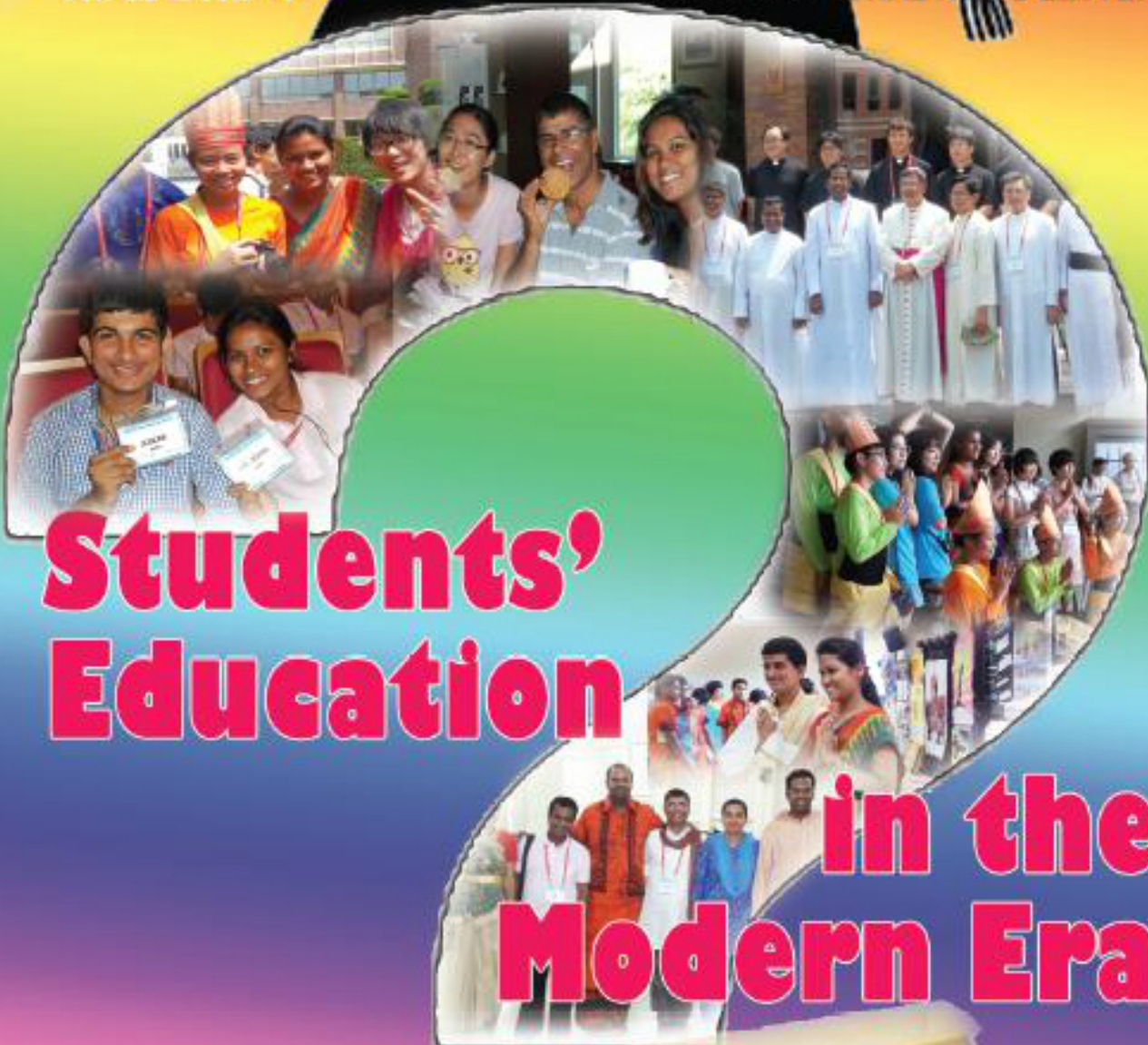


The Search

November - 2012

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YCS/YSM NATIONAL NEWS LETTER



Students' Education

in the Modern Era



YCS/YSM India

Wishes you all

Eid Mubarak

*Merry
Christmas*

*Happy
Diwali,*



YCS/YSM ANIMATION HOME

66 (old 151) Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004. India

Chaplain's Corner

The JOY of GIVING

Are we doing justice to what we have been given by God and our elders?

Genesis says that we have been created in the image and likeness of God's. Isaiah says that our names are carved in the palm of God's hand. Jesus says that we have been taken care of by Father Almighty like every bird, tiny grass, lilies of the field and every hair of our head have been counted. St. Paul says that the Spirit has been poured into us and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are so many, it is for us to enable, recognize and use them for the glory of God.



We know that we have been granted so many gifts from God. All of us are given good parents, brothers and sisters, friends, teachers, elders, well wishers, talents, education, knowledge, wisdom, beauty, health and environment to live in. We are given opportunities to experience life and livelihood. We are also given umpteen opportunities to give something to others, sacrifice something for others and be contented in life.

Are we sharing all these things with the poor, underprivileged and the little ones? Are we becoming more and more selfish as the days pass by?

This book belongs to the YCS/YSM members. After your reading please hand it over to them. Thank you.

The knowledge, time, talents and the things that we possess are granted by God and others need to be shared with others to have life to the full. To do so we need to belong to the strings of life, people of society and neighborhood, culture and nature, love and life. Join some group where you can learn and experience the joy of giving. In our day to day life we watch people giving and sharing what they have and if at all we also practice that we will be always contented in life and that should be aim of our life.

