advance my goals and objectives in life? Did I use it to enhance the purpose of my existence? Could I have done better last year in the way I invested my time between the demands of work, family, friends and society, and the demands of my spiritual life? What things did I achieve last year and what did I fail to achieve? How can I consolidate the achievements of last year while reversing the failures and losses in this new year? Through a soul searching questions like these we find that a review of the past year naturally leads to setting goals and resolutions for the New Year.

There are people who tell you that there is no point making New Year resolutions. Do not believe them. We must set goals and make resolutions as a necessary conclusion to our review of the past year. And we do need to review our lives from year to year because, as Socrates says, the unexamined life is not worth living.

In the newspapers we read about individual and collective new year resolutions. Most of those, however, are not resolutions at all but only wishes. What is the difference between a resolution and a wish? A wish identifies a goal one wants to reach, a resolution specifies the steps one will take to reach it. A wish says this is where I want to be, a resolution says this is the road I will take, this is what I will do to get there. The wishful person says “I want to pass my exams this year” and the resolved person says “I will devote an extra hour to my studies everyday in order to pass my exams.” The wishful person says “I will have more peace and love in my family this year” and the resolved person says “I will spend more time with my family at table instead of rushing off to the TV, so that we get to know and understand ourselves better.” The wishful person says “I will live a life of union with God this year” and the resolved person says “I will set aside this time everyday to pray and hear God’s word.” The difference between wishing and resolving is: are we prepared to do what it takes to make our dreams come true, are we prepared to pay the price?

As YCS/YSMers we have to understand this well. We are like salt which adds taste. Most of us attend a lot of camps, leaderships



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trainings , thematic conventions and conferences and learn a lot of things. We take resolutions to change our lives but unfortunately once we get back we forget and join the rest. We need to become 'light that shines in the dark'. We need to become role models to other students in our school/college.

Whatever the situation in which we find ourselves - a hardship, a disappointment, a decision to make - God has a solution, an answer that is right for us. We tell God about it in prayer but we also listen to what God has to tell us about it. Prayer is a conversation with God but sometimes all we do is pick up the phone, read out the list of our problems to God and drop the phone without listening to hear what God has to say to us. Let us today resolve to listen more to the voice of God, to treasure God's word and ponder it in our hearts. Then shall we be able to realize our new year resolution of a new life in union with God.



N-S-L-T-P Experience



“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way”

this is a saying I am sure all of you have heard of. There are innumerable definitions of who or what a leader is. Every person has

“a leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way”

his\her own opinions about what are the qualities that make one a leader. I have my own set of ideals or values when it comes to what a leader should be. Some of them being :

A leader never makes excuses, does not blame his team's incompetence as a reason for not being successful, listens to all, doesn't just make elaborate speeches but shows the way through his\her actions. Etc.

However, someone once said that not every person is a leader. There are some who are followers, they are the ones who make the team for a leader to lead and that thought got me thinking. Technically a leader is nothing without his team so when the world is emphasising about being a leader, being a follower is equally important because in a team each member's effort and inputs have a major role to play. Never think of yourself as anything less. Each person is unique and has a talent that no one else has and that is exactly what makes each and every person special. That is what the YCS and my first NSLTP has taught me. An entire week that I spent in Mangalore changed me for good. I had entered into YCS a shy introvert and dependent girl and after I came back from my first ever trip and NSLTP in Mangalore I wasn't the same. It taught me how just talking about the problem is not going to solve anything but the action part that counts. Each session that I attended inspired me in a different way and every activity taught me a little something that will help me ahead in life. If there is anything I regret after being a part of YCS then it is the fact that I got to know about it so late in life.

- Rohini Ghosh, Delhi- DTS

N-S-L-T-P Experience

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NSLTP was one such opportunity and a new beginning. I went to just have fun and fill up my Diwali vacation, but I came back with lots of learning and knowing and making friends around the country.

This program helped me change in many aspects. It taught me to make adjustments in life when necessary, to socialize, to take lead and motivate others. It gave me an opportunity to show my leadership skills. With every activity, I was learning something new, starting from the train journey which taught me to adjust. Dining area was always a place to mingle and know someone new.

