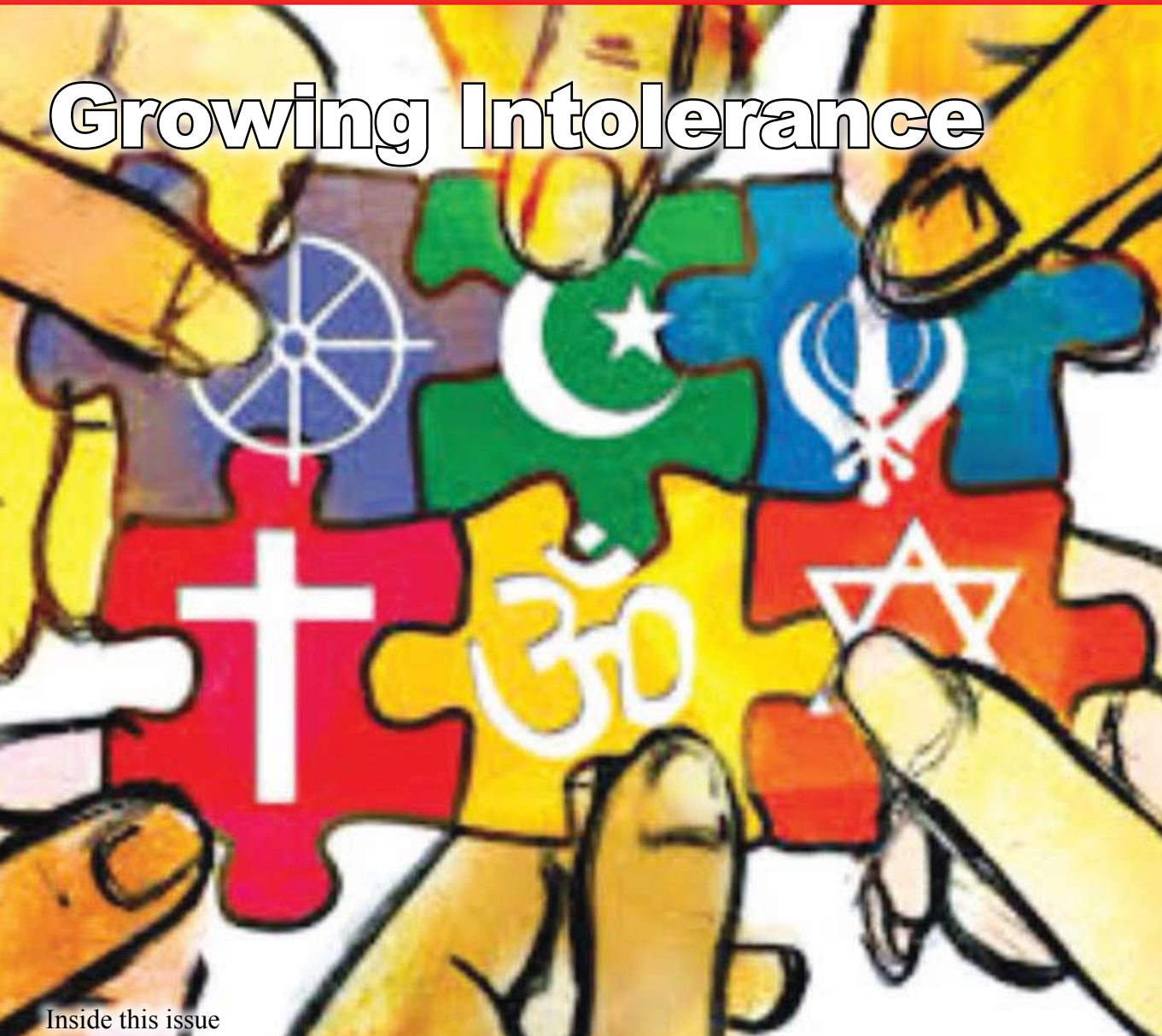


The October - December 2015
Search
YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 35

Vol: 5

Growing Intolerance



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Chaplain 19
Fr. Charles Menezes



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Alumni Meet 14
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YCS/YSM IS A LEARNING PROCESS



My Dear YCS/YSMer

Greetings to everyone. I know you all are busy in your studies and preparing for YCS/YSM Golden Jubilee celebration in your Diocese and in your Region. Every individual has a thirst to learn something or the other from birth to the end. We learn many things which are necessary for our personality development and the basic necessities for our living.

Adolescent period is usually a turning point in everyone's life, because it is a period of decision making and this is what makes us confused at many situations. Our YCS/YSM movement teaches us values for life, the way to deal with others, to overcome our anxieties, to strength our personality, to think rationally and to deal effectively with our environment. YCS/YSM movement is a movement which provides us a platform to learn and enhance our leadership quality, stay together, share our thoughts ,views, experiences in times of both sadness and joy. In our world no one is perfect but learning is the only thing each individual has to do in his entire life.

Our inspiration, Cardinal Joseph Cardijn said that "we are in the beginning, at the beginning and we are just at the beginning.

We all are eagerly waiting for the Golden jubilee of YCS/YSM INDIA and we feel proud to be part of this but what is sad is that the enthusiasm which lasted in the earlier years is declining because of the development of technology as everything seems to be on our fingertips. This is the only movement which works on the student problems by creating awareness helping us to be in touch with humanity though technology gives us a tough competition.

Building a new society God's Kingdom can be achieved only when the thoughts of young mind change and when the each individual changes himself. The oldest philosophy says that 'past governs the present but present cannot govern the past'. So we need to make use of what is present in our hands now.

The newsletter SEARCH is the face of our YCS/YSM Movement. With great efforts YCS/YSM National office publishes issues once in every two months. I request all the DEXCO and REXCO members to see that every student gets their own copy. Please do the needful.

On behalf of YCS/YSM India I wish you all YSM students a season of festivals and wishing others enjoyable holidays. ❖

Long live YCS/YSM
Roshan Melwyn Lobo

INTOLERANCE

“THE WORLD SUFFERS A LOT. NOT BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE OF BAD PEOPLE, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SILENCE OF GOOD PEOPLE!”



Undoubtedly India has been the cradle of religious pluralism for centuries. India is probably the only country in the world which brings together different religions, castes, creeds, cultures, languages, which coexist peacefully. This is primarily due to the tolerance shown by the Hindus to people professing other faiths. All of a sudden things have changed. We hear about religious intolerance. Some fringe elements have become moral guardians of this beautiful country of Budha and Gandhi. Several recent events can be viewed as a direct assault on the secular character of our country.

