

The March - April - 2018
Search

YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 38

Vol: 2

**JUSTICE
FOR
ASIFA**



What's Justice?

Swaying in the silent meadow of Kashmir;
Accustomed to graze my horses;
You were the one to abduct me.
Then how is the fault all mine?

Miniskirt, was not what I wore;
Approaching wasn't what I looked like.
Why did I have to suffer then?
Innocent child was what I was you see.

Of your daughter's age or less than that,
And tissue paper is what you thought I was;
That's why you drugged me and quenched yourself.
Just because I belonged not to a religion of yours'.

No stone was left unturned in my search.
All that skipped was a holy temple.
Ram Bhakth like you hid me inside it;
And polluted the holy place with your heinous act.

To erase me off was what you thought;
Once your intentions were satisfied.
You threw my corpse like a dirty linen,
On the ground of woods I used to play.

My rape was termed a communal issue;
And soon I became the trendy headline.
People played the game of dirty politics;



Viola D'Souza
Mangalore Diocese

Used my name for their selfish acts.
Streets were lit with candles for my sake.
Social media full of hashtags for my Justice.
And there even protests to save you;
For I never belonged to a religion like yours'.

'I'm glad it was Ravan who adducted me'
Said Sitha politely to Ram in heaven.
'For if it were your Baktha's.
Awful would be my condition'.

Government passed laws after my case.
You were sentenced to death;
And I was imparted justice.
But a question often haunts me;

Did I really receive Justice?
Were all the girls of India safe?

HUMAN
RIGHTS ARE NOT
'OPTIONAL'



THE LOSS OF HUMANITY

Greetings from the YCS/YSM family

While our world has always experienced change, the rate of change is speeding up. In recent times, many historians, sociologists and journalists have expressed concern over the rapid change in our society. They tell us that today's world is changing at an accelerated pace unlike anything past generations had witnessed. So, what has caused our world to change so rapidly in recent years? One reason that comes to mind is the technological advances.

Certainly technological innovation can also lead to other changes, some of them not so positive. Throughout history, when new inventions were introduced into society, it has impacted society's customs, values and beliefs. Many things become rapidly outdated. Our styles, fashion, dress, habits, thinking – everything! This changing looks dangerous in the wake of the recent events concerning children and students. It seems like humanity is being lost to technology and people are failing to be human.

When a child is born into the world, it is said that it is a gift of God and every human being is created in God's image. The recent happenings in our country where children below ten have been brutally molested, raped and killed defy all human understanding. One just cannot imagine that humanity can stoop so low. We should be ashamed of this. What is even more appalling is that the recent barbaric incident in Kathua happened in a place of worship. Such incidents give rise to fear in the minds of young students, especially girls.

After the Nirbhaya rape case, the entire country demanded justice for her and punishment for the rapists; this time too the entire country came together for justice. Experience shows that very little has changed for students and youth in this country after Nirbhaya. Every day we read about rapes and murders. Sometimes, I wonder whether we are safe in our own homes, schools, among the people whom we call our own for we read that an eight months old baby was raped by her own relative! The word 'safety' seems to be like a myth.

Who is responsible for this? Why is this happening? We need to sit back and reflect upon this sick mentality among people. Some of the reasons could be lack of good parenting, uncontrolled use of media, lack of values taught in our homes and schools, freedom without guidance, animosity between castes and religions created by politicians for their short sighted and selfish goals.

God gave humankind the power to rule the world and make it a better place to live in. But we notice that in this fast changing world there is an increase in crimes and violence at an alarming rate. It is high time that we appreciate our God given powers and rise united to work for justice and peace not only for the Asifa's of our country but also the world over where such atrocities are prevalent. For it is up to us the youth of our country and the world to stand up, fight this menace and bring change.

YCS /YSM India stands firm for Justice not only to Asifa but for all.

LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE *Long live YCS/YSM*

Natasha Ann Louis



PRESIDENT SPEAKS

RESTORING HUMAN DIGNITY



Greetings to all my dear YCS/YSMers!

“Dignity today can be determined as an honour or a quality at which a person can be elevated. Human dignity is the most important human right from which all other fundamental rights derive.”

16th December, 2012 was a fine day for a Delhi girl who was an intern and was awaiting her results as a physiotherapy student. But the eve of the very same day turned out to be the most brutal one that our country, India had ever seen.

10th January, 2018 - 8 year old girl from Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir who set out to go and watch over grazing horses was very little known to the fact that she would never return back to her family.

These are just two instances out of lakhs of cases occurring in our country. Where is our country leading?

India- our Motherland, is a country where many Goddesses are praised and worshipped. But a very sad fact is that the ones at home who are in the form of a mother, a wife, a sister or even daughters are kept very below in our patriarchal system. There are two sides very clearly seen in our country. The first where in our country is trying to reach the level of a ‘developed nation’ in its advancements in the areas of science, technology, medicine, entertainment, sports, etc. On the other hand is where the human dignity of a person is falling into bits every second in our nation. But the notion of our Indian citizens not accepting the fact that it is losing its worth and playing the blame game on each other will sadly not see its end in the nearing days.

I remember that day having hearing the Unnao and Kathua rape cases back to back on news and people debating about them brought a kind a rush in me. A rush which can be termed as an anger rush, a questionable rush, a rush to seek answers or a rush to give justice to the victims and

many others still seeking for it. But it seemed that no leader was interested to Intervene in this boiling matter. Some leaders spoke on behalf of the accused justifying them and stating that the victim’s statements are nothing but a lie. Suddenly, it dawned on me as to how can a girl of my age or younger to me come forward and lie about something like a rape incident. Every day now, I’m bothered with thoughts about the living rape victims and the families of such victims still seeking for justice. How safe do they feel today, walking on the streets? Do they have second thoughts before having to enjoy their lives again? How will they ever be able to live in the society which stares and taunts at them?

