

Chaplain's Corner:



Dear friends,

We are in for great things ahead. As our former President Abdul Kalam stated, we have started to dream big dreams. I believe it was a gamble that we had accepted to host the 14th International YCS World Council in New Delhi, India this year. Someone asked me, how did you accept it? I said, since I do not know anything about it, I said YES. If I had known the effort, I do not know...

Anyway, in my last tenure as the YCS/YSM Mangalore Diocesan Chaplain, I had dreamed many things and I also trusted my YCS/YSM members and they never let me down, may it be Village exposure camps, CHILIPILI - the talent shows, the street plays, the rallies on various issues etc. The student members not only supported me along with the animators but they also gave life to the movement. With the same belief, I have said YES to this great venture as IYCS is celebrating its 65 years of International Coordination. We have a YCS/YSM history of 40 years and with the past experience, I know we will come out successful.

What I need is your constant prayers, good wishes, a good word and a little contribution. Worldwide our brothers and sisters are arriving to our home. YCS/YSM being the family, we need to treat them with love, concern and hospitality for which many are gearing up all over India and I am sure we will make a good impact in the world. The World Council theme for the Global Formation Session and Council is, "Crisis and conflicts in the world - Students Offering Hope".

The recent past has been a story of hope. Wherever I visited, the movement is doing great and in some places getting up from the slumber to a revival. Hope we will achieve what we aspire for. I wish all the fathers, sisters and animators all the very best and my unstinted support in reaching out to the student community who need us and aspire to become somebody, someone, someday in the society.

The movement has begun moving in the right direction and I wish you all be a part of it, coz if we sow good seed today we would reap a good harvest in future. The future programmes like NSLTP, Inter regional SLTP, Animators training and the forthcoming First National YCS/YSM Convention will surely help us in this regard. Through these programmes, we need to transform ourselves in

our attitudes keeping in mind the unique methodology of the movement. Fr. Varghese Alangaden, our former YCS/YSM Regional Chaplain of M.P. has rightly put his views in the major article in this issue. He has grown and done something unique for the student community through our methodology. It has become his WAY OF LIFE. The next NTA/EXCO will seriously work in this regard, as I request all the Regional Directors to seriously take note of it and help us reach out to the student members who look up to you in great hope. May I also ask the Local Ordinaries to support us in this cause with a good word, which will give us a value based youth force in the church in the near future.

May I request you to be a part of the World Council Souvenir by sponsoring your wishes and advertisements, your YCS/YSM stories and experiences in reaching out to the ends of the world. If you are given a chance to participate, do not give up. It may be your only chance to mingle with the worldwide members in the World Council.

I wish all student members all the very best in your exams. Come out with fine colours and give no reason for anyone to blame unnecessarily the movement, which is our loving home. God bless you all.

- Fr. Charles Menezes

IYCS WORLD COUNCIL: The journey so far...

- 1954 : Belgium (First IYCS World council)
- 1956 : Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Problems of the Student Milieu
- 1958 : Dakar, Senegal: Problems of the New Nations
- 1961 : Eichholz, Germany: Student Work
- 1964 : Broummana, Lebanon: The Students and Society Building
- 1967 : Montreal, Quebec: Students and Development
- 1970 : London, UK: Cultural Crisis
- 1974 : Kadir-en-Keer, Holland: Domination
- 1978 : Valladolid, Spain: Role of the Students in the transformation of the Society
- 1982 : Montreal, Quebec: Students in solidarity with the people towards a change of the poor
- 1986 : Louvain, Belgium: New forms of evangelization in the school and university
- 1991 : Hong Kong: Why Study? (Does your study serve the people?)
- 2007 : Uganda: Dialogue, Learn and Live, Student making a Difference
- 2011 : New Delhi, India: Crisis and Conflicts in the World - Students offering Hope.**

Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM Directors & Animators Training Program

The Program was held on 26-27 January 2011 at CMSSS, Hassan was a success. Dioceses of Belgaum, Bellary, Chikmagalur, Gulbarga, Mangalore, Mysore & Shimoga - 20 animators, 6 directors & the resource team in total 30 were present, took active part in all the deliberations of this training program. The National Chaplain Fr. Charles Menezes was the main facilitator of this program. He made it lively and participative with creative presentations & group works. Sharanya and Francis the former Natl excos also took session on Animation. At the end of the training all the participants expressed their convictions through a realistic action plan and resolved to spread it all over the region.



Karnataka - Future programmes: July 23rd to 24th 2011 YCS/YSM RTS (Regional Team of Students) election. Participants - Director, Animator, President and DTS (boy +girl)

YCS/YSM animators' regional get together - 30th October, 2011. All the present and previous animators will take part in this historical gathering.

Fr. Charles in Vijayawada: The National Chaplain was in Vijayawada for a short visit to the Regional Student Meet. It was wonderful to see around 200 students and a few animators with their DYDs participating in it that being the examination time. He took a session on YCS/YSM and inducted in them a sense of commitment to belong to and work for the society in general. Students seemed



very much interested and at home with the movement. The Diocesan Director Fr. Bosco has done a wonderful job in making the participants participate with enthusiasm. We look forward to a strong movement ahead in that region.

Fr. Charles in North East:

Fr. Charles visited the North East from 1st to 10th Feb. for a training program for the Animators, DYDs and Student leaders.

On 2nd Feb. he took a session to the student leaders of north east on team building and then on YCS/YSM. A detailed study was made about the aim and objectives and the statutes of the movement. On 3rd Feb. a session was held for the DYDs of North East on team building. It was an interesting session, all actively took part in it. On 3rd evening the first REXCO election was held and the new office bearers were elected. Since it is the 25th year of the movement, the REXCO would play an important role in the coming years.



On 4th, 5th and 6th the training was held for the Animators. 25 animators from various states were present. It was a very important program since many were new animators. The movement was dealt in with great details. Mr. Edward Thma from Shillong, who was a former Natl Exco also took sessions on leadership and team building. It was all a good learning process for all of us.

