

# The Search

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YCS/YSM NATIONAL NEWS LETTER



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*Editorial...*

**PASS IT ON**

Hi YCSers,

Greetings of the season!!!

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year. As we enter into this New Year I wish that the lives of you all may be doubly filled with the love of Christ. However, I am sure that you all must have your own new year's resolution. Some might have vowed to get better academic results, some might have vowed to polish their shoes on their own, cut their fingernails on time, to talk lesser on the phone etc. I too have my own new year's resolution. This year I have vowed to PASS IT ON. Wondering what that is?

We have numerous cell meetings in our units/schools/colleges and on various occasions we use "SEE JUDGE ACT". But somehow our beautiful methodology is restricted to our cells only. Therefore I have pledged this year to pass on our methodology to others. We make our lives through our methodology better but it is time now to PASS IT ON to our friends to make their lives better. It is not just our cell or unit that enjoys the umbrella of our movement, but it is time to spread out the umbrella for others. It is time that we spread the love of our movement to all parts of the world possible. But for that the beginning must be from YOU and ME. So, I pass on my new year's resolution to you. Are you ready to PASS IT ON....?

**-FRANK RUSSEL FELIX**



**Stop Smoking – We need You ...**

– Ms Shwetha Joyce Rasquinha, St. Aloysius College, Mangalore

In recent years the world has seen important technical and social progress and has simultaneously experienced increasingly greater social turmoil. Young people are proving to be least well prepared to cope with stress or to be truly adaptable to rapid change and use of substances (drug, alcohol, tobacco etc.,) to relieve anxiety and for recreation is intensifying. Seen in this perspective substance abuse is more a human, personal and a social problem than a legal or medical problem.



Smoking is perhaps the most widely indulged in social habit, and it is becoming a serious problem. Shockingly the teenagers become the victims of this crippling habit. It has been found that majority of smokers start smoking at the age of 18 or before. The average age of smokers has considerably lowered in recent years. Unfortunately for our teenager's cigarette smoking is a hall ticket to adult company, a sign to achieve adulthood and maturity. Many youngsters are often unwillingly become the victims of this crippling habit We also see a strong urge among girls to copy boys of same generation today. Hence smoking knows no gender barrier! For thousands of teenagers and youth this glamorous game has resulted in unhappy life and pre mature death. Interest towards tobacco consumption through smoking among teenagers between 10 to 17 years of age have become a major cause of concern.

Do we like to swallow insecticide? No... Never. We do not even prefer to consume vegetables cultivated with the help of strong insecticides. But every time someone smokes, he/she is taking nicotine an effective insecticide and a most powerful poison. Among the youth the short term health consequence of smoking include respiratory and non respiratory effects, addiction to nicotine and the associated risk of other drug uses. As a long term health consequence smoking lowers the level of lung functioning and reduces the growth of lungs. Smoking at the young age increases the risk of lung cancer. It reduces the physical fitness in terms of both performance and endurance. This is the truth about cigarettes; they are loaded with harmful chemicals and the end result is that they are a dangerous drug that can seriously harm people.

It is a well proved fact that there is a steep rise in smoking among youngsters. We need to curb it at right time. Here are some tips and suggestions,



## *Chaplain's Corner*

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### **Let there be a change...**

If God were to create a new world today he would utter these first words, **“Let there be a change”**

These days as I glance through the news papers every day I come across three important aspects. First are the suicides committed by the young and children, second are the murders and rapes committed against women and young girls, and third is the cry for anti corruption movement.

All the three above give us important and alarming messages.

It is disheartening to see young people ending their lives at silly incidents not being able to face the world, society and the reality. We boast about the best academic institutions in the world, best growth rate, best parental care due to our family system and strong family bonds, yet our young people are not able to cope with the pressures around.

Whenever I visit a school on behalf of YCS/YSM I normally hear from the heads of the institutions that these YCS/YSM activities disturb the students academically and not interested in any of these kinds. Unfortunately nobody seems to be worried in the personal growth of an individual student instead worry about the percentage and academic excellence. Competitions rule the day and so called success means everything for them. A few are open to these activities where they believe that only academic excellence is not enough but life facing skills are important too.

Secondly we see a rage of anger and bloodshed in all the entertainment channels. Lots of psychiatric and sexual filth is viewed in the media. Ragging and fun loving persons become heroes of the young and it forces the young to commit irresponsible acts which end in murder, rape and anti social activities. The loss of sense of basic human values makes them enjoy seeing people killed and die on the edge of the sword. Loss of respect for women and one's own life drives the young to commit these atrocities. Have we not failed in educating our young in facing realities of life and respect for human beings?

Thirdly there is a little ray of hope in the anti corruption movement but that too is losing direction due to the pressures mounting on them from all the corners of corrupt people around the globe. No one is perfect but the so called good people also are hunted upon and the effort made by them is nullified by the bureaucrats. There is nothing in view which would save from a desired bright future instead it makes us bite the dust for silly human errors and selfish interests.

YCS/YSM does help a big lot in shaping our students and teenagers' future by teaching them to be the masters of their lives. It did change many of them from worse conditions and situations to life orientation. Being the official apostolic student movement (YCS/YSM) recognized in 1969 by the CBCI, it is time for us to revive this movement in our schools, parishes and educational institutions to save the young generation from degenerating.

***It is the need of the hour for all the educational institutions to make the students and young teenagers sit in their own little groups (cells) to make them aware of the reality and reflect on the basic human values in the light of our scriptures and act upon bringing about a change in ones' life which only would save them from the world full of pain and confusion.***

In this Search we are giving glimpses of what YCS/YSM is all about. Kindly go through them and start working on it.