Every girl is born with millions of dreams and wishes to fulfil. She hopes that someday she will stand on her feet and make her parents proud. She even wishes to raise a family of her own. But how sure is she that her dignity is safe? How sure are her parents that their daughter who leaves for school or work will return safely? I myself fear walking on the streets of my city. And I know for a fact that many other women share a similar feeling.

Media played the most important role. Many joined hands on social media platforms and started posting hash tags and statements in support of the victims. The hype of social media was so much that it even united people especially youth from different dialects, religions and areas to join together to give justice to a daughter. Banners, candles, prayers were all offered to on the streets. The rage of the Indian citizens resulted to put intense pressure on the leaders to fasten the decision making and to bring about some changes in the law. Well, it did. The vigorous trials and angry determined minds of the people resulted amendments made under the criminal law including the IPC, Criminal Procedure Code, Evident Act and POCSO.

We as united citizens can do so much in the betterment of the nation. Youth, however who are the main audiences of social media have an upper hand to play. There is so much we can do. But let's acknowledge the fact that the youth joined hands in different parts of the country- it maybe schools, parishes, colleges, public places; social media wherein they made sure that the people at the top will hear their plea of bringing justice to Asifa and many others.

Restoring Human Dignity lies only in our hands. It depends on us if we would like to keep it safe in a 'safe' or make sure that it is externally implemented too.

Are you ready to restore your own dignity? I am!

Regards,
Jesvita Princy Quadras
National President



Sr. Lidwin Fernandes UFS
National Coordinator

**There
can be no
greater force
than unity**

Now is not the time for bigots and racists.

No time for sexists and homophobes.

Now, more than ever, is the time for ARTISTS.

It's time for us to rise above and to create.

To show humanity. To spread hope.

We must prevent society from destroying itself,

From losing its way. Now is the time for love.

When Hitler invaded Poland & started the World War II, 500 Polish women & 200 children were put on a ship to save them from the Germans. The ship was left in the sea by the Polish Army and the Captain was told to take them to any country where they could get shelter. The last message from their countrymen was "If we are alive or survive, we will meet again!"

The ship, filled with 500 refugee Polish women & 200 children, was refused to come in by many European ports, Asian ports like Seychelles, Aden etc. The ship continued to sail & somehow reached a harbor port of Iran. Yes so far away! Even they did not accept them. Finally the ship, wandering in the sea, reached India and came to then port of Bombay. The British Governor also refused the ship to port.

When the Maharaja of Jamnagar, "Jam Saheb Digvijay Singh" came to know about the ship, he became truly concerned. He allowed the ship to port in his kingdom at a port near Jamnagar. He not only gave shelter to the 500 women but also gave their children free education in Balachiri in an Army School.

These refugees stayed in Jamnagar for nine years, till the World War II. They were well taken care of by Jam Saheb, who regularly visited them and was fondly called Bapu by them.

From the ancient times, the message of India 'vasudaiva kutumbakam' (the world is a family) & its tolerance has been well-known in the world. Today we raise doubts & put question marks on India's tolerance. India was rich, brave, tolerant, compassionate & genuinely humanitarian - plus pro-life, pro good values & great respect. This was an illustrious page from modern contemporary history, little known to many today Even in India.

On one hand we have women who disclose what it means to be a woman in today's world and celebrate different facts of womanhood. On the other hand women are sexually harassed not only on busy city roads, but also behind the closed corridors of offices and homes. Most women choose to suffer in silence and that really encourages the men. Women need to stop being the victims.

Rakhi Yadav, co-owner, of Bikers Café, believes that when a woman is given freedom to chase her dreams and grow, the entire nation flourishes with her. Talking about girl power, she says, "There can be no greater force than unity" so we must become each other's strength. Women must follow a simple credo 'one for all and all for one' and become a backbone and support system for one another.

So dear friends, let us not avert our eyes, it is important that we see this, it is important that we feel this. Through our efforts let us witness people pick themselves up, dust themselves off and follow a new path of their strength.

WHAT IS BEING HUMAN?



Greetings to my dear YCS/YSM'ers.

When this newsletter reaches you, you may have participated in a candle light march or a protest to demand justice for Kathua and Unnao victims. The tragic and gruesome rape and killing of an eight year old child has created fear among children and women in our country. Going by the reports of these incidents, it will be difficult for the minorities and marginalised groups to live in this country because rapes and lynchings are taking a communal turn and children and women are raped and killed only because they belong to a certain religious community.

In 2012, the entire country was shocked when 'Nirbhaya' happened. People especially students came out on to

the streets to protest. There was an irrepressible rage seething in every citizen of India. However, what happened after this brutal case of rape and murder? Politicians exploited this incident for political gains and promised a lot; but the situation at ground zero remained unchanged, only governments at the centre and state have changed! Five years on, we are still a long way from creating a safe space for children and women. The recent incidents of rape of minors across the country have yet again raised several questions about the Indian society. What shocked me is what happened after the murder of the innocent child of Kathua. The investigating team was changed four times at the behest of politicians. And when the investigations were finally completed because of the persistence of a few honest police personnel, the filing of the charges in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Kathua was obstructed by some local lawyers. A new group called 'Hindu Ekta Manch' backed by BJP leaders Lal Singh Chaudhary and Chander Prakash Ganga — both ministers in the state's PDP-BJP government, began demonstrating against the arrest of the accused and demanded a CBI investigation



... continued on page 7

Search

into the case. The Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association (Jammu) joined the stir and called for a Jammu bandh. The lady lawyer representing the victim's family was advised to not pursue the case and was pummeled with death threats. Politicians like Mr. Nandkumar Singh Chauhan blamed Pakistan for the Jammu incident. We have a weird and bizzare situation here – politically backed organizations and politicians protesting on behalf of the rapists rather than of the victim! Has politics in our country lost its humanity?

