

The July - August 2015
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YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 35

Vol: 4

**Is YCS/YSM
relevant
TODAY**



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THANK YOU AND PRAY FOR ME

Thank you all YCS/YSM members, ICYM friends, Chairman of CBCI Youth Council, Bishops, Regional Youth Directors, Diocesan Youth Directors, Coordinators, NEXCOs, Resource persons, funding agencies and friends for your love and support in YCS/YSM ministry. Pray for me and for the success of my ministry in IYCS International Office at Paris, France, nominated by the Laity Commission of Vatican as IYCS International Chaplain on 24.07.2015. I have taken charge for a period of four years on 02.08 2015 at IYCS World Council, held at Philippines.



YCS/YSM INDIA CELEBRATES



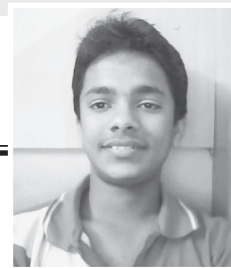
CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES

Fr. Chetan Machado who is taking charge of YCS/YSM India on 06.09.2015 during National Executive Committee meeting at National Office, Chennai. Kindly accompany and support him in his mission so that our teenage community may grow in Holy Spirit and glow in character to become great value based leaders in the society and church. Fr. Chetan is from Archdiocese of Delhi, Northern Region. He is presently the Diocesan & Regional Director.



Fr. Charles Menezes & NTA/EXCO India

DO WE HAVE OUR FREEDOM ?



My dear friends in YCS/YSM India,

Greetings to you all. Hope you all are fine with good health and enjoying your studies. On behalf our National chaplain and all the NEXCO's I wish you a happy 69th Independence Day. We have got independence before 68 years but still we are not satisfied with what we have got. Though many freedom fighters sacrificed their lives to give us the independence, I still feel that we haven't got freedom in the real sense. In the past British had controlled our freedom but now our own people are controlling our freedom.

As teenagers we have to give a thought on whether we really have freedom? There are many problems faced by teenagers like child labor, drug addiction and sexual abuse etc. Our former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said, "today's children are the future of our nation" But our society does not allow these children to build their life and as our government says up to 14 years of age every child should get free education, but in what proportion have they been educated or in what way has it reduced illiteracy? Instead of going to school our children are working in restaurants, factories and addicted to illegal activities. Can we be a change at this juncture?

Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi once said India will attain freedom when a girl child walks in the street in the middle of night without fear, then the true freedom will be attained to this Nation. But in our nation women are not safe as many times there is sexual harassment. Child marriage is considered as a crime but this system is still in practice in our nation. All these situations make us to ask question again and again "Do we really have our freedom?"

As a YCS/YSM member we must be aware of problems faced by all children of our age and we should try to find solutions by practicing our Methodology (Awareness, Reflection and Action) so that the other children of our age may feel that they too have freedom at this age.

We know that our National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Charles Menezes has been elected as IYCS Chaplain. It is a great honor to the Indian Movement. For the first time in the history that an Indian chaplain being elected as the International Chaplain. We wish him all the very best for his mission which he is going to carry on in his life.

This year we are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of existence of YCS/YSM movement in India {1966-2016} and this indeed is a proud feeling for our movement along with remembering all those who have worked in strengthening this movement.

In the month of October there is NSLTP (English & Hindi). Ensure you will participate in the program. Wishing you all the very best for your studies and keep the same spirit of YCS/YSM. I hope our movement will become best in the world with your support. Keep enjoying, learning and expanding our movement wherever it's possible. Long live YCS/YSM ❖

Long live YCS/YSM
Roshan Melwyn Lobo

THEY SAY YCS/YSM is not relevant today...???



I heard one of the Hierarchies in the Indian Church saying YCS/YSM is no more relevant today. I feel that is the reason why this movement is not supported or acknowledged in most of the dioceses.

Having been a part of this movement for the past 17 years and being chosen to head the movement in the international arena, I doubted myself whether I am doing the right thing at this time, being with YCS/YSM or wasting my time and energy. I had to go for a deep reflection to understand the truth. I spent a few hours contemplating on it. Finally I felt what Jesus felt, like when people ignored his teachings and miracles, questioned his integrity and rejected him as a person and son of man.

Based on the government survey taken in 2011, India has an unrivalled youth demographic: 65% of its population is 35 or under, and half the country's population of 1.25 billion is under 25 years of age. Whenever I get a chance to address the hierarchy I question them, how much time and resources do we invest on this age group. Consciously speaking hardly 5% of time and resources are spent for this age group. In some of the dioceses I do not see anything set apart for this age group, other than Sunday catechism and some competitions.

Families have given up addressing their issues, schools have become business centers of academic interests and church also has become redundant because of our routine activities, lethargy and escapism to address their issues.

Young are at risk and searching for meaning in life:

1. Young still are searching for their identity – Society, family and Church hardly does anything for them to realize their identity. money, things, sermons, lectures and activities do not help them find their identity
2. Young still are looking for meaning in life – Whatever we do and say does not make meaning for them, unless they are made to reflect on their self and reality
3. Young still are waiting for an opportunity to shine – Social media, Competitions, exposures, gadgets have failed to make them what they are looking for in life.
4. Young still are looking for God experience - We elders, parents, hierarchy have failed to give them God experience which they are looking for, rather we have become anti witnesses.
5. Young still are looking for a chance to serve – They plunge into anything that will make them service minded but we have just used them for our self glory
6. Young still have the energy to change the world – We call them our future, forgetting that they are our present and their energy has been misused and underutilized
7. Young still are looking to bear witness to Faith/God – Unfortunately we have not heard their plea, voice of conscience and not organized them that they may bear witness to faith.
8. Young are still..... many more reasons to complain.....

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Reasons for relevance of YCS/YSM:

It provides them the space and time where they can sit together and share their feelings, anxieties, aspirations, problems, joys and sorrows.

It provides them a platform where they can belong to a family of youth, society and church.

It provides them time to reflect about their life, present and future that would make meaning for them.

It provides them opportunities to shine that they feel belong to someone and something.

It provides them chance to experience God in the other being a brother, sister and partner where they bear witness to their faith.

