

The Jan - Feb - 2018
Search
YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 38

Vol: 1



EXAM FEVER

SUCCESS IN FAILURE

1. J.K Rowling

The author of the Harry Potter series didn't magically become wealthier than the Queen of England. Impoverished and divorced, she wrote the first book in the series on an old typewriter only to encounter rejection by more than ten publishers. A year later, a publisher named Barry Cunningham agreed to publish her book, but suggested she get another job because children's books typically produce meager profits.

2. Walt Disney

The man who gave us the Disney empire navigated a very rocky road before becoming a legend. His first cartoon series in Kansas City left him bankrupt. An editor fired Walt because he believed Walt was unimaginative. He even lost his rights to his first commercially successful character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, before Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck were born and Disneyland was created.

3. Albert Einstein

Although we use the name Einstein to dub someone a genius, the future scientist's teachers believed that Einstein was mentally challenged. In fact, he was unable to speak fluently until age 12 and was expelled from high school at age 16 for failing several subjects.

It wasn't until he reached 18 that he pursued his interest in calculus and physics and used his unconventional mind to formulate the ground-breaking theory of relativity and change the face of modern physics.

4. David Sanders

Better known as Colonel Sanders and the founder of KFC, this entrepreneur was already 65 when he started his franchise. In his early years, he worked many odd and low-paying jobs from farm-hand to streetcar conductor and steamboat operator. After creating a secret chicken recipe, Sanders started a small restaurant. But in 1955, this restaurant failed after a new highway cut off customer access. Instead of giving up, Sanders drove around America trying to sell his restaurant concept only to hear "no" countless times before he raked in millions from a Kentucky businessman who was willing to buy his recipe.

5. Steve Jobs

Even if you now consider your iPhone, mac, or iPad indispensable, a decade ago you probably would have dismissed Apple products altogether. Jobs' Apple III computer, the early model of the Mac, was so poorly designed that the computer earned a reputation as an unreliable machine that invariably crashed because of poor ventilation. After Jobs was fired from Apple, the company he co-founded, he designed the NeXT hardware, which sold poorly at first but later became the foundation for future Apple products. And the rest is history.

In order to claim fame, these people were faced with obstacles that required them to embrace their mistakes and show great determination. If you have a goal in mind, remember that failure or even many failures may precede success. But if you treat each failure as an opportunity to learn, you'll be more likely to succeed in the end.

BETTER TO STAY ALONE...

Greetings from the YCS/YSM family

We are already in the month of February, 2018. We are happy to place this first edition of the Search for the year 2018 before you. The year ahead of us will be a year full of experiences, adventures, challenges and aspirations. There will be a lot of opportunities to do good things, to make our life, to bring smile in the lives of other people at the same time there will be ample occasions to do bad things and destroy our lives.

Are we, the students of YCS/YSM INDIA ready to make this year a productive year? We need to work hard and stay away from the temptations to make this year a productive one. Today the biggest monster that is bothering the youth is drug addiction and materialism. This addiction is leading them to the dooms way. They are choosing a path which looks easy to follow but leads them to destruction and suffering.

The youth of this generation want more freedom, freedom from their parents, teachers etc. They want to live a life where there is no one to keep a watch over them, no one to stop them and no one to correct them.

They think that these addictions like drugs, smoking, drinking makes them popular, helps them feel accepted in different groups. The major cause of this is the peer pressure where one thinks that it is necessary to do things which others do or else he/she will be a loser. But I feel it's better to stay alone than to have a company of a drug addict. Let these addictions not take deep roots in our lives because these will not give anything fruitful in our lives but will make our life miserable.

Being a YCS/YSM'er I request you to follow our methodology. See – what you do, Judge – whether it is right, does it give me happiness? and Act- to make this year productive in a positive way. When you analyse and reflect, you will always choose the best and take the right decision and I am quite sure that it will make you a better human being.

Let us make a promise to ourselves this year to bring a change in our lives and also in those who are addicted because it is from us where the change begins

LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE

Natasha Ann Louis

Long live YCS/YSM

DEAR EXAM BE GOOD TO ME



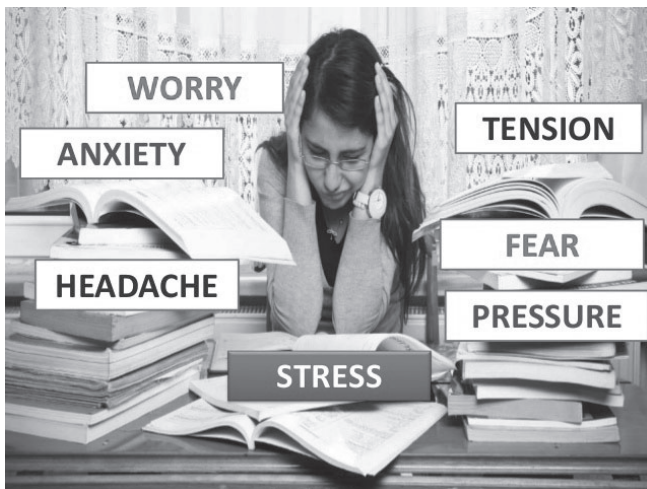
Greetings to my dear YCS/YSM'ers.

Exam season is back! So does the tension, anxiety, fear, sleeplessness, depression. When I was studying in class one, I remember, I was a good student used to pass in every dictation. Those who failed were sent late for lunch break. I was always appreciated and other students were sent to me to learn from me. I was already a leader. It was a proud feeling then. All this dissipated the day I scored 5 out of 12. That day I too was made to write imposition and was sent late for lunch. My teacher saw me and made a comment, "Oh! even you are in the bad company!" I looked down in shame. What happened after this incident was interesting. On that day more than half of the class scored below par. Once again I was their leader! During the break everybody came to cheer me and said 'we are friends'.

