

The Search

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Vol. 32 Book - 2

YCS/YSM NATIONAL NEWS LETTER

*Trace Back to the Roots...!!!
Enjoy the Fruits...!!!*



HURRY UP!!!

YCS/YSM INDIA INTRODUCING ONCE AGAIN NATIONAL ANIMATORS TRAINING PROGRAM (NATP)

Date : 18th to 24th May 2012,

Place: Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Nadiad, Gujarat.

Registration fees: Rs 1000

Last date to register your names : 30th April 2012.

Venue address: Rev. Fr. Lawrence A.,

Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Nirmal Nagar, Dumral Road

Nadiad, Kheda Dist- 387 002, **Phone:** (0268) 2555677

EMAIL: pcentre@rediffmail.com, frlawrencea@yahoo.com

HOW TO REACH THE VENUE:

From Ahmedabad Airport get a bus to Kalupur Railway Station (auto fare would be around Rs.80) and from there get a train to Nadiad railway station. These places can be reached either by taxi or auto. (To come by Taxi from Ahmedabad to Nadiad would be costly, because it is around 60- 65 kms.)

When you reach Nadiad railway station or Bus Stand take an AUTO and ask for Pastoral Centre, Juna Dumral Road, Behind Indira Nagar Canal, Opp. to Nithyanand Society, Nadiad-2.

It is around 2 km both from Railway Station and Bus Stand.

Auto charge will be either Rs. 20 or 25 during day time and night it will be more. If you need any other help or information please call Fr. Lawrence A.



YCS/YSM ANIMATION HOME

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

Chaplain's Corner



Miss Betty King!!!. A name we have heard many a time.

Yes. She came to India in 1950s and spread YCW and YCS movement in India, especially in Chennai and Bangalore. I had mentioned about this person to the members of YCS/YSM India while introducing history of YCS/YSM of India. I never dreamt of meeting her one day rather thought she was just a history. But this time when I visited Melbourne, Australia on the invitation of Fr. Prakash Cutinha, I came to know about her and was thrilled to meet her. She is helping Fr. Praksh in all his parish activities. Almost every day I met her and one day she drove me to the YCS Chaplain of Melbourne Fr. Michael and helped me meet some members of YCS Melbourne about which I have a detail report in the latter pages. She is just 83 years young and still doing a marvelous job at the parish. Almost all the people in the vicinity know her well. Here is an excerpt of our meeting for you.

An Interview with Betty King of Australia:

Introduction: Ms Betty King is from Australia who visited India in 1957 to spread the YCW Movement and also was instrumental in starting YCS movement in some schools. She worked in India till 1960 and did a marvelous work at an early age and she is graded as one of the pioneer of this movement in India.

Q 1 : You had been to India at a young age, what prompted you to come to India?

It was simple. I was not very young at that time. I was 30 years of age. When I was participating in a YCW programme in Malaysia Fr. Thomas Joseph put forward a request for an extension worker for YCW in India who is able to speak English. I had no plans but could go since I was able to speak in English. I spoke to my Australian Chaplain Fr. Tim and showed my willingness to go to India. He worked for me to have a



work in India to sustain myself and also work for the movement. Indian movement was not able to support me; hence I wanted a work to sustain myself.

When I landed in India as an YCW representative to work as office secretary, Fr. Thomas Joseph arranged for me a job in British Council of Education department in cooperation with Tamilnadu government. My job was to teach English language as a campaign for all Tamil medium teaching teachers and teach them English in modern ways. I worked with Don Smith for two years. My working hours were from 7am to 1pm and then as YCW extension worker.

Nuns at the Presentation Convent who run a school for girls showed interest in YCS and it prompted me to start YCS there. They liked the methodology of the movement See, Judge and Act and the heads of the school supported me. The Parish Priest was the spiritual director.

Q 2 : What was the scenario of YCS Australia when you visited India?

I was a member of YCW in Australia then. We had some guidelines and we wrote some books about it. YCS existed in Australia at that time but it was only for girls. I was also a member of YCS in my school days. It was working very well.

Q 3 : What was the response of Indian students when you introduced YCS in India?

It was excellent. They adapted the methodology well as their way of life. They were called the apostles of peer groups. In India the response was very positive. At the same time I found the response of the students was negative in Australia. In India helping poor people, visiting mercy homes, respecting every human beings, etc were the deeds we were doing. I worked 2 years in Madras and 1 year in Bangalore. I talked to Good Shepherd Convent sisters but the response was rather negative. YCW did well and grew stronger in India.