The ‘ban on the sale of beef’ by Haryana and Maharashtra government (now many other states) is an encroachment of people’s choice of what they should/shouldn’t eat. As someone rightly said, the cow has become a Hindu and Goat has become Muslim in India! There was an incident related to the warning issued by few Hindu nationalist leaders, and political parties in Tamil Nadu, to the well-known Tamil film hero Rajnikanth against accepting the role of Tipu Sultan, as these groups feel that Hindus were persecuted during his rule. At the moment there is a big debate going on in Karnataka. A few have lost their lives during the protests.

More than forty writers, poets and essayists have returned their literary prizes in protest against the rising intolerance in the country. What started as a protest against the killing of Kalburgi has turned into the most widespread collective revolt by the literary and liberal sections of the country against the Modi government. This has been compounded by the failure of the government to condemn the lynching of the Muslim man in Dadri on the outskirts of Delhi over the issue of beef-eating few weeks ago.

A few other incidents which are disturbing.

From the ban on Leslee Udwin’s documentary about the Nirbhaya rape case to the ban of publishing certain books, many people are questioning the concept of democracy.

An Indian activist, Sudheendra Kulkarni was violently doused in ink in an attack by a stridently right-wing Hindu party. They were upset with him inviting over a former minister from India’s traditional enemy, Pakistan.



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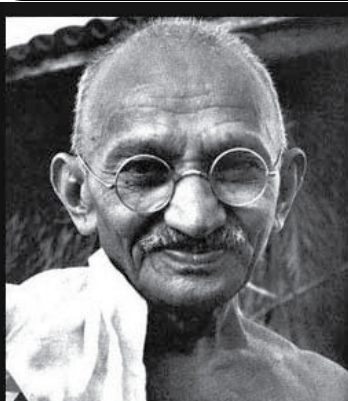
What is happening in Paris, France is shocking and another incident of intolerance. What goes on in our minds when we hear such incidents? Before that, to be aware we need to read newspaper and watch news! And reflect on what is happening to our society? Why is it growing intolerant? We may not have an answer because so far we are not affected! But that is not the right attitude. If I have closed my eyes, ears and my mouth, indirectly I am responsible for this intolerance. ***Today the world is suffering a lot not because of the violence of a few bad people, but because of the silence of good people***". How many are spreading violence and intolerance in India? It's a small minority ! How many are spreading violence in Syria and other African countries? A very negligible group when we consider the vast majority.

Dear young students, education should make us free people. One of liturgical hymn has the most proper lyrics,: " The world stands in need of liberation my Lord, ... there are those who have eyes but refuse to see...." Let us not become like those who have eyes but refuse to see, those who have mouth, refuse to speak and those who have ears, refuse to hear. We need to raise our voices when we see injustice. We may face challenges while doing this. This work is prophetic. Many prophets in the Old testaments spoke against the powers when they saw injustice. In our own time we see a lot of people doing this. One of the best example for us is Yousufzai Malala. Lets open our eyes and see the reality and act. Now is the time.



Proverbs 10:11-16

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.
Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,
but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense.
The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.
The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
The wages of the righteous is life, but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.



Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.

(Mahatma Gandhi)

YCS/YSM National level Golden Jubilee Celebration 16th January 2016 - New Delhi

Invitees: All the former National Directors and Coordinators; CBCI Youth Council Chairman; Regional Chairman Bishops; Former Chairman Bishops; Bishops from Tamilnadu; CCBI and CBCI Youth Secretary; Former NEXCOs; EX YCS/YSM ers; YCS/YSM members from neighbouring schools;

Programme:

- Golden Jubilee Mass/ Inter religious prayer service
- Inauguration – Archbishop of Delhi; Most Rev. Henry D’Souza – Chairman of CBCI Youth Council; YCS/YSM National Director; President/Secretary/Treasurer and present NTA/EXCO;
- Presenting LOGO and Prayer
- Key Note Address – former National Chaplain and others
- Presentation – a Tableau or Skit and a cultural programme.
- Honouring: Former National Chaplains and Coordinators, Former Presidents and Present NEXCO; Chairmen Bishops and other Bishops;
- Releasing: Documentary on YCS/YSM – History, growth & development;
- Documentary on adolescent issues
- Book on Witnesses/Testimonies
- Commitment – Oath taking and YCS/YSM anthem
- Agape

Activities of National Director

1. NTA EXCO meeting and handing over at Chennai from 4-6 September
2. Visited Hyderabad on 10 September.
3. Northern Regional Youth Convention from 2-4 October in Chandigarh.
4. NSLTP, Bhopal from 15-19 October.
5. Delhi Archdiocesan youth ministry work 11th Oct and 24 October
5. NSLTP, Kolkata from 25-30 October.
6. Milan, Delhi Archdiocesan youth fest from 31 oct- 1 November
7. YCS/YSM Alumni meet at Bajjodi, Magalore from 6-9 November
8. Office work at Chennai on 9 November
9. CCBI conference at Sewa Kendra, Kolkata 11-13 November
10. Search work in Delhi 15-20 November.

Forthcoming programs

1. YCS/YSM Golden Jubilee on 16th Jan 2016
2. 7th NTA/EXCO meeting at Delhi on 15-17 Jan 2016
3. 17th National Convention at Sattal in May 2016

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

25-30 October 2015, KOLKATA

A National Students Leadership Training Camp was organized by YCS Kolkata from the 26th of October to the 30th of October, 2015 at St. Anthony's High School, Market Street. There were participants from both Kolkata as well as North-East India for the 5 days of the camp. The event was also blessed by the presence of Father Chetan Machado, the national chaplain of YCS/YSM India. The camp included various sessions, group dynamics, exposure visits and outdoor activities, which were organized and planned by the Diocesan Executive Committee of YCS Kolkata. All the activities in the camp showed a foresight to the methodology of YCS/YSM i.e. See, Judge and Act. The first day witnessed an orientation by Father Chetan, where he introduced the YCSer's to the basics of the movement. This also included a quiz among all the participants which made them test their knowledge about the movement. Mass was celebrated on a daily basis. A session was taken by Mr. E.N. D'Cruze who spoke on the Culture of Life and the Culture of Death. He also highlighted the reasons as to why the catholic children of the present society are supporting the wrong doings rather than fighting against it.