YCS/YSM gives you an opportunity to link yourself to others and to the reality. Some of us are its members, yet I doubt how much justice we do to the aim and objectives of this movement. Have we tried to change ourselves, our attitudes, our values? Some others simply look at it as something useless and ghostlike, may be because we have not set an example for them to see and experience it. In some places nothing is happening.

I see many things and activities are happening here and there, they are to satisfy our self and in writing long reports. Do we sit down and think the realities of life reading the signs of time? Are we doing these things only for the sake of doing and satisfying our selfish motives?

Come on examine your conscience and self and start doing justice to what you are supposedly doing as the methodology and spirituality of the movement demands. Sit down in your CELL and start conversing with others as to where you stand in life, in the eyes of God and in sharing the life given to you.

XVI National Council is approaching fast in May 2013. We need to evaluate ourselves and find answers to all these queries during that time. I invite you all to prepare yourselves and respond to this great event. Very few may get a chance to actively participate in it but they represent you and your voices. It will help us find a path towards the future plan of action.

'Students' Education in the Modern Era' being the subject of study and through the thrusts, Interculturality, Religious Pluralism and Universal Culture of Love and Life will enable us to plunge deeper in to the reality of students' educative life. It is not enough to gain knowledge but need to relate and participate in the lives of the people of the world. These three aspects will enable us to be better human beings. Come on; be prepared to share your life stories with us all.

The ten days that we spend together will boost our minds with serene aspects of life. It requires a lot of expenditure too. You have a chance to contribute your might, may be a token of love but it should be a JOY of GIVING.

Let's do it. Let us change, serve and celebrate life to the full

- Fr. Charles Menezes

BEWARE

If your unit is not having

CELL MEETINGS

Every week / fortnight on

STUDENT RELATED ISSUES in the METHODOLOGY of YCS/YSM

SEE, JUDGE and ACT

Remember your unit does not belong to YCS/YSM movement

THE CONVENER SPEAKS...

Make a difference

It is a pleasure to write to all of you after a long time. The last time I wrote was when I was first elected as the National Convener and now I write to you almost at the end of my term in complete gratitude and humility to all those who have been a great support to me through this most precious stage of my life. As we approach the most grand and solemn National Council 2013 to be held at one of the most beautiful places, warmly embraced with nature at its best- 'BETHEL', I humbly and urgently ask each one of you to the least you can do for the love of the movement, in acknowledgement for all the endeavors of our National Chaplain and the efforts of the National Executive team, by collecting funds in as many ways you can so that we can successfully carry out this great council in full intensity.



I request each region to train each delegate you send forth to the Council about the movement and I would like each delegate to know what an honor it will be for them to be a part of the young leaders from all over the country evaluating and deciding on the course of this our movement. It shall be definitely most fruitful if all of us could together own the council and take it as our responsibility together to make the council happen and happen to make a difference.

An effort as small as it may be can make a huge difference and wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us could make some difference and be proud sponsors, perhaps the youngest ever to the Council that is nothing but that authority that makes young students like us morally responsible and socially strengthened??...

- Joyce John Dymphna, Kolkata



Compliments and Best Wishes

Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi

YCS/YSM India wishes you God's choicest blessings on all your undertakings in building faith and development in the newly erected UDUPI Diocese.

Report of the 12th IYCS Asian Session and Council 2011

Seoul, South Korea

The 12th International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), Asian Session and Council (ASC) was held from August 6-15, 2012 at Sungshin seminary campus of Catholic University, Seoul, South Korea with the theme 'Called to be the light of Asia, students forge ahead, with faith, for renewed Asia'. The theme was divided into three thrusts: Human rights for the differently able people, school violence and environment preservation and development.



We 94 delegates across 13 different countries in Asia namely from East Asia: China, South Korea and Taiwan, from southeast Asia : Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia , Thailand and Vietnam, and from south Asia : India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal all gathered together, united by the YCS spirituality discovering the realities towards those themes for building reflection leading to action.

On the 1st day of the ASC 6th Aug. we were led to the venue and introduced the place of our stay and council. Afternoon we put up the exhibition of our country in the



given place and in the evening, we were welcomed by the Korean traditional music namely Nanta, Samulnori performance and K-pop. We were divided into groups mainly focusing on the three sub-themes.

The next day on 7th Aug we had an opening mass in the morning by Episcopal Vicar for Youth of Archdiocese of Seoul, Most Rev. Basil Cho, Kyu-Man. All were dressed up in our cultural costumes. It was a new and wonderful experience to know the attire of different countries of the world around. We also had an opening of the exhibition of different cultures of the Asian countries.

Later In the afternoon we were taken out for the exposure visit on the topic related to different sub-themes of ASC and after the reporting session we had 2 attend talks given by different personalities about the issues related to the topics. This continued for the next two days as well.

I was in the 1st group. Our group was given the topic Human rights for the differently able people and so we were taken to visit two different places namely 'Seoul Community Rehabilitation center' and 'Korea Disabled People's Development Institute', 'Hasang rehabilitation center', 'The Human right forum of persons with disabilities in Korea'. The 2nd group dealing with the topic school violence was taken to 'Seoul metropolitan counseling & resource center for youth', 'Sushmoon girl's middle school' and 'Salesio youth center'. And the 3rd group basically dealing with the topic ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, was taken to 'Ipo reservoir' and 'Paldang organic farming community'



After seeing the reports of the participating countries, we found out that nearly all governments have been actively supporting the disabled people but the people in the rural areas have no access to the institutions established by the government for the betterment of the disabled people. There are still laws that need to be updated and improved. Also, one of the main causes and also the root of many human rights problem is that, many still look down upon who are disabled without knowing that they are special in their own way. In the parable it is said that 'Humans are made in the image of God. So every human being is precious and important as one is reflecting the body of God.' This means we should love one another and treat everyone equally.