Thus be a change yourself and be a change agent in the society and your neighborhood to save the decomposed world into a world of peace and hope. We promise you that if our students and teenagers are taught the methodology of YCS/YSM as the way of life and if we ourselves as animators make it a way of our life, it would without any doubt change the world for a better tomorrow. It is worth the challenge. Let there be a change. Be a change agent yourself first...

**– Fr. Charles Menezes**

**What is YCS/YSM?:** It is a student movement where students come together in small groups of 8-10 to share their interests, problems, experiences, anxieties etc and find a solution of their own through the YCS methodology of See, Judge and Act i.e. Awareness, Reflection Action and Evaluation.

**Aim of YCS/YSM: “A just Society” - God’s Kingdom.**

## **THE REPORT OF NTA/EXCO MEETING – 3**

### **17-18<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Seva Kendra, Kolkata**

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The third meeting of NTA/EXCO was held at Seva Kendra, Kolkata, and West Bengal on 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2011. 4 RYDs, 12 NTA/EXCOs, 1 Animator and The National Chaplain were present for the meeting. Those present were Fr. Robin, Joyce John and Frank Russell from W.B, Jovita from Karnataka, Fr. Esthakius and Laranzia



from T.N., Ms. Sharine, Angela and Francis from Jhansi, U.P., Fr. Ranjith, Neelmani and Sughandha from Orissa, Sr. Agnes, Cuthbert and Jenifer from N.E., Fr. Philip, Alice and Melwin from Nagpur. Leo Joseph from T.N, Suzan Topno and Jyothi from W.B were also present. The chairman of Youth Commission Archbishop Leo Cornelio, RYD of Karnataka, RYDs and EXCO's of A.P., Goa, M.P., Bhijan and Northern region were absent for the Meeting.

The meeting began at 2.30 with a prayer. The National Convener Joyce welcomed the gathering. A special warm welcome was given to the new NTA/EXCO of Jhansi and Orissa, new RYD's of N.E. and W.B. The National Secretary Jovita read out the report of last NTA/EXCO meeting followed by the National Report by Fr. Charles Menezes. He briefed us about the programs held at national level and the various visits by the National chaplain to the regions. In the follow up of the report the absence of the chairman and some regions for all the meetings were taken into account seriously, especially those who were not bothered to name their ExcOs and inform about their absence. The participants suggested holding a meeting of National Chaplain and National team with the Chairman Bishop Leo Cornelio regarding this issue and for the lack of attention by the CBCI and higher authority.

The evaluation of inter regional students leadership training program (IRSLTP) which was held in Mysore and Shillong. Goa and Karnataka, North East and West Bengal successfully were done. Tamilnadu and A.P., Orissa and Bhijan IRSLTP are pending. Orissa and Tamilnadu were ready to host 5days program by the end of March. Since A.P. and Bhijan were absent for the meeting, no decision was taken regarding this. He also stressed that these programs are for the leaders like DEXCO's, REXCO's and unit leaders. This program is to boost up the energy of leaders. So he requested to send those who are willing to serve the movement. This point was put up mainly because of the past participants of NSLTP. Fr. Charles asked the directors to send only those

who have attended the Regional or Diocesan programs. If you want to send new students, give them some input session or orientation regarding YCS, he said.

Then N.E., Orissa and Nagpur NEXCO's and RYD's were officially welcomed. Fr. Robin and Sr Agnes were the new RYDs and Angela, Sugandha and Francis were the new ExcOs. We



celebrated birthday of Alice (NEXCO of Nagpur), we also had a small Christmas gathering along with DEXCO of W.B. where Fr. Charles gave his message with a live example of one boy, whose life was changed through YCS.

Fr. Robin offered the Mass for us and after that every region present presented their regional reports which were acclaimed as the good work done by all the regions. Kolkata was unable to present the report due to lack of functioning, but they had a big event called 'Christmas fiesta' in which we all went and took part after the meeting. After the report of all the regions Fr. Charles in his opinion said that it is not the programs which help the movement to run successfully but it's a regular cell meetings which keeps the movement healthy. Finance was a big barrier for every region.

Then evaluation of the IYCS world council was done. Everybody was of the opinion that the council was well organized even though it was organized for the first time in our country. Fr. Ranjith said that through the IYCS council we could experience that our movement is an international movement and how it has spread all over the world. Melwin in his sharing said that we have become more responsible, we are now confident to host any event. Joyce was not happy with the irregular presence of the Indian delegates for the sessions. Fr. Charles in his opinion said that world council was entirely a different learning. Everything went on well except better preparation on the part of international team was required. Regarding finance collection of Rs.10 from every student did not work at all. Contribution of 5000 from few regions was the only help. The appeal was sent all over India especially to 164 Dioceses and a few local ordinaries responded along with some religious institutions and a few individuals. All appreciated that souvenir was prepared well and reached on time. Dedication, determination on the part of LOC's was excellent.

Next we had very important topic of the agenda i.e. 16th National council which will be held in May 2013. Since all the regions agree to host it in N.E. there was a little confusion between 2 venues; Shillong or Guwahati? The decision was left to RYD of N.E. to confirm the venue before next NTA/EXCO meeting. The theme suggested by



the National chaplain was 'Students education in the hour of Interculturality and religious pluralism'. Steering committees consist of National team, REXCO's of N.E. and DEXCO's of Shillong. We would call international Chaplain for the council. Since few suggested to include RYD's in steering committee, Fr. Ranjith and Fr. Esthakius names were added in the committee.

Fr. Robin was given in charge to rewrite or to put a new tune for the YCS/YSM National anthem before next NTA/EXCO meeting. When the question was raised regarding participation in the National Council, Fr. Charles took the responsibility to look into it according to the strength of every region by next NTA/EXCO meeting. The statutes of YCS/YSM India will be sent to all participants 6 month ahead of the National Council so that they prepare well before they attend the council.