Fr. Charles then visited the Diphu Diocese from 7th to 10th. He visited a school unit at Jirkinding on 8th which is very far from Diphu where the movement is very vibrant. This place has no electricity and basic amenities. It is a great sacrifice on the part of the fathers and sisters to animate this movement at that place.



On 9th he visited another school and all the students were introduced to the movement. YCS/YSM was elaborately dealt with and the elections of the office bearers were also held. All the students were of enthusiasm to learn more and put into practice what they have learnt. The teaching staff also was introduced to the movement and all resolved to partake in it in the interest of the students.

Fr. Saju the DYD of Diphu Diocese along with his team Sharmila and Sam and the Regional Chaplain Sr. Bhanumati were present throughout the program. They helped us with lots of action songs. We wish the North East all the best in the coming years.

CRI meeting at Mysore:

Fr. Charles addressed the CRI meeting on 20th Feb. at Mysore. Around 150 religious fathers, sisters and brothers were present. An exercise on the Parable of the Box was the eye opener to make them realize that all of us judge others with our own view of mind. All actively took part in it. Then a brief introduction of the movement was given to them. Many of them who were animators in the past relived the experience that they had with the students. Viewing the present scenario all felt that it is apt time that we revive it for the integral development of the student community. Bishop of Mysore, Rt. Rev. Antony Vazaphilly was present throughout the session. Fr. Christopher the DYD of Mysore welcomed the gathering and introduced the resource person, Fr. Charles Menezes. At the end, Fr. Christopher concluded the session with an exercise showing them how we can make a big difference in the lives of student if we train them with the right motive.



Visitation and Training program at Belgaum Diocese:

The first training took place at Sevalaya at Dharwar on 21st Feb. 2011 in the morning. Fr. Charles, the National Chaplain of YCS/YSM was the resource person. 7 animators from 3 schools were present. Fr. Roshan, the Jt. Secretary of youth commission of Belgaum Diocese and the YCS/YSM incharge welcomed all. It was of 2 hours duration. With action songs and a detailed description of the movement was given.

The second training took place at Hubli in the afternoon of 21st Feb. 18 animators from 6 schools took part in it. All opined that it would be a good beginning because the teenagers go through a tough time in the present media and peer pressured society.



The third training program took place on 22nd Feb. at Nazareth home, at the cathedral, Bishop's house, Belgaum. 15 animators from 6 schools took part in it. All decided to revive the movement from June onwards.

We could see the interest and enthusiasm among the animators to learn more about it and put into practice for the benefit of the student community. The better part of it was the participation of some of the priests and sisters from the Diocese.



Fr. Charles also had a dialogue with the Bishop of Belgaum, Rt. Rev. Peter Machado who was of all interest in this movement to see a better youth force in the days to come. Though hectic, it was a worthy exercise, which would revive the movement into its old glory.

YCS, A WAY OF LIFE

The YCS Movement entered into me in 1986 soon after I was appointed as the Regional Director of the Youth Commission of the M.P. Bishop's Conference. Until that time, I had no association with any official Youth Movement. At that time, the CBCI Youth Commission did not exist. The Youth ministry was part of the laity commission. CBCI constituted a separate commission for youth ministry to mark the International Youth Year. As M.P. Regional Youth Director, I was fortunate to be part of the formation of the present CBCI Youth Commission. At that time, Archbishop Abraham Viruthukulangara who was the chairman of MP Youth Commission also held the responsibility of CBCI Youth Commission. This gave me the opportunity to be part of many initial discussions and consultations regarding the formation of the National Youth Commission.



Though I was not part of any official youth movement from the first year of priesthood, I was fully engaged with the parish youth. As a parish priest, my major activity was animation of youth. This passion for animation of youth led me to establish a youth center in Vidisha, the first of its kind in the whole of MP in 1986. Because of the uniqueness of the center and its multi religious nature, the Governor of MP himself came to inaugurate this center. Bishop Abraham was also present together with Bishop Clemens Thottungal of Sagar diocese and many dignitaries of the town.

Impressed by the work which was done in Vidisha and the establishment of the unique youth center Bishop Abraham, the chairman of the Youth Commission of MP Bishop's Conference requested the Bishop of Sagar diocese to which I belonged, for my services as the regional youth director. Bishop Clemens Thottungal, knowing the importance of the youth ministry supported me to take up this important task together with the responsibilities of my parish at Vidisha. Thus, the M.P. Regional Youth Commission got an office and Director in Vidisha. I started the work with a clean slate. Though there was another priest from Jabalpur who worked as a part time regional director, I got no records or furniture to start with. There was no office secretary or anyone to help. I myself did the typing of the letters and reports and sent them to different dioceses without getting any response initially.

Commitment, hard work and perseverance brought more youth and animators and I was happy to hand over a full-fledged YCS/YSM and vibrant Youth Commission to Father Jose Arrechira of Khandwa Diocese after four years.

The first consultation of CBCI Youth Commission took place in Bishop's House, Khandwa. It was here that I met Father M.C Michael who was the national chaplain for the YCS/YSM for the first time. He had come for the consultation together with Father KK Mathew who was the YCS/YSM chaplain for the whole of north India. I was initiated into the vision and spirituality of YCS by Father M.C. Michael during an informal discussion in Bishop's house, Khandwa. I was fascinated by what he told me, "It is a Movement based on the spirit of the second Vatican Council. We teach children to ask questions, first to themselves on the principle of

NSLTP in English

Place : Muttom, Kanyakumari

Date : 4th to 8th of May 2011.

Regions participating: Tamilnadu, Andra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, North East, Maharastra and Gujarat

No of participants: 10 students and 1 animator

Registration fee: Rs. 150.

You will have to reach the venue on 4th May by 9am (Train station is Nagercoil). The venue is one-hour distance from the railway station. Kindly send the names and the time of your arrival and departure to the address given below by 30 of March 2011.