We need to evaluate on what is happening in our society today. There are many more r incidents which bring disrepute to the country, episodes such as the rape of a nine year old in Surat and the Asaram case. What we read every day in the newspapers only prods one to ask if there is humanity left anywhere or are we becoming beasts? In both the above cases the state did very little to start with, and the perpetrators were arrested only after the general public protested and demanded justice. I remember what Napoleon Bonaparte said, "The world suffers a lot. Not because the violence of bad people. But because of the silence of the good people."

These days we take to streets when such incidents take place. We organise protests and candle light processions, etc. These incidents may be happening in our own homes or schools. Sometimes we keep

.....
mum and encourage crime with our silence. It is not enough to merely raise slogans but it is essential to prevent these things from happening again.

.....
As YCS/YSM students, our motto is to build a new society.....God's kingdom. We students have immense responsibility to shoulder. If our political system is bad today it is because our students are not adequately prepared to plunge into it and change the system. If the judiciary is corrupt, it is because we have not prepared enough honest people to enter it and cleanse the system. Similarly, every field needs to be seeded people who are just and honest. We students are the future politicians, bureaucrats, lawyers, etc. If you want the present system to pave a way for a just system, we need to work hard. To bring change in society we need to raise our voice and stand for justice. We need to assume responsibilities and resolve to reverse the system. We will undoubtably face a lot of opposition, but truth will prevail.

.....
Fr. Chetan Machado
National Chaplain
.....



IV NT/EXCO MEETING

28-29 December, 2017 at Indore

Venue: Universal Solidarity Movement, Indore



The day began with the Holy Eucharist followed by an inter-religious prayer conducted by Fr. Varghese Alengaden, Director of Universal Solidarity Movement. After a short break, the meeting began at 10am. Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain welcomed the participants and Ms. Rachel, National General Secretary addressed the gathering followed by some group dynamics. Mr. Ebin, National Volunteer conducted a short ice breaking session while Fr. Chetan explained about the forth coming National Council in 2019. He asked the gathering to share some of their ideas to choose the theme and the thrusts for the study session of the same. At noon the there was a brainstorming session to put forth ideas regarding the theme and the thrusts for the National Council. Some of the ideas were as follows:

1. Ms. Haka (North East Regional President) spoke about the relationship between parents and children - their communication, interaction and withdrawal from the family, relationships in today's reality.
2. Mr. Ebin, spoke about the concept of SELF.
3. Ms. Rachel, spoke about addictions, how today's youngsters are engrossed in electronic gadgets and get detached from reality thereby further detachment from family life.
4. Mr. Waijri, spoke about various forms of abuse that young people face today.

Fr. Chetan thanked the gathering for their inputs and ideas and summarized the ideas. He also informed the participants that Goa (MG Region) has agreed to host the National Council in 2019.

Universal Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace to Transform the World by Transforming Self, had invited NTA/EXCO and the volunteers for the inaugural function the same day which winded up with dinner.

Ms. Jesvita welcomed the gathering to the 4th NTA/EXCO Meeting followed with a prayer by Ms. Vanshika (NEXCO). Ms. Rachel read out the roll call followed by the Agenda of the meeting. After passing the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting, there was an evaluation of the National Convention. Fr. Chetan read out the evaluation of various participants that was also printed



Search

in the National Souvenir. The participants then shared their views on the National Convention. The following suggestions were made by the regions:

Fr. Anil (Karnataka-RYD) said that the National Convention was well organised but he also stated that the involvement of NEXCOS during the sessions could be taken more seriously and the NEXCOs could have participated in it. He also said that food was good but there were few counters.

Fr. Alex (Madhya Pradesh -RYD) appreciated the responsible attitude of the NTA/EXCO members and appreciated them. He stated that the communication between the LOC'S could have been better and also that the sound system was too loud.

Mr. Jimmy, (Former National Convener) thanked the NTA/EXCO on behalf of former NEXCOs for inviting them to the National Convention and he stated that the sessions were quite long and appreciated the NEXCOs for conducting it well. He also expressed that there was lack of discipline among the participants.

The NTA/EXCO members had a short discussion about the NSLTP, NATP & LIVE-IN programme for the year 2018 and the following events were finalized:

1. From 2018 onwards only one NSLTP will be organized instead of two to balance the number of participants and reduce expenses. If the project is sanctioned, based on the interest and involvement of



the regions we may reconsider having two in future. The language for NSLTP will be English and some sessions could be in Hindi, depending on participants.



2. **NSLTP -2018:** NT EXCO suggested Mangalore diocese and Jhansi diocese as a backup. Rs. 500 would be charged as registration fee. This programme would be conducted for REXCOs, DEXCOs and other office bearers.
3. **National Council Goa 2019:** As the venue for the council is already fixed, it was decided to have the Council from 17-24 May 2019 i.e. arrival on 17th and departure on 24th morning after the thanksgiving Mass. It was agreed that only office bearers would attend the council meeting and not members. Registration fee would be finalized later.
4. **National LIVE-IN 2018:** The Live-in programme would be held at Bangalore from 14-16th of June. Only NT/EXCO Members would participate in this. (Excluding RYDs and volunteers)
5. **5th National Meet-2018** will be held at Chennai office on 17th & 18th of June, 2018.
6. **National Convention 2020:** Participants proposed Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and the North East regions for the programme. The convention would be held during the 3rd and 4th week of May, 2020 tentatively. Further details are yet to be finalized.