Going also to schools in different parts of Korea, we see school violence as burning issue indeed in all part of Asia, through the reports of the participating countries; we have seen that though the government is trying its best to control this problem, the reason and consequences of the victims are still the same.

Under the topic of environment, we can see the difference between thoughtless and sustainable development. In the sessions, we got to know information of what man has done to the environment and its effects is vulnerable to mankind. We became aware of the connections between environment and its effects and also learnt the connection between the environment and life. We made country plans on how we could deal with the environmental problems and how YCS could help the society in improving it. We were also taught to make eco friendly soaps, mosquito repellent and sun cream.



What is most important now is to always keep in our minds that we only have one earth and it is high time we save our earth before it is too late!

‘The environment is God’s gift to everyone; therefore we have a responsibility towards the poor, the future generation and towards humanity as a whole’ (Pope Benedict XVI)

After the SEE part, we had a session on YCS spirituality where we were given a chance to remind us reform ourselves into a better person.

We were also taken to the recording center to record the theme song of ASC 2012 in order to deliver the message of love for the environment and human beings. We had a cultural night enlightening the different tradition of the participating countries.

On 12th during the Council proper final statement was proposed, national movement reports were read out, elections were held for the Asian coordinators post and plans for the next three years for the betterment of the society was made.

On 13th ASC proceedings were taken up with Asian and National Reports on the activities on the present Asian theme and movement activities, Amendments to the Constitution of the Asian Movement, Statement of Accounts and Budget and Asian Coordinators election. Ralph from Malaysia and Homme from Thailand were elected the new coordinators. Devett Obrien, the IYCS Secretary General headed the proceedings along with Reyna and Shehan Coorey, the Asian coordinators and Fr. James Chako, the Asian Chaplain and Stephnie Ng the Asian Lay Animator.

We had a day out in Korea on 14th, where we experienced Korea young people’s play, outing to Lotte world, visit to Jeoldusan museum.

There was a concluding mass on 15th. This was the day where mixed feelings were running through minds of everyone who had attended ASC. We were sad that it was the time for departure. We really had an incredible time in ASC, Korea.

These 10 days were one of the memorable days of my life. ASC has helped me a lot to reform myself into a renewed human person. I am thankful to Jesus for considering me able to attend ASC and giving me a chance to attend this session. PRAISE THE LORD

**- SHINY SOPHIA STANY RODRIGUES,
Milagres Kallianpur YCS unit, Udupi Diocese, Karnataka**

12th IYCS Asian Session and Council 2012 Final Statement

Introduction: The 12th International Young Christian/Catholic Students (IYCS) Asian Session and Council (ASC) was held from August 6-15, 2012 at Sungshin Campus of Catholic University, Seoul, South Korea with the theme 'Called to be the Light of Asia', Students Forge Ahead, with Faith, for a Renewed Asia, divided into three sub-themes: human rights for the differently able people, school violence, and environment preservation & development.



We, the 96 delegates from 13 different countries of the sub-regions of IYCS Asia namely; three from East Asia, five from South East Asia, and five from South Asia gathered together united by the YCS spirituality to reflect and act on the realities of Asia.

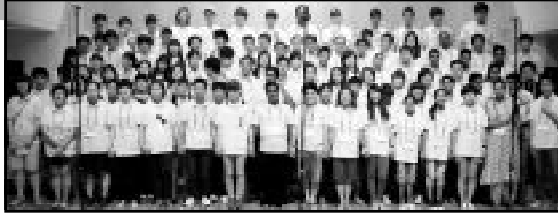
See: From our exposure tours and lectures, we became aware of the reality of the three situations:

a) For a deeper understanding of the sub-theme human rights for the differently able. We visited several institutions and schools for people with disability in Seoul, and after listening to the reports of participant countries, we found out that nearly all governments have been actively supporting the disable people. However, the statistics have shown that the rate of people with disability issue is still high, since their respective countries have not been able to analyze all the aspects related to people with disability. There are still laws that need to be updated and implemented. One of the main causes and also the root cause of many human rights problems is that, many still look down upon those who are disabling without knowing that they too are special in their own way.

b) Visiting the schools and centers for preventing school violence in different parts of Seoul, we became aware that school violence is a burning issue in all of Asia. Through the country reports from all participating countries, we have realized that although the governments are trying their best to control this problem, the reasons and consequences of the victims are still similar.

c) For greater awareness on the topic of environment, we visited the Ipo Reservoir and Padang organic farming community where we discovered the glaring difference between thoughtless and sustainable development. From the sessions that followed, we got to know about what man has done to the environment and its consequences. We became aware of the connection between environment and life. Whenever the environment suffers, the earth also suffers. What is most important now is to always keep in our minds that we only have one earth. The environmental problems seem similar to other countries and some people have started to actively help save our earth.

Judge : Jesus teaches us through the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke: 10: 25-37), that we should be giving a helping hand to those in need. From what we have seen, YCS members are moved to take up the role of leadership to fight against the consequences of violation of human



rights (in context: for the differently able people) and school violence (bullying). Despite the challenges, with the help of prayers and reflection, the important role of each individual person as an 'Image of God' was reflected on and therefore everyone must be treated with respect and compassion, as the way Jesus did.