“Behind us is infinite power, before us is endless possibility, around us is boundless opportunity”

Now coming to the sessions, every session was interesting and interactive. In a weeks’ time every aspect of students life was covered from relationships, media, to healthy life style. Being a psychology student I gained a lot of insight into the topics.

If I have to choose one session from the whole programme, personal experience shared by the former YCS students was the most enlightening and touching experience. A special mention to Mr. Roshan Lobo’s talk which is going to stick with me for a long time.

This trip showed me diversity of cultures and people. I was like a frog in the well. I didn’t know the ocean. Through this program I was exposed to the ocean where I met lots of other creatures whom I now call friends. And back home I flaunt and proudly say “I have friends all around India.” And one big change which my teachers noticed after this program is now “I am moving towards becoming a leader not just a follower”.

Thank you, YCS for giving me this wonderful opportunity to come out of my well and go near the ocean. Through YCS I would try to swim deeper into the ocean and explore it.

- Rommel Philip, Delhi- DTS

A journey of memories

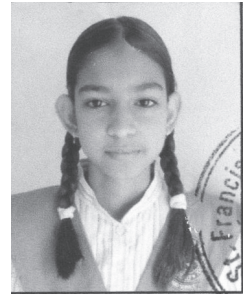
Whenever I think of the past. It brings back so many memories. One such memory strikes my mind. The national convention held at Kolkata. It was indeed an amazing experience. YCSers from all over India attended the convention. It was blissful and informatory. The most beautiful moment was when we shared our personal experience, a feeling of ‘FAMILY bond’ was a magic, which vanished all types of feelings like language, regionalism, cast and creed. It was ONE India Movement for we met YSMers from our country.

- Sharon, Udupi Diocese

YSM A Relationship UMBRELLA

- Srishiti Gurjar, VIII A,
Bareilly Diocese

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Relationship is that umbrella which protects you from the rain of misfortune; evil eyes of jealousy and artificial shine of greed, and neaps you to wring out the best from within. Relationship is a connection, affiliation, kinship, association and a bond between you and others. The quality of our lives in terms of happiness, peace and security mostly derived from the quality of our relationships.

When I started writing this article, the first thought that struck me was – relationship between a child and his parents. Parents have always been there for us and whatever we are is just because of our parents. There is nothing as pure and as serene as parental love.

But there is one more relationship which can never be forgotten i.e. relationship between two friends. There is a famous saying, when the character of a man is not clear, just look at his friends. There is no doubt that a friend adds fullness to life. A true friend supports you, encourages you tolerates your short comings and accepts you unconditionally. The best example of friendship is the relationship between Krishna and Arjun in Mahabharata.

Interacting with friends, help the children to learn many social skills such as how to communicate, cooperate and solve problems, cope with distress and tensions. The relationship of friendship is supported by Young Catholic Student / Young Students' Movement (YCS/YSM)



YSM acts as a medium for students by providing a platform to them to come together in small groups and share their feelings and problems, aspirations and anxieties which they are unable to share with someone else. This is purely a cell based movement that focuses on self, others and God. The history of YSM and the vision of Cardinal Joseph Cardijn who initially started YCW (Young Christian Workers movement) IN 1920's is linked to life.

THIS MOVMENT IS ROOTED in spirituality of action and reflection. It is a call to enlighten to oneself and others. I remember when we were called to get information about this movement I was excited with its spirituality, aim, rules and motto. I understood that movement can be a great help for personality development, leadership through talent exposure, faith formation, better future through studies and discipline, communal harmony and awareness to fight against injustice. We do learn to respect oneself and others and always be truthful, frank, hardworking and dedicated. I feel it's truly an encouraging, inspiring and one of the best student's movements which is giving its utmost for the welfare of students, society and the entire humanity. ♣



N-S-L-T-P Experience

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I had only some idea about YCS/YSM until I attended NSLTP program. This movement has brought a new light in my life. This YCS movement is helpful in building "Kingdom of God". These 5 days of training transformed me into a better new person. This is my experience about National Student's Leadership Training Programme held in Mangalore from 5th to 10th of November.

The methodology 'SEE JUDGE ACT' is very meaningful and I am applying it in my daily life. The NEXCO's were very energetic. I got inspired by some NEXCO's. The program was all about making Young students better leaders of tomorrow.