Q 4 : What is the situation of YCS Australia now?

It was a huge movement. All the priests were helping and were interested in it. Rector of the Seminary was willing to send the seminarians for this work. It was very effective



with the teenagers then. Today I feel it is very small with few groups. I don't know what has gone wrong.

Comparing YCS with YCW I feel YCS is better accepted. YCW is something like imposing a few things on the members but YCS is accepting oneself as a real human being. But the only problem in YCS is students come and go as members for a short time. So continuation is difficult. Today we may not have

any school units but we do have some parish units in Australia.

Q 5 : Do you think YCS can help the students even today? If so what way?

Yes, of course. It can do well with the university students too. Don't mind the names whether YCS or XYZ. I would give preference to university students who really need it today. I think there is nothing other than YCS for our students and teenagers. It is not how prayerful they are but how they value persons.



Q 6 : Do you still recommend YCS for Australian students/teenagers? If so how do you think we can address them now?

YES. But I don't know how to respond to them now. I am too old to comment on this. They should be happy with YCS. It can be done and should be done. I feel sad to see the state now. They were called bachelors or losers at that time. Today it needs to be done but it is not well accepted in some places.

Q 7 : What is the link between YCS movement and you today in general?

Very little. There are a few groups of YCW even today but I differ in the way they are functioning today. There are two groups of YCW now in Melbourne. They have a separate identity. I feel it is better in Adelaide.

YCS in parishes is going on well with a few groups. But it is not functioning in Schools anymore here. It is for the age group of 16 to 20. I know Mr. Devett Obrien from Brisbane, who has become the IYCS Secretary General. He is a good person and I wish him well.

Q 8 : How did YCS help you to mould your life or to become what you are today?

The concern for the other is the basic thing which helped me to mould my life and made me what I am today. I was interested in Gospel discussion and I applied it to my life using the YCS methodology. Jesus was better known to me than God. Maria Maasim from Belgium who was instrumental in teaching me Cardijn's thought of life. The education and respect for persons and continue to see that good in others influenced me more. I could also speak to Jesuit seminarians at that time which was a rare thing at that time. The Rector of the seminary was very helpful to me.

Q 9 : What is your feeling when you see the seed sown by you in India 1957 which has grown so big today?

I feel very happy and specially coming to know you have made me very glad. I am happy at the growth of the movement in India. It is not the number but the reach out



to the needy students is the basic thing. Stick on to the YCS methodology which will change anyone who encounters this movement.

The credit goes to all the nuns (Sisters) who supported this movement in their institutions and who supported me when I was in India. The social work, girls working at the university and the importance of value of life helped me to work for this

movement. I remember Mother Basil who was a great support.

I remember many people at Nungambakam, Porur and Bangalore even today. I wanted to go back but could not. Burnie married Philomena and they had contact with me as Indians. Now I don't have any contact. It was nice knowing you and rejuvenating the old memories. I had good memories of Madras car drivers who were very good to me. They used to say "Car is made for us and we are not for Cars" when I commented on their way of keeping it not so clean.

Q 10 : What is your message for YCS/YSM India?

Appreciate the value in everyone. It is like the relationship between mother and daughter. It is like the love of God to us. God is same for me and you. Do that always.

But I am sad for Australia. People are walking away from Church and God. They are changing life for bad. There is no community feeling here. We need it very much today. Keep it up in India.

Q 11 : Tell us about your family?

Oswald Edward and Mary Elizabeth are my parents. We are 4 children and I am the 4th one. I was born on 3rd Sept 1930. I studied in St. Joseph's till grade 8th and 2 years commercial studies in Santa Maria College. I had no time to get married. I worked with students and YCW all my life. I still live in the same old house built in 1922.

My father was a kind man. I have a fond memory of my father sharing his meal with another person of other origin. It was politically incorrect but was a good idea for exchanging ones value for the human being with the other which I learnt from my father.

Q 12 : Would you like to visit India again and what would you like to see?

I would like to see in India the community feeling which the basic thing I experienced in India is. It should reach to all the corner of India and that is my dream and I would be happy to visit India again.

Conclusion: I thanked Ms Betty King for doing what she had done for us. We are reaping the fruits of her hard labour. I invited her for our next National Council to be held in Shillong in 2013 and hope to see her again if God wills. It was a memorable moment of my life as the National Chaplain to meet the one who sowed the seed of YCS in India.