With respect to the environment, inspired by the story of creation in Genesis, we highlight the quotation where God pronounced the word 'very good' to all of His creation and making humans as managers of creatures. We know, it is our incumbent duty to make harmony with nature, but for some time human ethics and greed causes destruction of the environment. Our time is limited but we can still make the earth a better place knowing that, 'the environment is God's gift to everyone; therefore we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards the future generations and towards humanity as a whole.' (Pope Benedict XVI)

Act: Knowing different social conditions and backgrounds of each country, we have decided to take up actions on the issues of environment, based on what we have seen and reflected on throughout this ASC.

- * To love our earth by taking public transportations or group transport as much as possible and think less about personal conveniences.
- * To spread out the word that we only have one earth, learn to cherish it, for it is not to be taken for granted but rather to be saved for future generations.
- * To do everything that we can to ensure that the environment is being treated properly.
- * To focus on the environmental issues for national movements, creating specific action plans to be implemented over the next 3 years.
- * As a sub region act, the three regions will start to create study forums or leadership training camps with the theme of environment for the next 3 years.

Conclusion: ASC 2012 has become a forum for sharing realities and YCS Spirituality. It guides us to launch into the deep, finding a common and major issue to act on. Though we chose to act together on the environment, it doesn't close doors for us to also care and take part with movements on human rights for the disable and the action to stop school violence.

As the light of Asia, we students will always strive to make the Kingdom of God a reality here on earth, for the greater glory of God.

Great award to Sr. Jeanne Devos ICM

A Belgian nun who has spent the past 48 years in India has received a prestigious award for her work with domestic workers.

Sr. Jeanne Devos was awarded the Ramakrishna Bajaj Memorial Global Award for her 'outstanding contributions to protecting the rights of domestic workers' at the 28th Priyadarshni Global Awards in Mumbai on Tuesday. The award was presented to the nun by federal health minister



Ghulam Nabi Azad. The Priyadarshni Academy was established to recognize and honor Indian talent. Awards are also presented every other year to achievers from around the world in different disciplines. In her acceptance speech, the Immaculate Heart of Mary nun highlighted some of the problems associated with domestic work, such as the trafficking of women and children, low wages, absence of strong legislation to protect them and physical and sexual abuse by employers.

Despite a serious back problem arising from an injury suffered more than 20 years ago, the nun travels across the country establishing domestic worker groups that are coordinated nationally by the National Domestic Workers Movement.

Sister Devos began her work in the early 1970s, when bishops in the Chotanagpur region of Bihar state expressed concern at the number of tribal girls leaving their homeland to work as domestics in big cities. The bishops then commissioned a survey which resulted in the birth of the Domestic Workers Movement. The sister was at that time working in Dindigul in Tamil Nadu but moved to Mumbai where she came in to closer contact with the world of domestic workers. Sister Devos launched Bombay House workers Solidarity in 1985 at the request of tribal bishops in Bihar and neighboring Madhya Pradesh state. Her work put her in touch with hundreds of girls in Mumbai, Delhi, Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The movement aims at achieving social justice for housemaids. The nun has also launched a national campaign in collaboration with similar organizations in various Indian cities to get these women recognized as workers and not as housemaids or servants. (Courtesy: UCAN news)

Sr. Jeanne Devos worked for YCS movement in 1960s. She organized the members of the movement from Bangalore and Chennai at Chennai on 16th January in 1966 and presented it to the CBCI who recognized and approved YCS/YSM as a student movement of personal transformation and social action. She became the first National Chaplain of this movement in 1969 to 1975. She was the Asian team member from 1974-1981. We owe our existence till today to her. She is a great human being and continues to inspire us anywhere and everywhere. Congratulations to you Sister and may God bless you with good health and success in all your endeavours. We salute you.

- YCS/YSM India

YCS / YSM CELL LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAM IN ORISSA



We had Regional level cell leaders training program on 28 to 29 July 2012 in Nava Jagriti, Kalunga where 113 students, 2 Excocs and 12 Animators from Rourkela and Sambalpur Diocese participated.

Fr. Anuj Parichha from Cuttack - Bhubaneswar Arch Diocese also participated in it as a representative from the Arch Diocese. The aim of this

program was to train the cell leaders of the different units of the Region to have cell meeting in see, judge, act methodology.

On 28th July evening we began the program with prayer and welcome address followed by giving badges to the animators, self introduction for all and prayer dance. Then Regional Chaplain Fr. Ranjit Minj spoke on the topic 'What is YCS / YSM'. After that we had First Cell Meeting in see, judge, act methodology on the topic 'Mother Teresa as a star' guided by Fr. Ranjit Minj. Then we had YCS / YSM clap and rosary prayer followed by supper.

On 29th July we began the day with Holy Mass. Its theme was 'Jesus feeds us with his word and body'. Main celebrant Fr. Kishore Xess in his homily highlighted on how Jesus feeds us with his word and body and sends us to be his messengers. After breakfast Fr. Sudhir Dumdung explained in short 'The History of YCS / YSM'. Then we had Second Cell Meeting in YCS / YSM methodology taking the topic 'Loving mother' guided by Fr. Ranjit Minj. Then we learnt the YCS / YSM Anthem. After



that the students who participated in NSLTP Gujarat performed a group dance. It was followed by Third Cell Meeting in YCS / YSM methodology taking News Paper articles cuttings, guided by Fr. Sudhir Dumdung. Animators guided their respective units during cell meetings. In between the sessions we had various action songs.

Then we had sharing of NSLTP - Gujarat, NTA / EXCO meet Gujarat and Animators' Training Program - Gujarat. It was followed by planning session. Then there was short evaluation of the program. In the concluding ceremony Fr. Anuj Parichha from Cuttack - Bhubaneswar Arch Diocese thanked for his new learning about YCS / YSM and expressed his desire to start YCS / YSM in different schools / Hostels of the Arch Diocese. We concluded the program with YCS / YSM clap, YCS / YSM Anthem and a short prayer.