This camp gave me a opportunity to mingle with people from different regions of India. We had sessions on different topics. I came to know about the YCS movement in depth. These sessions gave importance to the problems of our society. The topics discussed were rights of child, the change that can be created by me in the society, Various videos were shown relating to the lifestyle of our society and then evaluated and future action plans were also decided. The camp gave us an opportunity for exposure. The entire batch was divided into groups. Our group had gone for oncology ward of Fr. Muller's hospital. We came to know about the concerns of different people. We prepared a report and shared it with others. The other groups did the same. The camp supported public speaking and helped in developing such qualities. We had cafe discussions on five different topics. We also attended Diocese youth convention of Mangalore diocese held in Kadaba. ICYM National President explained us about his experience in Synod. He told us how lucky Indians were. Jesvita and Roshan shared their experiences regarding their leadership in the movement. They explained us about the benefits of taking part in this movement. Three former YCS'ers told us how the movement brought change in their life. Mr. Francis, YCS animator answered our various doubts regarding the movement.



We also had lots of Cell meetings. We had a lot of fun activities. The action songs kept us active throughout the camp. We played games which helped us in knowing each other. We analyzed various situations through our methodology. We celebrated the festival

of lights. We presented the cultural programs according to our region and group. Fr. Chetan and Fr Anil were like our friends in the camp. We had bonfire where we enjoyed a lot. We went to beach and played for 90 minutes. We sang songs when we travelled to DYC and sightseeing.

The camp has created memories which will last forever. I am applying in my life the lessons learnt in this training program. I will work for this movement and also encourage others to do so.

- Winston Sequeira, Karnataka

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Being Positive, is very beneficial for our mental health because it eliminates negative thoughts that can cause depression and stress. But it is much more than just being happy or displaying an upbeat attitude. We can actually create real value in our life and help one to build skills that last much longer than a smile. A child who runs around outside, swinging on branches and playing with friends, develops the ability to move athletically (physical skills), the ability to play with others and communicate with a team (social skills), and the ability to explore and examine the world around them (creative skills). In this way, the positive emotions of play and joy prompt the child to build skills that are useful and valuable in everyday life.

We need to find ways to build happiness and positive emotions in our life. Whether it is through meditation, writing, playing a pickup basketball game or anything else that can provide more than just a momentary decrease in stress and a few smiles. And find ways and means how our past experiences fit into our future life, when we begin to develop skills they will blossom into useful talents and spark the urge for further exploration and adventure.

To put it simply: seek joy, play often, and pursue adventure. Your brain will do the rest.



National Chaplain's Activities

1. 5-10 Nov - National Student Leadership Training, Mangalore
2. 5-10 Nov - National Animators' Training Programme, Mangalore
3. 12 Nov - Visit to Shimoga
4. 15 Nov - National Peace Convention Meeting, Delhi
5. 16 Nov - Visit to Jalandhar, Meeting with the Chairman
5. 12 Dec - Chennai, visited CA for office work
6. 15 Dec - Christmas Celebrations at CCBI Centre
7. 17-23 Dec - Aizawl, Mizoram, Diocesan YCS Convention
8. 25 Dec - Delhi, Christmas Mass at Ashokvihar
9. 31 Dec- Delhi, New Year Celebrations at Hauz Khas

Future Programmes:

1. 10-11 January 2019 - NT/EXCO meeting, Goa
2. 29-01 February 2019 - National Peace Convention, Delhi
3. 16-25 February 2019 - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
4. 15-17 May 2019 - NT/EXCO Meet, Goa
5. 17-24 May 2019 - YCS/YSM National Council, Goa
6. 2-12 June 2019 - (ACT) Youth Ministry Course



For details contact:

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dia@gmail.com)

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

Begin New Year with a right resolution



Fr Charles Menezes
IYCS Chaplain

SEE

Do you want to begin the New Year with right notion and motive? Then, you'll give yourself your best shot at success if you set a goal that's doable and meaningful too. A lot of these resolutions fail because they're not the right resolutions. A resolution may be wrong for one of three main reasons:

- It's a resolution created based on what someone else is telling you to change.
- It's too vague.
- You don't have a realistic plan for achieving your resolution.