Contact address:

Director: Fr. Kingsly Jones,
Xavier Pastoral Centre,
P.B. 17, Bishop's House,
Nagercoil, Dt. Kanyakumari,
TamilNadu- 629 001
(Mob: 09442333213)

Venue Address:

Mr. Alex.
Ashoka Foundation
James Nagar, Muttom
Kanyakumari Dist

(MOB: 09442665829)

You may also contact Leo Joseph: MOB: 09994385679

Note: NSLTP in Hindi will be held in North India in Oct 2011.

see, judge and act. They are helped to become aware of social realities and reflect on them and make action plans to respond to these realities,” said Father Michael. The most striking reflection during the conversation was its Christocentric methodology. He further explained, In YCS we look for solutions to every problem by asking, “What would Jesus do if he were here?” Gradually this method became a way of life for me. Later in moments of crisis, it was this way, which helped me to march ahead and find meaning in the most adverse situations. This was the beginning of the evolution of my personal spirituality and vision for life.

Since I was working as the regional youth director Father K.K. Mathew and Father M.C. Michael requested me to take up the additional charge of Regional chaplain of YCS/YSM for M.P. I was grateful to God that I got my first lessons of YCS/YSM Movement from two great pioneers of the Movement, Father M.C. Michael and Father K.K. Mathew. They were truly YCS animators who lived the vision and spirituality of the Movement in letter and in spirit. I had the opportunity to participate in a few training sessions with them in different places and see their works at closer range on various occasions.

Since the youth ministry was a new apostolate, there were no full time youth directors in many dioceses of MP. Many dioceses did appoint a person as youth Director but he was busy with many other responsibilities. I had a big job of building up an organisation from scratch both by animating youth groups and by persuading Bishops to appoint a person as in charge of the youth in the diocese. Occasional training programs and meetings were organized to build the youth ministry in the region. We were able to organize a regional convention of over thousand youth leaders in the interior tribal region at Kunkuri. It was a great event both for its organisational success and also for education and inspiration for all who participated. It was a convention largely managed by young leaders.

Despite having a parish to look after, I managed time to visit schools to introduce the YCS /YSM by conducting orientations for the students and teachers. I travelled extensive to many dioceses in MP and Chattisgarh states. Within two years we had several YCS/YSM cells active in many schools. We were able to organize several meetings and training sessions for the YCS/YSM students and animators. I am happy that during this period we were able to train many dynamic youth leaders who later played very important roles at national level programs. Binu Varghese, Betty Kuriakose, Sandra, Everisto, Shobana Joseph, Callisto Gomes (now a SVD Priest), Cassandra, Susan John were some of the most dynamic youth leaders who still keep up the spirit of the Youth Movement and gather the old youth leaders

despite their many responsibilities . All of them confess that the Youth Movement and YCS/YSM shaped their vision of life and still guide them to face the challenges of life bravely. I feel grateful to hundreds of young students who shaped my life and spirituality. As a tribute to the youth who helped me to grow, I dedicated my first book Encoutner to them in 1991.

As I worked as an animator, many dreams related to the youth ministry and YCS/YSM emerged in my mind. My visit to Taize and meetings with youth in Europe broadened my own vision. The small dream of animating an exclusive youth group in the church campus transformed into a lasting and inclusive vision to embrace the youth of all castes, creeds and cultures. I wanted to establish a community of youth belonging to all faiths, to take up the youth ministry with a lasting vision for the church and for the country. When I developed a new way of missionary work due to the influence of YCS spirituality and methodology, it creates to conflicts and confrontation with my new Bishop. Bishop Clemens who was a great visionary and lover of youth had retired and passed away two years earlier. The result was my transfer from the official youth ministry and banishment to an interior village. I was cut off from the regional youth activities. I who was responsible to build up the youth movement and YCS/YSM in MP and Chattisgarh was distanced from

NTA/EXCO meeting: This will be held in Kanyakumari (Not in Bhopal) on 4th and 5th May 2011. All the Regional Directors and Regional ExcOs will be the participants. Those regions who have not yet named their Regional ExcOs need to bring them along with you. This is an important meeting before the World Council.

Agenda: World Council, NSLTP, Inter regional SLTP, YCS/YSM National Convention, National Animators Training Programme, Amendments to the Statutes, Expansion of the movement to other regions, Situation of National Office, any other issues.

Inter regional Student Leaders Training Programme: This will be organized by 2 Regions together in consultation with each other. (TN & AP; Karnataka, GOA& Maharastra; BIJHAN & ORISSA, WB & NE). Each region will send 20 students and 10 animators. This will be of 5 days duration (including arrival and departure). Registration fees Rs 150 per participant. Kindly intimate to the national office about the programme soon.

the official youth meetings and activities both at the regional and national level. Though I was cut off from the official youth ministry of the church the spirit of YCS / YSM was very much alive and grew in me. At every crisis and conflicts, it became my habit to ask the question, "If Christ were here, what would he do?" Then I would search for the answers from the life and teachings of Christ. The methodology of the movement-awareness, reflection and action- became my way of life. This gradually revived the prophetic dimension of the priesthood in me. The YSC methodology also helped me to read the word of God in a different perspective. I started finding a new meaning in the life and teachings of Christ. As I had taught young students to ask questions, I myself started asking questions about my own life and actions. Having looked into my own life honestly I started asking questions about the attitudes and values within the church structure. (My reflections on the teachings of Christ were later presented in 10 volumes of God in Flesh and Blood and other books. Thanks to YCS!)

It is the YCS /YSM spirituality, which helped me to face crises in priesthood positively. When I received six transfers in two years and thought of quitting the priesthood three different times it was the YCS way of thinking and analysing that helped me to stay and fight the lonely battle. Moved by faith in Christ, I opted to build a society of love, peace and justice in my own capacity and in the available space. I responded to different issues and people always asking the question which I learned in YCS "If Christ were here what would he do?"