At the end of all deliberations, Ms. Jesvita thanked everyone for their active participation following which the birthdays of NEXCO members, especially Ms. Vanshika whose birthday was on 28th December.



The second day of the NT EXCO meeting on 29th December, Friday 2017 began with a small prayer by Ms. Roshini (Liturgical Secretary) followed by the roll call by Ms. Rachel and agenda for the day. Ms. Rachel read out the 3rd National Meet report held at Kolkata (West Bengal), which was passed by Karnataka region. Regional reports were presented by regions together with challenges faced by them.

Karnataka Region:

Ms. Jesvita stated that the availability of animators is less though many programmes are being conducted.

Tamil Nadu Region highlighted the lack of response from the RYD and lack of communication between the RYD and the NEXCOS.

North East Region expressed the difficulty with regard to travelling as it takes days to reach other places thereby leading to less participation. Sr. Bernadette (RYD- NE Region) also shared the difficulty with some DYDs not cooperating in the region.

This was followed by a discussion on the Action Plan which was read out by Ms.

Roshini, she stated the programs that have been conducted and are yet to be conducted along with the evaluation and drawbacks of the programs.

The meeting continued to discuss the theme and the thrusts for the convention. All the ideas given on the previous day were read out once again and the following themes and thrusts were suggested after a good discussion:

1. Fr. Anil – Dedication: Discipline; Dynamic; Disciples
2. Mr. Jimmy- YCS towards value based Education
3. Mr. Kamal- Students moved by Faith build a better society
4. Fr. Alex- Young students for youthful life – Look; Observe; Verify; Enjoy (L.O.V.E.)
5. Ms. Rachel- Learn; Live; Lead
6. Mr. Ebin- Preserve Culture

It was suggested that all these themes may be presented in the preparatory document so as to finalize it in the next meeting and have better clarity and involvement of other regions that were not present.

Mr. Ebin Navis, National Volunteer read out the National Office's Report and the Chaplain's Report. He explained programs in which the National office had participated and the Chaplain's presence was noted. He spoke about the reality and the stress the movement faces day-to-day. He also congratulated the NEXCO members for their support rendered to the movement. Later, he also pointed out to the SEARCH -newsletter, which needs to be updated. Fr. Chetan complimented him and



Search



gave a few instructions regarding the same:

1. Search Articles could be a story, poem, article or a small blog.
2. The due date to release the issue is before 10th of every month
3. Subscription would be via logging on to YCS YSM India website.
4. Rs. 100/ would be the charges to continue the annual subscription.

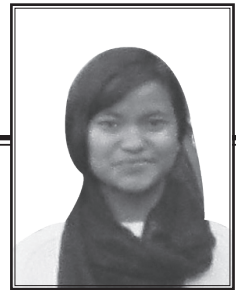
Mr. Jimmy (Former National Convener), shared his experience of the Asian Council Summit which had taken place at Philippines in July 2017 on the Theme- Environment and Peace. Later Fr. Anil and Fr. Chetan shared their experiences of the training programme of IYCS which was held at Jordan in August 2017.

Mr. Waijri proposed the vote of thanks following which Ms. Jesvita closed the 4th National Meet 2017. All sang the YCS/YSM anthem and dispersed with a thunderous YCS/YSM clap.

LONG LIVE YCS/YSM !

RACHEL PATRICIA L.
(National Secretary-YCS/YSM INDIA)

NSLTP EXPERIENCE



The experiences that I had as an organizer of the NSLTP which was held in Guwahati from 17th to 21st December 2017 was amazing.

It was my first time being a part of the organizing committee at the national level. Being a part of the organizing team makes me realize that not everything is easy. There are many hardships when we conduct a programme. The feeling of nervousness comes when we ask, what if we make mistakes? but with the help of our former NEXCOs, RYDs and our National Chaplain we were able to do it well. I would not say perfectly done because we still made mistakes but the programme was a success and the selection of resource persons was great and they did their best, they gave their best knowledge to the students.

Punctuality of the students was the best which I myself did not expect and I was very happy to see that they were always on time and they truly dedicated themselves to all the sessions. The most important thing about the success of the training program was the attitude we had towards each other, the willingness to accept everyone's idea and opinion.

I thank all the National team for organizing this programme and RYDs, former and present NEXCOs and REXCOs for all the team work.

Thank you.

- Hakadahun Nongtdu, Regional President North East

Happiness, like other emotions, is not something that you obtain, but rather something you inhabit. When you're raging pissed and throwing a socket wrench at the neighbor's kids, you are not self-conscious about your state of anger. You are not thinking to yourself, "Am I finally angry? Am I doing this right?" No, you're out for blood. You inhabit and live the anger. You are the anger. And then it's gone.



Just as a confident man doesn't wonder if he's confident, a happy man does not wonder if he's happy. He simply is.

What this implies is that happiness is not achieved in itself, but rather it is the side effect of a particular set of ongoing life experiences. This gets mixed up a lot, especially since happiness is marketed so much these days as a goal in and of itself.