This program oriented the YCS / YSM movement in the Region to be cell based. It gave the students and Animators an Experience of cell meetings in see, judge, act methodology. Coming together from different units of the Region itself gave an opportunity to learn from each other. Hope, it will be instrumental in the growth of YCS/ YSM in the Region.

- Nilmony Majhi & Sugandha Barla, EXCOS, Orissa Region

Goa programme:

Fr. Charles Menezes the National Chaplain visited Goa region on 19th August. 45 animators participated in the programme. Fr. Olavo introduced and welcomed Fr. Charles to the programme. Fr. Olavo and Janet led the group into ice breaking session. Then Fr. Charles took a detail session on YCS movement and its various facets. He insisted on dealing with the



children who are less privileged who really need our service than the studios and the privileged ones. The animators were made to put into their selfless service for the poorer ones who will be grateful to the

movement in the long run. A cell meeting was organized to spell out the methodology and then during the clarification time a number of problems of the students were dealt with by the Directors and Mr. Mathew D'Souza. A number so action songs and activities kept the participants awake throughout the day.

THE WORLD I WANT TO LIVE IN...

Scientists say that the earth is round, but the world I want to live in has heart-shaped with people walking hand in hand. Where there is only one God, one religion, one language and no discrimination.

I want to live in a world where an ambulance arrives faster than a pizza delivery man; where education is not only restricted to people who can afford a monthly fees of rupees two thousand; where there is no poverty. A world where the teacher teaches, and the student studies, not for marks but for knowledge, because when we die, we die with knowledge and not with marks.

A world where there is a vaccine for every disease including AIDS and Cancer; where the Sun and the Moon are seen together in the morning; where there is no limit to the natural resources.

A world where everyone has the right to study, water to drink, clothes to wear and food to eat.

I want to live in a world where everyone has a brain like Einstein, passion like Sachin, luck like Dhoni, charm like Brad Pitt, body like Hrithik, girlfriend like Megan Fox, willpower like Anna and a school like mine.

A world free of dirty politics, where there are no unfulfilling promises in the name of development; where there are no slums; the poor is not poor and the rich is not rich, where everyone can move around freely like a bird. A world where money doesn't exist and everything is available for free; where there are no anti-social groups; where we do not spend Rs. 10 crore on the security of Kasab, and jail Anna. A world where the state-fund is not wasted on celebrating IPL wins. A world where bore wells are not left uncovered to act as death traps for innocent Mahis.

I want to live in a world where life is a bed of roses without thorns. Where the wife is not beaten up every night by her husband; where the mother is respected by her children; where girl- child is given equal rights. A world where we are not asked to respect teachers, but we respect them from our heart. A world where 'original sin' doesn't exist; where we do not have racism and caste distinction and where every day is an independent day. A world where people live to love and love to live. A world full of equality and a world full of freedom and discipline.

Getting back from the fanciful flight of imagination, I just want the world where I was born.....

- Raunak Mohta & Rahul Xalxo

IYCS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

The IYCS is not only a Movement, it is also an Organization. We can only 'move' efficiently and fruitfully, and have influence and impact to the extent that we are well organized at different levels. The IYCS is well organized at the grassroots where individual members meet right up to the International level where the International Team co-ordinate all IYCS action and activities. It is important to understand our Organizational structures so that we can work well at each level to ensure that the aims and objectives of the IYCS are carried out effectively.

At the very grassroots- level of the IYCS is the Cell (group or team) of about 8-12 members as visualized by Cardinal Joseph Cardijn (1882-1967) and their Animator/Chaplain. Such a cell is initiated either in the School or Parish, or at times at College or University level. Most of the life of the movement is lived at this level. The members of the cell meet every week (fortnightly) to share, reflect and discuss their life situations/experiences and decide what kind of action they want to take to make their student environment better. In this process, the members also deepen their faith life and develop a strong community spirit.

When we speak of a 'group' we have in mind, first of a 'cell' made up of 8-12 members. The 'cell' (or Review group) is the core of the YCS and central to its organization. It is there that the Review of life is practiced, although the 'Act' phase of the Review is often carried out in collaboration with more or less stable 'contacts' of the Cell members, who then form the 'YCS Action Group' whilst the Cell members become 'YCS Leaders' as called in some places.

A cell is likely to be very ineffective if it becomes exclusive with members closed in upon themselves especially in carrying out the activity.

A number of such cells/teams in a school or parish or some convenient geographical area constitutes a unit/section. It refers to all the members of the YCS in a certain location. However cells are the basic foundation of the section and there can be no section without the presence of at least three cells that meet regularly. It is the active cell that encourages new membership and the formation of the new cells. When a section has been set up, the members elect a team of leaders who have the responsibility of organizing the action/activities of the section and also serve as a link with other section in the area. Leaders would include: Chairman (President), Secretary, Treasurer, Lay or Religious Animator, Chaplain.

Representative of various section in a Diocese/ Archdiocese could come together to form the Diocesan Council. It normally once a year to evaluate past experiences and plan future directions and elect the Diocesan Team. The latter has the responsibility to implement the decisions of the council and to co-ordinate the activities of the

Movement in the Diocese. It also serves to liaise with other movements and associations in the Diocese. The Diocesan team can decide how often it needs to meet.