INTER REGIONAL STUDENT LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME – BIJHAN & ORISSA



Introduction: The IRSLTP for the regions Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa was held at Sewa Kendra, Sneha Dhara, Patna from 26th to 30th Jan 2012. 42 students along with 6 animators and 4 full timers attended the programme. Main focus was given to the Student Leadership and the talks and activities were dealt with in detail making participants to benefit much out of it. The resource persons were apt and down to earth making the sessions participatory and the exposure visit to Gandhi Chowk and Tarumitra made a big impact on the lives of the students. Shikha Remy and Anju Vincent were the conveners of the programme.

28th Jan 2012:

The participants reached the venue by 11am and those who arrived early were lead to introduce themselves in general who prepared for the inaugural programme well in advance. After lunch with a brief introduction and knowhow of it officially the programme began with the mass. Fr. Charles and Fr. Sabu along with Fr. Lead us into prayer and asked God's blessings on all the participants.

During the inaugural programme 3 students lighted candles as a sign of God's spirit on us. Fr. James welcomed the gathering, Fr. Sabu informed about the rules and regulations, Fr. Charles thanked all for taking part in the programme and asked to cooperate with the organizers. Prayer song was lead by Orissa group and prayer dance

was offered by Jasmine Tigga. The programme was compeered by Shikha and Ritesh Edgar.



Introductory games were lead by Roshan and Shikha which helped all introduce themselves through some activities. Groups were made and responsibility was shared after choosing the group leader and secretary. Evening prayer was lead by group 1 and that allowed us to munch our dinner.

After supper Fr. Sabu and Roshan Kumar through the game of joining the picture introduced the topic of leadership in which participants came to know the basic skills of Leadership and it made them feel that they have a big role to play in the days to come. At 10 all went to take rest.

27th Jan 2012:

The day began with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Jose. After breakfast group 1 gave the resume of day 1 and follow up was taken up. Surender Ekka in the first session of the day dealt with Social analysis and present scenario of the society. He deliberated on the complexity of the society and the poverty it has in it. 5 points were taken for the discussion; they were poverty, illiteracy, corruption, caste system and joblessness for the learned as well as unskilled illiterate lot. Participants were made to think deeply about the facets of life and understand the importance e of preparing oneself to face the society and the reality. It was a serious session by participation and the students did mean the difficulties they need to face when they grow young.

Then the participants visited Gandhi Chowk to have a glimpse of Medha Patkar and to listen to her in her fight for the marginalized people. In the hot sun students shouted slogans in favour of change in the government sector to take care of the poor and marginalized. Listening to the complexity of the government projects all felt that something has to be done when they grow young and the same was elicited from them by Fr. James Rosario after reaching the venue. Discussion followed after the talk and students were made to prepare a action plan to fight for the cause of poor people. Taking up leadership was the main focus of the talk as these participants jump into the society when they are to do so soon.

Afternoon session was headed by Fr. Charles Menezes who gave a glimpse of what YCS/YSM is and how it helps people to work for the transformation of the society by being a change agent in the society. The methodology and working principles of YCS was clearly elicited so that participants may take up the causes of the society through this movement.

In the group work a situation was created which had to be solved by the students and after a thorough cell meeting Jasmine played the role of an Principal to make the students deal with that situation and things were clarified further. It was an interesting session to see how students think and participate in the day today events of the society and school.

In the evening everyone presented their talents through local cultural programmes and after evaluation left to take rest. Rakesh , Shikha, Anju, Roshan Harsha and Sapna helped us see the day smoothly.

28th Jan 2012

Archbishop William D'Souza offered Mass for us and instructed us when we do mistakes it is better to accept and correct than hide it and suffer later. Citing the example of David in the Bible he explained us how we can get grace from God to lead a better life by being sincere and truthful. He advised us to take up leadership in society by being somebody different than others since we are the members of this movement.

After the previous days resume and follow up, Mr. Ajit Julius guided us through the types of leadership and leadership in general. Types and qualities of the true leader were elicited through group work in charts and Ajit explained this fact with the story of the frog which succeeded in attaining its goal. This talk enlightened us how we can also make a difference in the lives of people in the society with our little efforts. He advised us to neglect the people who make fun of those doing good for the society. It is a part of life and we need to face it.

After tea break Fr. Premlal gave the session on types of leadership in PPT. He showed the video footage of Nick Vujicic who is a handicapped person and made us understand how blessed and important we are in the sight of God. It also reminded us to work relentlessly for the betterment of the society. Having faith in God and never give up attitude will help us attain our goals in life.