On 18<sup>th</sup> the Mass was offered by Most Rev. Bishop Thomas D'Souza, the Coagitor Archbishop of Kolkata. His message was 'Launch out into deep', be strong in your faith, live as a witnesses to Christ. Let others see the difference in you. Be committed to your day to day work.

After mass we had a talk with the Bishop regarding the expansion and revival of YCS movement in W.B. Joyce and Frank briefed him about the pitiful situation of YCS in W.B. Suzan stressed that there is an urgent need for the guidance to the office bearers and students of YCS in Kolkata, They urge the support and attention from a Diocesan Director which is lacking now due to RYD's Busy schedule. There is a long gap between Students and Director. We need to build it up once again. Hard work of students must be recognized. Fr. Charles insisted that the DYD of Kolkata would be a right person to cater to YCS, where as Fr. Robin could continue as a RYD of W.B.

When bishop asked Fr. Robin to give his opinion, he mentioned that there is no support from the schools since they are busy in their school schedule. He also confessed that he himself is busy in his media and parish activities. He gave his positive response for Fr. Charles' suggestion that he would be happy to hand over YCS Kolkata to the DYD and he would work as RYD of W.B.

After a long discussion on YCS in W.B. Bishop raised a question, why there is no strong link between YCS and ICYM? As an answer for this question Fr. Charles explained the history of YCS and formation of Youth Commission by CBCI in 1985. Youth commission consists of YCS/YSM and ICYM etc. Since the secretary of youth commission is the director of ICYM, all the attention is given to that and people have wrong notion that ICYM is an umbrella movement and YCS and AICUF is a part of it, which is absolutely wrong. We are lacking the attention and support from CBCI. We are not invited for any of the meetings nor do we get the due recognition as an official movement. We urge bishop to help us to sort out these problems. Bishop assured us that he will put these points in next CBCI meeting which will be held in February at Bangalore. He also promised us that he would appoint a new DYD for Kolkata YCS.

Regarding the revival of YCS/YSM in India the National chaplain has an idea of appointing 4 full timers for 3 years who will go to different parts of our country and get the report of every Diocese and of each region. If there is a need then have a training program in particular dioceses. They will meet together every month and will be remunerated for their work, who will work under the guidance of RYDs and DYDs while visiting various dioceses and institutions. He said that MSW students would be better for these services. He asked RYD's to suggest the names if they have any one in their region that are willing to do this work and this will start working in the next academic year.

Then we had an inspiring session on 'students for Anti Corruption Movement' by Mr. Sunil Lukas, President of SIGNIS India. He said that we are born in corruption, we grow in corruption and we die in corruption. Corruption has become part of our life, its spread all over the country. But as student we must act differently. If corruption has to stop it has to begin within you. "If you want change, be the change you want to see"

Regarding formation of DEXCO's and REXCO's Fr. Charles said that it is the work of DYDs to elect DEXCO (DTS) and RYDs to form REXCO (RTS) and their job is to help and guide other dioceses. We agreed to elect REXCO's and DEXCO's by next NTA/EXCO meeting.

Next subject was National YCS/YSM lay animators Training program which will be held from 18 – 24 May 2012 at Chennai. The name of the program will be ATP (Animators Training Program). We decided to hold our next NTA/EXCO meeting during that time in the same venue.

As per agenda next topic was about the present situation of our National Office. Fr. Charles said that the issue will be sorted out as soon as possible; location of the office will be changed hopefully by a next NTA/EXCO Meeting. We hope that Madras Mylapore Diocese will do justice to us and the YCS/YSM national chairman and CBCI will hasten their effort in sorting out this problem.

3000 copies of the Search magazine are printed and sent to all units now but there neither income nor any subscription for this. Expenditure incurred on every issue is nearly 40000. Lack of coordination between Editorial boards is also a major problem. The editorial board must take initiative to collect and send articles.

The last topic of agenda was about the resource material for cell meetings. Fr. Charles said that lesson plans are printed in every issue of 'the Search'. He asked to refer it and have cell meetings on the same topics. Dioceses should prepare their own resource material basing on the national theme. The next meeting will be in the same place where ATP will be held. Fr. Charles declared this meeting closed. A Big Thanks to all RYD's and NTA/EXCO's who have made it to this meeting and participated actively.

– **Jovita D' Souza, National Secretary, YCS/YSM India**



## **III world Congress on the Pastoral Care of International Students, Rome, Vatican**

30th Nov - 3rd Dec 2011

III world Congress on the Pastoral Care of International Students was organized by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrant students and Itinerant people, Rome, Vatican from 30th November to 3rd December 2011. The theme of the Programme was International Students and Meeting of Cultures. 135 participants were present from 36 countries which have highest flow of international students. Most Rev Oswald Lewis, Bishop of Jaipur and Chairman Biahop of CBCI office of Laity, Rev Fr Charles Menezes , YCS/YSM National Chaplain and Ms. Shwetha Joyce Rasquinha, Lecturer M.S.W Department St. Aloysius College and PhD Scholar of Mangalore University represented India as a student representative of YCS/YSM India.