It provides them chances to serve which makes them belong to the reality, society and church.

It provides them the energy to change the world around them, because they are students and they believe in what they do. They need to be understood, accepted as they are and the movement does it consciously.

It provides them space and time to bear witness to their faith/ God by their deeds of charity.

It provides them..... many more reasons to answer their plea.
Are we ready to hear their plea? What is our priority?

By saying YCS/YSM is no more relevant, do we ignore the relevance of our teenagers? Are teenagers irrelevant to us?

If teenagers are ignored what kind of church and society are we building up? If teenagers are not catered to at this time whom are we catering to? 47% of our population is not relevant?

The big question remains – Is our Hierarchy relevant today to the youth of India...???

Fr. Charles Menezes
National Chaplain



Forthcoming programs

1. 6th NTA/EXCO extraordinary meeting at Chennai on 5-6 Sept – Handing over charge to New National Chaplain – Fr. Chetan Machado, Delhi Archdiocese
2. NSLTP in Hindi at Bhopal on 15-19 October
3. NSLTP in English at Kolkata on 26-30 October
4. Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM Convention at Udupi on 18-20 October
5. All India YCS/YSM Alumni meeting at Mangalore on 6-8 November
6. YCS/YSM Golden Jubilee on 16th Jan 2016
7. 7th NTA/EXCO meeting at Chennai on 15-17 Jan 2016
8. 17th National Convention at Sattal in May 2016

CONTENT OF VALUE EDUCATION

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Perturbed by criminal tendencies among teenage students, several sociologists and educationists have urged the compulsory introduction of Value Education in Schools. This call came very specially after a 16 year old school boy Vijay Sharma of Thane, Maharashtra stabbed his mother to death. He showed no remorse when he was arrested. Instead he made a shocking statement – he wanted to kill his entire family and enjoy life with all the money. According to the police the first thing Vijay did

Value education should distinguish between RELIGIOSITY based on external rituals and SPIRITUALITY, based on values dealing with deeper inner dynamism, beyond institutionalized religions and their practices.

after fleeing the house was to watch a show of the Shah Rukh Khan starrer “Main Hoon Na” at Eros cinema near Church gate station.

Everybody will not only endorse but welcome wholeheartedly this proposal of introducing Value Education in schools. Some state governments have already made it compulsory in all classes and have supplied the relevant textbooks. Value education however is not a new concept. Many schools already have regular Value Education classes but since it is not exam oriented neither teachers nor students are concerned. Of course, making it exam oriented will not make students moral. The consideration, if we are keen on introducing a meaningful Value education program in the school is to have as process of discernment among educationists, parents and teachers regarding the content of the program and the method used to impart the values.

The content of Value education should firstly make a clear distinction between VISION and AMBITION. Today many misunderstand materialistic and selfish ambition as vision for life.

In fact, a vision for life gives an orientation to dedicate oneself for the maximum good of humanity. It is totally selfless and altruistic, making persons proactive.

Value education should also held students, teachers



**Fr. Varghese Alengaden,
USM, Indore**

and parents to distinguish between COMPETENCE and CONSCIENCE; the former deals with skill acquisition and the latter with character formation. Parents in an affluent society do not count the cost when it comes to developing competence and skills of their children. They must reach the top and always be first. Both parents and teachers fail to give importance to formation of character. The consequence is the formation of a new

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generation, highly competent yet without conscience, without sensitivity and character. As a result they become victims of the culture of instant success. Humanness is alien and dispensable.

Value education is not religious education. No doubt, values have their source in sacred scriptures but religions as they are practiced today, have lost their originality. A politicized and commercialized religion and gimmicks of godmen cannot satisfy the genuine

search of human beings.

Value education should distinguish between RELIGIOSITY based on external rituals and SPIRITUALITY, based on values dealing with deeper inner dynamism, beyond institutionalized religions and their practices. The content of value education should be spiritually which promotes conscience which makes people proactive and prophetic. While we take all the care and attention that is possible, to prepare the content of a value education

program, we need to realize the values are “caught” by the students from the life of parents and teachers. The life



is the best value education book. ❖

Activities of National Director

1. Office work at Delhi from July 1-4
2. Annual Retreat at Mangalore from July 5-10
3. Attended USM general body meeting at Indore on July 16
4. Animators training at Khandwa, MP on July 17-18
5. Visited Indore on July 19
6. Participation in IYCS World Council at Philippines from 24th July to 2nd August
7. Participation in Asian Council on 3rd August
8. Visit t Belthangady on 6h August
9. Youth ministry seminar to Deacons at St. Joseph’s Seminary at Mangalore on 7-8 August
10. Karnataka Regional Meeting at Kuntalnagar on 9th August
11. Office work at Chennai on 13-14 August
12. Search work at Delhi on 15-20 August
13. Preparation for NTA/EXCO meeting at Chennai on 27-28 August

Animators Training Programme

USM, Indore, 23-30 May 2015

The much awaited National Animators Training programme was held at USM, Indore from 23-30 May 2015. 17 animators from Chennai, Mangalore, Udupi and Delhi participated in it. Fr. Charles guided the programme with the apt support of Fr. Varghese Alengaden.



Participants arrived on 23rd and after refreshing themselves the programme started at 5pm with a short prayer and introduction to the topics. Fr. Charles led the dynamics of the programme and kept before the participants the time table of 7 days and all agreed to abide by it. It was followed by a discussion on the expectations from the programme which was aptly replied by Fr. Varghese with a warm welcome to the centre.

For the next six days participants were given the background of socio-structural analysis. They were taught on various aspects which affect our society especially the three sectors like agriculture, manufacture and service sectors. The things that affect us like economics, inequality, consumerism, lack of leadership, weakening of democracy, climate change, gap between rich and poor, the power politics, religious fundamentalism, poverty, jobless growth, crime and corruption were well explained.

They were made to understand the multiple inequalities which block the growth of India and the response that we need to give was well explained. The root causes of all these problems are alarming and as animators we need to make our student members understand and participate in the social sector to become change agents. Fr. Jacob P. animated on the above topics.

Session on Call, Vision and Mission of animators taken by Fr. Varghese dealt in detail on the Call by God to this mission. He cited several examples from the Gospel and real life situations which made us understand our role as animators.