While living and working in Pratapgarh, a remote village mission in Raisen District of Sagar Diocese the worst man-made tragedy in India took place; Demolition of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya on 6th December 1992 which was followed by nationwide communal riots and bloodshed which paralyzed the whole nation. Hundreds of innocent women, children and men were killed and burnt alive all over the country. Hatred and violence spread like wild fire. I was keen to know the response of the church leaders. My mind was working with my YCS background and the prophetic role that church should play at such a critical moment. I was clear that Jesus wanted his disciples to respond in a proactive way. His message was loud and clear, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God." With anger and frustration, I asked myself, why doesn't the CBCI issue at least a statement to condemn the violence? Why does not the CRI speak up? Why don't the Bishops issue a pastoral letter asking Christians to work for peace in their own localities? In my moments of prayer I could hear an inner voice speaking to me, Who is the church? What is the church? The answer was clear as

crystal: I am the church. When I act the church acts. Why don't I do something in my capacity instead of waiting for bishops and superiors? It was a very enlightening voice.

I immediately discussed this with Father Jacob who was working in the same region and contacted our district collector offering to go for relief work with a medical team and ambulance to Bhopal city where hundreds were killed. Mr. N.P.Singh,

My journey has just begun

My journey in YCS/YSM started in this 15Th National Council. I am from Nagpur, Maharashtra. I was familiar of this movement but had no idea about its functioning and Objectives. Thanks to my vice principal or to say the regional Chaplin of Maharashtra Fr.Phillip, he gave me the golden opportunity to participate in the 15th national council. I would not let this opportunity go from my hand and I accepted it. In the council, I learnt and came to know of many things where I made many friends.



In the 15Th National Council Ms.Alice Anthony of Nagpur was selected as one of the exco of Maharashtra. There was one post still vacant. I had never expected my name or I would be selected for the second vacant post. As we know that God has his plan for our welfare (as the Bible says), God had his plans for me.

The NTA EXCO meeting was to take place in West Bengal. I was nominated to attend the NTA/EXCO; I made all my preparation to attend the same, as the experience of the 15Th National Council was still fresh in my mind. I was eagerly waiting to meet all my friends in the coming NTA/EXCO. Before leaving for the NTA/EXCO trip to West Bengal, my regional Chaplin, Fr.Philip informed me that he has nominated my name for the second vacant post of exco of Maharashtra. On hearing this, I could not believe myself, I was overwhelmed with joy, and I started jumping up and down.

In the NTA/EXCO meeting, I was elected as a liturgical secretary and even a member of the editorial board of the Search. It was always my dream from the beginning to become an exco. God has blessed me more than I had expected and I am very thankful to our living God. I pray that God give the knowledge, strength, understanding, ability to fulfill my duties and responsibility to give my very best for the post that I am representing. My tip for you all YCSers is that never give up hope and always be firm in your faith and God will bless you according to his plans.

- Titus Melwyn, Nagpur

the district collector told us that the situation was under control and relief work was going on. However, he asked us to collect some food and blankets because more than 2000 houses were burnt and it was winter and the month of December. We discussed with the local leaders and shopkeepers and the response was over whelming. Within two hours, we could collect 20 kg wheat and 25 thousand rupees. This was a great experience and I started reflecting again about the future course of action.

Once again, my activities and life with young students came to my mind. My old dream of working with youth of all faiths for national integration and experimenting a community life consisting of people from all castes, creeds and colour as a new wineskin to contain the new wine of challenges came to my mind. I proposed my dream project to my Bishop, which was out rightly rejected. Then I asked him to give me permission to experiment it elsewhere outside my diocese for which he reluctantly agreed. I discussed my dream with John Sachidanand whom I came to know two years earlier and was impressed because of his inter religious way of working. He was also looking for a partner to launch his mission. I met Bishop George Anathil of Indore diocese and discussed about my dream project. Since he knew me through my work as the regional youth director, he welcomed me wholeheartedly to launch the mission in Indore. Thus a Movement was born on 16 July 1993 after six months of Ayodya violence. It was a YCS response to a serious national problem.

The Movement was launched initially as Dharma Bharati Institute of Value Education and Peace, which was later renamed as Universal Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace. John Sachidanand collaborated from Hyderabad. Half a dozen friends from all religions constituted the support group in Indore. For all practical purpose, it was a one-man mission without funds, without personnel and without any sponsors. Indeed, it was God's mission. I formulated separate animation programs for students and teachers based on the YCS spirituality and methodology. Slowly but gradually the mission took shape.

Crisis is part of any mission, especially when we work with people of diverse backgrounds and faiths. The major blow was differences, which cropped up between John Sachidanand and me. The differences were because of the YCS spirituality and methodology. I was very firm about keeping up the nature and mission of the Movement. The values of participation, evaluation, critical analysis, transparency, teamwork etc were practiced while I was leading the youth movement. As part of the Movement spirituality right from the beginning, I had

started the practice of free and frank evaluation at all levels. The AGM of the Movement was open to anyone who was not an official member. Annual report and the audited statement of accounts were published and distributed to the public. Every member of the Movement knew about the income and expenditure of the Movement. The Movement way of life did not suit John Sachidanand who was more inclined to the ashram and guru model and he chose to leave us to carry out his own mission under big banner, with the support of VIPs, members of the church hierarchy, swamis and political leaders. I was firm to keep my originality and self-respect. No political leaders and religious fanatics were invited to any of our meetings only because they did not fit into our value system. I decided to run the Movement without projecting any big names and patrons. Slowly and gradually, we succeeded. Despite much negative publicity, often by those who do not know us, the Movement got great momentum. More and more animators and volunteers from all religions came forward. Congregations and dioceses started recognizing our work and invited us to animate their members and guide their educational institutions. UN invited us for two of its international meetings one at the UN Head Quarters and the other in Thailand. Organisations from abroad were impressed by our work and invited our animators to talk about our experiment of peace education to the youth and social workers there.