On the second day, Ms. Angelus Mondol held a session on Social Analysis and Relationships. Participants were divided into four groups and were taken to Shishu Bhavan and St. Joseph's Old Age Home as a part of their Exposure Visit. There was also a group discussion and a presentation by each group in view of the methodology- See, Judge and Act, basing their presentation on the exposure visit to Shishu Bhavan and St. Joseph's Old Age Home. This brought the participants to the reality of life and the hardships faced by the old and young homeless people.

The third day had Mr. Sunit Justin Kujur, talk about Adolescent Psychology, where he stressed upon the fact that all of us are growing and are no longer children. He emphasized that all of us should behave matured and not fall back on others with our problems; and that if we needed help, God is always there to answer our questions and help fight our desires. Another session was taken by Mr. Gaurav Ray, who spoke on Religious Plurality. Mr. Ray, though being a Brahmin, has a strong belief in Christ and his real life examples and proofs from the Rig Veda, the Guru Granth, and the Quran kept the participants indulged in respect and brotherhood among all religions.



There was also a Workshop after the session where present social issues were discussed among the four groups.

The forth day had Mr. Amit Runda and his team, take a session on Witness to Life- Mission vs Ambition. In this session, a real life situation was given to each group and they had to follow the review of life to deal with the situation. This practice of the methodology, gave an insight into solution to every problem faced by teens in the present society. The Camp also had Mr. Frank Felix giving his views and highlighting a few important sections of the Constitution followed by YCS/YSM India, after which, an orientation was taken by all the animators present for the camp who gave their view and what they expect of the Young Christian Student's within the movement. There was also a bourne fire organized, which gave the participants some time to reflect back on the past few days. This also included a few games and camp fire dance where the participants got more familiar with each other.



The last day of the camp was blessed by the presence of his grace, Archbishop Thomas D'souza , Archdiocese of Kolkata, who celebrated mass for all the YCSer's. Two participants shared their view of what they learnt during the camp. The concluding programme for the camp included a few words by his grace and also all the other fathers and animators present. With this the camp had come to an end and the participants from the North-East were then taken for a tour in Kolkata, where they got to see Princep Ghat, Victoria Memorial, Mother's House, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Indian Museum.

- Angus Dion Makhal, YCS Kolkata DEXCO Secretary.



Extraordinary NTA/EXCO Meeting

Date: 5-6 Sept 2015

Venue: Pastoral Centre, Santhome, Chennai
The 6th NTA/EXCO meeting was held at Santhome, Chennai on 5th and 6th September 2015. The meeting began with an inaugural mass offered by Fr. Charles. After lunch the program began with a prayer followed by Bible reading by Miss. Angela (National EXCO Bijhan region).

Jimmy Pdang the National President



welcomed everyone for the 6th NTA/EXCO extra-ordinary meeting, followed by which, the report of the last National meeting was read by Ms Sharon (National Secretary). The agenda was read out and it was passed by Mr. Kevin Lee (National EXCO of WB region) to which Ms Rosalia (National EXCO of Karnataka region) seconded it. The report of the 5th NTA/EXCO meeting was read by Ms Sharon, the report was accepted by all and Fr. Alex (RYD of MP region) passed it to which Ebin Navis (National EXCO of TN region) seconded it.

Decisions were taken on two NSLTPs which were to be held in the month of October. For Hindi speaking (AP, Northern Region, UP, MP, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand) regions in AICUF Bhawan, Bhopal from 16th-19th October 2015 and English speaking in St. Anthony's School, Kolkata from 26th-30th of October

2015. The council also finalised the number of participants in which 12 students delegates, RYD and 2 Animators from each region can participate.

Followed by this golden jubilee celebration (January 16, 2016) was planned according to the preparatory document which was discussed and clarified in the previous NTA/EXCO meeting held in Goa. It was decided to have as one day National Celebration on January 16, 2016. It was also decided to celebrate in the regional level (22nd/29th Nov, 2015) at all regions as well as in the diocesan level (10th Jan, 2016). Fr. Varghese (DYD of Chennai), Fr. Marianus (RYD of TN) had taken up full charge for the celebration at the National level. The Venue of the Golden Jubilee celebration St. Bedes School, Santhome. The expected number of students is 600, and Fr. Chetan will send invitation letter to RYD's (copy to DYD) and to all the chairman bishop within 15 days, Fr. Chetan informed that he is getting ready with the logo and prayer which will be printed soon. Fr. Charles requested the hosting region to prepare cultural programme.

A documentary on adolescent issues will be prepared by the National Office and a book on 50 testimonies which symbolizes 50 years of YCS/YSM will also be prepared by the National office. The program will start with the Holy Eucharist at 8:00am at Santhome



Cathedral, followed by breakfast An inter-religious prayer at 10:00am, Fr. Varghese suggested to extend the program till evening



for cultural program. Invitees like Former National Directors, Coordinators, CBCI youth council chairman, Former and present Regional Chairman Bishops, Bishops of TN region, CCBI and CBCI youth secretary, former NEXCO's, EX YCS/YSMers, YCS/YSM neighboring schools was decided in the meeting. The guest of honor for the program would be any IAS or IPS officer from TN region. Fr. Mari suggested to honor the former Regional/Diocesan DYD's and animators. Fr. Charles explained every one that accommodation is only for RYD's, NEXCO's and Former National Chaplain's will be provided.

Karnataka Region put forward their proposal to take the responsibility for inter-religious prayer and was accepted by all. Presenting of the logo and the prayer will be taken up by Fr. Chetan followed by the suggestions of Fr. Charles that key-note address will be given only by one of the former National Chaplains. In the place of presentation a tableau or skit by Chennai group, documentary, regions must send clippings before October and video clipping from all former national directors shall be taken. The NTA/EXCO also decided to honor the former national Chaplain's, former National convener and present NEXCO's. Suggestions to cancel the honoring of 50 students and planting 50 samplings was accepted but Badges of RS: 10 each and Flags will be given to the participants and will be

put to sale. Books on 50 testimonies will also be prepared. NE, TN, Karnataka will have-6 each. MP, MG, AP, WB, UP, Patna, Jharkhand, Northern, Orissa, and Goa- 4 each. The testimonies will be sent to National Office for compilation and present on the Golden Jubilee celebration. Oath taking and YCS/YSM anthem will be done on the celebration day.

There will be the presentation of chart in the way of getting inside the program hall by the hosting region and the food and the ice-cream stalls will be provided. In case any problem with the venue, Santhome Raphael's School will be approached. Venue, guest of honor will be finalized by end of September, Fr. Charles clearly mentioned that TA will be provided only for the former national chaplains. Tentative budgets for the program was also discussed. For the diocesan GJ celebration Northern region will prepare the liturgy. Fr. Charles then bring to our notice that November 13 will be celebrated as IYCS world day.