Fr. Charles guided the session on introducing YCS/YSM. He made all participate in this by dividing the topics into several parts like what is YCS, why YCS, Cell, Structure, cell life, cell meeting, logo, search, aim and objectives, characteristics and methodology and made the participants prepare a list of all those things and while explaining clarified the doubts. Later on he brushed through the power point presentation and explained the issues in detail.

During one of the sessions participants were asked to prepare the VISION FORMULATION of their life and made them read it out. They planned to get it right with more meditation and prayer in silence



and contemplation. The movie on Jesus of Nazareth to Journey with Jesus helped the participants to apply the animation reality to



that of Jesus the supreme animator. In this journey with Jesus each one of the participant felt and understood the historical person of Jesus. Participants also discussed the action

plan in groups and suggested various means to organize the movement in the diocese and regions. *(It will be organized based on the constitution of YCS/YSM. The suggestions will be sent to regional directors to set the movement organized. Participants also suggested some programs for forthcoming Golden Jubilee of YCS/YSM.)*

Programme concluded on 30th May at 5.30 pm. Fr. Clarence was the Chief Guest. During the programme three participants presented their final report followed by distribution of certificates and mementos. The programme came to an end with the participants taking the pledge of the movement. All the participants were very much satisfied and happy about the programme and its content. ❖

PLAN OF ACTION

1. Conduct summer camps at the zonal/deanery/diocesan level so that more students are introduced and induced into YCS-YSM.
2. Propose YCS-YSM to the Diocesan Education Boards so that units and cells could be established in the Christian schools.
3. Encourage the senior ICYM and YCS-YSM members to take up the role of animators to establish and promote Units and cells where ever they are.
4. Request the bishop to appoint Diocesan Directors and Co-ordinators and preferably both be full-time so that they can focus on YCS-YSM.
5. Prepare module/guidelines to help emerging YCS cells to help in their functioning.
6. In order to promote YCS-YSM, organise interaction and get-togethers of parents along with Cell/Unit/DEXCO. (especially during DEXCO elections)
7. Proposal of publishing newsletter at the diocesan/regional level spear-headed by the students.
8. Request the bishops of dioceses to send letters to all the parishes emphasising on the need and establishment of YCS cells.
9. Translation of the YCS-YSM constitution into the different regional languages for easy use and access.
10. Electing of representatives in the cells and units and their orientation (educating them of their roles and responsibilities along with Vision, Mission and Methodology) at the unit or deanery level.
11. Visiting the families of the YCSer's.
12. Establishing an alumni association.
13. Beginners day (once in a year), Solidarity day, Office bearers and Animators training
14. Diocesan General Body Meeting
15. Quiz Competition, Awareness Programme/Village Exposure Camp
16. Animating the liturgy
17. Regional Students Leadership Training Programme (RSLTP), Office bearers training programme, Regional Animators training programme, REXCO team formation (once in 6 months)
18. Formation of new cells with the help of DYD and animators
19. Fund raising (through stalls, conducting fests, through sponsors)

PERSONAL REPORT

YCS/ IMCS Global training session and world council

It is said dreams come true. It was one of my biggest dream to travel out of India. And my dream really came true when I got to know that I was selected as a delegate from India to participate in the world council. And I agreed for it with lot of expectation. I started my journey to Philippines with lot of joy and full of energy, finally reached the place of venue call Mariapolis in Tagaytay city. There were LOCs to welcome us and they treated us well from day one till the end.



The world council began with the theme "SAILT OF THE EARTH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD – Students build the Kingdom of God". We had inauguration mass by Fr Paul Tiga the ex international chaplain, and then cultural activities by the host country. There were delegates from 26 countries. For me it was a wonderful experience to meet new people and make new friends. We also had global village exhibition from all countries. I represented INDIA with our traditional clothes and also with our food items. Here I could see the different culture, food, language, dress code and tradition of people from different countries.

In the next days we had sessions, debates based on the topics like corruption, conflict, youth participation, disparity, education and environment. These where the important issues which we had spoken about in the entire sessions and also discussed the remedies for the problems shared by many examples and finally these problems where brought forward in group discussion and ended with a solution. We also had sessions on KINGDOM OF GOD which was really inspiring for us all. I met some poor people in their home during exposure visit and got to know about the people in Philippines.

I also enjoyed the food which gave me different taste. Every evening we had cultural program from different countries. Their tradition, their dance, songs gave me a different feeling. Even though I have not been to the entire world but I could feel the entire world in one small place which I will never forget in my life. In my last days of world council I missed all my friends, the loc's and also the fun and lessons which I had learnt.

Finally I want to thank GOD for making me a part of YCS. I also thank my parents, my family, my friends and all the sponsors who had helped me to attend the world council. I also thank Michelle for accompanying me. I want to thank Fr CHARLSE MENEZES who helped me, guided me in the right path to learn and grow in my life. And it was my privilege to be with the international chaplain and to spend my time and to learn from him. ❖

- Gavin Lasrado

IYCS –IMCS GLOBALTRAINING SESSION AND WORLD COUNCIL/ASSEMBLY

Mariapolis Peace, Tagaytay City, Philippines, 24th July to 3rd August 2015.

Theme: “Salt of the earth, light of the world – Students building the Kingdom of God”

IYCS –International Young Catholic Students

IMCS-International Movement of Catholic Students



YCS/YSM India was represented by Rev Fr Charles Menezes, Ms Michelle D’souza and Mr Gaywin Lasrado. We arrived at Manila, Philippines on 24th of July where we were welcomed by the LOC. At the venue we were welcomed by the International Team and later proceeded to have supper.

IYCS Global training session and World council was from July 25th to August 3rd at Mariapolis peace, Tagatay City, Philippines. 82 delegates from 26 countries were present. SCA Philippines hosted this council with the help of their alumni body.



That evening after reaching the venue we had supper and later we had introductory session by having various games to introduce ourselves.