The next level is Regional Council in the State (in India). It consists of the student representatives of the Diocese and elected Animators/Chaplains who meet every two years. The Regional Council is the legislative body which sends Exco members to the National Team.

The next level is National Council (in India). It consists of the student representatives of the Region and elected Animators/Chaplains who meet every three years. The National Council is the highest legislative body of the movement in any Country. The role of the National Council is:

- Review the plan of action of the previous years
- Make decisions to basic policies and the orientations of the movement
- Draw up and vote for the budget of the YCS/YSM
- Elect/ or approve the members of the National Exco
- Make the necessary amendments to the YCS/YSM Constitution
- Study some particular aspects of life which require special attention to prepare ahead the plan of action to be carried out during the next three years on the basis of the awareness of the situation of the society.

The National Team/Exco is the executive branch of the National Council and implements decisions of the National Council make a national program and coordinate the activities of the movement within the Nation.

At the International level IYCS is divided into following Regions: Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe and the Pacific. When necessary and viable the National Movements within these regions are coordinated by a Regional Coordination. However, in some regions because of their size, there are sub-regional groupings to facilitate better coordination. The regional meetings for selected representatives from the various countries take place every one to four years and besides the evaluation of the Movement at continental level and the establishing of themes and objectives for future development, a Coordinating Team is elected to co-ordinate the Movement at Regional level.

Finally, there is the World Council. Because the issues facing students are so similar and interconnected world over, we need a global structure where students from all the nations can meet, grow in awareness and develop a global solidarity and action. This normally takes place every four years, with the World Council an opportunity for student delegates from all countries where the YCS Movement exists to come together to share problems and ideas for action. It is also at such occasions that the International Team is elected. This team is based in Paris and it is charged with the responsibility of

implementing the resolutions of the World Council and the co-ordination of our world Movement.

While the work of Diocesan, National, Regional and World Councils and Teams are very important in helping the Movement carry out its objectives and aims and for coordination purposes, the most important level of the YCS is clearly the grassroots-level; it is here that each member is given the opportunity to be part of the closely knit community cell in which they are trained to take responsibility for their life as a whole, to deepen their life of faith and with genuine concern for each other and for those in their student world, they reach out in the building of God's Kingdom, a Kingdom of Truth, Justice, Peace and Love.

Compliments and good wishes to New Asian Team members



*Mr. Ralph (Ralph) Balan Langet, Malaysia and
Ms. Pattamawan (Aom) Krongthong, Thailand,*

Future programmes:

1. Training of new Leaders of YCS/YSM at Belgaum Diocese on 7-9 Nov
2. YCS annual day celebrations at Udupi Diocese on 12th Nov.
3. NTA/Exco meeting at Nagpur on 26-27 Jan 2013.



Visit to Lanzia's Family

Fr. Charles with Lanzia (Exco Tamilnadu), her father and Shakuntala Amma

Students' Education in Modern Era: RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

- **Dipasha Loren, Loreto Convent, Entally, Kolkata**

What if campus took religious diversity as seriously as they took race? What if recruiting a religiously diverse student body, creating a welcoming environment for people of different faith and philosophical identities, and offering classes in interfaith studies and co-curricular opportunities in interfaith leadership become norm? What if university presidents expected their graduates to acquire interfaith literacy, build interfaith relationships and have opportunities to run interfaith programs during their three years of campus? I am pretty convinced that one reason Barack Obama is president is because of the 1990s-era a multiculturalism movement on campuses. A generation of colleges students caught a vision of what a multicultural nation should look like-and those were the people who staffed the monoshort Obama campaign. Imagine the impact a 21st century campus interfaith movement could have on the nation over the course of the next 30 years .Perhaps we won't be Googling 'Sikh' when we hear of a hate -fuelled murder in Milwaukee; perhaps we'll be electing president, critical mass of interfaith leaders have on America over the course of the next generation? That catholic colleges are welcoming place for people from other religions is a very good news one front. It means that Samuel Huntingtons 'clash of civilizations' thesis - the idea that people of different faith backgrounds are inherently in conflict with one another - is not inevitable at least not everywhere. On American Catholic campuses, it appears, the clear and proud expression of one faith identity isn't a barrier that separates people of different faith, isn't a bridge that invites them in.

What do we mean by 'Diversity'? The Christian vision of diversity is based upon two fundamental doctrines of Holy Scriptures: 1) the unity of the human race, and 2) the universality of the Christian church. Christian church communities face significant challenges in applying these truths, and expressing the need for a changed heart in order to overcome the prejudice that dominates so many believers and non-believers.

For Christians the practice of multicultural diversity is motivated by the love for God and therefore by love for other human beings. Since God is the father and the creator of all, his love rests upon all, even upon those who reject him. He therefore calls Christians an Christian communities to imitate his love in his world - wide embrace. Some cultures have been deeply impacted by the Christian Gospel than others. Nevertheless within every Christian known requires that Christian communities shall be closed to some expressions of cultural diversity, as well as to some expressions of its own dominant culture. The teachings of the Bible are the final and the authoritative standard by which all such patterns, beliefs and behaviors are to be assed. Wisely assessing such matters requires the conscious cultivation- both individually and

communally- of the Christian virtues of humility, discernment, courage, justice and love. In our effort to rise to these challenges, God offers us his ever gracious help.