Eg: The rich young man (Mt 19:16-30); *Come follow me.....let me go and first burry my father.....let me say goodbye to my family* (Lk 9: 59-62)

JUDGE

Most of the time, one

third of resolutions don't make it past the end of January. Hence, your goals should be smart SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound). It may work for management, but it can also work in setting your resolutions, too.

- **Specific.** Your resolution should be absolutely clear. Making a concrete goal is really important rather than just vaguely saying: - "I want to lose weight - How much weight do you want to lose and at what time interval? Five pounds in the next two months? That's going to be more effective."
- **Measurable.** This may seem obvious if your goal is a fitness or weight loss related one, but it's also important if you're trying to cut back on something, too: - Logging progress

into a journal, making notes on your phone or in an app designed to help you track behaviours can reinforce the progress, no matter what your resolution may be.

- **Attainable.** This doesn't mean that you can't have big stretch goals. But trying to take too big a step too fast can leave you frustrated: - Resolving to save enough money to retire in five years when you're 30 years old is probably not realistic, but saving an extra \$100 a month may be.
- **Relevant.** Is this a goal that really matters to you, and are you making it for the right reasons? If you do it out of the sense of self-hate or remorse or a strong passion in that moment, it doesn't usually last long, but if you build

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up a process where you're thinking harder about what's good for you, you're changing the structure of your life, you're bringing people into your life who will reinforce that resolution, then you have a fighting chance.

- **Time-bound.** Like "achievable," the timeline toward reaching your goal should be realistic, too. That means giving yourself enough time to do it with lots of smaller intermediate goals set up along the way. Focus on these small wins so you can make gradual progress.

Significance: While New Year is considered a secular celebration, it plays a significant role as the beginning of another year which for most

people is a new start in their religious and secular lives.

ACT

As Christians when we make some temporal resolutions for the New Year, it is apt that we make also a resolution to grow up spiritually. It doesn't mean that we become more religious. Know the difference between religious performance and spiritual action.

Understanding spiritual action: It means that the faith that we profess is put into human actions to bear witness to Christ. Here are some Biblical instances for your reading and meditation.

Eg: Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37); The Lost sheep (Mt 18:10-14); Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32); Mary

and Martha (Lk 10:38-42); Healing at Sabbath (Jn 9:1-41); Woman caught in adultery (Jn 7:53-8:11); The labourers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1-16); Healing of a Blind man (Mt 20: 29-34)

Some creative New Year resolutions:

- Choose one person you disagree with and take him out to lunch.
- Become pen pals with someone in prison.
- Do one thing that scares you — knowing you'll get rejected.
- Talk to a stranger every week
- Celebrate one of your failures with your friends
- Say Yes to everything for one month
- Buy fruits and vegetables that don't look perfect, etc, etc, etc.

IYCS-JECI wishes you all HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! ❖



NEXCOS

a difference
for the Movement

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Kamal Francis
Ex-YC Ser Chennai

Today's world is of rapid change where everyone is fast. Whether we like it or not, we are forced to adjust or fit into this system of fast change. People prefer fast food, fast communication, quick product and money, fast development in the market and industrial sector, rapid economic growth, quick income and so on. Sometimes we feel that we are unable to keep pace with the rapidly changing world.

Influenced by this trend, people expect immediate result in every undertaking and task. The YCS / YSM as a movement with its own identity is facing a crisis situation.

And this is where we look up to our greatest leaders who lead the Movement from the forefront, yes, they are the NEXCOS.

NEXCOS, as quoted from our Constitution Article 4:7:1 shall consist of two or more elected/ selected

student representatives, of every region together with Regional Director/ National Chaplain and the National Coordinator.

Why do we need to look up to them, reminds me of one such incident, that changed the value and power of a NEXCO. I had the opportunity to attend the National Animators Training Program, Gujarat, where we also had the National Executive Committee Meeting. The National Chairman bishop participated in the Meeting, where the relevance of YCS/YSM was discussed.

The NEXCO received the Chairman very cordially. The NEXCO Convener Joyce John, presented the reality of the Movement at the meeting. The Convener requested the Chairman to take up the

issues in a bigger forum and appeal to all the bishops to promote the values of change for the Young.

Seeing this, the Chairman Bishop who had the plan to stay only for the inaugural session decided to participate in the entire meeting to understand the student reality. He asked the NEXCOS to extend their opinion and call through a personal letter of interest through which he promised he would address the issues, in the bigger forum.