Four days conference was of reflection and sharing the meaning and implications, demands and benefits of the meeting of cultures in the world of International students. The highly qualified talks in this Congress, by personalities with an excellent academic ecclesial preparation, have contributed to a deeper understanding of the nexus between culture and the Gospel, culture and education, the impact of the meeting of cultures on faith and on the values of the young people as well as on youth models today. The main event, which added grandeur, joy and significance to our Third World Congress, was the Audience with the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI on Friday 2nd December 2011 at the apostolic palace. This was a unique and solemn occasion for all of us as the Holy Father once again recognized the importance of this particular pastoral solicitude of the Church, also as a gesture of encouraging the international student s and of appreciating the work of those committed to this field of pastoral activity. He said “The youth are the architects of the encounter between the cultures. The coming together of the university students may promote a new generation capable of a dialogue and discernment, with a sense of responsibility for respect and cooperation, collaboration for peace and development. The Pope stressed the point that the culture has a fundamental role in the full realization of man as an individual and as community. Without culture a man and a woman cannot realize a level of life that is truly and fully human. He hoped that such meetings are important for the future of the humanity

and of the church. The university students make up for the church, an area of privilege for evangelization”.

It was a rare occasion for Shwetha Joyce to meet the Pope personally and get his Papal blessings at which he said that he does pray for India in a special way for the realization of Kingdom of God.

***Recommendations of the Congress:***

We commit ourselves, therefore, as participants of the III World Congress on the Pastoral Care for International Students, to undertake the following plan of action:

1. To urge all bishops and Episcopal Conferences to give equal importance, among priorities in (their) diocesan and national pastoral programmes, to the university pastoral care and to provide adequate finances as well as integral formation of pastoral agents, with due attention to the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic community in universities;
2. to advocate for greater investment in education, through Catholic universities and higher education institutions, in order to contribute for the integral formation of mentalities, attitudes, morals and values of the future generations;
3. to strengthen and invigorate programmes of doctrinal and theological formation, catechesis and catechism for Catholic international students as part of their integral formation;
4. to expand appropriate parochial structures for the university community to celebrate the sacramental life, with particular consideration of the cultural diversity and it's vital role for the growth of the society today;
5. to give particular attention to the high potential and capacity of international students to become leading and dynamic actors for world's peace and progress;
6. to empower international students in sharing their gifts with the host community as much as to be open to learn from it;
7. to promote a mentality of openness and mutual respect in the field of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, through programmes of comparative study of religions in all universities/higher education institutions;
8. to encourage cultural study circles among university (tertiary) students of all faiths and walks of life;
9. to support relationship building with the host society through socio-cultural events of recreation and interactions;
10. to promote programmes for initial welcome as well as for preparing the students' return, facilitated by coordinated activities between the Church in the host country and the Church in the country of origin;

11. to encourage pastoral agents within universities/higher education institutions also to partner with existing student services and to make use of media to divulge information and to increase awareness regarding the pastoral care of international students;
12. to advocate active solidarity with international students in need, regardless of faiths and religions, with relevant charity agencies,
13. to develop a net-working to share information on pastoral activities in different universities around the world in order to strengthen the current university pastoral ministry.

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## **Gulbarga Diocese**

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A meeting was organized by GDES for all the HMs, Managers, and Correspondents of the High Schools of Diocese of Gulbarga on 7th January 2012 at 3pm at Sujnana Centre Gulbarga, along with Bishop Robert Miranda the Bishop of Gulbarga and Rev. Fr. Charles Menezes the YCS/YSM National Director, Chennai.

**The following decisions were taken in during the meeting for the YCS/YSM activities in the Schools of Diocese of Gulbarga:**

- As a Diocesan policy all the High Schools in Gulbarga Diocese will promote the YCS/YSM units.
- School calendar will include a write up on YCS/YSM.
- School calendar will clearly mention and mark the School activities, zonal activities and the Diocesan level activities of the YCS/YSM for the whole academic year. (Well in advance, the Youth Director will provide the zonal level programme dates to the schools).
- Every school will have the trained animators (Teachers) for the YCS/YSM activities. And schools will ensure the continuity of these teachers as animators.
- Every school will allocate some funds in the budget for the YCS/YSM activities and rest expenses will be borne by the students as their contribution since they benefit out of YCS/YSM activities.
- With regard to the various forms of fund raising for the Zonal and Diocesan level programs the Youth Director will discuss with the Bishop and will communicate to the schools.
- It has been suggested to have more zonal level programs than Diocesan level programs due to the distance and expenses.

**– Fr. Santhosh Dias**

## **CAFÉ – 2011 IN THAILAND**

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**6Th IYCS Chaplains and Animators Formation Exchange (CAFÉ) Programme 2011** was held in St. Louis Mary Juniorate, Sriracha, Chonburi at Thailand from November 7-14, 2011. The theme of the program was **“Called to be the Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20): Students Education in the Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism”**.

Fr. Charles Menezes (National Director YCS/YSM India), Jovita DSouza, Karnataka (National Secretary YCS/YSM India) Nikhil Topno, Kolkata (DEXCO) represented India. There were 47 delegates from across Asia.

The program was inaugurated by Most Rev. Dr. Siripong, The Bishop of Chantaburi Diocese, Thailand. Second day there was exposure to four YCS units and Pattaya. The rest of the three days were spent on deliberating the theme and came out with the final statement to work for the poor and marginalized students across Asia as an option for the poor. We enjoyed our day of outing to Sichang Island. The program came to an end with the solidarity dinner and cultural night held by the Asian Office, YCS Thailand and the delegates on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2011. It was a wonderful learning of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism across Asia.

### **Final Statement:**

**Introduction:** We the forty-nine delegates and organizers from seven countries namely China, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam of the 6th International Young Christian Students (IYCS) Asian Chaplains and Animators Formation Exchange (CAFE) gathered together at the St. Louis Mary Juniorate, Sriracha, Chonburi, Thailand from November 7-14, 2011 and reflected on the theme “Called to be Ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20), Students Education in this Hour of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism.”