Christian and Christian communities have a special obligation to demonstrate the reality of Christ's culture- transforming love. In obeying the twin mandates of the Cultural Mandate and the Great Multicultural diversity, then, is not to be spurned by the Christian community. Rather Christian mission, we will discover more and more of the creational blessedness of multicultural diversity as human beings is reconciled to God and to each other because of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Report of the activities of the National Chaplain:

1. Participated in Asian Session and Council from 6-15 Aug 2012 in Seoul, South Korea. Two student participants accompanied him Shiny Sophia from Udupi Diocese and Josline Vas from Mangalore Diocese.
2. Visited Goa region on 19th Aug and addressed the Animators of Goa. 45 animators participated in this programme. Visited Ciela Lobo's house who is Goa Exco member.
3. Held YCS Property Committee meeting at Chennai on 23rd Aug to settle issue with the archdiocese. Archbishop Leo Cornelio and former Chaplains Fr. Vincent Monteiro, Fr. I. Peter and coordinator Leo Joseph were a part of the delegation. The issue was solved amicably.
4. Held two day session on Youth Ministry at St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore to the Deacons of Mangalore Diocese on 27-28 Aug and guided them how to go about in youth ministry in their workplace once they are appointed as pastors of the parishes.
5. Did a half day session on how and why to be a part of youth group to the youth of Vorkady parish on 2nd Sept in Mangalore diocese.
6. Participated in the Nativity celebration at Melbourne and Sydney with the Bishop of Mangalore Diocese from 3-20 Sept. Met a few Ex YCS members refreshing the old memories of YCS days.
7. Held sessions on what and how to be effective youth in the parishes for the Kinnigoli deanery youth at Pakshikere for half a day on 23rd Sept. in Mangalore Diocese.
8. Participated in the programme of installation of New Diocese at Udupi on 15th Oct. I belong to that Diocese now and the Bishop Issac Gerald Lobo under whom I did my regency.
9. Visited YCS members at Maril Parish in Mangalore on 21st Oct.
10. Participated in the retreat held for YCS members of Udupi and Mangalore Diocese at Shirva on 22nd Oct. Around 100 YCS members took part in it.
11. Visited Delhi for office work from 30 Oct to 2nd Nov.

Students' Education in Modern Era:

EDUCATION FOR RELIGIOUS HARMONY

- **Francis D' Cunha, Mangalore**

Once I found a group of cricket-playing youngsters of our town very busy doing some good work near Government Hospital. They had brought an old man (probably mentally ill) to the hospital. They arranged for a bath, for food and for initial medical treatment to that person. Then they took the person to his house. Advised the family members to take care of this old man. I learnt that the youngsters and the old man were not of the same religion.



What is our initial reaction to this incident? Yes. Such incidents often occur in our society. Many times we, the students or elders become part of such events. This reminds us 'humanistic nature' of our National Constitution, National ethos and our social responsibility. Moreover, being part of these events makes us proud of our religion.

What is the source of this 'conscience'? It is the culture that we acquire from our family and our environment and education. To be more realistic, it is our education that cultivates and nourishes our conscience.

'Education' does not mean to learn a few subjects and write some questions and answers, learn poems or theorems or scoring good marks and grades in exams. It means shaping our personality with right kind of attitudes, thoughts and practices. It should enable us to analyze the situations with humane approach and direct us for constructive action.

The behavior of youngsters in the incident narrated earlier is a model of properly educated citizens.

The National Education Policy-1986 and The National Curriculum Framework-2004 show the right path for education in achieving the provisions of Constitution of India. Since ages the school is regarded as a replica or a miniature of the society, where the God's children of various religions gather together to pray, to play, to eat, to study and to grow. As they grow they realize the differences of various religious practices. At this juncture the role of right spirited educators and elders is instrumental in shaping the right attitude of the child. The curriculum should make way to understand all religions in a proper manner. It should contain contents of appreciative thinking of self and other religions. Above all, the principles of humanity must have prime place in curricular activities.

In the National Interest, the State funding of schools and proper enforcement of common curricular and co-curricular activities must be fostered. Inter-religious

prayers, meaningful celebrations of festivals, programs on religious tolerance and human right activities etc. may inculcate positive attitude towards brethren of other religion. Positive awareness aspects on religious diversity could be taken up for cell meetings of YSM.

Poet Mohammed Iqbal says: ‘mazhabhamennaheemsikhaatha, aapas men bairrakhna’. During our student life we must be keen to understand the religions without prejudice. Every religion shows the path of righteous living. And every religion over the years has acquired shortcomings thanks to the manipulations of self-styled people. Students must be educated to tolerate the practices of religions with kind heart. When we celebrate patriotism in our schools we must involve ourselves in actions to strengthen the bonds of national integrity by appreciating religious diversity. Poet Dharmपाल Gupta says: ‘Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai, dharm anek magar hain bhai’

Despite the sporadic incidents instigated by political manipulations the Indian societal fabric is stronger enough to face the challenges of time. Education in India has over the years and will in future infuse suitable immunity of religious harmony to students. The stories, the poems, the narrations of history are well assessed by the enlightened mass. The students must develop broader mind to acquire all the goodness from teachings. As YCS/YSM ers, the members are expected to foster the activities of mutual respects for religions.

The five principles every YCS/YSM member should follow:

1. Do a good deed per day
2. Pray a minute for World Peace everyday
3. Respect your parents, elders, teachers and every human being
4. Sacrifice something very personal to you and donate it to the poor (Companion)
5. Respect the Earth and conserve its resources.

Chart for daily good deed: Kindly perform a good deed per day and accordingly put right ✓ mark on the chart given in the next page.