The day began with the inaugural mass celebrated by IYCS Chaplain Rev Fr Paul Tiga. After mass and break introduction of every country was done by presenting their own cultural dress for the opening session. The host country gave dance performances. In the evening there was global village exhibition where we had to present our culture, food, traditional clothes and journey of our national YCS movement and had a chance to interact with other national movements and to explain them how and why it is so. After this we had games, supper and presentation by the LOC. Day ended with the Asian meeting regarding ASC.



Day began by invoking God’s blessing. Later on the session “The World We See”- COUNTRY PARTICIPATION-one topic would be read out and each member has to rate their country in the rating scale of 0-10 and explain why we had chosen a particular rating. Topics like corruption, conflict, disparity, education and political participation were to be rated. Later all delegates were divided into groups to discuss and prepare a chart on the above topic. After lunch there was a panel discussion on “Service in the Common Good”- how each panelist in their life were a server for the community and how they helped in the development. 5 panelists –Mr Julius, a teacher and lawyer, Br Peter, Capuchin religious brother, Ms Zarah, a student leader, Mr Mehul Dhabi, former IMCS President and Fr. John, Convener of climate change. All of them shared their views on how they have helped to build the society and what they can contribute to make it even better. At 6pm the mass was celebrated the Bishop Evangelista, host Bishop. After supper the thematic evening was by Asia.



Day began by the Eucharistic mass celebrated by the Bishop. Later all delegates were divided into 7 groups with 2-3 countries together and all were sent on an exposure-the “SEE” part. Places for exposure were Day Care Centers, Families, Schools and

Orphanages. In our group that is India, Bangladesh and Egypt we had gone on an exposure to a daycare and social centre “BUKAS PALADA” meaning open arms. This social centre extends help to different needy families and we visited two families and interacted with them. Poverty remains the same all over the world despite lot of developments is our leaning. After the exposure we had been to a nearby park –picnic groove. After supper at 7pm South Africa had its thematic evening.



Day began by a prayer followed by action songs by Fr Charles. Later we had a session on “STUDENT LEADER AS A CATHOLIC”. At noon all delegates had to choose a group of their choice based on the topics corruption, education, conflict, environment, youth participation, disparity and environment. This was followed by region wise evaluation on the SEE part. India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka were grouped as one.

After evaluation it was followed by the next session “THE KINGDOM OF GOD” by Ms Sonia Rocco, Board Chair, SAC, Philippines. She described on how God created the world and how we can be part of his creation. After dinner European delegation had their thematic evening.

Strategic Action Plan:

1. Global Campaign: Peace building in conflict situations through communication, financial sustainability and Education.
2. “To be better trained to better serve”
 - a. To promote Student Leadership and the Service of others (cf. Luc, 22, 27);
 - b. To encourage the establishment of projects focusing on the Spirit of Service and a World without corruption (Mt, 20, 26);
 - c. To follow-up the implementation of the UN’s Sustainable Development Agenda.
3. Review of Life Methodology.
 - a. To promote the Review of Life Methodology as a way of life and service;
 - b. To insert the Spirit of the Gospel in public and religious institutions through the practice of the Review of Life;
 - c. To publish a resource booklet on the Review of Life Methodology.
4. International Solidarity
 - a. To encourage the sharing between National Movements;
 - b. To create an online bank for the exchange of resources;
 - c. To implement the IYCS World Day.
5. Organisational Sustainability
 - a. To find and implement solutions for the financial sustainability of IYCS;
 - b. To ensure a constant flow of communication between the International Bodies of IYCS;
 - c. To ensure a good and effective Transmission to the new International Secretariat and Regional Coordination members.



After the morning prayer and breakfast we had a session on “SALT OF THE EARTH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD.”- Students Building the Kingdom of God.

Dr Noel addressed the gathering on being secular in the post modern world and



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about consumerism. He stressed on we keeping our mission so that we can be faithful servants in Gods Kingdom. Jesus didn't ask us to be salt and light rather he said we are salt and light. We must realize this fact deeply so that we can contribute a little in making his Kingdom better. Later half of the session was discussion. After lunch we had group discussion on the chosen topics the previous day and later presentation of our group discussion followed by mass and thematic evening.



Breakfast followed by morning prayer and in the morning session we had to do the action plan for the years up to the next world council {2015-2019}. The topics like attitudinal formation, Evangelization, Awareness and Option for the poor was discussed. IYCS having its base in UNESCO-ECOSOC, UNO would campaign for peace building in conflict situations and work against corruption. Action plan was on Personal, Regional, National, International and Global levels. This will be sent to all the national movements soon by the International office to put into use. After lunch regional reports were presented for the past 3 years. After dinner we had Latin American thematic evening.



The 3 day world council began on this day. IYCS Secretary General presented the report of 4 years with SWOT analysis. Discussion followed on action plan on the topics Communication, financial sustainability and structural changes to the movements. Later for the world council to begin with presidium was chosen by election and Michelle from India and Cynthia from Ivory Coast were elected for the presidium. After supper at 7 it was followed by a thematic night by the Middle East region.



2nd Day of the World Council began with a prayer. International Report and financial report was read and passed after clarifications and changes were approved for the strategic action plan of 2015-2019. November 13th was declared as the IYCS World Day. After lunch selection of International Advisory Board was done and Fr. Paul Tiga from Burkina Faso, Nuno Weymans from Portugal, Elie Ghanem from Lebanon, Loucille from Philippines and Gerard Kabore from pan African coordination were selected. Then national movements for various commissions were selected - accordingly Italy for Finance, South Korea for Campaign, India for Resource and Publication, Ivory Coast for Extension and Promotion, Nigeria for Theology and Chaplaincy and Cameroon for Advocacy and Representation were selected. Members for International Committee will be selected by November, since many of the regions have not elected their representatives. Thematic evening was by Latin America.



3rd day of the World Council. Whole day were on the agenda discussions, approvals and debates on other points and later in the afternoon there were elections for the secretary general and Mr Richard Apeh from Nigeria got elected. Entire process of the council ended on this day. After mass at 6pm there was the handing over ceremony from Fr Paul Tiga [former IYCS chaplain] to Fr Charles Menezes [present IYCS chaplain] and Mr Nuno [former IYCS Secretary General] to Mr Richard [presently elected IYCS secretary general]. Later in the evening farewell party was organized for all the delegates.