The Alumni meeting which will be held from 6th-8th Nov, 2015 was also discussed. The venue is confirmed at Pastoral Center, Mangalore and Fr. Charles informed that Fr. Vincent Montero and Mr. James Sylvester will be the moderators of the program. The theme: "BACKS TO THE ROOTS" is taken. It was also decided that membership is open to all EX-YCS/YSM. A committee was formed which included Fr. Charles, Mr. Leo, Mr. Deepak, Ms Jovita and decided that NEXCO's can join the program.



The preparatory document for the National Council was read by Roshan and Angela. Fr. Chetan confirmed the dates and the venue



(16th-22nd May, 2016) at Sattal, Himachal Pradesh. Some of the suggestions and clarifications from the members regarding selection of delegates, that language should not be a barrier and any student belonging to other faith can be a delegate. All the regions were asked to hold regional council before the end of November and elect the NEXCO and sent the names to the national office. The number of participants from every regions remains the same expect for TN which reduce to 24 (17 students, 3 animators and 4 NEXCO's) since officially they have only 17 dioceses. Clarification for the selection of the NEXCO was done and that RYD must take it seriously in selecting future NEXCOs. The schedule of the council study session, guidelines for the regional reports and responsibilities was read as decided in the 5th NTA/EXCO meeting.

The day ended with a prayer.

The second day of the council meeting started with the Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Deepak (Secretary CBCI Office for Youth). During the Mass Fr. Deepak who came on behalf of the chairman bishop conducted the handing over the responsibility to the New National chaplain. After Breakfast, Jimmy Pdang welcomed Fr. Chetan as the new National Chaplain and immediately re-organizing the national office and activities of the movement was discussed, after the discussion Fr. Chetan

informed everyone that National part time coordinator and one person to look after the office at Chennai is required. Fr Charles then informed that there is no project for the office staff so payment would be a problem. Ebin Navis offered to help as a part time office staff from 3pm-6pm, 4 days per week in which he willingly accepted to volunteer the work. The NTA/EXCO then decided to pay for his travel. For national part time coordinator an invitation was already given but the national office didn't receive any response. Fr. Chetan then informed that he had suggested and offered the post to a girl from Delhi. The NEXCO's also decided and promised that they would take the challenge and do justice towards their own responsibilities to expand the movement to college level and other dioceses and promised to send articles, reports, and get subscription for search from each dioceses by mid of November. Soft copy of the search magazine will be sent only to the subscribers.

The co-ordination with the like-minded movement was also discussed and suggestions were proposed to invite representation of others movement to the programs of YCS/YSM movement. Soon after the study session, felicitation and valedictory program to Fr. Charles who was elected as IYCS Chaplain was organized by the NEXCO members. During this session all the NEXCO's came forward and shared their personal feelings and expressed towards Fr. Charles followed by the sharing from RYD's, Animators, Ex-NEXCO's, and DEXCO's of Chennai diocese. Resolutions by the NEXCO's were written in the balloons were busted by Fr. Charles. Fr. Charles in his address thanked everyone who helped him in his ministry, since he took the charge of the movement.

The Program ended with a vote of thanks from Fr. Chetan and with prayer and YCS/YSM clap the meeting concluded. ❖

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

15-18 October 2015, BHOPAL

15th October 2015

YCS/YSM India National Student Leaders Training Programme (Hindi) was organized at Aicuf Ashram, Bhopal from 15 to 18th October 2015. 52 students and 21 animators from five Hindi speaking regions participated in this training programme.

Most of the delegates arrived in the morning. After the registration and breakfast students and animators gathered in the auditorium for the inaugural session. After the prayer service, conducted by Bhopal Diocese, all the animators were invited to light the lamp. Fr. Virendra SJ, National Director of AICUF Ashram was the chief guest and delivered the key note address. He spoke on positive self image, self appreciation, awareness and self control. He also explained the dynamics of the programme. He spoke on the importance of leadership training in the present context where there is intolerance. He cited a few examples of Pope Francis and St. Teresa of Avila. He requested students to benefit from all the deliberations.



After lunch at 2:00 pm Bhopal Diocese conducted some ice breakers and action songs. Then orientation and program dynamics was initiated to them by Fr. Chetan. Fr. Alexander gave instructions and also guided the delegates on YCS/YSM methodology. After this students were divided into six groups where they got a chance to interact with students from different regions.

At 4 o'clock the six groups went for exposure visit to different places to have an awareness of the reality. They went to nearby places. Some visited markets, some went to residential colonies, school campus, public parks, malls etc. Every group was accompanied by at least two animators.

By 6:30pm all groups came back to the venue to prepare the reports and chart of what they saw. At 7:00 pm Fr. Mathew VC, Vicar General of Bhopal Archdiocese celebrated the inaugural mass. During homily, he spoke about authenticity of Christian life. He challenged the students to live a Christian life.

After dinner, everyone shared their vivid experiences. Fr. Alexander animated this session. Questions were raised and the students cleared out everyone's doubt. Students had a very enriching experience. One of the groups even made a small contribution to a poor person on the street. In conclusion Fr. Alex said, we need to keep our eyes open all the time to respond to the needs of the people. Day ended with a birthday celebration followed by night prayer.

16th Nov 2014

The day began with Morning Prayer conducted by the students and animators. Fr. Chetan celebrated the Holy Eucharist. He spoke about the 'CALL' He said, "We are chosen from many and God has given us this opportunity to become a good Christian leader"

After breakfast Fr. Carmel Alexander took a session on ‘respecting life and our body is a temple of God’. Through various activities and motivational videos he explained this topic. He said, “Our body is a gift of God. But when we think that we are the boss of our body we commit sins. We forget the presence of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit”. He concluded saying, ‘after all disappointments, sadness and problems our hope should be in Jesus’



Morning inter-religious prayer was conducted. The day was full of activities. The session on one of the key points of our methodology SEE given by Fr. Alexander Jesudasan was very informative. He made us realize how to be aware of the things around us and the importance of awareness as it enables us to get the idea of the reality around us. Student delegates were able to pin point what they saw during the exposure visit and enlisted the

things in the reality. It is not only to just see with our bare eyes but to become aware of the things we come across in our day today life.

The second session of the day was animated by Fr. Biju T., Secretary to MP Bishops Conference. He spoke about why youth have not reached any big level in our country. He said, we organize a number of programmes, seminars, leaders training, but our youth are still at a very basic level. He challenged the students present to change this system and do well in every field and reach greater heights in their lives. He spoke about leaders who are capable of working with team. He explained five C’s. Character, Commitment, Conviction, Courtesy and Courage.