Today when I reflect on this and many other similar incidents of my school days I feel very fortunate that my teachers made me grow strong, confident, happy even when I failed. There was no unhealthy competition. I didn't have to visit a counselor. I grew and did well in my own way in different fields and faced failures and achievements without any tension or anxiety.

Today situation has changed. Exams have become monsters. Newspapers and news channels are abuzz with tips to distress etc. CBSE has online exam counseling. Young students have

the fear of boards. Who is responsible for this mess? It looks as if we have lost confidence in our children so we the elders are after them to win all the time. We are not teaching them to face defeats and failures. Some parents expect their children to fulfill their dreams and aspirations...sometimes even forcing them to become what they wanted to become and didn't become.



In this context, our Prime Minister addressed the students on 16th

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February 2018 and reminded them that even if we prepare honestly, but if we don't have confidence, we tend to forget things at the last minute. Self-confidence comes by challenging ourselves and working hard. He said we should always think of bettering ourselves. He told students that self-confidence is very important and that it is not a pill or herb. There is no tablet that can be consumed for instant confidence. We have to build it day by day.

They say that accomplishing anything requires a combination of inspiration and perspiration. This means that you need to work hard and work smart.

I would like to tell my YCS/YSMers that failing an exam is not the end of the world. Read stories of some of the school/college dropouts who have become great personalities today. People like Mark Wahlberg, who at the age of 13 had already stolen two cars, was caught up with drugs and was on the path to prison. He subsequently dropped out of school but is now worth an estimated £150 million. Lady Gaga, with 200 music awards it seems dropping out of college in her sophomore year at the age of 19 to focus on her music really helped. Bill Gates, in 1975, the tech genius dropped out of Harvard to start his own company – that little old company called Microsoft – and is now worth an estimated £60.3 billion. He also hopes to eradicate polio. Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder of Facebook created the well-known social media network in his dorm room before dropping out of Harvard to become Chairman and Chief Executive of Facebook Inc. with a net worth over £40.8 billion, we think he made the right choice. Steve Jobs, the co-founder and CEO of Apple Inc dropped out of college in 1972 and ended up sleeping on a college friend's dorm floor. He then took a calligraphy class that later inspired him to use a wide range of fonts in some of the first Macs.



No matter how well you do in exams or how miserably you fail, that doesn't determine your life. What determines is what you want to become. Your focus, determination, discipline, dedication makes your life. You may get the highest grade but if you don't want to work hard and smart you will be a failure in life. You may fail in exam but you shouldn't fail in life. If you get lower grades, your mom and dad won't hate you, they won't reject you, you won't be called a loser, you won't be termed a 'dumb'. All that you need to do is – tell the world that you'll be fine in success and defeat. If you don't fail how do you know that you are successful when you achieve something... that's why it is said, 'failure is the stepping stone for success.'

I wish you all the best and success. Be cheerful.

Fr. Chetan Machado
National Chaplain

NSLTP - GUWAHATI

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Date: 17 – 21 December 2017

Venue: Inspiration Joypur Kharghuli, Guwahati, Assam.

The National Students Leadership Training programme in English began on 17th December 2017 with a preparatory meeting at Inspiration Centre, Joypur, Kharghuli, Guwahati. Eighty five students from three regions participated in this training. At 9 am NEXCOs and REXCOs of the North East Region met to discuss the time table and plan the training. Various responsibilities were given to different people for the smooth functioning. Some minor changes in the time table were suggested as some diocese couldn't reach on time for the inauguration.

After lunch at 1:30 registration began and the delegates were welcomed. NEXCO's conducted some ice breaking sessions to get everyone together. It was energizing in the cold weather. Soon after the tea break all the delegates got ready for the Inaugural ceremony and the Eucharist.

At 4:30 inaugural ceremony began. Fr. G. P. Amal Raj, Deputy Secretary of the North East Regional Bishops Council was the Chief Guest. Fr. Chetan Machado National Chaplain YCS/YSM India, all the RYDs, DYDs, along with animators, former NEXCOs and the delegates were welcomed. After lighting the lamp by the chief guest Fr. Amal Raj, Fr. Chetan Machado, Sr. Bernadeth RYD of North East region and two student representatives, Fr. Amal Raj addressed the students. Ms.

Hakadahun, Regional President gave a formal welcome and felicitated all the guests. At 6:30 Fr. Vijay Baretto, Diocesan Youth Director of the Northern Region celebrated the Inaugural Eucharist. Fr. Chetan broke the Word and urged students to take part in the training actively. He spoke about building God's Kingdom by doing simple and small deeds of charity.

After the Eucharist former NEXCOs conducted some group building activities. Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain conducted the first session on the history, aim, objectives and motto of YCS Movement. Followed by this session, Sr. Bernadeth gave some instructions regarding the exposure visit and then the students departed for supper. At 8: 30 NEXCOs conducted some activities and action songs. Mr. Melwyn Titus, former NEXCO from Nagpur gave instructions which was followed by the PPT documentation on



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day one. Ms Justin concluded the day with the prayer.

The NEXCO and the REXCO teams had an evaluation about the day and prepared for the Next day.

The second day started with the inter-religious prayer followed by the Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of the diocese of Guwahati. He spoke about the advent season and reflected deeply on the birth of Jesus, meaning of Christmas and asked the students not to fear but to pray. He also asked them to learn something from the life of Jesus.