**We realized that... (SEE)**

- With the theme of interculturality and religious pluralism among Asian students' education, which is a continent with rich cultural diversity, the delegates were exposed to the reality of Thai youths and students in schools where there is proper formation not only academically but also spiritually added with the five-year comprehensive program (2011-2015) that focuses on the youths of all the dioceses with the encouraging support from YCS Thailand and along with the many sharing from speakers and resource persons to give them an even wider picture of the real situation which is not only limited to Thailand, but in other parts of Asia as well.
- Called to be ambassadors of Christ as in (2 Cor 5:20), true Christians are to be and to bring others to be in reconciliation with God for His glory. Being sent to many exposure sites, the delegates were able to grasp the sad reality of degradation of human life with its causes and effects and the unending efforts of volunteers who are Christ-like to make a better living for themselves. Then, from the many sharing of the speakers and resource persons and from the group reports, the delegates realized and brought up the issue of the value of human dignity to continuously analyze the situation.



**We reflected that... (JUDGE)**

- Having guided to reflect on what we have seen and tried to see with the eyes of Jesus, the story of the two apostles walking to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), enabled the delegates to understand how Jesus became an animator by accompanying the two apostles who have lost hope which challenged us to be Christ-like animators.
- The delegates also had the opportunity to know that chaplains and animators have a prophetic role by being an ambassador of Christ where they should bring Christ to the students in hope of reconciliation and union between Jesus and students.
- In understanding the YCS spirituality as a spirituality of love, the delegates also learned that it is an effective method to mobilize students to change and improve not only their student world, but even in matters of interculturality and religious pluralism. It is also understood that the spirituality of YCS and the methodology of the Review of Life is greatly influenced by an individual's experience which can help motivate and empower for positive transformation in our reality.

**We are committed to... (ACT)**

- Continuously improve our spiritual growth that we may be able to further understand what we should do to be Christ-like animators and chaplains
- Carry out the group and personal plans of action that every delegate has agreed to take up after analyzing the situations in the exposure
- Provide and organize trainings to impart knowledge on the methodology and spirituality of YCS to animators and chaplains who lack experience serving in the movement
- Reach out to more teachers, animators and chaplains through formative programs join in guiding and animating the members of YCS
- Dialogue and discuss with more federations, conferences, organizations, institutions, councils, and networks to come to an understanding with them on the structures and purposes of YCS in hope to obtain support and further expand the reach out to all students across Asia
- Continue to walk along with the students in their journey of YCS to further empower and mobilize them to change and improve the student world

**Conclusion:** CAFE 2011 has indeed become a platform where the chaplains and animators from different countries, different culture in Asia decided to exchange their experiences on apostolic service for members of YCS (students) and learn from each other. Like the story of the Walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), we commit to be like Jesus in accompanying the members of YCS.

– *Jovita D Souza, National Secretary YCS/YSM India*

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*Wishes to the New YCS Unit*

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A new YCS unit was inaugurated on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in Presentation Church Royapettah, Chennai. Introductory note was given by Kamal Francis, the Diocesan President of YCS YSM Chennai. After a short ice breaking session, an orientation on YCS/YSM was given to the students by Mr. Leo. He made the students to bring out the values which YCS proclaims to the world



and the students were keen to know more. Movement's history, motto and methodology were elaborated with illustrations. Kamal Francis shared his insights of being an YCSer and wished them all the best. Let's hope that they will imbibe the values of YCS/ YSM to build the just society.

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## **Founder's Day Celebration at Chennai**

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The Young Christian Students/ Young Students Movement had celebrated its YCS/YSM talent exposure program in commemoration of the Founders Day on 26th November 2011, Saturday at St. Bedes Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School.



There were nearly 200 participants from over ten YSM units and seven YCS units. The event began with the inaugural program with the prayer song rendered by the students of St. Bedes. Most. Rev. Dr. A.M. Chinnappa sdb, the Archbishop of Chennai- Mylapore Diocese presided over the program with the special invited guests on the dais were Rev. Fr. John Bosco, Rector, St. Bedes Anglo-Indian H.S.S. and Rev. Fr. Gregory, Headmaster of St. Bedes A.I.H.S.S. The lighting of the

lamp which marks the significance was lit up followed by the Welcome Address given by Nancy Jeniffer, the Regional Representative of the Movement. Felicitation followed by special address by the guests which was followed by the vote of thanks was given by Kamal Francis, President –YCS/ YSM.

An orientation based on neatness and child rights were given by the members from the Rotary Club. Various competitions such as the extempore speech, Collage, Quiz and Variety entertainment were conducted. Rev Fr. Clement Bala appreciated all who made this event a grand success. Special thanks to Bro. Arun, the coordinator and Mr. Leo from National office. The curtains were brought down by singing the movement song thus marking the significance of a great beginning!!!

**- Kamal Francis, President YCS YSM Chennai**

## ***Annual Meet in Gulbarga Diocese***

The annual YCS/YSM meet of Gulbarga Diocese was held on the theme Students for Green and Harmonious World at Loyola Yomiuri High School, Bijapur on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012. Around 600 student members took part in the day long proceedings. Fr. Michael the DYD of Gulbarga had ensured that all the arrangements were on place. Bishop Robert Miranda presided over the programme and Fr. Charles Menezes, the



National Chaplain of YCS/YSM, Fr. Maria Joseph, the RYD of Karnataka and the Forest Dept official were the guests of honour.

The programme began with the inter-religious prayer service followed by a welcome dance. Input session was held to guide the students for group interaction and prepare slogans for the rally. Competitions were held for talent exposure and the winners were awarded. The rally on **save forests to save mother earth** was taken on the streets of Bijapur and concluded at the circle where one student delivered the speech on the said topic and the memorandum with ten demands was sent to the Governor through the DC. There was all round support and help from all the animators and school heads for the success of this programme.