The afternoon session on different types of leadership, friendship and education of love was informative. This session was taken by Fr. Bala from Indore. He explained about different types of leadership that exists among us and how to come up and express ourselves on various issues. He clarified a lot of issues regarding healthy friendship. He explained the difference between love and friendship.

After tea break in the evening Fr. Alex through inspirational videos explained to the students on how to bring transformation in their lives. Session concluded with a prayer.

After dinner students presented a meaningful cultural programme. Sisters from the nearby Apostolic Carmel convent were present. Sr. Malar AC addressed the students and congratulated them. After this there was group wise evaluation of the day and animator’s meeting. Students watched an inspirational movie before they went to bed.

17th October 2015

Third day of NSLTP began with the Morning Prayer followed by the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Christudhari SJ, Parish Priest of Campion. After breakfast Fr. Maria Stephen explained adolescent psychology. He said that learning is a lifelong process. No one is perfect. He answered a lot of questions on adolescent problems and explained about various ego’s and problems related to this.



Search

Mr. Savio spoke about Religious Plurality. Through a systematic presentation he explained the beauty of living together in religious harmony. He also made the students understand about how at times because of misunderstanding this harmony is lost.

In the afternoon Fr. Chetan spoke about the origin, history and progress of YCS/YSM in India. He explained in details various aspects of YCS spirituality, methodology, Motto, Objectives etc. He asked the students to transform their lives by applying five rules.

Before Lunch REXCO members for the Madhya Pradesh Region was formed in the presence of Fr. Chetan and Fr. Alexander Jesudasan.

In the evening, a movie DHARM based on religiosity and spirituality was shown. This helped the students to understand the difference between religiosity and spirituality. Students must balance religiosity and spirituality together in their lives. Mr. Amit guided the students during this movie show.

After dinner, there was cultural programme. Students got an opportunity to show their talents. After this, there was group sharing and evaluation. Day concluded with another birthday celebration and night prayer.

18th October 2015

The day started with Morning Prayer and Rosary. The Holy Mass was offered by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Leo Cornelio SVD, archbishop of Bhopal. After breakfast His grace interacted with the students for more than one hour which was an inspirational moments. Then Fr. Alexander Jesudasan explained the spirituality of YCS/YSM and explained us where we can find God and that we can see god in the reality. Fr. Alexander explained about the YCS cell and its structure and taught us how to conduct cell meeting. Cell meeting should take place every week or once in 15 days. Then all the animators addressed the students with their experience about witness to leadership. Then we saw a movie named 'do kalakar', which showed us the difference between ambition and mission. We were asked to pen down our ambition in life and how to change this ambition into mission. Then the evaluation took place on the film 'do kalakar'.

We also took part in a cell meeting and grasped the clear knowledge about using the methodology See, Judge and Act. In the evening most of the students took active part in the cultural programme. With the evaluation and a short prayer the day ended with a positive note.

The four days programme came to an end with YCS/YSM Anthem and clap. The participants left the venue with fond memories and a heavy heart. ❖

- Michelle D'Souza



FIRST YCS/YSM INDIA ALUMNI MEETING

YCS/YSM India organized the first ever national alumni meet with the theme “BACK TO THE ROOTS” at Pastoral Institute Shanthi Kiran, Bajjodi from 6th - 8th November, 2015. This meet was inaugurated by Msgr Denis Moras Prabhu, Vicar General, Mangalore Diocese. He celebrated the inaugural Holy Eucharist. The formal program commenced with Msgr. Denis Moras Prabhu, Vicar General, Mangalore diocese as the president along with the other guests Fr. Chetan Machado, YCS/YSM National Chaplain, Fr. Mari Joseph, Regional Director, Fr. Vincent Monteiro, Former Asian Chaplain, Fr. Ronald Dsouza, Diocesan Director of Mangalore, Fr Peter D’Souza, Director Pastoral Institute and Mr. Roshan Lobo, National EXCO. Fr. Mari Joseph in his key note address stressed on the past and present situation of YCS/YSM. Msgr. Denis Moras Prabhu in his presidential address briefed the delegates about the Diocese of Mangalore and its richness. Fr. Chetan Machado welcomed all and Mr. Roshan proposed the vote of thanks. After the inaugural ceremony Ms. Jovita Dsouza, Former National Secretary conducted the ice breaking session. Supper was served at 8 followed by group dynamics. The day concluded by a short prayer by Fr. Mari Joseph.

Day 2

The day began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr Chetan Machado, NYD. After breakfast Former Asian Chaplain Fr. Vincent Monteiro interacted with the delegates in 3 parts with different sessions on History and Evolution, secondly on YCS/YSM Methodology and lastly the Spirituality of the Movement. After lunch panel discussion was organized on the theme ‘Back to the Roots’- today’s situation of the student and youth reality and the movements relevance in the modern world which was moderated by Fr. Chetan Machado, NYD and the panelists were Mr. James Sylvester, Former NEXCO, Mr. Deepak Raj, Former Asian coordinator and Mr. Leo Joseph, National YCS/YSM Coordinator.

After the panel discussion elections for the alumni body was conducted by Fr. Chetan Machado. As the SEE part, the delegates had an exposure to *Panambur beach* and supper at Fr. Vincent Monteiro’s parish.

Day 3

After breakfast at 8, Mr. James Sylvester and Mr. Leo Joseph spoke on the action plan to be continued for the alumni body. After this session concluding mass was celebrated by Fr. Mari Joseph and homily by Fr. Ronald Veigas, DYD of Shimoga.

Before concluding Fr. Chetan Machado thanked all the Directors, Animators and Delegates for being a part of the the First National Alumni Meet.

- Ms Michelle D’Souza



YCS/YSM REGIONAL REPORTS

YCS/YSM Day in Odisha

Odisha Regional YCS/YSM Animation program was held at St. John's School, Sambalpur from 18-20 October 2015 where 500 students, 2 Excos, 1 Ex-exco and 21 Animators from 21 schools of Odisha participated. The theme was "We will build the Nation".



On 18th October evening we began with Holy mass presided over by Fr. Basil Kullu, Education Secretary, Sambalpur Diocese. Then at the inaugural program we had welcome song, giving badges to Animators, self Introduction of Animators, Nexcos, DexcOs and student representatives of different schools. Mr. Bijay Soy OAS, Sambalpur, was the Chief Guest highlighted on student life is a time for building foundation. Then we had schoolwise group song competition and action song competition.