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This was such an incident where I saw the power of NEXCOS who were united to address the issues faced by the Movement and presented them convincingly.

When the NEXCOs unite, the Movement blossoms into a flower and makes it replenishing. Any student, who becomes part of the NEXCO, does not immediately make a big change but rather by participating, in the NEXCO Meetings, they come together as one family, and that becomes a Cell, where they sit down to share and reflect upon the problems and anxieties of their personal life by imbibing the Methodology of the

Movement as a way of life to be able to discern and change themselves in building a better and a just society.

It is here, they are able to realize and identify the spirituality of the Movement, and form fraternal relationships to build a better world with the assistance of the National Chaplain and the National Coordinator.

NEXCOS, have the power and responsibility to communicate and identify the potentials of various students who are part of their region, in enabling them to become better leaders for the Movement and the Society.

It is during their tenure they get to identify their potential as agents of change, and get a chance to organize various exposures for the students in the regions and dioceses to participate. They represent the highest body and also get exposures to strengthen their spirituality at the Asian and International Exposures.

If NEXCOS, can make a difference then, why not us! As Chaplains, Animators, Members, Former Members!

As National Council 2019 is round the corner, it's our kind duty and responsibility to choose the leaders of tomorrow in the best possible way. ♣



As YCSer I have learnt what is life? It is my life. Through the methodology of YCS I have learnt not to accept any definition on my life from others. It is a miracle for me. It is full of give and takes. The motto 'Change oneself and Change others' reminds me not to take anything for granted. It is the attitude to my life determines my rise and fall. I learnt that my mind is very powerful that believes everything that tell to it, so I make an effort to fill it with Faith, Truth and Love. One of the rules of YCS 'Do a good deed everyday' has lead me in the path of time management. If I am not alert with my timings, even a correct decision is wrong when it is too late. All that matters is timing, Respect time and time will respect you. Always time is determined by our feelings and our psychological conditions and not by clock. Long live YCS my sweet family.



Abhinisha, Tamil Nadu

YCS is very interesting Movement. Being in this movement is an opportunity to meet God and transform our life to God. This Movement motivates us to do better things in the society. The Movement also let us to know and learn the life of our neighbours, help them in need and be the part in the service of the poor. I love to see people living in happiness, and try to do whatever I can, I want everyone to live happily. I have gained a lot of knowledge and I can understand my life. And I am very happy that I am the part of YCS movement.

Stalan Fernandes, Mangalore Diocese



CLIMATE JUSTICE

& MODERN COMMUNITIES

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Why this and why now?

The problem

Rising sea levels are swallowing up islands, extreme weather is damaging communities, and each year is increasingly becoming hotter. Failure to act puts our entire livelihoods at risk. Climate change denial is no longer an option, and the fossil fuel industry and governments need to be held accountable. Through strategic legal actions various NGOs and lawyers are putting pressure on the governments and corporations to take immediate steps to protect current and future generations. There are thousands of movements which are refusing to let profit take over people and the planet. From fishermen communities to farmer communities, youth to seniors, we should make the world greener, just, and safer place.

We all have a right to a stable climate, a healthy environment and a good life. But weak climate commitments by governments and companies won't deliver in time, putting everyone's lives and livelihoods at risk unless we increase the pressure now. To protect our climate, we need to deploy every tool in the toolbox. This includes using the law to hold governments and corporations legally and morally accountable and force them to accelerate the just phase-out of fossil fuels.