### **The demands of the memorandum were:**

1. Vanamahotsava should not be made into a day's celebration in a year rather it should be every citizen's responsibility to plant, water and protect trees. Every home should take care of at least one sapling. In any building a fund should be set aside for planting trees.

**History:** It was founded by **Cardinal Joseph Cardijn** of Belgium in 1931. Though its roots were found in India in 1950 through Betty King of Australia, it was officially organized by **Sr. Jeanne Devos** on 16th January 1966 at Chennai. It was officially recognized by the CBCI in 1969 as catholic apostolic student movement and Sr. Jeanne Devos became its first National Animator. YSM was affiliated to it for the sake of the students of other faith in 1970 and in the same year YCS/YSM was affiliated to the IYCS international.

2. Lots of trees are destroyed in the name of development and town planning. We insist on green villages, towns and cities. Gardens should be encouraged in every school, home and townships. Let the shopkeepers take care of watering and protecting the plants on the medians and sides of the road in front of their shops if they fail to do so, we demand not to renew their licenses.
3. Please close street side vendors and enable trees to be planted in out towns.
4. Please ensure that we have high moral standard officers in the department of forest otherwise it would be like kannada saying “Protecting fence itself eats up the crop”
5. As per the request of UNO the ten dense forests of Karnataka to be handed over and declared as World Heritage sites in order to protect from thieves, land grabbers, encroaching planters and land lords.
6. Stop mining in forest areas
7. Wild life is the jewel of the earth. Give them proper space and protection.
8. Do not let the natural resources fall into the hands of greedy private owners
9. Protect the rights of aboriginal forest dwellers who are protectors of these sanctuaries
10. Enable the students of Northern Karnataka to visit forests of South Karnataka to experience and to study the rich heritage of flora and fauna.



– **Fr. Michael, Gulbarga.**

**Objectives of YCS/YSM: Change self – Change others**

- Personality development
- Leadership through Talent exposure
- Faith formation
- Building up a better future
- Fighting for social justice and peace

**Methodology:** See, Judge and Act

**(Awareness, Reflection, Action and Evaluation)**



**IYCS WORLD COUNCIL – INDIA****Excerpts**

This IYCS Global Formation Session and 14th World Council were a Great Experience, Exposure and a Challenge for me. It helped me to look wider into Student realities in many regions and also what actions could youth implement with hope to reduce it. It was a very valuable opportunity to know other cultures and also to experience God. I would commit 3 years along with my national team to do activities in our level, related to the theme in order to reduce and prevent conflicts and social crisis in my country. It was an eye opener. I learnt about the crises and conflicts and also about the taste of different cultures.

**- Niluka Perera, YCS Sri Lanka**

Ever since I joined the national team I have been organizing several trainings for the benefit of the members. I also played in key role in terms of organizing the sub regional workshop held in Yaoundé in August 2009 for the Central Africa Sub Region which gathered 9 countries.

“After many of reflection from the movement, I came to conclude that YCSers in Africa must be leaders in action. This movement with many young people must stop to be an indoor but must focus on solving problems for the blooming of the young people and the integration of vulnerable persons... we must put our effort to help our national movements to deepen their exchanges and their collaboration with the National Episcopal Conference of each country in order to get their support for our fundraising which will help us to solve many problems”.

**- KAMTO Dokam Périne Desirée, Cameroon**



**Characteristics of YCS/YSM:** It is a movement of gathering and sharing of experiences of the members and evaluating the life situations to form an attitude towards value based pro life actions. Hence,

- It is a Student movement
- It is an awareness movement
- It is a religiously inspired movement
- It is an action oriented movement
- It is a cell based movement



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***IYCS Asia Coordinator - Blaise Shehan Cooray, Sri Lanka:***

I have been with the movement since 2001 joining it as a cell member and grown and matured in it enhancing my spirituality, leadership qualities and skills. I am 24 years old and previously an assistant IT lecturer at the St. Peter's College, Colombo, Sri Lanka for two years. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake, the chaplain of YCS Sri Lanka and all its members for trusting in me and nominating me for this post. Also I thank all national movements of Asia for giving me the chance to serve the movement and through it my God. As the Asian coordinator I wish to give my full self to serve the Lord. I wish to share the Christ in me with many youngsters in the region and strengthen the movement by being my best self throughout the mandate. Let us all join hands as one family and flock around Christ our King to build up a better Asia!



## ***Cell Meeting on FOOD CRISIS***

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### **1. Right to Food**

**Introduction:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger has been one of the Millennium Development Goals. The handbook of the parliamentarians on MDG indicates that poverty reduction must be treated as fundamental human rights. The proportion of people living under BPL (Below Poverty Line) has come down yet 43.8% of the Scheduled Tribes and 36.2% of the Scheduled Castes lives below the poverty line. Per capita income of Bihar is Rs 6400 per year and some states have earmarked Rs 9372 for rural and Rs 11580 for Urban people as BPL (Tendulkar Committee)

A family of 4 will get Rs. 781 per month in rural and Rs 965 per month in urban area for food. A family gets Rs 26 per day or Rs 32 per day respectively. This means a person gets Rs 8 or Rs 12 per day for ones food.



If governments decide this as the margin for BPL, then how do you expect the person or the family to do well? How will they study, clothe and shelter themselves? Isn't it a mockery of their fundamental human rights of food, clothing and shelter?

In an urban area a living place of 10x10 sq ft costs Rs 1500 as rent. Then what will they eat and clothe? Basing on these data kindly discuss among yourselves the plight of the poor people and food as fundamental right and become aware of the poverty in India as well as your role in eradicating poverty.