After the Eucharistic celebration Archbishop was felicitated by the National Chaplain and a group photograph was taken. Soon after the breakfast, students were divided into groups. As part of the training students were sent to different places for exposure. Students visited Snehalaya, a home for boys run by the Don Bosco congregation. Fr. Thaddeus, director of Snehalaya welcomed everyone. Boys of Snehalaya entertained all the YCS/YSMers with their singing and dances. Delegates met children of Snehalaya and interacted with them in different groups. Each group spent time with them in learning about each other, taught some action songs, played games with those children. They showed the delegates their rooms, dining hall, study halls, playing area etc. They also shared their stories, hobbies and plans with students and clicked group photographs. After this exposure, all



went to the Cathedral church. After a short prayer, students had lunch at 12:30 pm.

After lunch, delegates went to Kalakshetra museum where all had an opportunity to see various cultures, dresses, instruments, monuments, statues, houses of different



tribes etc. After this visit all returned to the venue and reached at 3:45pm. A short break was given to freshen up. At 4:30pm students gathered in their groups to discuss and share about their experience of the exposure visit and to prepare the presentation.

Fr. John Barman, MSFC, Youth Director of Fransalian Youth Federation was the resource person for the evening session which began at 6:30 pm. With his powerful voice and through some videos he made the students understand the meaning of LIFE, respect and dignity towards life and the values of life. He also taught them the difference between love, money and attitude. Soon after this session all departed for supper.

After a sumptuous supper, all gathered for some animation. All the groups presented their reports of exposure visit in creative ways through charts, sketches and slideshow presentations, and at the end there was an evaluation by all the groups, and concluded the day with night prayer. REXCOs and NEXCOs had their days evaluation.

The third day of the training began at 6:15am with the inter-religious prayer by group five.

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Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Johnson Parackal SDB, the former Regional Youth Director of the Northeast region. During homily he reflected much on the theme 'called to believe...' He asked students to believe in God and themselves and to make others believe in themselves.



Soon after the mass he was felicitated by Phrangkumar Wajiri, NEXCO from the Northeast region. After the breakfast, NEXCOs conducted animation. Sr. Lusika Sangma conducted the session on Self Awareness. She helped students to understand the psychology of students through videos and also taught them some animation songs. Soon after the session students went for a short tea break.

After the break Fr. Chetan Machado National Chaplain took over. He took a session on 'Media and Me'. He explained about good and bad media, how students are influenced by media. He showed some video clips and asked all the groups to prepare a commercial. All the groups came up with creative commercials with values. He also reflected upon the power of media at present. He guided students and helped them to evaluate and watch media carefully.

At 1:30pm after a short animation session, Sr. Christina Sangma DYD of Guwahati diocese spoke about friendship. How a friend should be, what qualities we want in our friends, and she also conducted some activities where

students spoke about how their friends should be, she also showed a video on friendship and Sr. Bernadeth RYD of North East region continued with the session on the topic 'who are we?'. She started with some activity where everyone was supposed to draw anything on a paper.

In next activity students were asked to draw a symbol which could symbolise their country. Students came up with different and creative drawings and they explained what it meant. In the same way they were asked to draw something which symbolizes the world, all came up with some wonderful explanation. Sr. Bernadeth also gave them some questions on Education and asked all the groups to discuss in their groups. All the groups discussed and presented their reports before breaking for tea.

After the break some outdoor activities were conducted. Soon after that students were given time to practice for the cultural programme diocese wise and went for the supper. At 8:30pm there was a grand cultural night. Eleven dioceses performed their traditional dances and songs which was graceful and mesmerizing and provided an opportunity to learn about different traditions and cultures. Soon after the cultural night there was a quick evaluation by all the groups. A movie clip of days activities was shown and concluded the day with the night prayer.

The forth day began with inter-religious prayer at 6:15am conducted by group four followed



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by the celebration of Holy Eucharist by Fr. Amal Raj. Liturgy was animated by group two. In his homily he spoke about Christmas, about the life Mother Mary, he also reflected on the choices we make and should make, he asked students to be instruments of change.

Ms. Lily (REXCO North East) welcomed Fr. P.D. Johnny SDB a great personality with highly teaching skills, former principal of St. Anthony's school, Shillong. He took a session on leadership and religious diversity. He started with some activities which were done by all the groups. He explained the meaning of leadership and said, a leader should be curious to ask question and give answers taking the example of Noah, Moses etc. Leaders have a vision to keep for people. Leaders lead by example, they are inspiration, leaders are servants. He also reflected upon the religions we have in our country. Every religion is unique and personal and does not teach violence. At 10:30am we had a short tea break and returned back for the second session.

At 11:00am Mr. Edward Thma, former YCSer spoke on Review of Life –cell meeting and cell life. He divided students dioceseswise and asked them to discuss on what activities they do in their units, what plans do they have for their units. After lunch Fr. Chetan Machado briefed about the workshop called CAFÉ.

At 2:30pm all the students were organised in their groups according to their topics and groups went around to to different animators and interacted on topics like YCS/YSM history, culture of death, review of life, media, methodology, etc. This activity was like a revision for all the students. At 6:00pm all gathered for the last cultural programme. It was fun and all enjoyed it and departed for supper.

At 8:30pm there was bonfire where students gathered at the ground to celebrate Christmas in advance. Action songs and activities were conducted by the NEXCO's. The evening event was concluded with the Christmas cake cutting By NEXCOs and North East REXCOs.

At 10:00pm all students were asked to present their day's evaluation report groupwise, the Christmas Message was given to all the students with the help of the NEXCO's and REXCO's, and an exciting activity was given to students at the end of the day, called 'self appreciation'. Students enjoyed it and shared their things with their new friends and concluded the day in a special manner with night prayer.