Goal Setting: A Scientific Guide to setting and achieving goals

Goal setting is everywhere in our world. We set goals for our careers, our health and our lives in general. It seems modern society is always encouraging us to think about the next milestone. However, what we don't think about enough is the science and strategy of how to accomplish your goals. (courtesy: <https://jamesclear.com/goal-setting>)

*collected by - Sujan Joel
Chikkamagaluru Karnataka*

Motivation

"I think and therefore I am; I am alive because of my thinking" is a famous saying. So what is thinking?

The thoughts that motivate us and inspire us is called thinking. Thoughts have power and energy but sometimes we cannot express these thoughts because of fear, hesitation etc..

Never let a thought to shrivel and die, for want a way to say it, to express these thoughts youth movements are a wonderful place, and all of you can express it..

To motivate others, to inspire others only our talks, words and your thoughts can help you. First of all we must be courageous to speak in front of others.

"Possibilities are beyond our imagination, it is the belief to do something that nobody has done in this world". If you do something that nobody has done in this world then it will surprise the world. These things can motivate others in a great way and in an effective way.

Not only possibilities and thoughts can motivate others, your day to day activities, your character, behaviour can impress and inspire others.

So let's try to inspire others and become a great model to others.

*Alister Shaun Dsouza (Regional representative)
Chikkamagaluru diocese*



Faith in Action

See

The spirituality of action is the crux of Christian spirituality. An option for the poor is what Jesus taught us during his public ministry. The action filled public life of Jesus, inspires us and this is what is expected of us to do in our daily life and to bear witness to HIM.

What does it mean “faith in action”?

It is like a child going to school to learn. Every day it learns new things from the books and teacher. As the days pass by it has more knowledge and to make it more intent, there is homework, there is examination, there is

interaction with other students, and there is exposure to life experience and the societal reality - along with the teachers and parents. When this whole process is internalized and put into practice, the knowledge becomes full and its efficacy is experienced through its fruits.

Judge

Likewise our life is also an action-filled one. It is not only of faith but faith with action as James puts it in the following verses:

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or



Fr Charles Menezes
IYCS Chaplain

sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead”

James 2:14 – 17

To do anything in our life the basis shall be God. Believe in HIM and proceed with our actions. All our actions need to be guided by the spirit of God. When spirit of God hovers over the things, it puts them into order:
*«In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
And God said, “Let there*



be light," and there was light»

Gen 1:1-3

Abraham, the father of faith for a whole life was a simple humble man. The moment God chose him and blessed him with Holy Spirit, the life of faith was changed into life of action. *“Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only”*

James 2:23-24

His life of faith with action commenced the salvific plan of God for the humankind and that led Jesus into accepting the final act of salvation. Faith in God the father and the assistance of the Holy Spirit helped Jesus achieve the plan of God in saving the mankind from the snarl of sin.

Act

As IYCS members many a time we jump into action and to yield good fruit, our actions need to be justified by our faith. We need to internalize the spirit of God for all that we do. *«For as the body without*



the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also»

John 2:26

Pope Francis: While distributing 50 thousand copies of the Gospel (pocket edition) in the Square by 300 homeless people, he said “this is a beautiful gesture” that Jesus approves: “those who are most needy are the ones who are giving us the Word of God”. He further said:

“ There are three things we can offer: the Gospel, the crucifix and our witness - In the Gospel we can meet Jesus and listen to his words; through

the crucifix we have the tangible sign of His love for us when he died on the cross to save us; in being witnesses to Christianity we can express our faith in simple gestures of fraternal charity “

Hence, we affiliate all our actions to the spirit of God and make them effective that the objectives with which we work reflects the face of God. We make our IYCS actions that of Faith and the faith that we profess that of action! ♣

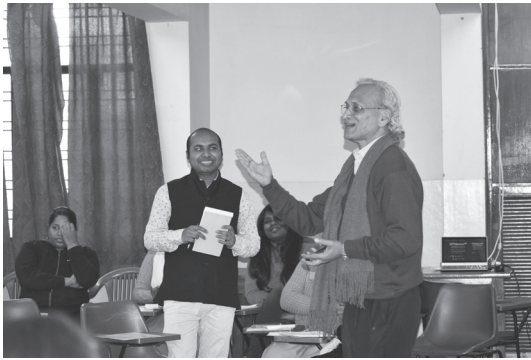


LISTENING AND LOVING

THE YOUNG can be transformational

Date: 21, January 2018; Venue: Yusuf Sadan, New Delhi

Young Catholic Students (YCS) Movement of the Archdiocese of Delhi successfully organised the Certificate Course in Mentoring on the theme: 'Role of Mentors in Accompanying Students: Building Safe Environment for Learning'.



38 teachers, youth animators and counsellors from 21 Catholic institutions attended the one day training course organised at Yusuf Sadan in New Delhi. Renowned clinical psychologist Dr Jose Parappulluy, Salesian priest and director of Sumedha Centre in Nainital, Uttarakhand was the resource person for the training held at Yusuf Sadan on 21 January 2018.

The need of mentoring is vital as young people go through major psychological and behavioural changes with changing patterns of social interactions and relationship. The course helped participants understand the basic skills required to accompanying the young, considering the five requisites: Acceptance, Availability, Authenticity, Respect and Prestige.

The participants were provided with student experiences and situational analysis to learn

knowledge and basic skills for assessing. It was re-affirmed that mentors require to build empathy by listening to the young and loving them. The participants were awakened on the importance of counselling young people as mentors beyond their role in academic and spiritual development.

Archbishop Anil J T Couto addressed the participants and encouraged them to accompany the students in the Catholic schools and parishes so that we build safe environment for learning. He expressed gratitude to the organisers and wishes the YCS movement to grow in the Archdiocese.