All the Asian countries assembled for the Asian council for the full day. Entire process was the same as the world council-reading of agenda, approval, implementation of new ideas and re-framing the structure and Ms Kins helped us in this process. Later in the afternoon there were elections for the program coordinator and Mr Bosco from Vietnam got elected as the Asian program coordinator. ❖

- Michelle D'Souza and Fr. Charles Menezes

13th IYCS Asian Council, Philippines

The IYCS Asian Council began on 3rd August 2015 with a prayer led by Fr. Charles Menezes. Out of 12, 7 national movements – India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and South Korea and China, the collaborator movement were present. 5 national movements - Hongkong, Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore and Nepal were absent along with Collaborator movements Indonesia and Pakistan and contact movement Brunei. Richard Apeh, the new IYCS Secretary General, Fr. Paul Tiga, Nuno Weymans and Fr. Charles Menezes represented the international office.

Mr. Hei from Vietnam and Gaywin from India were elected for the presidium along with Asian coordinator Ralph Balan. Roll call was called after confirming the quorum agenda was adopted. IMCS Asian coordinator Ravi and Liam and Tahlila from Australia and Vietnam-USA were the observers. Presidium adopted the internal rules of IYCS procedure and then Ms Kins helped the group for reflection on 3 points. 1) To identify the moment we felt most engaged with Asian coordination, 2) To share an experience to be proud being a part of Asian coordination and 3) To share the national movement's biggest contribution.

Majority mentioned that ASC in South Korea was the most engaged moment in Asian coordination and China program was another for the East Asian program. Discussion followed on Communication, Sustainability and Structure. Starting of Ex YCS movement and national representatives to assist the Asian team and project based proposals for the benefit of the students and not for coordination was suggested.

Based on the Asian reality for communication each country chose a representative each to assist the Asian coordination and they will work through emails, facebook, website and skype. In a week a day will be set apart for this so that they will share the program reports, update the action plan and the team to publish it through e news letter.

Structurally the Asian coordinator will be assisted by sub regional representatives. Henceforth Asian coordination will be consisting of Asian Chaplain Fr. Serge, 1 Asian coordinator and 3 representatives. For sustainability Asian coordination will look forward for CSR funds, donations and affiliation fees from national movements.

Mr. Tran Pham Minh Tri Bosco from Vietnam was elected as the Asian Coordinator; Sri Lanka will represent International Committee for Asia; Kaushali from Sri Lanka, Steevan from Philippines and Yang Min from China will be the sub regional coordinators to assist Bosco and Fr. Serge Maniba in the Asian coordination.

Fr. Serge thanked Ralph and Homme for their service in the Asian coordination; Nuno and Francois for International coordination; Kins for assisting the Asian movement for so long and wished well for South Korea and India for being chosen for the international commissions. The ASC ended with the Mass where handing over ceremony was held and prayed for the success of the Asian coordination. ❖



Fr. Charles Menezes



YCS/YSM Day in Odisha

Odisha Regional YCS/YSM Day was celebrated at Hamirpur School Campus, Rourkela on 25 -26 April 2015. 419 students, 2 Excos and 14 Animators from 14 schools participated. Its theme was "Students Education in modern era".



On 25th April evening at inaugural program there was prayer, welcome song, introduction of Animators, lighting lamps, YCS/YSM prayer and Anthem, Inter-religious prayer service and prayer dances. Then we had Dexco election for Rourkela and Sambalpur Dioceses. It was followed by school Assembly song presentation competition school wise. Then there was speech competition on the topic "Value of discipline in student life" where on student

from each school participated. Then there was evaluation and prayer.

On 26th April, we began the day with Holy Mass. Bishop Alphonse Bilung, the main celebrant encouraged the students to prepare themselves well for serving the nation. After the Holy Mass there was Inter-religious prayer service. After breakfast input was given on the topic "Make best use of student life", through power point presentation by Fr. Sanjay Tirkey CSSR. It was followed by schoolwise cultural group dance competition. Then there was Action plan, prize distribution and concluding thanks giving ceremony. The program ended with lunch.

This program made the YCS/YSM units of Odisha active and enthusiastic for YCS/YSM activities in this new academic year. Various competitions provided the schools for exposure of talents and learning from each other. All came out with a renewed spirit for growth of YCS/YSM in Odisha.

*- Arman Lakra and Amialata Tigga
Exco Odisha,*

Shimoga

Formation of new YCS unit at Kable:

The formation of new YCS unit took place with an orientation program conducted by



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the Yuvamitra youth office. There were 18 students present for the program. After the orientation the students were lead in to the process of Review of Life program. New office bearers for the year 2015-16 were elected. The new office bearers are: President: Vishma D'Mello; Vice-president: Melroy sequeira; Secretary: Anjali D'Souza; Treasurer: Harshita D'Souza; Reporter: Chrismitha Sequeira; Boy Rep: William D'Mello; Girl Rep: Karishma D'Souza; Liturgy: Nikitha Nainar; Sports: Stephen Sequeira.

Formation of YCS Unit and Cell groups at Ragigudda: YCS orientation, formation of new unit and election for the office bearers was held on 06.07.2015 at St. Anthony's Church, Ragigudda. There were 29 students and 4 animators present for the training program. The Parish Priest Rev. Dr. Alwyn Serrao was present although the program. The diocesan youth director Fr. Ronald Veigas took sessions on History of YCS/YSM and Methodology of the movement. ❖

Diocesan Election - Udupi

Priyanka Shruthi Norohna of Holy Cross Church Pamboor unit elected President of Young Catholic Students (YCS) of Udupi Diocese during the General Body meeting and Training program held at Bishop's House Hall, Udupi on Sunday, 5th July, 2015.

The program started with Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Edwin D'Souza Director of the YCS. After the mass, Norbert Misquith, the resource person gave training for the all deanery office bearers of YCS.

YCS diocesan resource person Francis D'Cunha gave training for diocesan YCS

animators. He pointed out the role of animators of YCS and how they can guide and help YCS members at large. Prof. Vincent Alva also gave training for the animators of YCS.