The last day of the programme began at 06:45am with inter religious prayer conducted by National EXCO's. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Chetan Machado (National Chaplain). After a short animation, Fr. Chetan Machado made some announcements with regard to the upcoming International, Asian and National Programs for the upcoming year and asked all the students to make use of the opportunities.

Sr. Bernadeth (Regional Chaplain of North East) proposed vote of thanks. She thanked each and everyone who helped to organize the NSLTP-English. Fr. Chetan distributed certificates and a memento of group photograph to all the students and to the animators. A creative video was prepared by the NEXCO's & the organizing team which recalled all the activities from Day one to the last day. Students and animators enjoyed it a lot.

NSLTP 2018 English was officially concluded by singing YCS/YSM Anthem and YCS/YSM clap.

*- Ebin Navis
National Volunteer*

“ A LESSON OF SEE-JUDGE-ACT-EVALUATION to me from a Differently abled Little Boy”



I attended a program called ‘Galilee Trail program’ at Siloam, Shillong. The program was based on the discipleship of Jesus Christ- following the leadership qualities of Jesus Christ in our daily life. On one particular day, we had an interaction with the differently abled students of Ferrando Speech and Hearing

“I don’t need a pen, I have already got one with me, let her play and give the pen to her. Only give me a chance to play I like playing football”

Centre who came to visit us during the program. We, the Galileans (participants of the Galilee Trail) conducted various games for them where tickets were distributed to all of them as such that each one of them would be able to play all the

games. Winners for each game were given a prize. The objective of the game was to make them happy and comfortable being with others.

There were various types of games and I was made incharge of one of the games. The game was to kick the ball hanged on a rope. Children were blindfolded from a distance and blindly had to walk towards the ball and kick it. Winners of this particular game were given a pen if they succeeded in kicking the ball and for those who did not succeed were given a cookie. At the first instance, I thought that I am the one who is going to make them happy and teach lessons to them.

The game continued until I had only one pen left in the bottle, but there were two children standing in queue, a boy who aged about 9 years old and

a girl of the same age behind him holding their tickets ready to play the game. I felt uncomfortable and was disappointed, without knowing what to do. I had only one

Mr. Jimmy Pdang
Former National President

more pen left and with no cookies left. Few seconds then, I tried to tell the girl in sign language that we don’t have pens anymore. The expression of her face changed and I could see her sadness and disappointment through her expressions and signs. Her face colour turned pale and looked like she didn’t want to do anything. At that point, the boy who was standing there immediately pulled me, looked at me and smiled. He then said something to me in sign language, continued to smile.

He took out a pen from his pocket, showed it to me. "I don't need a pen, I have already got one with me, let her play and give the pen to her. Only give me a chance to play I like playing football", he said. It was the same kind!! Just like the pens that I gave to other winners.

Then, I understood that he had succeeded the first time he played the game and now he had come for the second time. This meant that he missed a game which he did not like to play. Without a word I blindfolded him and he left with a smile after



he succeeded in the second time. The girl left after the game with that last pen and I could see her blooming and smiling face. Later before going to bed, when I had an evaluation of the day, I felt bad and realized that what a selfish boy I am. How the little boy taught me a lesson of Honesty, sacrifice and SEE-JUDGE-ACT.

The little boy looked at the situation. He noticed what was happening, he saw beyond what I see.

He saw the disappointed face of the girl and my uncomfortable reaction.

He judged. He realized that the girl needed that pen more than him because he had one already.

He acted. He brought happiness to the girl through his honesty and self-sacrifice. I believe no one taught him what SEE-JUDGE-

ACT is. He is not in YCS/YSM, but he followed the methodology at that moment which I often fail to do. This is a lesson for me. I realized that I had my personal pen with me and would have brought a change to the situation if I followed the methodology

at that particular time, I could have made them both happy from my part had I given my pen to either of them, but I failed to do that because I failed to follow SEE-JUDGE-ACT. Instead I only saw and without judging I reacted, not acted. I thought I made them happy with the game but I realized that the boy taught me a perfect lesson of SEE-JUDGE-ACT-EVALUATION and to live with the spirituality of YCS/YSM movement whom I believed has changed my life. The boy taught me how and when I should apply the methodology in my life. I believe this serves as one of the best examples to me and to others too. Not only to YCS/YSMers but to all human beings. The boy who never knew or understood what SEE-JUDGE-ACT-EVALUATION is, proved the meaning of the same. Thus I conclude by a million of THANK YOU to the little boy who taught me not only to follow the methodology when we have YCS/YSM cell meetings but also to every situation that I encounter, every single minute and second of my life.♣

EXPERIENCE-NSLTP

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Greetings to YCS/YSM'ers. I came to know about National Students Leadership Training Program in Guwahati. I was interested to go but none of my friends were going because of their exams and I got confused whether to go or not. I told my parents about this program and they said 'no'. But again I requested them and my mom allowed me to go. I was feeling excited because it was one of my dreams to visit the Northeast and Guwahati is a beautiful place. To be honest I was scared. I was traveling there along with Fr. Vijay, Mr. Ebin, Vanshika and Nancy. All of them were new to me except Nancy. I didn't interact with them during the travel. But Mr. Ebin guided me and taught me how to interact with others and he became my closest friend. After reaching Guwahati I started making friends. I came to know more about YCS/YSM and how it works. We went to *Snehalaya* where we met children who had lost their parents. They told us that *Snehalaya* is a house of love. I interacted with children, they told me about their dreams and aspirations. I was so impressed with them because they don't have their family to support but still their dreams are bigger than mine.