**Awareness:** Today there are 260 million people in India living below the official poverty line of Rs 12 per day. This is 30 % of the poor of the total poor population of the world.

More than half of the scheduled tribe and third of the scheduled castes is living BPL. 70% of Indian rural population is malnourished. Women and Children are a major part of it. The gender discrimination of female makes them malnourished and as a result their children suffer malnourishment. The intake of calories has fallen in the recent past and there are suicides every 30 minutes in the agrarian families. 70 % of our population is rural and farming but the annual budget for agriculture is 2.7%

### **IT'S TOUGH TO BE POOR**

**Planning Commission says a person living in a city is not poor if this is his daily consumption**

<p><b>RS 5 ON RICE/ WHEAT</b>  <b>Retail price in Delhi:</b>  <b>Rice- Rs 22/ kg</b>  <b>Wheat- Rs 12/ kg</b>  <b>What you get for Rs 5</b>  <b>136g rice (Rs 3)</b>  <b>166g wheat (Rs 2)</b></p> <p><b>RS 1.8 ON VEGETABLES</b>  <b>What you get for Rs 1.8:</b>  <b>180g of potatoes</b>  <b>or 90g of onions</b>  <b>or 90g of tomatoes</b>  <b>or 180g of pumpkin</b></p>	<p><b>RS 1 ON PULSES</b>  <b>Price of Dal: Rs 50/ kg</b>  <b>What you get for</b>  <b>Rs 1: 20g OF Dal</b>  <b>RS 2.3 ON MILK</b></p> <p><b>Price of Milk: Rs 27/ litre</b>  <b>What you get for Rs 2.3: 85ml of Milk</b>  <b>RS112: FOR FUEL</b>  <b>What you get for Rs 112:</b>  <b>1.6 kg of LPG a month</b></p>
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**Table: Courtesy: The Times of India on 21.09.2011 front page.**

**Deepening the Fact:**

- a. What is the reality? Why is this situation?
- b. Who are involved in this and what is their attitude towards the poor?
- c. Have you come across these poor or are you a part of this?
- d. What way you have contributed to this problem?
- e. What are the causes of this situation and what are the consequences?

**Reflection:** Analyze the situation taking into consideration the poor you know or want to know

- a. If you were a poor what would be your attitude towards this situation?
- b. What are the values involved in this? Which values would have changed the situation?
- c. What does your religion speak about the poor and this situation?
- d. What is your decision for self transformation?

**Action:** Take prompt action to become aware and change your mindset or attitude

- a. What is your decision for change?
- b. What is your cell/unit's decision for change?



- c. What activity you undertake to experience this situation? When and How?

**Proposed Activity:**

1. Make a study on Govt. policy on BPL
2. Visit BPL families and register their reality of daily life
3. Join hands with an NGO to help BPL families get their right to food
4. Fast a day to experience the plight of the poor and to transform yourself
5. Share a meal with your poor classmate at regular intervals to be a part of BPL
6. Refer **Supreme Court Judgments** and make a study of it: Integrated child development services, Midday meal scheme, Targeted public distribution system, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, National old age pension scheme, National Maternity benefit scheme, National family benefit scheme, Accountability of Gram Sabhas, Access to information, Schemes not be discontinued.



**Evaluation:** After the activity come together in the cell and share your experiences. If you have changed your attitude about the poor hungry people share it with your cell members. If you have failed to understand the situation what would be your action as an YCS/YSM member?

**2. Food and Nature**

**Introduction:** In Thiruvanamalai, a village in Tamilnadu farmers were working together and getting their crops from the land that belonged to them. Since ages they worked in this area and the mother earth fulfilled their daily needs. People were poor but they were happy in what they produced and they lived peacefully.

At a given time probably in 1972 a young man from the village who studied in the urban area started land dealing business. Some of the poor uneducated families were shown interest in money and he wooed them to sell their land for a cash price. The people who had never seen such cash in their hand started feeling great and for the greed of money started selling their properties and settled in semi urban areas. The land they owned was sold off for a good price but permanently they lost their livelihood. These real estate people made big money and became rich at the expense of these poor farmers.

The money they earned by selling off their land was spent on building a house for themselves and gadgets. A day came when they realized that they had nothing to eat and nothing could be done. They became daily wage earners working at other's mercy.

The land sold was used by the developers to build housing colonies and factories. In the bargain the soil lost its worth, atmosphere was polluted, greenery was lost, and the arable land became useless for cultivation. The God given land was lost forever and now they await nature's fury.

**Awareness:** Today the cultivated land has been used for factories and housing purpose. Space for cultivation has lessened. Every year 1.3 million hectares of forest and greenery is reduced to these purposes. Earth is losing its balance for population and food that they require to survive. Production is gone down. Hybridization of food grains has given way to poor quality of food and diseases. Use of pesticides has corroded the earth and killed the life of mud. Animals and birds have lost their food and several species of these have vanished from the earth. Natural resources are grabbed by a few and the people have become poorer. Nature's fury is venting its anger on the mankind.

**Deepening the fact:** Deepen the fact with these questions.

- a. What is the reality? Why is this situation?
- b. Who are involved in this and what is their attitude towards life?
- c. Have you come across this kind of incidents in your vicinity?
- d. What are the causes of this situation and what are the consequences?

**Reflection:** Analyze the situation taking into consideration nature and food production.

- a. If you were a member of this family what would be your attitude towards this situation?
- b. What are the values involved in this? Which values would have changed the situation?
- c. What does your religion speak about the nature and this situation?
- d. What is your decision for self transformation?

**Action:** Take prompt action to become aware of the plight of the nature.

- a. What is your decision for change?
- b. What is your cell/unit's decision for change?
- c. What activity you undertake to understand this situation? When and How?