In the third session Mukthi Prakash led the participants into their past life and made them pick up things which changed their lives. The good and bad times, the difficulties and challenges in their lives were made to share with others. It was a heart touching session to hear from these young ones how these things have already affected them in their lives. Then Fr. Charles helped them understand the methodology of YCS through review of life and how it can help them attain positive attitude in life and deal with the problems in an amicable manner.

Jasmine shared her life experience to the participants which made them realize how



important it is to face life than run away from challenges. Students were moved in tears by listening to her and many relived their own experiences of life. This is what YCS does for oneself to realize ones' life and self.

YCS Quiz was conducted in the evening along with the entertainment programme and after evaluation the day ended with the night prayers. Rashan Kumar and Shikha helped us through the day.



29th Jan 2012

The day began with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Philip the former YCS Chaplain of Bijhan who in his homily guided us our role in spreading the good news to the people as Christ did. We are all sent by God to continue the good he did and unless we do it we will not have salvation, in the sense life to the full. So take up the mantle and work for the liberation of the masses was his message.

Today we visited TARUMITRA Ashram a place for environmental grandeur. Fr. Robert Athickal took the session on environmental degradation and the need to save the green earth through human means. He in his talk and PPT guided us to know many plants which are in the verge of annihilation which are good and medicinal. After the talk we were lead in three groups to have a glimpse of his Garden of Eden and introduced us to various plants which we never saw and also to other plants which are of great use to us. The waste material which we litter here and there was used in a beneficial way to build up Tarumitra was a surprise for us all. The simple things and methods of using them in the right sense would bring about a big change in the environment.

Then Sr. Margaret told us a story of how the earth would be a 2070 which highlighted the future concerns of environment which we need to keep in our mind. The lunch was environment friendly and we did enjoy it to the full.

In the third session was conducted by the foreign students who have come to learn at Tarumitra. They gave a glimpse of their country and what are they here for. Then we were lead to understand how we can save energy through the example of Shwetha Marandi who has done a great job in educating people and students in saving energy through various means. We were also told about the girl Yugata Srivstava who made a difference in UN assembly pleading for the cause of young generation to save earth for the future generation. Then we spent some time with the foreign students dancing and singing while others thanked Fr. Robert and team for leading us through the day.

After we came back students prepare collage basing on the days theme and prepared charts to explain how we can save the earth and energy. During entertainment students put up still act on SAVE EARTH followed by evaluation and night prayer. Ritesh and Anju helped us through the day.



30th Jan 2012

Morning prayers were led by group 5 and with the resume the day began with a session on self appreciation. Everyone was given a paper and having pinned it on their back they were to write a good quality of each other which made all feel that they are great and useful. Sharing their good qualities helped them realize that they are yet to grow and play an important role in the society.

Action plan followed according to their regions where questions were provided to pen down what they would do when they get back. Participants had concrete suggestions to put into action which would bring about a change in them. This is followed by evaluation of the entire programme. Participants were very satisfied with the programme and input sessions, activities and exposures as well as food and stay. Mohit Micheal and Rosaline Hansda were chosen as EXCO members for Bijhan region and introduced to the group. Valedictory Mass was offered by Fr. Antony the pioneer of YCS movement in Bijhan region who was happy to share his experiences of the past and blessed us to do the best in life and keep doing the good work through this movement.

At the valedictory programme the Chief Guest Fr. Antony honored the participants with certificates, Animators and facilitators with gifts and shared his thoughts over teenage training. Fr. Sabu and Fr. James thanked all for their support and active participation. Fr. Charles thanked everyone for organizing this programme especially participants from Orissa, Jharkhand and Bihar. The programme came to end with the YCS anthem and prayer. Participants left home with heavy heart after having a wonderful time with each other through these five days.

Future programmes:

1.National Student Leaders Training Program (NSLTP) – (Hindi)

Date : 13 - 17 May 2012

Place : Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Nadiad, Gujarat.

Registration fees : Rs 150 Last date to register your names: 15th April 2012.