There were many sessions during NSLTP and every session was inspiring. I liked the session which was taken by Fr. Chetan our YCS/YSM Chaplain. He told us about good media and bad media and how they are affecting us. Apart from learning leadership skills we had some fun activities which were conducted by the NEXCO and former NEXCO members. In Delhi I have not seen any culture. People have adopted the western life style. But during NSLTP there was a cultural night where I came to know about different cultures of the Northeast. Their dances, songs, traditional attire and languages were amazing and unique. I feel proud to be a YCSer feel happy that I was part of this program.

- Binit Ekka Delhi Diocese

My name is Nancy Kujur from the Northern Region. It was my first experience attending a NSLTP (National Students Leadership Training Programme). NSLTP was organized by YCS/YSM India. We were introduced to a lot of new things. We interacted and communicated with delegates and animators of different regions. We got to know about their culture and traditions. Cultural programs gave us an opportunity to understand and appreciate different cultures. Sessions were informative. I learnt new action songs and games. The students from all regions were very friendly and helpful. This NSLTP gave me many things. I got a new family, learnt good things, team work, great experience and unforgettable memories. Thank you YCS for everything.



LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE
Nancy Kujur, Northern Region

We thank participants of NSLTPs for sharing their experiences. We will publish some in the next edition

Detach yourself from money, the time of Grace is here!



Fr Charles Menezes
IYCS Chaplain

We are at the beginning of another year of grace through the time of Lent.

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered to us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply.

Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour.

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.”
– Pope Francis

This season calls us to conversion. Christians are

asked to return to God with all their hearts. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ.

The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. In order to do this, we have to take the Gospel seriously.

“There is something not right with us, with our society, with the church and we need to change, to turn, to convert!”
– Pope Francis

At the beginning of Lent, the parable of rich man and poor man Lazarus describes us about what we need to do and to how to go about it. The rich man having everything but no name is not considered worthy of God and the poor man having nothing

has a name Lazarus means « God helps ». It’s a contradiction of lives but God has a reason for it. Both of them were born naked and both of them died taking away nothing from the earth. It calls us to understand the real meaning of our mortal body, which is why on Ash Wednesday we are reminded by the words :

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”

Where do these riches, pride, wealth, position, worldly attires take us and how do we become prey to these worthless things. The Apostle Paul tells us that **“the love of money is the root of all evils” (1 Tim 6:10)**

The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. Sin enters here. With money everything gets corrupted. Instead of

being an instrument at the service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace, which is the reality today.

Thus the Gospel rightly declares : ***“No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money” (Mt 6:24).***

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight.

“There is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.”
- ***Pope Francis***

The rich man’s problem was the failure to heed God’s word. As a result, he no longer loved God and despised the poor. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable



of converting hearts and leading them back to God.

Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the temptations during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take.

“Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and

enrich others by our own poverty.”

- ***Pope Francis***

May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

“A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.” ♣

YSM DIOCESAN CONVENTION - GULBARGA

Date: 20, January 2018; Venue: Mother Teresa hall, Gulbarga.

Theme: 'Social Problems and Myself'

Total No of School: 7; Total No of Students: 287

The Inaugural ceremony of the convention began at 09:30 am with a prayer song by Holy Cross school students. After welcome speech, all the student leaders, guests & resource person lighted the lamp and inaugurated the diocesan convention. Fr. Clevan thanked all the dignitaries for their valuable time.

Fr. Vincent gave a short message in which he compared the hard word of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and the struggles he faced in his life. He asked every student to dream and work hard like him and also he gave some guidelines to become a great person.

Fr. Saji was the next resource person. He brought a team of experts in puppet show from Child Line, Karnataka. The team impressed each and every student by their innovative concept and the amusing way to teach the social problem of a child in the current situation.

Mr. Ebin Navis, national volunteer conducted a session. He began with three activities which made the students feel comfortable to mingle with the new friends and he divided the group. He gave 3 different roles to the leaders of the group. He gave a topic to each group and kept the sheets outside the hall. He asked all the group leaders to go and find the sheets and come back to their groups. Once the group received the topics he started to explain the methodology SEE-JUDGE-ACT. All the group secretaries were asked to present their group reports at the end of the program.

After this they were guided by their animators to frame their personal decision for their self-

transformation and also they shared about bringing a change in their environment / society. Students actively framed an action plan.

After a sumptuous lunch, students were ready for the cultural program. Each school got a slot to cultural performance & Still Image competition. Mr. Ebin Navis and Fr. Jerald Sagar judged the cultural events. Each school participated in the dance and still image competition.

Mr. Ebin Navis explained the activities of the National Office and upcoming programs and requested students to participate in it. He also thanked and conveyed greetings of Fr. Chetan (National Chaplain). He thanked Fr. Clevan for giving a chance to visit the schools in the diocese.



Finally the Diocesan Convention concluded with YSM Clap. Students departed after tea & snacks. Evaluation meeting was held for the Diocesan team where they shared their learnings.

By Ebin Navis (National full-timer)

NATIONAL STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Venue: Pastoral Centre, Nagpur.

Dates: 17 to 21 November.

Theme: "Agents of Connectivity"

National Students leadership training Program (Hindi) for the year 2017 began with the Holy Mass in the Pastoral Centre, Nagpur on 17th November 2017. The Inaugural program began at 09:00 am, Fr. Chetan Machado (National Chaplain), Fr. Alexander Jesudasan (Regional Chaplain of MP region), Fr. Philip Topno (Diocesan Chaplain of Nagpur) were welcomed by Glen and Josmita. NSLTP started with welcome note & with lighting of the lamp. Fr. Chetan welcomed all the delegates and invited them to participate in the training and become good leaders. Fr. Alexander and Fr. Philip Topno wished the students good luck and success. Soon after the inaugural ceremony, students gathered for an introductory session where they introduced themselves.