E.g.: Close the tap from flowing water, pick the paper (dirt) fallen on the way and put it in the dust bin, Do not throw the plastic on the road instead put it in the dust bin, Carry cloth bag for marketing, Keep separate dustbin for recyclable goods and manurable goods, help the old people to cross the road, give a helping hand to others needs, give a helping hand to your parents at home, take care of the little ones at your home, help your classmate in studies - to teach something hard for them and easy to you, encourage your friends to participate in the extra- curricular activities and sports, plant a tree on your birthday and take care of it - watering it every day, plant a sapling for your family, correct someone you see doing something wrong, etc.

The Search

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EVALUATION - SWOT Analysis

A key to Success

The world we live in has changed drastically in the recent years; both in building and in destroying the human lives. We too are a part of it either the former or the latter. ‘The two most important days are the day you are born and the day you find out why you are born?’ says Mark Twain. But how many of us are truly finding the latter part? Not many. Just imagine how our life would be if compared to a journey. Travelling with all green signals, without any hurdles will make our journey swift, but not in safe hands. To travel safe, we need few red signals, few speed breakers on the way. Yes, we live our life as if there is no death at all. We do things without knowing the sole purpose.



We all are aware of the three magical words of our movement: SEE—> JUDGE—> ACT. But to make it more effective in our lives we are in need of the fourth one, i.e. to EVALUATE. It’s always good to evaluate after conducting a program, after receiving our marks in examination, after receiving a peace of mind from our parents, even after making a mistake. Evaluation helps us to know where we stand in life and correct ourselves from our past and wrong doings. Great minds always use evaluation as an essential key to success.

Though there are umpteen numbers of ways to evaluate oneself, SWOT analysis always comes first. The word ‘SWOT’ where ‘S’stands for Strength, ‘W’for weaknesses, ‘O’ for Opportunities and ‘T’ for Threats. It is a simple way to focus aspects of the company and oneself to organize the findings to evaluate the current status of the individual or a group, its future prospects and the situation.

SWOT analysis is a key component in strategic planning. The analysis subjectively evaluates the impact of internal and external factors in an individual or a group. Internal processes and resources are considered strengths and weaknesses (S and W, respectively). External factors affecting the individual and group are considered opportunities and threats (O and T, respectively). An evaluation of these factors develops a strategic perspective to evaluate our position in this competitive world. The factors in the SWOT analysis should reflect the actual internal status of the individual and one’s future vision and must derive an action plan.

Strategy should not be based solely on a SWOT analysis. The value of a SWOT analysis is to prepare a snapshot of the current situation and to identify the areas that can be improved, internally. Preparing a SWOT analysis is not complicated; it should be revisited on a regular basis to evaluate ourselves to travel further in the right track towards a new society. Try this friends- It will definitely change your life!

Given below is a simple SWOT analysis model. Please make use of it. You can add more questions if you wish. Using it regularly will change your life style.

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <p>What do you do well? What unique resources can you draw on? What do others see as your strengths? What are your qualities and talents? Which group you belong to?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <p>What are your weak points? What could you improve? Where do you have fewer resources than others? What are others likely to see as your weaknesses?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <p>What opportunities are open to you? What trends could you advantage of? How can you turn your strengths into opportunities?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <p>What threats could harm you? What is your competitor doing? What threats do your weaknesses expose you to?</p>

Usage of SWOT- Examples:

1. Performance of a Principal/ Director/ Animator/ Leader
2. Performance of a School/ College/ Company/ Institution
3. Personal Performance
4. Evaluation of YCS YSM Units/ Cell/ Office Bearers
5. Before organizing/ Planning an activity or program
6. Etc.

- Leo Joseph

The Difference Makers of Today!!!

1. **Malala Yousufzai (age 14), Pakistan:** Who raised the voice against the Talibans on ban on girls studying in schools and encouraged the girls to take up studies. She was shot at by the Talibans but survived and is making a difference in the lives of thousands of girls in Pakistan and the World.



2. **Park Joe Sang (Psy), South Korea:** The famous Gangnam dances made a difference in the lives of millions with the Gangnam song and song tauting the rich through its lyrics. Take a look and try it out in your schools.

3. **Aishwarya Parashar (age 11 yrs- 6th std), Lucknow:** The youngest RTI activist who questioned the civic authorities about the dump in front of her school and had it shifted; asked for documents on calling Mahatma Gandhi on the title Father of Nation; questioned government order on Gandhi Jayanthi, Independence Day, Republic Day; wanted to know whether Hockey is our National Game - and got no satisfactory answers from government.



4. **M Chandrashekar (Chandru), Tamilnadu:** An auto driver, a writer and thinker who taught us that anyone can gain knowledge at any age.

5. **Pope Benedict XVI, Rome, Vatican:** Who bought a forest in Hungary to save a greenery on Earth and recently bought a Electric Car to conserve energy and lessen the pollution on Earth.



6. **Sri Devi (age 8 yrs - 4th Std), Mandya, Karnataka:** The young gun started fast unto death for Cauvery Waters and won the hearts of hundreds

7. **Balpreet Kaur (girl), Punjab:** Who laughed at the question on hair on her face and taught thousands to laugh at silly things which we need not bother.



8. **Marlon Samuels, West Indies:** A cricketer who strives for the best and said - 'I shall target and hit the best bowler' and thwarted Lasith Malinga of Sri Lanka to gain T20 World Cup.

9. **Antisa Khvichava, Georgia:** Who died at 132 years recently and lived such a long life sipping local Brandy. Born on 8th July 1880 witnessed 2 World Wars and Russian Revolution along with modern era.



10. **Yugaratna Srivastava (age 13 yrs), U.P:** Who made a speech in UN assembly on restoration of Environment and made a difference in the lives of hundreds of world leaders

Do you have a
story to share...?
Can you make a
difference...???



- Veronica Gomes, Kolkatta