In the second session in the afternoon taking over charge of the office bearers of the Udupi Diocese level YCS council for the year 2015/16 was held. Fr. Royal Nazareth of Katapdy presided the taking over ceremony. Fr. Rolwin Aranha was the chief guest, ICYM Central Committee officials, Fr. Edwin D'Souza, Francis D'Cunha, Norbert Misquith, John Castelino of Moodubelle and Leena Mendonca of Pangala, YCS office bearers of past and present were present on



the dais.

Zeenal Saldahna outgoing Secretary placed the report for the year 2014/15. All central council committee office bearers expressed their wonderful experience during the occasion. Director of YCS/YSM and ICYM Fr. Edwin D'Souza made announcements regarding some of the program to be held during the year.

Earlier Clive Quadros welcomed the gathering and expressed his experience as a President for the year and he congratulated all the new office bearers of YCS for the year 2015/16. The Secretary elect Viyol Ezekiel Crasto delivered vote of thanks. Viola Mendonca Kuntal Nagar compered the program. ❖

Elections - Mangalore

Melroy D'Souza, Siddakatte was elected the president of YCS, Mangaluru diocese during the annual general body meeting, central council election and unit office-bearers' training programme 2015-2016 of YCS held on Sunday July 12 at ShanthiKiran, Bajjodi. The annual general body meeting and unit office-bearers training programme of YCS were also held on the same occasion. The day began with the registration and ice-breaking conducted by the YCS central council members. Later a session on 'Leadership and role of office-bearers' was conducted by Norbert Misquith, Suratkal. After lunch election of the central council was conducted by Mr. Viyon Veigas.

The newly-elected office-bearers of YCS central council Mangaluru Diocese 2015-16 are:

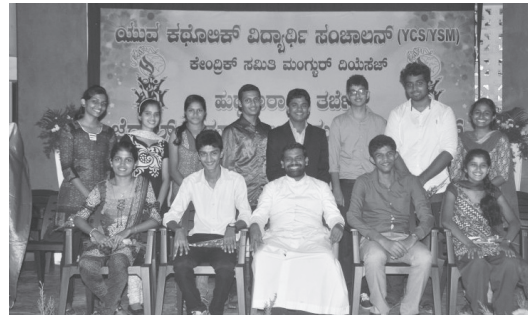
President: Melroy Dsouza, Siddakatte;
 Secretary : Sharon Pinto, Beltangadi;
 Vice-President : Roshan Lawrence Mendonca, Ferar;
 Lady Vice-president : Wilma Manisha Dsilva, Taccode
 Joint secretary : Joylin Ravina Dsilva, Kelarai;
 Treasurer : Glen Miranda, Shirtady; Reporter : Ashwin Loy Pinto, Madantyar; DTS : Jyothi Pinto, Kuppepadav; DTS : Veenal Dsouza, Suratkal
 Yuvatara Rep : Ramston Monteiro, Vamanjoor;
 Yuvatara Rep : Smita Fernandes, Arva; RTS : Jeswita Princy Quadras, Angelore;
 NEXCO : Roshan Lobo, Vamanjoor.

For the valedictory programme, Msgr. Denis MorasPrabhu, Vicar General Diocese of Mangaluru was the president and Mr. James



Mendonca, Popular community leader, successful entrepreneur, social worker, and able organizer was the Chief Guest. Fr Ronald D'souza, Director of YCS/YSM, Mangaluru diocese, and the central council members were present on the dais.

The programme began by invoking God's blessings through a prayer song. President Joylin D'souza, Shaktinagar welcomed the gathering, secretary Jovita Dsouza put forth the report of the year 2014-15. Fr Ronald D'souza thanked his outgoing council for their wonderful job in the past year and as token of love and remembrance a memento, certificate



and a bouquet was given.

The oath-taking ceremony was held for the newly-elected office-bearers and as a symbol of handing over responsibility a candle was handed over by the outgoing council to the newly-elected office-bearers.

The president of the programme in his message encouraged the youth to be Christ's torch bearers in their life. The Chief Guest Mr. James Mendonca motivated youngsters saying that the youngsters should not wait for the opportunities instead they have to grab the opportunities to be the great achievers in their life. The newly-elected president Melroy D'souza thanked everyone for supporting him. The valedictory programme was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Ronald D'souza. The programme was compered by Joswin Lasrado, Bajal. ❖



DEXCO Meeting - Chennai

The meeting started with a prayer by Ebin Navis, Diocesan part time coordinator and NEXCO, then the Diocesan President Rachel read the Agenda and passed it. All welcomed the new Diocesan Animator Miss. Jennifer Usha. Report of the last DEXCO meeting and the review of the Regional General Body meeting were discussed. Cyril (diocesan treasurer) along with others greeted Miss Rachel for being elected as the Regional vice president. Miss Rachel spoke about the current scenario of the movement in diocesan level, and asked the present DEXCO team to fill the remaining posts in their team, they allotted the remaining post for keeping the elections in upcoming Diocesan GB.

For the Golden Jubilee DEXCO went through the ideas given by National team for unit level programs and in the Diocesan GB they will be asking the ideas from students so according to their wish the Golden Jubilee in the diocesan will move on. This idea was accepted by the Fr. Director, part time coordinator and the Diocesan animator.

The status of the Diocesan General Body meeting was raised by the DEXCO team, coordinator replied that the date was already fixed in the month of August and it's too late to send letter to all the schools. Fr. Varghese Rosario asked the DEXCO to have GB on 28th of July and everyone felt that it was a good idea and DEXCO officially fixed that

date as Diocesan General Body meeting and plan to go with the election. Alumni team was also invited for the Diocesan Inauguration.

DEXCO team asked the director about the status of the schools visits and diocesan chaplain told that there was no call from any schools. Later on the Diocesan President listed out all the action plan of the DEXCO. Finally the diocesan chaplain said, the status of the diocesan coordinator were not yet filled and soon he would be replacing it. Dioceses were planning to have a newsletter which is going to start soon. NTA/EXCO Meeting in Chennai Diocese is on September 5th and 6th at Santhome pastoral centre and he invited the DEXCO members to come and see as observers on any of those two days. After that DEXCO members, animator, and the coordinator had a cell meeting. The meeting ended with the prayer by Ebin.