2. 4th NTA/ EXCO meeting

Date : 18th & 19th May, 2012

Place : Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Nadiad Gujarat

Report of the activities of National Chaplain

1. Met Oswald Cardinal Gracias, CBCI President at Bombay on 18th Jan 2012 and briefed him about the YCS/YSM activities and requested him to encourage this movement informing all the Bishops of India to support this cause for the benefit of the teenagers. Informed him about the situation of the present condition of the National office and regarding a few amendments to the constitution of YCS/YSM in the forthcoming National Council in 2013 at North East.
2. Met Bishop Thomas Macwan of Ahmedabad on 21st Jan and interacted with him regarding the revival of the movement in his Diocese. Met also a few Principals of the schools and colleges seeking their support in reaching out to the teenagers through this movement.
3. Participated in the marriage thanksgiving ceremony of Mehul Dhabhi and Loucille Alcala on 22nd Jan who married recently in Manila. Mehul was IMCS secretary general and Loucille was the IYCS programme coordinator at Paris for the past 4 years.
4. Met Bishop Godfery de Rosario of Baroda on 23rd Jan and requested him to support the revival of YCS movement in his Diocese. Met the DYD and asked him to revive the movement in the Diocese.
5. Met Fr. Chetan on 25th Jan and reviewed the movement activities at Delhi Diocese.
6. Participated in the IRSLTP at Patna from 26-30 Jan. During IRSLTP with the help of Fr. James Rosario and Fr. Sabu elected two Exco members Mohit Michael and Rosaline Hansda for Bijhan region and visited Bodhgaya on 31st Jan.
7. Met Archbishop William D' Souza of Patna on 28th Jan and discussed the issue of smooth coordination of YCS Bijhan region.
8. Met Fr. Peppin, DYD of Kolkata and Fr. Gregory Monteiro, International Director of FIMCAP on 1st Feb and held talk regarding revival of the movement in Kolkata and West Bengal.
9. Met Archbishop Leo Cornelio on 2nd Feb at Bangalore during CBCI meeting and briefed about the situation of the National Office.
10. Participated in Mangalore Diocesan Post Centenary celebration on 11-12 Feb.
11. Took off to Australia for holidays on 14th Feb and met Ms Betty King who worked for the spread of this movement in India in 1950s and met YCS chaplain of Melbourne Fr. Michael and a few YCS members during the visit.
12. Mr. Leo took part in the IRSLTP at Trichy from 15-19 Feb.

YCS alive in Melbourne



Knowing the presence of YCS in Melbourne I met Fr. Michael O'Connell the Melbourne Diocesan YCS Chaplain and the Coordinator Sr. Maria Yan Bui (from Vietnam) at their residence on my recent visit to Australia.

Present Scenario: At present Australia have around 500 YCS members in Melbourne, Perth, Port Perie, Sandhurst, Adelaide, Canberra, Paramatta, Tiwnsvilla (Queensland) and Brisbane dioceses. John Sidham who worked for YCS India, now settled in Australia is helping them organize activities and keeps the movement alive in some places. Devett Obrien, the present IYCS Secretary General is from Australia.

Fr. Justin Biinchini from Jareldton is the National Chaplain for YCS and YCW. There is a 10 member National team headed by Elise Ganley as the National Coordinator.

Activities: NUTS is the first activity for all the new comers of YCS. It deals with 8 weekend training programmes on YCS and various topics to make the members understand and belong to the movement. National Council is held once in two years. Recently the National Council was held at Perth and 60 members attended it.

Challenges: The membership number is dwindling due to various problems that the movement is facing. Mainly due to lack of family life, lack of faith formation, Media pressure, fast pace of life, affluence and total freedom at young age are the main factors. Lack of personnel, invasion of computers and cell phones also are the factors.

Fr. Michael is of the opinion that YCS can address all the problems and issues of teenagers. But it is difficult to organize them due to the system that the society has accepted. Since the teenagers have lots of options, school or church is no more the meeting point. Teenagers also have a shallow approach towards church; hence they cannot be traced or gathered easily. The negative perception of the name Young Christian Students and anti church families deters them joining the movement. Once they accept and join YCS, it will be a different world altogether.



In his opinion the Australian Bishop's Conference doesn't give enough support to this ministry due to various reasons. As such Christians come to the church for baptism, marriage and funeral as the saying goes with them. As a solution he feels that visiting families and educating elders may help reach the teenagers and yield some fruit. It is also true that the people are busy in their own chores and it is hard to understand how to approach them.



Exchange programme: While we suggested that we could have a student exchange programme between India and Australia, he was of the opinion that it would help them in a large extent. But modalities have to be framed. Through this we can learn a lot from each others' faith and culture. Full timers from other countries to Australia may be a good help as in the earlier days they went to other countries as full time volunteers. It needs a lot of time and support system from each others' movement.