The modules and programs for various groups improved. One thing remained without change; the YCS spirituality and methodology of awareness, reflection and action. The mission was renamed as Universal Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace to keep the spirituality of the Movement. It was an option I made from the first day that we will function from a rented house. Since the last 18 years the national /international office / community functions from a rented house. It is an open community of young and old, men and women of all castes, tribes and faiths living and working together to establish a civilisation of love; a just and peaceful society as YCS visualized.

As a person who benefited from the YCS spirituality, I can speak with conviction that USM is an extension of the YCS. We have reached out to 800 schools giving orientation in the YCS way. Over 700 student leaders of school cabinet from different states come to the USM community at Indore for a seven-day residential leadership training every year in different groups. Over 400 young students and teachers gather once a year at the national level for live-in together in the YCS way. The difference is that it is not a convention and yuva mela but a very serious reflection of young students who will be creating the future. The difference is that

all the training sessions and national level gatherings are self financed, i.e. the participants pay for the expenses of the event. Leaders and formators of many congregations - both men and women - come to the USM community for an exposure and training to learn how to re-design their community living. Again, it is the YCS spirituality and methodology, which is used in all these orientation and training sessions.

I was fortunate to have the encouragement and service of many youth leaders and animators who worked in the YCS and youth commission. Seeing the authenticity of the way USM worked, some members who had been active in official Movements of the church joined us as volunteers and fulltime animators. Lavina D'Souza who was the diocesan youth president of Mangalore diocese worked with us as a full time animator leaving her job in the school until she got married. Sister Elsa Muttatu who was the YCS co-ordinator worked with us for two years. Father Charles Menezes, the former YCS Chaplain of Mangalore visited Indore to join our meetings and integrated the personal transformation module into YCS. Ajish Pothen, the youth leader of Bhopal diocese was a regular participant of the USM programs. All of them saw that the USM had deepened the YCS spirituality and expanded to include youth and people of all faiths. Even the training program for priests and the spirituality and vision of Christ.

It is a pity that the youth movement in general and YCS/YSM in particular are reduced to routine conventions and regular picnics abroad. While organizing large conventions and publishing colourful magazines with big statements how much attention is paid to the transformation of youth and their animators? How much attention is paid to appointing priests and nuns as animators? What kind of training and orientation is given to these animators? These are my concerns because as I go around the country I do not see any YCS and YSM in our schools especially in the western and northern India. The youth movement in the parishes and dioceses are reduced to decorating the church for feasts, making the crib, singing carols and going for picnics.

Again inspired by the prophetic mission of the YCS spirituality I wrote a letter with many constructive proposals to the CBCI chairman of the Youth commission when I came to know that the CBCI was going to discuss about the youth meeting in its meeting at Guwahati, Assam. At last the outcome of the meeting was a routine statement with pious advice and theological expressions.

Time is running out and the precious wealth of the nation and of the church is getting lost. Again, we need to ask the question: "What would Jesus do to animate the youth of today?"

- Fr. Varghese Alengaden

News: **IYCS World Council in Delhi, India**

**The IYCS World Council will be held in New Delhi, India
from 15th to 29th June 2011**

**at St. Michael High School
Auditorium, Delhi.**

The change of date is to enable us to conclude the program before the schools start in Delhi i.e. on 1st July.

The international team has given us a slot of 24 students and 6 animators to participate in the global formation session of the World Council. It will be from 15th to 24th June. Hence, each region may choose 2 students and 1 Animator to participate in it and send their names soon which will be sent to the international office, Paris. Indian delegates will have to pay the Participation fees of 50

Euro (Rs 3000) which could be collected through various means given below. The travel allowance will be borne by the National office depending on the contribution by the student members all over India and the accommodation and food expenses will be borne by the international team. Kindly take this opportunity and interact more with the international delegates which will broaden your understanding of this movement. If some region does not take this opportunity, other regions will be given the chance.

Criteria for participation: At least 2 years of involvement and experience in the movement; has been a student leader on some occasion; ability to speak and understand English; commit to involve with YCS/YSM for 2 years after the program; officially delegated by the local ordinary; the registration form should reach us by the 30th March 2011. We will send them to the International office.

The two Natl. Excos from your region will come to Delhi during the World Council to help us as LOC and their expenses will be borne by the National office.



Fund raising: (RYD and DYD)

We may need Rs.15 lakh to cater to the local expenditure, which includes local transportation, inaugural and closing program, translation facility and personnel, office maintenance and communication, resource material, exposure visits and outing, preparatory meetings and LOC expenditure.

Since ours is a student movement which has limited financial capacity I request all the student members to contribute your might. All the RYD and DYD will help me collect this fund as follows.

1. Rs. 10 or more (one-time) donations per every student member and Animator towards the expenses of the World Council, which will make you, feel that you have a direct contribution towards its success.
2. Each Region will contribute Rs. 5000 towards WC.
3. We request you to approach any donors in your Diocese who would help us for this cause. We will issue a receipt with the thanking letter to them from the national office.

World Council Souvenir

1. Each Diocese will collect at least 5 advertisements for the Souvenir which will be released at the inauguration.

Details of the advertisements tariff:

A. Advertisements from any firm or institution: **Multi Colour**

1. Full page : Rs. 4000
2. Half page : Rs. 2000
3. Quarter page : Rs. 1000

Black and White

1. Full Page : Rs. 2000
2. Half Page : Rs. 1000
3. Quarter Page : Rs. 500

B. My YCS/YSM Story: Any member (present or past) may write your experience in YCS/YSM and send a passport size photo, which will be published in the Souvenir. Every unit may send at least two such stories either of the students or animators.

1. Quarter Page : Rs. 250 (8 lines)
2. Half Page : Rs. 500 (15 lines)

C. My unit: Every unit may send the unit activity report of the movement along with your group photo or group photo with names of all the members:

1. Full page : Rs. 2000
2. Half page : Rs. 1000

All the advertisements and amount has to reach us by 30th April 2011 to enable us to work on the Souvenir. Brochures and Posters are already sent to your units.