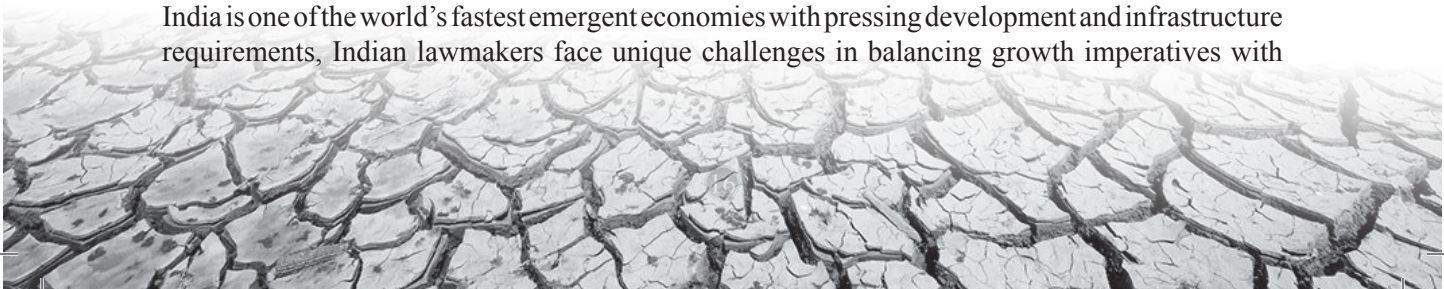
Climate Justice

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change. Since the industrial revolution began 200 years ago, gases like carbon dioxide and methane have been slowly building up and warming our planet. There are products of industrial human activities like deforestation, agricultural, and most of all, the burning of fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal. Today we need to ask ourselves, what can we do about it ?

In 2015, a group of brave Filipinos (Citizens of Philippines) took the lead and filed a landmark petition with the commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to claim their right to a stable climate. Because of their petition, ground breaking public hearings are happening in the Philippines, New York and London. 47 big companies, including Shell, Exxon, BP are investigated. They have been invited to face communities but sadly none of them have showed up so far. We need to hold them accountable because the outcome of this case can speak hope to vulnerable communities and give them strength to take action. It will not only benefit the Filipino people, but all of us! Must we wait to lose another loved one? Must we wait for bigger and stronger storms? Must we wait for another tragic story until we reach climate justice?

Legislative Framework in India

India is one of the world's fastest emergent economies with pressing development and infrastructure requirements, Indian lawmakers face unique challenges in balancing growth imperatives with



environmental responsibilities. In the past few years, the government has introduced a slew of environmental regulations in consultation with diverse stakeholders, ensured mandatory implementation of 24/7 real-time emission and effluent monitoring in industries, upgraded emission standards for polluting industrial sectors, and taken stringent action, including closure against polluting industries.

The Constitution embodies environmental protection and promotion as a fundamental right guaranteed to Indian citizens. That apart, Article 48-A, Article 51-A, The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (EPA) is the umbrella legislation that deals with environment protection in India.

Some of the other key specialised legislations include:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 (Water Act) – to provide for the prevention and control of water pollution and maintaining or restoring the wholesomeness of water.
- The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 (Forest Act) – to provide for the conservation of forests.
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 (Air Act) – to provide for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.
- The Biological Diversity Act 2002 (Biodiversity Act) – to provide for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources, knowledge and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- National Green Tribunal Act 2010 (NGT Act) – to provide for the establishment of the National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right related to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for connected or incidental matters.



The Regulators

There are 5 vital regulations which the citizens are expected to be aware in terms of climate change. Government agencies regulating and enforcing environmental and climate change rules in India include the following.

- I. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- II. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
- III. State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees
- IV. Other authorities
- V. Judicial role in environment regulation

Conclusion – Research

Public participation in climate change policy requires a clear understanding of the issues. This is essential if an informed society is to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Women, due to the type of activities they perform in the household, may have a prominent and leading role in this sphere and thus constitute a group holding great potential to support policies to deal with adaptation to climate change.

The purpose of the present study is to assess gender-related awareness of climate change issues and the engagement of citizens in climate change mitigation based on eco-feminism theory to the socio-cultural features of citizen households in Iran. To this end, 310 residents of Quemshahr in Mazandaran province (Iran) were selected with a random sampling method. The results show that while women's behavioural engagement in tackling climate change is high, men exhibit a high level of cognitive dimension of engagement in tackling climate change. Furthermore, the results show that the level of citizens' engagement varies by education and age. Based on the research findings, activities to promote environmental education and understanding of climate change mitigation policies are proposed to increase the level of knowledge of the target group.

Let us be a strong group who cares and protects Mother Nature by using various tools like human sensitivity, love towards nature, Governmental laws and policies, power to raise voice and safeguard the nature for future generations.

V.M. Ebin Navis

(from various sources)

YCS/YSM INDIA
cordially invites you to
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NATIONAL THEME
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REPORTS

MADHYA PRADESH

MADHYA PRADESH REGION

Thanking YCS wholeheartedly for all the good work.