First session for the day was animated by Fr. Chetan Machado. He spoke on the topic: "Where I have to become an Agent of Connectivity? (SEE)". Students were told about the importance of the SEE, part of the methodology. Various incidents and case studies were presented to them to have different perspective to 'see' the society. Students showed lot of interest throughout the session.

After the Tea break, Part two of the session I started with an introduction about the exposure. A small break

was given to them to recall all the things happened in the morning.

Afternoon session began at 2pm was animated by Fr. Alexander Jesudasan. He continued with the 'see' part and explained further on how Jesus would act in the present day situation. It was an interactive session where each student participated actively. Soon after this students were divided into groups for the exposure visit. They were given instructions to learn and observe during the exposure visit. At 6 pm students were asked to group up in their cells to prepare their exposure visit report.

After dinner, all the groups presented their reports. It was a wonderful sharing by the students. Some of the observations were very touching. After the presentation, groupwise cultural programme was organised where students had an opportunity to showcase their talents.

After the the cultural programme, students had a short evaluation of the day and the day ended with prayer.



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On the second day of the training, day started with the Holy Mass at 07:30am. After some ice breaking activities by Juile Anthony and Frankline, Fr. Sebastian (Diocesan Youth Chaplain) conducted a session on “the ladder of success”. He explained different levels in the ladder which include many ways of planning, ways to implement the methodology SEE -JUDGE -ACT.



The next session was conducted by Fr. Chetan Machado on ‘why do I want to become an Agent of Connectivity?’ (JUDGE). He showed the pervious NSLTP videos where delegates were interacting with families in slum areas and made the students to recognise the present reality of injustice and inequality in the society. Students were given some time to reflect on their learning. In second part of the session, students were shown some motivational videos on the review on life.

In the afternoon, Julie Anthony, Anupriya & Glen conducted group dynamics and outdoor activities for one hour and they brought out all the energy out from the delegates.

During the next session, Fr. Alexander Jesudasan explained about ‘Why & How to frame a Self-policy and Importance of having a Self-Policy’. He showed videos related to one’s self, hard work, struggles to bring one’s talents out, leaders quality of leading others,

unity and power of youth etc. These videos made a great impact on the students and helped them learn the ‘Judge’ part of the methodology. He also told that a person should have his own identity, If a person loses identity, then he is of no use. After the tea break students had a group warmup dance. Fr. Alex continued the session and through an activity explained them how to review their life.

The third day began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Chetan Machado. The main theme of the mass was that ‘we have to be ready for each and every thing that is going to happen’. After the breakfast, activities were conducted by Suman and Sanjita which made everyone to begin the day with lot of energy.

At 09:00 am, Fr. Chetan started his session on the topic “how to become the agents of connectivity”, he also made them to understand that we are the agents who can bring changes in our society. He said that Discipline, Dedication and Determination are very important in life to bring change in self and change in the society. He also gave the example of his own personal life. This session was concluded by a small interaction where delegated cleared their doubts.

At 12:00pm, second part of the session began with an activity called ‘appointment game’. In this game we learnt about the importance



of time management. After this activity, some motivational videos were shown and explained. He told that young students are the hope for the society so we should start working for the betterment of our society.

At 2:30 pm students came for group dynamics and through various activities, role of a leader was explained. Every participant had opportunities to show leadership. It was a practical session and students enjoyed these activities as they learnt about leadership.

At 5:00 pm, a session was conducted by Sr. Philo, who stressed on the movements methodology, SEE JUDGE & ACT, and showed them how it relates and applies to their lives. She also made them play a game which depicted some of the leader's qualities.

At 7:00 pm all had an evaluation of the day, and time was given to prepare for the cultural night.

After dinner, Melwyn Titus, former NEXCO member also joined us. After a meaningful cultural programme and night prayer all dispersed.

On the fourth day, Fr. Chetan Machado celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The theme of the mass was "Understanding the Kingdom of God". In his homily, Fr. Chetan explained about realising God's plan in our lives and do something meaningful when we are still students. Followed by the mass, some warm up activities were conducted by Anupiya, Julie Anthony & Yohan.

The first session of the day was on the topic "Why & How to prepare plan of action?" Students were given guidelines to prepare an action plan for themselves. Melwyn Titus from MG region shared his experience with the delegates. He also spoke on Leadership. He shared about things he learnt from YCS/YSM for the past eight years and his world council experience. He also

shared his own situation made him to SEE, JUDGE, ACT over the years. He conducted an activity and connected it with his session which gave students even more clarity about leadership.

In the afternoon, Fr. Chetan conducted a session media. He explained about good and bad media and how to evaluate and analyse media. Students were asked to think and reflect upon it. Students had a cell meeting and prior to this they were given guidelines to conduct a cell meeting.

The closing ceremony of the NSLTP (Hindi) for the year 2017 began at 7 pm. Anupriya and Glen welcomed Fr. Chetan Machado (National Chaplain), Fr. Alexander Jesudasan (RYD MP), Fr. Philip Topno (Diocesan Chaplain of Nagpur), Miss. Sanjita (Animator from MP), Mrs. Regina (animator of Nagpur), and Melwyn Titus (Former NEXCO 2010-2013) on the dais. Every guest gave a short message. All the participants were given a certificate and a memento. They were also given a copy of The Bible. Fr. Chetan Machado thanked everyone on behalf of Most. Rev. Franco Mulakkal, Chairman & the National Team.