**Proposed activity:**

1. Make a study on the nature and cultivable land that is lost due to these activities.
2. Visit a natural site to enjoy the natural resources earth has given us (Study tour).
3. Visit a farmer family who lost or sold their land to understand their remorse.
4. Make a study on the Real Estate Business.
5. Hold a chart competition on Natural disaster or nature's fury or effects of deforestation.

**Evaluation:** After the activity come together in the cell and share your experiences. If you have changed your attitude about the nature's beauty and worth share it with your cell members. If you have failed to understand the reality what would be your action as an YCS/YSM member?

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## Introducing New IYCS Secretariat Team

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***Nimali Prasadika Fernando, Sri Lanka,  
IYCS Program Coordinator:***

My involvements in the movement since 2001 have allowed me to gain knowledge, experience, skills and leadership qualities to guide youngsters while maintaining a steady faith. I joined the movement at the age of 14, grew up as a cell member and later actively participated in planning and organizing programmes at deanery and diocesan levels. I was also fortunate to be part of the organizing committees of International programmes hosted by YCS Sri Lanka during my career. I am a graduate in Arts and professionally a school teacher who always enjoyed being with students bringing out the best in them. I consider my appointment as the Programme Coordinator of the movement is merely a calling from my creator God to serve Him in all aspects. With the qualifications and confidence I have already gained from the movement and with the blessings of the good Lord, I wish to take every opportunity with full commitment to perform the tasks effectively and to be my best self throughout the mandate.



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***Devett O Brien, Australia, IYCS Secretary General:***

My motivation comes from 11 \_ years of experience in the YCS movement in Australia. In that time I have been: a student leader (4 \_ years) at local, diocesan and national level; an adult assistant (3years); and a paid worker (4 years). Throughout my involvement in YCS, the actions that have most motivated and empowered me have all had an international element that demonstrated our connections across national borders. In these actions I have tried to respond in my own daily life to situations such as oppression in East Timor, Australia's unjust treatment of refugees, and the struggle for Trade Justice. I love the YCS movement; it has made me who I am today. It is a movement that has unbelievable power at both the individual and the societal level. I hope my vision for an international movement with a greater sense of global solidarity and a more effective approach to advocacy and action is one that inspires you in the same way it inspires me!





## **Karnataka Regional Animators Training Program, Mangalore**

October 30, 2011

1st Karnataka regional YCS\YSM animators meet was held at Mangalore. With a group of 86 animators few experienced, some with growing knowledge and many freshers were present. The function was compered by Rashmi Peres and formally started with a prayer service lead by the YCS council, Mangalore. Rev.Fr. Charles Menezes invoked the blessings of almighty God.



Joselin Vas the regional president YCS/YSM Karnataka welcomed the gathering. Later Fr. Charles lead the inauguration ceremony of this program in a very Mangalorean style by opening up the “BINGAARI”. Rev.Fr. Maria Joseph gave the introduction to the day’s program and vote of thanks presented by Enola D’sa, regional secretary YCS/YSM Karnataka.

The program was carried forward by Mr. Rohan Pereira by conducting ice-breaking sessions. Mr. George Joseph the 1st regional animator of YCS/YSM Karnataka (1979-1985) shared his wonderful and inspirational experience as a YCS animator and it surely has motivated most of us .Sr. Margaret briefed us about the café session and it created a good impact on them and even extracted a lot of matter from the animators.

The 1st program post lunch was the presentation of the documentary “ROAD MAP TO THE HISTORY OF YCS/YSM” by Sr. Margret. In addition to this Sr. Mabel shared her fascinating 27 years of experience as an YCS member as well as a YCS/YSM animator. There was an analysis made on the basis of the café session with the help of all the moderators as well as the secretaries under the leadership of Mr. Rajesh. Fr. Charles pointed out some flaws, and explained some of the ways through which YCS/YSM can be revitalized.

During the closing ceremony Rev.Fr. Charles Menezes, Rev.Fr Mari Joseph, Rev.Fr. Edwin D’Souza YCS/YSM director Udupi district, Mr. Joseline Vas, Mohan MU and Miss Jovita D’Souza were on the Dais. 6 animators were honored for their selfless service for more than 15 years and 20 of them were honored for



their service for more than 5 years. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph expressed his feelings and gratitude and honored Sr. Margret for her selfless service for YCS/YSM from several years. The program indeed turned out to be a grand success and we wish that it will rejuvenate and revitalize the disconnected areas of YCS/YSM movement.

- If you are a non smoker, GOOD!!! Never even try smoking, and stay away from smokers.
- If you are a smoker decide to stop. If you really want, you can. Fix a date to give up smoking and inform your people that you've given up.
- Carry a chewing gum or candy to keep your hands and lips busy with something other than smoking
- Do not keep smoking materials handy
- Avoid use of stimulants such as coffee, tea etc.
- Eat well and regularly. Consume large quantities of fruits and vegetables as they are antidote against the poisons of tobacco
- Avoid heavily spiced foods and drink at least ten glasses of water a day, as water can reduce the craving for tobacco.



- Utilize the services of counselors in your schools and colleges, if not available, approach your favorite teacher, or an elderly friend or relative whom you trust, and feel free to interact.
- Engage in sports and physical exercises.
- Bathing twice a day in hot water helps in keeping body and mind fresh.
- Yoga and prayers have helped many.
- Every hour/day without smoking should mean much to you; congratulate yourself as you are on the way to find victory.

Dear teenagers, you constitute a large portion of our country and the most potential group. You are given a major role in the process of development. We cannot afford to neglect and lose you. You are young only once. Please don't make a blunder for which you have to repent till the end. If you think you can determine, you will.



## YCS/YSM ANIMATION HOME

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