The participants were also introduced to the YCS methodology, the Review of Life 'See, Judge, Act'. The day concluded by Holy Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Joseph Manipadam, National Secretary, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), Office for Education and Culture. He also awarded the certificates. This course was conceptualised by Manoj Mathew, the Archdiocesan Coordinator with the support of the students and volunteers.

- Vanshika Paul

*National Representative, Northern Region,
YCS/YSM India*



THAT ONE FACE

*That moment when you were all over me;
Your brutal hands tore my garment into
pieces of rags.*

*The perfume I wore evaporated,
And I did smell like your bloody sweat.*

*Those filthy parts of your body;
Touched me here and there.
I wailed for help but nobody cared!
Instead chose howl, whistle and watch the
fun.*

*Once you quenched your thirst,
You left me on the coarse ground like a
dirty linen.
My body grieved with sorrow for those
pieces of glass
You threw, pierced me each second.*

*Now when I stand here in this Court of Law;
Only as a witness and not worthy enough
to be called a victim!
They ask me awful questions-
"Do you remember his face?"*

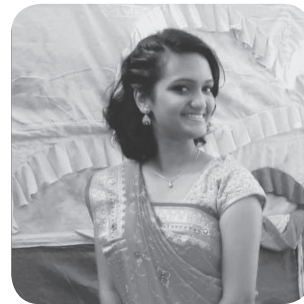
*Oh! That dreadful face how can I even
forget?
But my mouth was shut, it chose silence.
While my eyes narrated the entire
nightmare!
For the ears assembled resisted to listen.*

*Reluctantly after a pause I whispered,
"Yes, I failed to see his face, that dirty face"
Giggles echoed in the room and traveled to
my ears,
But only your laughter rang in my ears.*

*I turned my eyes towards the Law Goddess,
By the power of your money she was blind
folded.
And in imparting justice to thousands of
her daughters she failed.*

*She even didn't bother to utter the words
of condolence, ashamed.*

*As I walked up to my seat, your ugly face
flashed through my eyes.
I ignored the flashbacks and convinced
myself;
No woman becomes impure if bitten by a
mad dog!
While those faces that were having fun
then, celebrated your victory.*



Viola D'Souza
Mangalore Diocese

*With a hysterical smile and a ray of hope;
I set out on my new journey, a way towards
success.
With the confidence that I would achieve it,
My eyes did glare with a strange kind of
sparkle.*

*In all my nightmares your harsh face
followed me,
The face that craved for bodily pleasure
and spoilt my dreams.
And today I stand boldly in the court, to
answer the unanswered question
"Do you even remember his face?"*





Search

REPORTS

NORTH EAST

DIOCESE OF SHILLONG YCS/YSM Retreat: A veritable Spiritual Treat for Holy Week 2018

A retreat was organized for the YCS/YSM Shillong Archdiocese from 28th March to 31st March in Pastoral Center at Malki, Shillong. Hundred and sixty nine students from 18 schools participated in this retreat. As the students arrived with their parents and animators all were warmly welcomed with tea and snacks.

The retreat began with the inaugural function at 5:30 pm. and the testimonial talks of Mr. Edward Thma, the former NEXCO member and Jimmy Pdang, former national president YCS/YSM India. The well prepared input session by Fr. Jude Sebastian SDB, the former YCS/YSM Chaplain of Kolkata Region, enlightened the students about the YCS/YSM movement since the majority of the students were freshers. He focused on the



Spirituality of YCS/YSM (Review of life: See Judge and Act) which helped them to know and understand the soul the YCS/YSM. Later Fr Felix Dhakar SDB, the director of Pastoral Centre, welcomed the students



and familiarized them with the rules and regulations of the center.

The camp fire was organized after the dinner and the Rosary helped the students to overcome home-sickness and shyness. Once all the students went to bed the Retreat coordinating team of Salesian brothers, sisters and Jesus Youth, met and evaluated the day and planned for the next days.

The morning prayers and praise and worship, conducted by the sisters and the team of Jesus Youth, enabled the students to relish prayer at the start of each day. During the three days of retreat there were three different resource persons to animate the students. Fr Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB, Vice Provincial of Shillong province, animated the youth on Maundy Thursday, on the importance of the Holy Week. Sr. Angela Dhakar preached on Good Friday and prepared the students for confession and Fr Edmund Gomes SDB explained the Holy Eucharist and its relationship to daily life. All the sessions were much appreciated by the students. The presence of six priests helped them to make a good confession. After each session the students thanked the fathers and sisters with thank you card and with YCS/YSM clap as token of gratitude. In short the retreat was a big help to them to participate meaningfully in the Holy Week experience and to strengthen their faith formation.

KARNATAKA

DIOCESE OF MANGALORE

The Annual Meet of YCS Animators

The Annual Meet of YCS Animators at the Mangalore Diocesan level was held at Angelore parish hall on March 11, 2018. Fr. Mathew Vas, parish priest of Angelore parish and Fr. Roque D'sa from St Joseph Seminary were the chief guests and inaugurated the event by handing over the official text books of YCS to Mr. Suraj Ashoknagar and Ms Jasmine Lobo Agrar the representatives of the animators. Jesvita Quadras, the National President of YCS, Fr Rupesh Madtha, Director and Mr Prajwal Sequeira Derebail the Diocesan Animator were on the dais.



Fr Vas gave a message to the animators and Fr. Dsa as a resource person spoke on 'Animator - Student Relationship in YCS - A Psychological View Point'. There were queries on the subject from the Animators.