After supper, every region performed cultural program & the program concluded with the evaluation.

Mr. Ebin Navis
National Volunteer





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REPORTS

KARNATAKA

DIOCESES OF GULBARGA

Venue- Divya Jyothi High School (Unit)

Date-17 January 2018

Total number of Students participated: 35

The Cell meeting started with prayer song organized by the YSM students, the team welcomed Fr. Clevan (Diocesan Chaplain) and Mr. Ebin Navis from YCS/YSM National Office. Fr. Clevan gave a short message based on how he got motivated by the children and he expressed his love towards the movement. He welcomed Ebin Navis to begin the session.

Mr. Ebin Started his session with a group activity. He asked all the students to construct a line using any object within the given time in their own groups, after the activity Mr Ebin collected all the learning points from student's experience. Soon after the activity Mr. Ebin narrated the history of YSM in brief. Meanwhile students were highly responsive towards the resource person.



After the cell meeting Fr. Clevan thanked Divya Jyothi School principal and concluded the session with YSM clap.

*- Ebin Navis
National Volunteer*



Venue: St. Joseph High School, Bidar

Date:16, January 2018

Total number of Students participated: 45

The cell meeting started at 11:30 am along with the animators & Fr. Clevan. Mr. Ebin Navis from National office gave a short introduction about the history and explained how to conduct a cell meeting.

Students were asked to discuss about in what ways they can be agents of change to protect the environment which became as a (SEE) awareness part. After 15min of the discussion students shared their experience about what they observe around their school and their home.

Followed by this, during the (Judge) reflection part, students shared how & why certain bad habits of people affect the environment.

In the (ACT) action part, students shared about the change that they want to bring to protect the environment. Everyone framed their own action plan which they can follow easily. For example: Not burning waste instead disposing it properly.

After the cell meeting, Fr. Clevan thanked every student, animators, school principal and Ebin Navis for the programme. And the day ended with YSM clap.

GnanaPriya High School, Basavakalyan

Date-18 January 2018

Total number of Students participated: 37

The YSM orientation started with a prayer by Fr. Clevan. Followed by that Mr. Ebin Navis conducted a session. He gave a Brief introduction about the the movement. He also spoke about the methodology of the



movement. He shared about the importance of having a strong self. There was a group sharing.

Soon after the group sharing students were asked to reflect upon their self and were sent in groups to discuss their own views upon their future dreams about their self under the guidance of their animators.

Mr. Ebin Navis guided students to make an (ACT) action plan and gave few guidelines as well. Finally some students came forward to present their action plan.



Holy Cross School, Santput

Date- 19th January 2018

Total number of Students participated: 29

YSM program started with an opening prayer at 10am by Fr. Clevan and introduced Mr. Ebin Navis from the YCS/YSM National Office. Fr. Clevan welcomed all the students and animators for the orientation.

Fr. Clevan briefed about the history of the movement. He spoke about 'What is a cell', role of the animators, methodology of YSM, activities that can be conducted in their school etc.



Mr. Ebin conducted a few activities and addressed the students.

Students were asked to share about the best thing about their school, the best quality of their friend, best qualities from their role model.

Based on the group discussion all the students took one small basic action plan which will be possible for them to follow. He helped the students to conduct cell meetings and requested them to continue organising cell meetings.

Fr. Clevan also gave many guidelines to the animators to take their unit forward. With all the smiles on their faces the program concluded with YSM clap and a group photo.

- *Ebin Navis, National full timer*

KARNATAKA

YCS/YSM UDUPI

YSM JAANAPADOTSAVA

Young Students Movement - YSM Udupi Diocesan Convention – “JAANAPADOTSAVA” was held on 13th January 2018, Saturday at St. Mary’s High School Hall, Udupi.

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto, Director of SAMPADA - Social Development Centre of Udupi Diocese was the chief guest for the Inaugural Ceremony. The Programme was inaugurated by Fr Reginald Pinto, Fr Edwin Dsouza Director-YCS/YSM & YSM Office Bearers by lighting the lamp. This was followed by inter-religious prayer. Renvil Furtado, President of YSM welcomed the guest & judges by presenting the YSM Scarf. Fr. Arun Dsouza Mizoram, Mr. Norbert Misquith Suratkal & Mr Stanley Fernandes Sampada were the judges. Fr. Reginald Pinto in his message stressed on the importance of traditions & cultures, its origin & the present situation.

Later, Mr Stanley Fernandes conducted various animation and other activities to the students. Soon after, a meaningful and wonderful cultural competition was held.

For the valedictory programme, Rev Fr. Arun D’Souza was the chief guest. Mr. Norbert Misquith Surathkal and Stanley Fernandes, Rev Fr. Edwin Dsouza Director of YCS/YSM, YSM President Renvil Furtado & Secretary



Gagan, Animator Mrs. Reshma Martis and other officials were present on the dais.

Speaking to students, Fr. Arun Dsouza said for the humans thinking is important in life than animals. We can **see, judge and act**. This particular movement of YCS/YSM should transform the new thinking in the society. We should think something new. We should share something new with people. There is a need of positive thinking and fresh thoughts. The movement will flourish; learn to appreciate with new positive thinking. Fr. Edwin D’Souza expressed gratitude to all concerned during the occasion.

Around 280 students and animators from 15 schools of Udupi diocese participated. All animators and other officials were honored during the occasion.