On 19th October we started with morning prayer and Holy Mass. Bishop Niranjan Sualsing, Chairman Bishop of YCS/YSM Odisha Region, was the main celebrant invoked the students to arise and wake up for leadership in the Church. After breakfast we had a session on YCS/YSM where Fr. Valerian Dungdung explained what is YCS/YSM, its aims and objectives, Fr. Ranjit explained structure and methodology, Fr. Rajendra Kujur explained the characteristics and Sr. Birajini HM explained why YCS/YSM for Teenagers. Then we had cell meeting on the topic 'Developing good study habits' which followed the reporting session. In the afternoon we had schoolwise speech competition on the topic 'If I were the principal of the School'. Then Fr. Ajay Sabhasundar, professor KJM Sason gave a session on "How to succeed in Life." In the evening we had guided meditation. Then there was Tribal dance competition where the students put up dances of their own culture. Mr. Linus Kujur Rtd. OAS was the chief guest. He spoke to students to keep up their culture. The Elites of Sambalpur were invitees to this.

On 20th October day began with morning prayer and Holy Mass where Fr. Sebastian Xalxo SVD was the main celebrant. He encouraged students to make best use of their opportunities and talents. After



breakfast Fr. Bartholomy Bilung, VG and professor, KJM Sason gave the session on 'How to build the Nation as a student'.



Then we had cell meeting on the topic 'De alcoholic awareness among students' followed by reporting. Then we had inter-religious prayer for peace. After lunch keeping the motto 'let us enjoy our Tribal richness' we had schoolwise Tribal Fancy Dress competition, Tribal proverbial saying competition and Nayo Geet (Tribal Marriage Song) competition. In the evening we had Rosary followed by National Cultural Dance competition. Local Priests, Religious, Minor seminarians and candidates were invitees. Fr. Anil Xalxo, PP of Sambalpur was the chief guest. He encouraged the students as they are the hope of the nation. Then we had evaluation of the program followed by prize distribution and YCS/YSM Anthem.

The Animation program gave the students an experience of cell meeting in *see-judge-act* methodology to continue in units. It created in them love for their own culture. It helped them to realize how to be instrumental in building the Nation and succeed in life. It was a platform for personality development through Inter-Dioecese meet. It gave a boost to YCS/YSM in Odisha to move forward more enthusiastically in the days to come.



- Arman Lakra and Amialata Tigga
Exco Odisha,

LIVE-IN-program : Shimoga

A two day Live-in-program was organized for the newly elected members of central council, the DTS of Shimoga. The program was uniquely designed as to know each of the council members closely. A lot of group dynamics, ice breakers and action songs were taught. The council members were led to understand the methodology of the YCS/YSM (SEE-ACT-JUDGE) more intently. The students were sent to the market place to see and to be aware of the realities of life. There was a input session to analyze and reflect over the reality and the students were allowed to be action oriented spontaneously.



Different lesson plans were distributed to the members and were taught to conduct sessions. Observation and critical analysis was made to help the students to be more effective. ❖

YCS/YSM : ELURU - BRIEF REPORT

Dear Respected Rev. Fr. Charles Mnezes,
At the outset my heartfelt congratulations to you because you became the Chaplain of IYCS. You are always assured of our prayers. We know that you are in preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the existence of the YCS/YSM movements in our country. We wish you all success. God will bless your new

assignment and he will show his profound love on you.

Your inspirational sessions during our meeting made me more enthusiastic to work with the youth and guide them in such a good manner. I really happy to know all the aspects of youth developmental activities and we will follow as you explained during our meeting. I am very much delighted to say that His Excellency Most Rev. Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera, the Bishop of Eluru has great desire and enthusiasm towards the YCS/YSM programs in our whole diocese. He is encouraging us a lot to visit all the schools and hostels in our diocese and have interaction with the youth. We are also having so much interest to conduct meetings in the schools and hostels.

Based on these we visited 12 Schools and 12 Hostels. We had an interaction with each boy and girls without leaving anybody. We came to know that they are so much interested on like this interactions and meetings also. We explained about the YCS/YSM movement for the youth and arranged group discussion for them.

Before that we arranged small groups to discuss on the present issues of youth. And also gave them topics on the aims, objectives, history Group dynamics, Cell meeting. The cell and methodology of YCS/YSM explained on many aspects and happenings in the society from all we could draw a simple conclusion that always SEE beyond the boundaries, JUDGE accordingly with the help of scriptures and values, and finally the ACTION to take on.

This year we have visited 12 school and 12 hostels. They were all very receptive. So it was easy for us to divide them into groups as they felt free in small groups. They felt free in small groups. They shared their aspirations,

feelings, problems, sorrows, joys and their personal experiences.

They told us that they liked to have these gatherings so that they can have a value based future. They are able to lead a better life and they could guide their friends too. Really it is so good for the youth to arrange meetings in the schools as well as hostels. They never had like this chance.

All the Parish Priests, Head Masters and Hostel Wardens are happy for these meetings and interaction with the youth in their presence. They requested us to arrange like this sessions at least once in four months. We assured them that we will try to cover at least once in six months. All the youth are very enthusiasm to attend like this group meetings and have discussion on their future plans with others.

We are furnishing herewith the details of where we visited the schools and hostels for your kind perusal.

- Sr. Celitta, coordinator, YCS/YSM team

| Sl. | Name of the Parish | Name of the School & Hostel |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Allipalli | Allipalli Mary Matha School |
| 2 | Anthonynagar | St. Anthony's School |
| 3 | Pedapadu | St. Augustine School |
| 4 | Amalodbhavi | Amalodbhavi School |
| 5 | Dharmajigudem | Holy Trinity School |
| 6 | Chebole | Carmel School |
| 7 | Tangellamudi | J.M.J. school |
| 8 | Chintalapudi | SMI School |
| 9 | Ashok Nagar | Amalodbhavi School |
| 10 | Vangayagudem | Good News School |
| 11 | Eluru | St. Theresa's Degree College |
| 12 | Nirmalagiri | Nirmala Hrudaya Jr. College |

YCS/YSM REGIONAL REPORTS

YCS Shimoga at - UDUPI

YCS/YSM Students of Shimoga in the Regional Convention held at Udupi. The diocese of Shimoga had 76 delegates and 5 animators participated in this convention. In these days convention for about 650 students from all over Karnataka and also NEXCO members participated in this historic event. This convention was called to commemorate the 50th jubilee year of YCS/YSM in India. There were more than 1500 students participated in a rally organized on the last day of the convention. The delegated



discussed and deliberated on various topics keeping thrust “Students Education in Modern Era”. They also submitted a memorandum concerning issues of Students Education to the Government of Karnataka and to the various allied departments of Education ❖