Other methods of fund raising:

Few hints for the delegates towards the fund raising: Smile. Be polite and enthusiastic. Be clear in presenting or describing the object of your request or actions. Present the benefits that you will gain in participating in the international gathering and how useful it would be for your local school, church and community.

You may try any of the above or below methods but make sure to put a hording -

“Our group is raising money in order to finance our participation in the IYCS Global Formation Session and World Council 2011”

May be you need a recommendation letter from the Bishop which you will have to get before starting the fundraising.

Use the local newspaper to give publicity to this event and thank the donors without fail. Approach the potential donors from your family, friends and parish community for the above cause.

Methods: Sale of T shirts, Christian Music - CD sale, Hosting an auction on a good occasion like Easter from the things collected from your school/parish community, hold Fun fair and a certain percentage could be donated for the said cause, Music concert to raise funds from the Diocese, Card sale on discount, Candle sale during Easter, Cookie or desert sale at public occasions, Community clean up, Car wash etc. for fund raiser.

We request you to send all the contributions by Cheque/D.D to **YOUNG CHRISTIAN STUDENTS, A/c No 0042053000005700, The South Indian Bank Ltd, Chennai G.T. Branch.**

(IFSC: SIBL0000042) (Exempted from Income tax 80G and 12A)

Contact Address: Fr. Charles Menezes, YCS/YSM National Office, 66 (151), Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600004 (Mob: 09448331894)

YSM Annual Day 2011 – Gulbarga, Karnataka

The YSM Annual Day of Gulbarga Diocese took place on the 8th of January 2011 at St. Joseph's Convent School, Gulbarga. 450 students along with their animators from Bidar, Bijapur, Yadgiri, Shahbad, Wadi and Gulbarga took part in the deliberations of the day. Although it was from morning 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., it was encouraging to note the trouble taken by students and animators to be present in large numbers from far off places.



The topic of the day was “Students for a Green and Harmonious World.” The organizing team made all the necessary arrangements to ensure the active participation of students through out the day. A well prepared welcome & inaugural program facilitated by the students of St. Joseph's School. The dignitaries for the day were Smt. Shalini Rajneesh IAS, Women & Child Welfare Department; Mgrs. Fr. Leo Veigas; Sr. Margaret (RYLA); Sr. Superior, Head Mistress, Dinesh Dinakar, Bidar, the National Exco of Karnataka along with other local persons.

Smt. Shalini in her talk said, “students you are lucky to have voluntarily joined this movement, soon India is going to be a Super Power, why because young people will be the rulers of this nation. But you have a wakeup call...” In another 20 years, we are going to be without water. Therefore, what is that you can do together - the difference you can make? Gulbarga is known as the backward area; how do you feel about it? Well it is said that in SSLC we have poor results. Around 60% pass while the rest fail. If only the 60% had to think, let us reach out to the 40% in order that we all can achieve 100% result. Often it is not the case; we have become competitors and exercise power one over the other. She further sighted the situation

of health & hygienic conditions, lack of safe drinking water, use of toilets; cleanliness in our surroundings & neighborhood, different ways we pollute and cause damage to the earth, environment and humanity.

At the end she gave practical tips on how to improve on our care and protection of the environment. They are as follows:

1. Awareness creation about open-air defecation. Availing the funds available in the Government and other NGO's
2. Plastic problem was again reiterated
3. In the near future, the world is going to run short of water so various ways and means of saving water.
4. Vermi Compost pits and the plantation of trees
5. Neem tree seeds to be used as fuel.
6. RTI and Consumers club for which Government has some fund, which our YSMírs can avail.
7. Use of CFL bulbs

Fr. Leo Veigas and Sr. Margaret thanked the efforts of animators and students and wished success for the day's program. After the inaugural session, Fr. Prasad SDB conducted the ice-breaking session. Then Sr. Margaret through power point presentation introduced the theme of the day. She highlighted the facts on the ecological crisis and urged the students to make a concrete and realistic contribution towards the betterment of the situation. The students were then divided into groups and were sent for further discussion. 12 pictures were on display, each group had to choose one picture and prepare a caption apt to the picture as well as slogans, which were later used for the rally. In addition to the activities of the day, the YSM units came prepared with placards; the best among them were awarded. There were donation coupons sold by the students and the draw of the same was held, the prizewinners were announced. The units also participated in the speech and dance competitions which was also theme based. All these different programs were part of the afternoon. Fr. Santhosh Dias was the Chief Guest, who at the end of it flagged off the rally around 4.30 p.m. The students and animators shouting the slogans, carrying the placards passed through the town; the winner of the speech Pavitra from St. Joseph's School delivered the speech in the street corner and sang the YSM anthem. The rally continued to the DC Office, in the absence of the DC, the Tahasildhar received the memorandum signed by more than 500 students.

Fr. Michael SDB, the youth director of Gulbarga thanked all the students, animators and all those who assisted towards the success of this program. There were several press reporters present during the day and things were reported in Praja Vani; Samyukta Karnataka; Vijaya Karnataka. The YSM students will continue their work towards a Green and harmonious world.

■ The untended garden ■

It was long since I did the kind of things that I used to do earlier like listen to music, write to friends, change the look of my room and spend time on the terrace and so on. One of these undone things was to tend my garden. Earlier, I used to take time off in the evenings to watch the sunset as I watered the plants on my terrace garden, sing to the flowers and just while the leisure away. But lately I was busy... busy doing nothing actually just stuck with mundane rituals of daily classes, bike rides, traffic, books, agony aunt phases or in simple words just sickening routine after routines... in an unplanned life, I was merely flowing with the currents. I hated it but I was a part of it, in this entire hustle bustle I had left my garden (read as a few potted plants a small set of flowering pots and a few roadside shrubs) untended. Weeds had grown, some plants had died of neglect, some were dying, some were ok and some other new plants had sprouted from nowhere. This state of neglect had caused my entire house to look gloomy and dull. I did not quite take notice until one morning that I had this rare early rising. I was in a bad mood, less sleep or whatever it was, I felt the need to stretch and get out of the inner suffocation through treading into space outside for myself. I thought of my garden as an option and I walked out for some fresh air that I noticed my once beautiful garden in virtual ruins! I was taken aback at the sight, I had not had the time to stop and stare let alone tend the plants. I rushed in to find a few tools and set it right, it was difficult, not so motivating, worse still I had too many onlookers passing their worthy criticisms on how I must go about the tending. After four long hours of clearing the place looked at peace, I had to do away with some plants that had begun causing more harm than good and bring in a few new ones. I also knew this was going to take time to look normal again but I did it nevertheless. Once I was done with it, I stood back to take one last look at the scene - better! Much better!!