Mr Prawal welcomed and Mrs Anitha Frank Bendoor compered the program. Ms Jeswita presented mementos to the chief guests.

Fr Rupesh conducted the evaluation of the passing year and planning for the forthcoming year.

The volunteers Lavita D'Souza Permannur, Viola D'Souza Bondel, Merwin Pais Borimar conducted the ice breakers.

The Holy Mass was celebrated and the program got concluded with lunch.

- Fr. Rupesh Madtha

The Maundy Thursday was lived meaningfully through the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the washing of the feet, the Seder Meal and adoration at the Altar of Repose.



On the Good Friday, the students were given frugal and simple meals to inculcate the importance of the day of fasting and abstinence. Another remarkable event was the enactment of the Way of the Cross and Passion Service with relevant explanations so as to make the students understand their significance. The screening of the movie The Passion of Christ helped them to enter more personally into the sufferings of Christ.

The Retreat came to an end with each participant writing a practical resolution to continue growing in the faith, evaluation of the retreat and concluded with a short ceremony. The retreat has been an evangelizing experience for the participants. It is hoped that its fruits will revitalize the YCS/YSM Movement in the Archdiocese.

**-Bro. Cheriatt Jose SDB,
Coordinator,
YCS/YSM Shillong Archdiocese**



KARNATAKA

YCS/YSM UDUPI YCS Village Exposure Camp

The village exposure camp by Young Catholic Students Movement, Udupi Diocese had been organised at Nithyadhar ward belonging to Ajeekar parish of Karkal Deanery from 02 to 05 April 2018. It started with a procession march. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Most Rev.

Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi. The Camp was inaugurated by Rev. Fr Joswey Fernandes, Dean Karkal Deanery. Mr. Dinesh Kumar President Marne Panchayth hoisted the YCS Flag, Fr Sunil D'Silva, Parish Priest welcomed the gathering. Hazel Martis, Ex YCS Council Member shared her past experience in YCS. Many other prominent dignitaries were present.

Students were shuffled into six groups. Each group had specific task to perform and common competitions were also held. Various activities were conducted based on the methodology of the movement - See (Awareness), Judge (Analysis) and Act (Action & Evaluation). The group activities helped the students to mingle with each other, make new friends, learn to live in a community, adjustment, etc. All of them spent the four days without using mobile phones which made them participate in full spirit.



The main purpose of this exposure was to understand the life of villagers and the way they viewed life. Participants visited the villagers and interviewed them which enabled them to understand the motto in a better way. For the students it was a special experience. The youngsters experienced the struggle of common man and the life style of a village. For many of them it was first experience to work. They learned to cook, clean the surroundings, work in fields, Konkani culture, Gumta songs etc.

Every day began with Holy Mass and then manual work. A session on career guidance was conducted by Fr. Reginald Pinto, Director SAMPADA Udupi. Vicar General Msgr Baptist Menezes taught the Divine Mercy chaplet to the participants. Collage Presentation was conducted by Fr Anil D'sa, Director YCS YSM Karnataka. Mr Norbert Misquith conducted the Taize prayer which was liked by the youngsters. Various games & action songs were conducted by Fr. Sandesh Kelmbet.

Around 72 students from various parishes actively participated in the camp.

-Renson Alva



NORTH EAST

Principals' meet in Shillong.

The Coordinating team, consisting of Bros. Cheriatt Jose, Julian and Lukas, organized a meeting of Principals of various schools where YCS/YSM is actively present. The objective of this meet was to bring clarity to the work. Archbishop Dominic Jala was the keynote speaker. He exhorted all the principals to encourage the movement as it is potential to empower the Catholic youth. Sr. Bernadette explained the concept and present scenario of the YCS/YSM movement. The sharing of the witness and experience of Mr Edward was very much remarkable. Fr. Jude Spoke about the need to take ownership of the YCS/YSM movement in the schools.



All the inputs of various speakers enabled principals to understand the importance of the YCS/YSM movement and promised the support to the YCS/YSM movement. After much discussion the meeting came to the conclusion with prayer and blessing.

- Bro Cheriatt Jose

KARNATAKA

YCS/YSM SHIMOGA YCS Village Exposure Camp

YCS/YSM is a student movement which functions on the methodology of Awareness, Reflection, Action and Evaluation (See-Judge-Act-Evaluate). Awareness is a window to any

Search

knowledge and this knowledge with reflection leads us to pro active action. An action result of attitudinal change becomes an instrument or a change agent of oneself and others.



Village Exposure Camp is a unique programme specially designed for young students to experience realities of life in an atmosphere of village set up. Unlike any other movements of students, YCS/YSM does not stop at doing rather it takes them beyond work and gives them an opportunity to reflect through cell meetings and thorough evaluation to go deeper into oneself for an attitudinal change which we call becoming. Village exposure is not a voluntary service to do something in a village to help people but rather through working in a village being aware of the realities of life and oneself so as to harness the experiences to be deeply human.

There were 118 students who participated actively in the village exposure programme. The students were arranged to stay in Hindu, Muslim and Christian homes. They worked



in their farms, kitchens and fields. All the students had an opportunity to work in the cow sheds. The villagers joined hands for a voluntary work cleaning the water canal leading them to an awareness of cleanliness and dignity of labor to the students. Cultural evening brought them into awareness of their own capabilities and talents.

Orientation, organization and outreach was the hallmark of the programme to equip the students for a better tomorrow. There were various input sessions on the topics like Panchayathraj System, Rights of Children and awareness of law, *Laudato Si* (A Document of Church on Environment) and Review of Life to reflect on the realities of life. After every work session there was an evaluation. Taize prayer, Holy Mass and Inter religious prayers helped the students to be bonded to the divine.