Report: Yuvamitra, Shimoga

YCS Orientation - SHIMOGA

YCS orientation in St. Anthony’s Church at Karehalli

The YCS unit of Karehalli Church had an orientation and training program on 31.10.2015. The diocesan Youth Director Fr. Ronald Veigas was the resource person. The parish priest Fr. Anthony Peter in his welcome speech and introductory talk appealed the students to participate actively and benefit fully from the training program. The resource person conducted group dynamics and ice breakers. The participants



were trained to conduct cell meetings and unit meetings ❖

- Smitha

Jamboree - YCS - DELHI

3rd August 2015 was the day for an awesome event to be held. It was “Jamboree”. The first event held in Delhi diocese for ycs/ysm at st. Michael school. The initiative was taken by the Delhi ICYM west zone youth. In the morning, at 9:00 am the registrations began and the participants were distributed into different groups by the volunteers. The event started with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Ajit Kerketta and Fr. Charles Menezes (ycs/ysm international chaplain) Fr. Chetan Machado (ycs/ysm national chaplain) presented the diocesan team in front of the ycs’rs. At the end an energetic DJ session was held followed up by a very beautiful group photograph. In the evening all of us went back with many memories, many friends, many fun moments and lots of enthusiasm for ycs/ysm.

Report: Anita Bara

PROFILE

FR. CHARLES MENEZES CHAPLAIN

International Young Christian Students (IYCS)
PARIS, FRANCE

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS



Search

Fr Charles Menezes has been appointed the international director for IYCS – JECI (International Young Catholic Students) with effective from July 24, 2015 for the year 2015 – 2019.

Fr Charles Menezes was born on October 18, 1963 as the third among five children of the late Louis and Mary Menezes of Moodubelle. He had his higher primary and high school education in the Church aided Higher Primary and St Lawrence High School respectively. Charles continued his PUC education at the Poorna Prajna College, Udupi.

After being ordained a priest, Fr Charles Menezes was appointed as the assistant parish priest at Agrar for two years. Later, he was transferred to Cordel (Kulshekar) parish where he worked for four years and thereafter at Vittal for one year before being appointed as the assistant director of the YCS/YSM for the Mangalore diocese in 1997.

As the work of organising and galvanizing the youth through YCS was noticed and appreciated by the authorities concerned, Fr Charles was assigned the full charge of both YCS and YSM, a responsibility that he carried forward with dedication and ability till 2005.

By the time he completed the term as the assistant director in 2005, the YCS was extended to 108 parishes which presently covers 136 parishes.

In 2005, Fr Charles was transferred to the Nirmarga parish as the parish priest where he served for five years with great dedication before being appointed as the YCS/YSM national director during the 15th National Council of YCS/YSM held in Mangaluru from May 14 to 20, 2010. As a National Chaplain he worked hard to expand the movement in many other dioceses. A man whose never say die attitude has made him a very successful person, especially with the student community. Fr Charles is presently stationed at the international office of IYCS at Paris, France.

“He
Trained
me
how to
Receive
Failures”



Search



After spending several thoughtful days to discover the facts of who is he to me apart from considering him as a father, a teacher, a brother and a friend who was always there with us in the past two years, I reached the stage of reflection, comparing my life now with my childhood life with a laughter song of my own. Suddenly i began to realize that somehow, in my childhood i was trained to get the first position always, to be the best and stand at the top position in every sphere and activity that i was into. The world of competitions taught me not to allow anybody

to overcome me in the real life and that is success for me. Consistently, the same motive that i had, force my intentions to contest the post of the National Convener for YCS YSM India without the second thoughts about the outcomes that may arise in the future. But when it comes to these two and half years as a leader, NEXCO and as a National President, my life turns completely from the latter thoughts. The real problems and struggles of life as well as the difficulties to execute my responsibilities as a leader directly faced me in every hours of my life and began to fail several times in many spheres. But there comes a man whom i see as a role model and deeply in love with YCS YSM. His humility, simplicity, sincerity, teachings, suggestions and his simplification of the difficult situations which i am trying to develop within me change the entire role in the history of my life. I began to learn many things from him, copying his character in mine. I've committed many mistakes and failures in five NTA/NEXCO meetings and in everyday. In my life i was trained not to commit mistakes, not to fail, then Is it not right that i should quit??? Am i not ashamed of myself???.... NO, i didn't quit.... why? The reason was at the time these mistakes happened, these failures come, and he was always there to help us. Most interesting reason was unlike the childhood teachings that i'd received, he taught me and trained me how to receive failures in my life, how to accept mistakes and learn from them as a step of progressive to the next stage of development and steps towards the ladder of success. Therefore i am proud to meet him, be with him, work with him, share with him in the very short scene of the story of the unexpected journey of my life. He is, Father Charles Menezes is the greatest Hero and will continue to be the greatest admirable person in my life. I wish him the very success in his journey as the current IYCS Chaplain and every steps of his life.



Thank You Fr. Charles
JIMMY PDANG

Thank
You Fr. Charles



for leading our Movement to greater heights, it was something special to share with you some great moments in the National Office. I am grateful to you since it is of your care and concern that made me who I am today. Wishes on your greatest Mission of leading the International YCS to greater heights. - *Kamal Francis, Alumni, YCS YSM Chennai*

“Fr. Charles - The Engineer of Youth”



There was a time when I didn't know what YCS YSM is, I didn't know about myself, didn't have any idea about my life and the sole moment with my encounter with YCS decorated my life. It is then the bond of mine and Fr. Charles through our DYD strengthened. He was somewhere known to my parents and I had met him before. The face always has a broad smile, positive words and his hard work stood clear through his action. A humble man with no mincing words and it occurred to me later that he is our National Chaplain. That shook me further more that how can a man with the highest post can be as simple as him, I remember the day he had come to my house with his national team. I could vouch and say he is the “Engineer of Youth”. Just a hand shake and smile makes him to observe a person to draw his or her judgment. It is not easily possible. He welcomes every youth in the unbiased tone



and which is very attractive to any young person. Fr. Charles is now the International Chaplain. Nevertheless he has the same approach and the same greet. He has always remained as my inspiration. I have so many things put up but whatever he is or wherever he is, it is which he had deserved. My prayer would always highlight his hardships for youth. He is working for us and we as the youth of India always remember him as our National Chaplain.