- **Sharanya Francis**

LESSON PLAN- CELL MEETING

4. Agriculture and Environment

Story: Eternal God gave us right to rule the world.

Once upon a time, there was a man named Ram. He was cultivating in his land. Agriculture is the one and only way for him and his family to survive. When the crops started growing the insects became his great enemy.

He heard about one dealer, who was selling pesticides at a very low rate. There was rumors that this dealer was not honest but Ram had no choice but to go to this dealer because of his financial constraints.

In the beginning, it gave him great profit. When he saw this, he became greedy and continued to use the cheap artificial pesticides. However the farmer and his family got affected by skin cancer. Now the profit from the cultivation is not sufficient even for their medical treatment. He learned a lesson to be truthful in whatever you do and do not give into human greed.

See

1. What was the cause for his present condition? What was his attitude?
2. Have you come across of such farmers in your vicinity?
3. 75% of the people in India work in agriculture field and do you know what they do to get more profit?
4. How the pesticides do adversely affects soil as well as human beings?

Judge

1. What is the dependence of people on agriculture?
2. How the Human beings had symbolic relationship with nature?
3. What are the values that would save the agriculture and environment?
4. What do the scriptures tell us about it? Is God present in environment? How?

Act

1. Do you know to do the good of natural fertilizers and organic farming?
2. What is your action plan to stop chemical fertilizers?
3. Cultivate vegetables in the backyard of your house and school gardens.
4. Use only natural organic fertilizers prepared in your backyard.
5. Create awareness among farmers about the harm of chemical fertilizers.

5. Animals and Environment

Story: Ram had heard about the hunting and killing animals for food and exporting animal organs for making money. He had not seen many animals. Therefore, one day Ram and his family went to visit a zoo. There were number of animals. Ram was very much excited to see them. Since they were in cage he started irritating them. Though his father told him not to trouble the animals, he would not listen to him. He threw stones at monkeys. He gave some eatables to some animals, though he was instructed not to do so. He touched some animals and pinched them. He pulled their tails and pained them. When he went near the cage of Lion, he put his hand inside and the Lion bit him hand and he lost his hand. The happy visit ended at a sad note.

See

1. Why did Ram behaved in this manner? What was the result? Was it required?
2. Have you seen some people behaving like this when they see animals on the road?
3. What is the attitude of the persons behaving in this manner?
4. Is it proper for people indulging in illegal hunting & selling animal organs with the intension of making money?
5. What is the result of hunting and killing animals for selfish gains?
6. Which are the endangered species? Have you heard about Save Lion Programme? What does tell us?
7. What is the animals' behavior when we pain them?
8. Why do you think birds and animals migrate from one place to another?

Judge

1. How do you think we need to treat animals?
2. What does the creation teach us about animal world?
3. If human beings encroach on to the animal territory, then animals will encroach on to our territory. Can you elaborate on it?
4. Do you realize that plants, animals & human beings all have their rightful place in nature and humans should not trample with that?
5. What is your opinion of caging animals in zoo and circus?

Act

1. Save an animal however small. What is your action plan?
2. Stop encroaching into forests for agricultural purposes.

3. Spread awareness through newspaper articles, rallies & other mediums about the animal space on the earth.
4. Avoid using leather products, ivory products, fur, etc
5. Educate people about caging animals in zoo and circus.
6. Give awareness to people through dramas, street plays etc
7. Join the group that saves animals and protect them.

6. Food and Environment

Story: Once there was a boy named Rohit. He was addicted to junk food and he had a habit of using it every day. One day he ate the same and went to sleep. In his dreams, he went into to the future.

In the dream, in the future he saw urban land and not a single animal or a tree. From far away a boy with one leg came hopping. He met Rohit and enquired about him. Rohit said he was coming from the present. He asked him why he was with one leg and one eye. The future boy got angry and said that it is all because of you. You polluted the environment and so we are like this. Rohit asked where the trees are. The future boy said that he does not know what trees mean.

Rohit was surprised and walked along the way. He felt very hot and asked the future boy why it was very hot? He said every time it will remain the same. As he was saying, he melted and fell down. Rohit woke up from the dreams and realized his mistake.

From that day he took an oath that he will use water, trees and other habitats in proper way. He promised not to take junk food and eat only healthy food.

See: Olden days

Food as medicine
Fresh and pure
Prepared food at home
Natural ripening of fruits
No colours
Used natural manure
Used mud pots
Used herbs
Fresh and pure environment

Modern days

for taste only
Using preservatives
Fast food - Junk food (Hotel culture)
artificial ripening
Add colours for the eyes to attract
Use fertilizers, pesticides
Tupper ware
Use tablets
Polluted environment

Judge:

1. Who is responsible for this drastic change in the food habits?
2. What is the role of Society, Politicians, Policies, Higher authorities, People in doing so?
3. What is the result of polluting food for selfish and money motive?
4. Stomach ache, vomiting, dysentery, cancer, kidney failure, lung disease, Heart attack - Do you think these diseases are the by-products of our bad food habits?
5. What is your attitude about food for nourishment?