The winners of the “Jaanapadotsava” were honoured during the occasion. The winners were, First St. Mary’s English Medium School, Kannarpady Udupi, Second St. Francis Xavier English Medium School Mudarangadi, and Third St. Lawrence Eng Medium School, Moodubelle.

The cultural feast concluded with singing YCS/YSM anthem.

UDUPI DIOCESE
ಜಾನಪದೋತ್ಸವ
Convention



“WHY NOT”

We come across many people who ask this question “why”. Instead of asking why, we should ask a question to ourselves “why not?”. “You see things and you say why? But I dream of things that never were and I say “why not?” said Bernard Shaw, well known British playwright. I will give some examples:



1. We all know the great scientist Sir. Issac Newton. When he observed an apple falling down, many other young people were thinking ‘why is the apple falling down?’. But Sir Issac Newton thought ‘why not the apple is going up?’, and finally he was successful in discovering gravitational force.
2. Today most of the people travel to many countries and different states by aeroplanes. This is because of the great contributions of Wright brothers. They saw the birds flying in the sky and thought ‘why not we also fly like birds’, hence they worked hard and invented aeroplane.

So like this we need to question ourselves “why not I” Some of the common questions are:

1. We use internet for chatting, for educational purpose etc but why not we use this facility for the development of youths.
2. Why not I stay in my country and work for its development instead of going abroad?
3. Instead of educating only our juniors, why not we share our thoughts with our elders?

It is very important question which we have to think in our daily life. We young students are not only the future of our nation but we are the present. So we have to take charge now!

- Alister Shaun Dsouza, Chikkamagaluru diocese

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I FAIL?

“FAILURE” is a word no one wants in their life as it makes us unhappy and not worthy at times.... But, is failure bad? According to me, no! It makes us stronger instead. You get to know yourself better during the time of pain... What do I do when I fail? I cry!! that is natural.



There are different kinds of failures. The one that I can relate is failing in an examination. When I had failed in one subject it was heartbreaking for me. As I never wanted that to happen. But I didn’t give up. I sat for a while and thought over it and reflected on what went wrong. And by finding out the mistake, I worked hard and made sure that it didn’t happen again. Whenever we are in a difficult situation, we should remain clam and think before we act.

Failure can either make or break a person. It depends on how strong your mind is. When I asked people “what do you do when you fail?” the quick answer I got was “you should not give up & you should try again” I totally agree with them. But trying again should be done by believing in yourself and trusting your abilities. Only then you will be able to overcome the failure and achieve success.

I disagree the saying “ there is no use crying” instead, I would say, you should cry a little bit so that the negative should wash away and you can start a fresh. Honestly, that helps. Always remember that God has sent you with a purpose. If u fail in doing something, never give up! Never stop trying new things because of the fear of failing. Failing is a part of life. It teaches us good and bad. Sometimes failure is a stepping stone to success.

-Adriel Sena, Goa Diocese

National Chaplain's Activities

1. 16- 21 December - NSLTP - English in Guwahati.
2. 24-25 December - Christmas in Delhi
3. 26-31 December - KNIT India Programme in Indore & NT EXCO meeting.
4. 5-8 January 2018 - Diocesan Youth Convention, Tura diocese
5. 14-16 January - National Council meeting and election at NBCLC, Bangalore
6. 19-20 January- Fr. Mullers Hospital Mangalore, Session for the nurses & students
7. 29 Jan-1 February - National Peace Convention, Cochin
8. 4 February - CCBI one day plenary meeting at St. John's Medical College
9. 6 February - Office work at Chennai
10. 10 February - Madgao - Youth animation at Navelim
11. 11 February- Diaference-Mangalore diocesan annual conference at Pakshikere
12. 17-21 February- Value Education book work in Delhi

Future Programmes:

1. 18-26 May 2018 - Animators and Chaplains Training at NBCLC, Bangalore.
2. 14-16 June - NEXCO live-in programme in Bangalore
3. 16-18 June - NT-EXCO meeting in Chennai
4. 12 August - National Youth Sunday



And it was a good attempt....Naional fulltimers experience

I am happy to share this experience of mine that took place on 15th January 2018. It was totally unexpected. I was in the dioceses of Gulbarga from 12th to 21st January 2018 to visit some units of YCS/YSM and also to attend 2 dioceses programs.

I along with Fr. Clevan (Diocesan Chaplain of Gulbarga) went to meet Mr. Bahiam Bagwan Navale (73), a pioneer of 3 schools in Yermal, Osmanabad, Maharashtra. He is a creative artist and his drawings are documented by the Government of India in 1980's. I observed simplicity in this great man.

As a young person, he saw a lot of talent in his village. He wanted to do something to train young people and that thought motivated him to do something. He shared his ideas with his village people and he began 3 schools in Yermal village which is in Osmanabad, Maharashtra. It took some years to establish and for people to recognise his good work. Eg: We met a retired man from India Army who said Mr. Bahiam Bagwan Navale was tool for him in guiding his career through education.

We had a good sharing about YSM, and showed him some of our activities and surprisingly Mr. Bahiam Bagwan Navale asked us whether we can start YSM in his schools (Government Schools). He wanted his village children to be aware of what is happening in the society. We were very happy and accepted his invitation.

Next day Morning, he took us to his school. It was a very small school with 150 students. We met the principal and other staff and addressed them. It was a good beginning.

YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



YCS -Gulbarga



Visiting Units by Ebin Navis



NSLTP - Guwahati & Nagpur



NSLTP - Guwahati - Visit to Snehalaya

Young Christian Students/Young Students Movement, (An Unit of CCBI Youth Commission)
YCS/YSM National Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, 25 Rosary Church Road, Santhome, Chennai - 600 004
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