Elections - Karnataka Region

This took place on 18th July 2015 at Shanthi Kiran, Mangalore. There were 32 participants from 5 dioceses. Morning session was conducted by Fr. Edwin D'Souza and thereafter future plans for the region were discussed.

The first YCS/YSM Regional Conception was decided to be held at Udupi from 18-20 October 2015.

The elected Regional Team of Students: President: Hazel Martis, Udupi; Vice President: Antony Lopes, Belgaum; Secretary: Pearl Lopes, Shimoga; Joint secretary: Raina Rodrigues, Belgaum; Treasurer: Ashwin Loy Pinto, Mangalore; Reporter: Sumith, Gulbarga; Liturgical secretary: Udupi; Regional Animator reps: Fr. Victor Anil, Gulbarga and Fr. Ronald D'Souza, Mangalore; Regional Reps for future NEXCO: Jesvita Princy Quadros, Mangalore and Clacious Rodrigues, Shimoga. ❖

PERSONAL REPORT

IYCS/ IMCS Global training session and world council

Attending an International program is something very wonderful and when this came to my hands as an opportunity I was speechless. After accepting that I would have to travel for the first time outside India and attending such a dignified program, made me think on each and every situation that would go on from the time I would start my journey as I had the opportunity only to get exposed up to my national movement. I had my internals till the day we left, never to concentrate on my tests but only my leaving day managing to pass was within my control but beyond imagination.

As we got together to start our journey on the 23rd of July from Bangalore – Fr Charles, Gaywin and me, I was excited and really curious to know on how the atmosphere would be there, how people around me would



be..... how everyone does think!!!! As we arrived we met two very pleasant Filipinos who welcomed us at Manila airport and as we travelled to the venue we were accompanied by Sri Lankan's and people from France.

The 1st day was so awkward not knowing anyone. Anyway I managed to talk to few people and know their names though I am very bad at remembering names.

To start with the things happened in the sessions they were on country participation,

building the kingdom of God, salt and light of the world. The main thing which I personally learnt during this training session was to how each individual's

opinion really matters when you generalize on anything. This was where we had to rate our country on a scale of 0-10 on the topics such as conflict, disparity, education, corruption etc and though we were 5 from our country we never had the same opinion in any way. Another session where it was on building Gods Kingdom, it was beautifully explained on how we as youth can contribute to His kingdom by making His kingdom our vision for the future reality and do as Jesus himself did. He didn't preach about the kingdom but showed through his deeds and words. As the world council had the theme 'salt of the earth and light of the world' here salt and light was referred to showing love to others and live in peace with others. This is indeed very simple for every YCSer as our methodology does say us to only see first, then judge and finally act.

The part which I liked the most was the discussion on youth participation (the group which I selected) and the exposure visit. The discussion made us reflect on various programs we conducted and how each country has its own way of accepting youth and satisfying their needs. We did discuss on one important program we conducted where all youth gathered together to fight for justice or deed which made the society think upon. Our group had people from 5 countries to share their views and each one had its unique program like appealing the Government to fight for rights of children who were sexually abused and



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rape cases, fighting for the rights of our own community, protecting nature, showing love to the people of other backgrounds etc. This made me think on if young people can take a step to make everything set right in its own place at the earliest, the world will become a better place for us live on and for our future generation too.

The next part that I liked was the exposure visit to social centre –BUKAS PALADA, and later to 2 families adopted by this centre. Morning we had been to a day care centre in the same place where children from 2 -4 years were there, this was a place which helped me to connect to what I am learning about children, their pattern of behavior, the way they play by creating their own games etc. After this as we visited these 2 families, I saw and realized that we really do have good homes to live in where these people live in rooms of 2 or 3 and the surrounding seems to be unclean which is easily prone to illness and due to lack of work for family members during different seasons it is difficult

to adjust to the needs of the family though they are taken care by this social centre. We are lucky and must thank God in all ways for his blessings on us. What I learnt from them was even though you may have too many difficulties and stress, it is not necessary that you show it on your face or to people around you, you really can be patient and polite. This was when they without any hesitation willingly welcomed us into their homes.

After the training session ended the World council started its 3 day journey. On the first day there was election for the presidium and I contested really not knowing the depth of how a presidium works. I to my surprise got elected with highest votes and had the privilege to lead the presidium as the

chairperson. As we continued to discuss with the secretary general about how we need to go on initially I didn't understand a word but got to know how all the rules and regulations later on. That day I must tell you I sat the same night to read all the statues, election procedures and adoption methods just to take on my work smoothly next day. And with these 3 days I learnt the basic things that is how a standard program has to be organized and moved on even when difficulties arise, how you really need to speak in front of people of various nationalities and most important how patient you must be to listen to someone else and to respond in a manner that is understandable in their terms and not yours. Here I must thank Mr Nuno (ex-IYCS secretary general) for guiding me and being

patient to tell me, whatever I asked him at any time he would explain to me and Fr Charles too.

Before I conclude I would like to tell you that opportunities may knock your door, you need to open your door and grab

it at that very moment and once it is out of your control it is gone forever and will never come back to you again. It was most remarkable moment of my life. 12 days were just so wonderful where I really did enjoy a lot with 86 delegates from 26 countries – the dances, the songs, the mehendi, the action songs, the crazy games, letters to the secret friend, the yummy food and what not really missing everything.

I thank Fr Charles for the opportunity, my parish priest, diocesan team, my sponsors, my parents and family for their support. Thank you everyone. Long live YCS/YSM .

- Michelle D'Souza, Mangalore, India





INFORMATION

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*PLEASE!!
NOTE*

Regional Council Meeting: All the regions are to hold the Regional Council meeting by the end of Nov (22nd or 29th Nov 2015) and send the report and suggestions to the National office immediately.