Act:

1. What is your action plan for safe food habits?
2. Educate your friends on the following things: Stop using junk food, stop wasting food, eat home-prepared food, and stop buying from hotels, No to Pepsi, Coca-Cola. Drink tender coconut and pure water.
4. Cultivate own vegetables at home terrace and balconies in the houses and school garden.
4. Say no to plastics; do not harm insects, use natural manure like papaya, neem, custard apple, castor leaves etc.; avoid using broiler chicken; eat organic fruits and vegetables.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks a ton for sending The Search to us. It was an indeed pleasure to read. I was nostalgic reminiscing about the days that I was on the editorial board. (Almost got the whiff of the endless coffees we would drink during the edits at the national office) My heartfelt greetings to the current editorial team - kudos people, the newsletter looks great - do add a few more of your own insights into them. I was also impressed with the compilation of the suggestions and inputs of the NTA/EXCO members on the need to introduce and maintain certain aspects in our cell life. I hope that each student and animator who reads it will attempt to imbibe them in their initiatives. I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year - may this be a very fruitful year for all of us associated with the movement at all levels.

Special Wishes for the World Council at Delhi.

- Sharanya Francis

It was spectacular...!

If I were asked to summarise my SAS experience in a word, it would be “Spectacular”. It was a never an experience before, a completely raw and solid one to say. However, this could not be possible without the support of my national Chaplain Fr. Charles, my Ex-Regional Chaplain Fr. Jude Sebastian and many other who bestowed their help and blessings on me. Thank You.



From the day, we reached until the last; one thing, which impressed each one of us, was the L.O.C (Local Organizing Committee). They were always on the go, ready to work and still never tired.

We were Five nations present in one venue ‘Ragama - Thewatta - Sir Lanka’ but work like one in the YCS Spirit. It was really a learning experience during the country reports. Each of them had a good example to teach. The resource persons for the study session broke down the matter in simple and easy terms for the students to understand. It really helped us to understand the theme better, the theme being “With Faith Students Move Forward for a Green and Peaceful World through Education”. Following the theme and the thrusts, we were also taken to four different places for exposure, each of it being relevant and comprehensive to our theme. We hope to work in this theme in our countries and to start within our Dioceses and units.

I congratulate all my Indian delegates who were a part of 10th SAS, and wish them all the best for their future endeavors. Once again, I thank all those who made it the best for me. Oh! I truly miss those moments.

- Suzan Topno

Awesome 10th IYCS SAS 2010, Sri Lanka...!

The South Asian session was a great opportunity and a challenge, which I got in my YCS life. I learnt many things, which were out of my knowledge. According to the theme “With faith, students move forward for a green and peaceful world through education” and the main topics which we worked and learnt about it were environmental education, food crises and human rights.

We had participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. We had an opportunity to share our experiences, ideas, talents, knowledge etc. and

become one family of the 10th SAS. I was the part of the environment exposure group during the SAS. We had an exposure to a place named Pilikuththuwa where there were 99 caves and a wonderful nature created by our Almighty. The place was green and calm which gave us a peace of mind and the experience of nature's beauty. We had a wonderful LOC from Sri Lanka who helped us in every situation and accompanied us throughout the SAS.



One thing I learnt is that out of waste many new creative things can be made. We had good resource persons who helped us out in clearing our doubts and gave us more information about the topic.

At the end, all tears and sweat were wiped off and it was the moments of joy and laughter remained in our heart with experience and knowledge we gathered throughout the journey of SAS 2010. For me it was a wonderful memory written in my heart and mind. As an opportunity, which I gained, to become someone more than what I was. It was a great experience over there in Sri Lanka. My first international flight I had boarded. Thank you YCS India for giving me this opportunity and getting me selected for the SAS 2010.

WONDERFUL, AWESOME AND BEAUTIFUL SRI LANKAN 10TH IYCS SAS
- **ENOLA EDNA DSA, Mangalore**

We are still in touch...!

I Tini Canuet D'Costa from Mangalore, Karnataka was one of the 6 members who attended South Asian Session 2010 at Sri Lanka, penning down my experience at SAS.

The thing that came to my mind first was the far off journey to a new country. Yes it reminds me in the memory which I spent with my family as with you my friends. The friends I got were very unique than what I thought about!

Fr. Charles-our YCS/YSM National Chaplin, Fr. Jude-YCS/YSM regional director from Kolkata, Suzan from Kolkata, Alice from Nagpur, Edna and I from Karnataka were the Indian contingent. Interesting fact is that I came to know Fr. Jude, Alice and Suzan when I met them in Chennai airport on 10th December.

I am very thankful to Fr. Charles for giving me a chance to participate in this international program to represent India. This was my first international YCS program and I was very curious about it. When Fr. Charles selected me to attend the SAS-2010, I had so many questions in my head. What is SAS? What is there in this SAS? What is my duty in SAS as I am representing India???



On 10th Dec. we reached Colombo international airport at 2.30am. It was a Christmas time and the airport was decorated with Christmas trees, colorful lights. The organizing committee welcomed us at the airport and led us to the venue.

Our day started with the Holy mass and during the sessions, we learnt so many things. We went for exposure visit to study the life of the people, their work, their difficulties, etc. We presented our National report, National YCS Movement report; Report on Food crisis, Country report on climate change, education, environment, human rights, etc.

We had sessions on:

1. Climate Change in Asia.
2. Environment and sustainability education in Asia.
3. Food crisis.
4. Human right education.

We also visited Kandy seminary.

We spent these 8 days in full of joy and happiness, we were like one family and these 8 days passed like 8 hours. The Closing ceremony was a wonderful experience dancing with the Sri Lankan Baila songs dressed with our Indian traditional clothing.

On 19th night, we boarded flight back to India at 2am. SAS-2010 was one of the memorable times in my life. Whenever I think about the SAS, a big smile comes on my face. We all are still in touch with each other with the help of E-mails and Facebook. Long live YCS/YSM

- Tini Canuet D'Costa, Mangalore

The Search

The Search