- Fr. Ronald Veigas

NORTH EAST

YCS/YSM Shillong Archdiocese DEXCO Election

A total number of Fifty-two students, representing twenty-one units, came together at St. Edmund School, Shillong to elect the DEXCO President, Secretary and Treasurer for YCS/YSM Shillong Archdiocese. At the same time the plan for the preparation of the commitment day was finalized which is to be held on 19th April, 2018.



The meeting began with the celebration of the holy Eucharist by Fr Jairo CMI. Later



Mr Edward Thama the former NEXCO member of YCS/YSM along with Jimmy the former President of YCS/YSM India and Hakka Cogmai the present REXCO President familiarized the students with the structure and functioning of YCS/YSM. They explained the importance of having a good structure to carry out the functions of YCS/YSM smoothly. In addition to this we had the student representatives elect the DEXCO president, Secretary and Treasurer for a period of one year. Ms. Anne Romania was elected as the president, Mr. Rivian was elected as the secretary and Mr. Donovan was elected as the Treasurer, the elected members are thus expected to take the oath on the Commitment Day.

Laithumkrah, 15th March 2018:- the YCS/YSM Coordinators of Shillong Unit, consisting Bro Cheriatt Jose, Julian Predeep and Lukas N, organized the biannual Animators meet. The 28 animators who were present represented the 21 schools of the YCS/YSM in the Archdiocese of Shillong. The meeting began at 3:15 with a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide the YCS/YSM movement. The agenda was:

1. Detailed planning for Retreat and Commitment day
2. YouGo (Youth & Gospel-Talent Competition) 2018: Theme Old Testament

Search



3. Presentation of the yearly expense
4. Mode of communication
5. The role of alumni in YCS/YSM Shillong
6. Date for the Animators' Training Programme -2018
7. Regular Cell movement in the school
8. Yearly Plan for YCS/YSM Animation
9. Presentation of Zonal division

Since the retreat and the commitment were the priority agenda of the meeting the Coordinating team spent most of the time for planning in detail both retreat and the commitment day. The retreat that is to be held, from 28th to 31 March, would have hundred and sixty participants. Since the

students will have classes on 28th March it was decided to request the principals to give half day for the participants of the retreat. After much discussion it was decided to have the Commitment day on a Thursday as it facilitates both the students and the animators on 12 April. Bro Julian presented the yearly account of the YCS/YSM Shillong Unit, which was already presented during the Principals' meet in the presence of the Archbishop on 10th March. The meeting came to an end with tea and the grace over



the meal was said by Sr. Bibina Noghbak the vice principal of the St. Margaret School.

Bro. Cheriatt Jose SDB,
Coordinator, YCS/YSM Shillong

National Chaplain's Activities

1. 21- 23 February - Regional Council - Eluru
2. 27-28 February - 'The Search' newsletter work in Delhi
3. 2-4 March - ICYM NEXCO live-in Programme - Goa
4. 4 March - Chennai Office work
5. 5-7 March- Seminar for youth by Bible Commission on 'Word of God - Source of Faith'
6. 7-16 March- iCAFE in Bangkok. Chaplains and Animators Exchange
7. 22 March- 1 April - Holy Week in Delhi
8. 26 March- Lucknow to meet UFS provincial regarding National Coordinator
9. 2-6 April - Pastoral Theology Course for St. Ann's Sisters in Varanasi
10. 9 April - Meeting with Cahirman bishop - Jalandhar
11. 15-18 April - Village Exposure Programme in Shimoga diocese
12. 22-24 April- Office work and The Search newsletter work in Bangalore

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. 29 July - 7 August 2018 - Asian Session and Council (ASC) Taiwan
5. 12 August - National Youth Sunday
6. July-August 2019 - IYCS World Council in Nigeria

**Most Rev. Abraham Virathukulangara
1943 - 2018**

(First Chairman Bishop of the National Youth Commission)

Archbishop Abraham Virathukulangara, age 75, entered into glory on Thursday, April 19, 2018. He was born on 5 June 1943 in Kerala, India. After all his Philosophy, Theology and secular studies, Seminary training, Regency experience he was ordained a Priest on 28 October, 1969 and began serving as parish Priest and District Superior of Sendhwa Parish of Kargon, MP.



At the age of 34 he was consecrated as Bishop on 13 July 1977. After 21 years as Bishop of Khandwa on 22 April, 1998 he took charge as Archbishop of Nagpur. He was a very affable and warm person and a father figure to the entire community especially young and children. During his two decade service in Khandwa, he helped the christians bond with their Hindu and Muslim neighbours. He was a very dynamic person who could mix with youth and children with ease.

The YCS/YSM Movement of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India gratefully remembers his service towards the youth as the first National Chairman of the Commission.

We deeply appreciate the leadership, friendship and support the Commission received from Archbishop Abraham for the last several years.

May his soul rest in peace!

YCS/YSM INDIA



**Fr. Dumpala Bala
RYD, Telugu**

**We are grateful to you for your
services to YCS/YSM
THANK YOU**



**Sr. Regina Mareem
RYD, North East**

A warm welcome to YCS/YSM family



**Fr. Maria Powlish
RYD, North**



**Sr. Lidwin UFS
National Coordinator**



**Sr. Bernadeth
RYD, North East**



**Fr. S. Praveen
RYD-Telugu**

YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



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
Ph : 044 - 24641737, e-mail : ycesysmindia@gmail.com; website : www.ycesysmindia.com

For private circulation only