- A. Discussion on National Convention based on Preparatory document:
 - Discussion on Study theme
 - Election of NEXCO to be presented at the National Council
 - Amendments to the constitution – if any
 - Expansion of the movement in the region – action plan
 - Regional Animators training and Student leaders training
 - REXCO formation (if applicable)
 - Any other matter
- B. Documentary on YCS/YSM: History and development of the movement in the Regional level presenting old and new events, data and present reality.
- C. Documentary on Adolescent issues: Presenting the adolescent world with dreams, success stories, problems, challenges, opportunities and present reality offering solutions through the movement.
- D. Compilation of YCS/YSM testimonies and witnesses: 50 student stories from all over India

Regional level Golden Jubilee Celebration consists of: Golden Jubilee Mass/ Inter religious prayer service; Inauguration; Presenting LOGO and Prayer; Key Note Address – Chairman Bishop; Honouring: Former Regional Directors and Coordinators, Former Presidents and Present REXCO; Honouring 15/50 student members: Former and present; Presenting flags, scarf and badges as identity to the members; Releasing: Documentary on Diocesan YCS/YSM, Documentary on adolescent issues, Book on Witnesses/Testimonies; Commitment – Oath taking and YCS/YSM anthem.

Diocesan level Golden Jubilee celebration: All the Dioceses shall organize Golden Jubilee celebration on Sunday 17th January 2016 and hold the programmes mentioned below.
Programme: Golden Jubilee Mass/ Inter religious prayer service; Inauguration; Presenting LOGO and Prayer; Key Note Address – former Diocesan Chaplain; Presentation – a Tableau or Skit and a cultural programme by local group; Honouring: Former Diocesan Directors and Coordinators, Former and present Animators; Former Presidents and Present DEXCO; Honouring 50 student members - Former and Present; Planting 50 trees; Presenting flags, scarf and badges to the members as identity mark; Releasing: Documentary on Diocesan YCS/YSM-History/growth/development; Documentary on adolescent issues; Book on Witnesses/Testimonies; Commitment – Oath taking and YCS/YSM anthem

Liturgy to be prepared and sent to the units: Theme, Introduction, Readings, Prayers of the faithful, Hymns and YCS/YSM anthem at the end, YCS/YSM Creed.
Street Play/ Tableau: Outside the church after the mass depicting 50 years of YCS/YSM – History, Aim, Objectives, Methodology, Cell meeting and its outcome – on a social theme pertaining to student teenage community

YCS/YSM National level Golden Jubilee celebration shall be held on Saturday 16th January 2016 at Chennai

Invitees: All the former National Directors and Coordinators; CBCI Youth Council Chairman; Regional Chairman Bishops; Former Chairman Bishops; Bishops from Tamilnadu; CCBI

and CBCI Youth Secretary; Former NEXCOs; EX YCS/YSM ers; YCS/YSM members from neighbouring schools;

Programme: Golden Jubilee Mass/ Inter religious prayer service; Inauguration; Presenting LOGO and Prayer; Key Note Address – former National Chaplain; Presentation – a Tableau or Skit and a cultural programme by Chennai group; Honouring: Former National Chaplains and Coordinators, Former Presidents and Present NEXCO; Chairmen Bishops and other Bishops; Honouring 50 student members: NE, TN, Karnataka – 6 each; MP, MG, AP, WB, UP, Patna, Jharkhand, Northern, Orissa and Goa – 4 each; Presenting flags, scarf and badges; Releasing: Documentary on YCS/YSM – History, growth & development; Documentary on adolescent issues; Book on Witnesses/Testimonies; Commitment – Oath taking and YCS/YSM anthem; Apage

Fr. Franklin a Man for Others

He has been a source of inspiration to me and many more. His charming personality, adjustability to belong to any people, the prayerful intimacy speaks of his great personality.

I have known him for a long time. Once he took up the Youth ministry he made full use of us from Mangalore. Being the national Director, he has infused spiritual renewal in the youth ministry. Wherever he went, went with a message that God loves the young and it is good to be young. He kept himself young throughout and has done great things for the glory of God.

Being a friend I admire him for his vision for the spread of Good News. His long hours of preaching, untiring travel, continuous mobile prayers and prayerful messages to the people in need, even in the middle of the night made me admire him more. I rarely ask people to pray for me but I would ask him to pray for me whenever I get upset on myself.

I have spent long hours with him traveling, accompanying him in his activities, staying with him as a roommate and troubling him by my snoring and also preaching sometimes being a unworthy soul to do so. On every occasion he has been a true friend. Whenever I get worried he would soothe me with his loving words; Whenever I get angry on some issues he would lighten up the moments with his jokes; Whenever I get drifted along with my scanty remarks he would correct me to be sober and serene.


I have visited his house often and I admire the way he conducts himself. All at home hold him on high esteem. He commands respect with all those whom he interacts with.

Whenever he visited my home like a family member, he would walk into the kitchen and trouble my elderly mother to give him something to eat. His loud voice and my mother having seen him on the Divine TV make her hold him in high reverence. I still remain a son to my mother but he is a saint for her. I liked it and I would call him often, so that she also admires me, instead she would narrate all childhood stories of mine and embarrass me. It is good to be a friend of Fr. Franklin and you are sure to get God' blessings. His holy company would make you another man for other like him.

As he lays down his office as National Youth Director, I salute him for what he has been to me during this short stint and wish him all the very best in future. Hey, Fr. Franklin, have a wonderful leisure time for all the time you have toiled for the young and keep your spirits high so that you may touch many more lives for the Kingdom of God.

- Fr. Charles Menezes





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NATIONAL LEVEL YCS/YSM ALUMNI CELEBRATION

6th to 8th November 2015 at Mangalore

Arrival: 6th Nov 2015

Programme: 6th Nov 5 pm to 8th Nov 4 pm

Place: Shanthi Kiran, Pastoral Institute, Bajjodi, Mangalore

Invitees: All former YCS/YSM members, Animators and Former National Chaplains

Moderator: Fr. Vincent Monteiro and James Sylvester

Theme:

Back to the Roots and Living the Methodology and Spirituality of the movement

Events: Witness, Testimonies, Sharing

Deliberations: Relevance of the movement o the present reality and Expansion

Exposure: Pilikula, Unit visits, Meeting with former local leaders

Celebration: Mass and Agape

Commitment: Accompaniment with YCS/YSM

Election - National Alumni Office Bearers and National Advisory Body

IYCS/YCS/YSM ACTIVITIES



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(An Unit of CBCI Youth Council)

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