- *Viola Reona Mendonca, Alumni, YCS YSM Udupi Diocese*



My Experience!

I still couldn't believe that I was there at the First Ever YCS YSM Alumni Meet. Though it was a small gathering it was a special feeling to give it back to the one which formed me to be the best of what I am today. Reviving back the Methodology was a refreshment made within my system that made me to understand how different life has been way back from my student days to my present work-life, and an opportunity to relish the golden memories of former National Chaplain Fr. Vincent Monteiro made me understand that today's YCS YSM is not active and that there is a lot more moral support that is required as an Alumni. I am grateful to National YCS YSM for taking a great step in leading towards this seed forward to build a greater kingdom.



Thank You YCS YSM!

Let YCS YSM Light Shine

Kamal Francis, Alumni YCS YSM Chennai

Search

These are few words about someone that I am proud to call as my mentor. Yes! He is Rev. Fr. Charles Menezes, who leads by example. He was the Potter and I was like that clay just a lump of earth, without any form, shape, image, value and so on. And he was the one who mould me with his own hands and turned me into an object of design and purpose. I am grateful to this Potter for whom I am today. Thank you father. If the world had more people like you, it would be a better place. You do make a difference..

-Rosalia ,Exco, Karnataka

I really had a very auspicious time while working with him, such an inspiring character. His hard work for YCS which encourages everyone and gives them extraordinary energy . I seriously love being with him, no one else can replace him in his hardworking nature.

- SHYAM EXCO TAMILNADU

Hi Fr Charles, congratulations!. It brings in deed honour and pleasure for us to have iycs chaplain from our country .. U have made India to know the existence and relevance of ycsysm. I am sure ul spread the ycsysm to many more countries. Thanks Fr your all support to me and to all the YCS YSM students.

Jovita

**Former National Secretary
Karnataka**

**Alice Anthony, Former
NEXCO, Nagpur**

Hello to describe father Charles words are less to express him.... but still to me father is my friend, guide, counsellor, supportive n energy giving person. He is a parent to me n a family. 'Father is like an artist colouring the life of teenagers.....' Thank u Fr.Charles for changing us all and appreciating us and for being there with us always.. Best wishes to you..

His name itself describes him

C- Cheerful

H- Hardworking

A- Adorable

R- Responsible

L- Loving

E- Enthusiastic

S- Sharp/simple

Dear Fr Charles,

You are one of the most amazing persons I have ever met. God has blessed you with great will power and courage. Your hard work, dedication, patience and positive attitude has inspired me a lot and always will. You truly are the backbone of YCS YSM India. You have always taught us to look at the bright side of everything. Thank you Father for being so strong and firm. You have always been a wonderful teacher and friend. Thank you for believing in us and for treating us as your family member. May God bless you and all the best for your future. Thank you for your selfless love. We love you father and we miss you.

Angela,Nexco ,Bijhan Region

A person with simplicity friendly with youth guide to all creative & hardworking.

- TEENA

Alumni - Udupi diocese

FIRST KARNATAKA REGIONAL CONVENTION IN UDUPI

Udupi, 20 Oct 2015: Three days Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM Convention inaugurated at St. Mary's English Medium School, Kannarpady, Udupi with the theme of Students' Educational in Modern Era on Sunday, 18th October 2015 which organized by KRCBC – Youth Commission and hosted by Diocese of Udupi. The Eucharistic mass concelebrated by Bishop Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza with 17 priests including Msgr. Baptist Menezes Vicar General of Udupi Diocese, Rev Fr. Charles Menezes Director International YCS, France, Rev Fr. Deepak Thomas National Youth Director New Delhi, Very Rev Fr. Fredrick Mascarenhas Dean of Udupi Deanery, Rev Fr. Mari Joseph, YCS/YSM Regional Director, Bangalore, Rev Fr. Edwin D'Souza Director of Youths, Udupi Diocese, Rev Fr. Denis D'Sa PRO of Udupi Diocese and others.

During in his homily Msgr. Baptist Menezes thanked God that now the modern era we have plenty of opportunities. Youths should make use of the opportunities and Youths should discover the light in life. The inaugural program started with invocation with welcome dance. Ms. Hazel Martis welcomed the gatherings. Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo inaugurated the convention with unique way by switching lights on the tree.

During the occasion 48th birthday of Rev Fr. Charles Menezes celebrated with cutting birthday cake along with his mother. Later Fr. Charles Menezes spoke during the occasion and said India is the largest members in YCS/YSM after Nizeria of Africa. He clarified the theme of the convention, Students' Education in Modern Era. Ms. Pearl Lopes of Shimoga Secretary proposed vote of thanks. Around 600 YCS/YSM members were participated during the inaugural programmes.

There will be documentations, group discussions and various sessions to be held during three days of convention. On 20th October, brahat rally for students' Rights will be held at 9.30am which will be inaugurated by K. Annamalai SP of Udupi district.

The second day of the YCS/YSM Convention started with the Holy Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Deepak KJ Thomas the NYD. Fr Mari Joseph gave the Homily. He said that we need to be ever-ready to help. The inter-religious prayer was conducted by Fr. Victor DYD Gulbarga. Fr Mari Joseph then introduced sister Margarete . Roshan Lobo NEXCO from Mangalore presented the documentation of YCS/YSM history in the form of a vedio. The documentation showed the activities conducted by the Dioceses of Belgaum , Chikmagaluru , Gulbarga , Shimoga , Mangaluru and Udupi. It even highlighted the present scenario in the present Regional and National Executive committees. Fr Mari Joseph the RYD introduced Mr Francis D'Cunha the headmaster of Padua High School, Mangaluru. Mr Francis D'Cunha conducted the group discussion among the delegates on the theme topic 'Education in Modern Era.

With the guidance of Fr. Charles students from Belguam, Chikmagalur, Udupi, Mangaluru, Shimoga expressed their views in YCS. Mr Leo from Tamil Nadu and Sr Margerett from Bangalore also shared their experience in YCS from the past many years. They told about the inspiration gained from YCS, their capability of facing the audience. They all were grateful towards this life giving movement. Fr. Franklin honoured Mr Leo and Sr Margaret. This was followed by inter religious prayer and supper. A cultural program was presented by all the dioceses. The day ended with a short prayer lead by Fr Mari Joseph.



YCS/YSM ACTIVITIES



YCS/YSM INDIA CELEBRATES

50th
Anniversary

16-01-1966

16-01-2016

**Young Christian Students/Young Students Movement
(An Unit of CBCI Youth Council)**

**YCS/YSM National Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre
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