MP Region has 10 dioceses among which there are only five dioceses with the presence of YCS, namely, Bhopal, Indore, Khandwa, Jhabua and Gwlaior. Since these dioceses are mission dioceses we are unable to function like Southern dioceses. However, we are happy to do the mission among the teenagers at the diocesan and zonal levels as well as parish level. This year our regional team along with the Regional Chaplain visited three dioceses and promoted YCS.

Fruits of the ministry among five dioceses is that we have now new YCS Regional Team elected from these above five dioceses. We are committing ourselves in promoting YCS in these dioceses. Following are the details of YCS members as whole in these dioceses:

Bhopal: 550 YCS approximately

Indore: 250 YCS approximately

Khandwa: 400 YCS approximately

Jhabua: 150 YCS approximately

Gwalior: 200 YCS approximately

- *Fr. Alex Jesudasan, Regional Chaplain*

NATIONAL OFFICE

NATIONAL YCS ANIMATORS' MEET

The National Young Catholic Students' Animators Training Program was held at Bajjodi from 6 - 10 November, 2018. There were about 75 delegates from different regions and dioceses of India. There were 20 animators

priests, sisters, and lay people and the rest were students. On the 6th morning, Most Rev. Peter Paul Saldanha, bishop of Mangalore inaugurated the training program by lighting the lamp. Some sessions were separately held for the students and the animators and



the others were combined. On 6th afternoon all the participants were sent for an exposure visit. We were divided into 5 groups including the animators and were sent to different places of Mangalore city to SEE the reality. The St Antony's Ashram, Father Muller oncology ward, Central Market, fish market and City Center. The methodology of YCS is See, Judge and Act (awareness, reflection action and evaluation). The interesting part was once we returned, we had to present our experiences in a creative way with our entire group. It was an enriching moment to listen to each group's presentation with the help of videos, audio recordings, charts. The reality witnessed as poverty, sickness, struggle for daily living in spite of ill health, struggle between life & death in the terminal illness and the different attitudes of acceptance. The other two days at Bajjodi there were various sessions on different topics such as trends of youth, animating the Jesus' way, spirituality of the movement, social analysis and our

response, constitution of YCS, cell meeting and cell life- the core of YCS as well as a café on social issues by the animators. Few youth shared their experiences in YCS and inspired the participants. We were privileged to have with us Mr. Perciaval Holt, the only youth who represented the youth of India for the youth synod at the Vatican. An inspiring personality who shared his experience of the synod and his inspirations from Pope Francis with the help of videos. The training programme concluded with the Eucharistic celebration followed by a short concluding ceremony where participants were given a certificate and a memento. During the training different regions animated the prayer service and daily Eucharistic celebration.



It was an enriching experience mixing with different people from all over the country from different age groups; this exposure gives me an awareness not to judge anyone. The students were constantly reminded: “you are allowed to make mistakes but don’t repeat them”. I realized how important it to be oneself and I’m not called to be a Xerox copy of some by imitating them. The youth who shared their experiences constantly reminded the participants not to have a desire to become like someone else, rather be your true self. Change begins with oneself I’m not called to change the society after knowing the reality rather the spirituality invites me to become aware of my attitudes and behaviors and change myself to create a better society

and to build the Kingdom of GOD. In the group each member had the privilege to share his/her point of view and everyone’s opinion was valued. The various games and group activities were conducted to give us a message that it is the movement of the students and their views are to be valued and not to be dominated by the animators and the chaplains.

- Sr. Nancy Priya, Animator, Mangalore

NORTHEAST REGION

DIOCESE OF AIZAWL Diocesan Youth Convention

The first Diocesan level YCS convention was held at St. Lawrence School, Aizawl from 18th December to 21st December 2018 on the theme : “Called to believe; begin, become’. Youth Commission of the diocese collaborated with the Diocesan Sunday School Board to organise this first ever convention. Over 350 YCS students participated in this convention.

The inaugural Eucharist was celebrated on 18th morning followed by a short inaugural ceremony. Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain was the chief guest at the function.

During the convention there were useful sessions and workshops. Students were given



a lot of information on career guidance, relationship etc.

Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, bishop of

Aizawl celebrated the Holy Eucharist on the third day of the Convention. He appreciated the efforts of the animators and the Secretary of the commission. Young priests of the diocese also shared their experience. Taize prayer was conducted during the programme.

Every day of the convention began with the Holy Eucharist and concluded with cultural shows. Former YCSers and youth were also made part of this convention. Ms Rebecca and many other animators under the able guidance of Fr. James conducted the programme.

- Ms Justine, NEXCO

KARNATAKA

Udupi Diocesan YSM Convention

Udupi diocese organized a one day Convention of YSM on 14 January 2019 at Diocesan



pastoral centre at Udupi with the theme “Our Constitution Our Right”. Input session on the theme was given to the students in the morning. It was followed by competition on presentation of the theme through skits, dance and singing. The best three schools were presented with awarded by Fr Anil Dsa SDB, the National coordinator for YCS/SYM who was the chief guest for the programme.

About 300 students from 17 schools participated in the programme. The students

went home resolving to build a just society by adhering to the constitution of the country and raising their voice against injustice and attempts to tamper the constitution by the vested interest group.

-Deril D'Sa

REGIONAL COUNCIL - KARNATAKA Bangalore

The Regional Council of YCS/YSM, Karnataka Region was held on 8th December



2019. Five dioceses where YCS/YSM Movement is active participated in this Council. Mr. Deril D'Sa from Udupi diocese and Ms. Jenna from the Archdiocese of Bangalore were elected as representatives for NEXCO from the Region. Most Rev. Henry D'Souza, Regional chairman was present at the council. Ms. Jovita, former NEXCO from the region and Ms. Jesvita Quadras, National Convenor conducted the elections.

- Jesvita Quadras

MADHYA PRADESH

MP Regional YCS Elections 2018

YCS Bhopal diocese organised two days training for the Young Catholic Students on 15th -16th December 2018 at Divine retreat centre, Kolar. The theme for this training was to inculcate the quality of leadership in students so that they can change themselves and lead others to the right path.

Many students from different dioceses took active part in every activity and committed in forming themselves as good leaders. Khandwa, Bhopal, Indore, Jhabua and Gwalior dioceses took part in this training. Students were welcomed by Bhopal diocese and Fr. Alexander (Regional Chaplain, M.P).



Ms Afrema (YCS Leader) also guided students by sharing her personal life experiences. YCSers were taught about hardwork, responsibility, caring, adjusting themselves and to grow up as a matured catholic student in church, school and at home.

In the morning, after the prayer, Fr. Hermen Kujur shared his life experience to teach the students about what is to be a leader .

Finally there was election to elect the regional representatives. Students voted and elected



the new leaders for YCS. Fr. Alexander thanked all students for being a part of this training..

And also thanks to respected father Alexander to conduct such a great thing and to make lot of efforts for teenagers .

- **Muskan Bhagore, YCS Secretary**

Nov. 8: “ Ingenium 2018”- a Talents exposition event was organized by the YCS (Young Catholic Students) Central Council on November 4th 2018 at St Agnes PU College, Mangaluru.

The event began with the Inauguration at 9:30 AM by invoking God’s blessings. Ms Ashvia Lasrado the diocesan president welcomed the gathering. Mr Aravind Bolar, famous Tulu Actor was the chief guest. He inaugurated the event with other dignitaries by spraying colors on the logo of the event.

The new Konkani anthem for YCS was also released during this occasion. Mr Aravind Bolar in his message spoke enthusiastically in Konkani as well as Tulu and encouraged the students to keep smiling in victory and defeat alike.

The valedictory was held at 3:30 PM. Mr Walter Nandalike was the chief guest. Mr Joshua DSouza welcomed the gathering. The chief guest in his message motivated the young students to face failures and criticism bravely and use that as a stepping stone to success in their life. A collection of “Action Songs” by the YCS Central Council and videographed/ music arranged by Royston Bajpe was released by the chief guest. Fr Rupesh Madtha proposed the vote of thanks and announced the winners of various events. The program concluded at 4:00 PM

Seven competitions were held on the day. Mad Ads, thematic group dance, devotional group singing, face painting, soap carving, photography and pencil sketching events were held where over 650 participants from 42 teams took part.

- **Fr. Rupesh Madtha, Diocesan Chaplain**

YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



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Be a Missionary with your Prayers*



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