Talking about Devett YCS Australia is looking up to him to encourage, integrate and strengthen the weaker movements all over the country. His help is required to reorganize the movement locally and make the world a global village through this movement.

He feels that there is a future for YCS and it will grow through its methodology.

Fr. Michael spoke about himself saying that he got involved in YCW movement as a young Priest and that lead him to work for YCS. He believes in its strong methodology which made him believe in himself and people. For him faith and life go together. Cardijn community Australia is also a help to understand the issues and work for them.

Fr. Michael was born on 27th Sept 1953 in Melbourne, ordained Priest in 1985 and is the chaplain of YCS since 2007. Sr. Maria Yan Bui, the pastoral associate helps him at the parish as well as in the movement activities.

We also met the local Animator Mark and few student members and exchanged views about the movement which helped them understand how YCS India is working. They also plan to reach out to teenagers in many schools and parishes to organize the movement in the coming days.

Fr. Prakash Cutinha and Ms. Betty King arranged for this meeting and guided us. We were also accompanied by Fr. Valerian D'Souza the first Mangalore Diocesan Youth Director of YCS, YCW and ICYM. We had a wonderful time with them and we were so happy to meet members of our YCS family wherever we go.

INTER REGIONAL STUDENT LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAMME – TRICHY, TAMILNADU



Introduction: The Inter regional Student Leaders training program (IRSLTP) for the regions of Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh was conducted from 15th to 19th of February. 21 students attended it. Due to examinations and lack of time to book tickets the number was less than expected. Yet the participation and impact on the participants was good.

15th Feb 2012: After the inaugural prayer service the participants were introduced to each other through ice breaking session. Everyone was made to introduce self and then various activities made them mingle with each other which paved the way for an active participation.

16th Feb 2012: The day started by invoking the blessings of God in the morning, where Fr. Esthakiyus, the Regional Chaplain of TN and Miss. Laranzia, the Exco of TN were present. Through an Ice breaking game the students had a chance to know each other and to feel at home. The first session was handled by Mr. Kalaivanan, the Director of Kalai Trust. He made the students to understand 'Who is a Leader?' to which the students replied: 'the one who is Conscious about the society, who cares about others without selfishness, one who is responsible etc. The speaker added by giving them the 7 qualities of a Leader namely: Positive Attitude, the Art of Listening, Oral Communication, and Time management; Enthusiasm, Self Confidence and People oriented. He created a great enthusiasm among the students and the session came to its end at 4 pm. The students were divided in groups to prepare for the cultural night. The cultural night became a great platform for the students to expose their talents.

17th Feb. 2012: The third day of the IRSLTP began with a mass presided by Fr. Esthakiyus. An orientation about the exposure was given by Mr. Leo Joseph, from YCS YSM India and the students were divided into two groups where one went to Beema nagar- an area below the poverty line that helped the students to understand the reality and realized that 'life is not easy to live'; and the other went to Ambikapuram Dumping Yard taken by IWMUST where they dump and recycle the waste. Miss Ancy, the staff in charge explained the process of recycling and how it is turned to fertilizers for agriculture. With the experience they had, the students discussed within their group and came out with some creative ideas to explain it to others. Mr. Arun Kumar coordinated the whole session. The students were asked to invent new games and were executed after the supper.



18th Feb 2012: The fourth day began with a prayer. After an awareness song, Mr. Selva, an Ex Full timer and teacher from Sivagangai was introduced by Fr. Esthakiyus. The topic of the session was Environmental Analysis where the resource person explained the origin, cause and the effects of Global Warming, Climate Change with vivid examples. His information was very informative for the students and concluded saying: The young generation must join their hands to save the Mother Nature. We are in the situation where the Earth has to be saved from the humans. After lunch, Mr. Leo Joseph, gave an orientation about the YCS/ YSM its history, motto and the methodology. He elucidated the need and

importance of our movement with practical examples. The students learnt and understood that the methodology is the heart of the movement. An ample time was given to the students to reflect upon their own life personally. The further doubts of the students were made clear through the cell meeting in which the students discussed their own life and some even got solutions to overcome their problems. Awareness video clips, games and



songs in between made the session alive. The session came to an end after dinner with a BBC documentary movie on Environment: "Pole to pole".

19th Feb. 2012: The final day of the training program started with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Dhanraj, the DYD of Kumbakonam diocese. In his sermon, he urged the students to be aware of what they see around them and to be proactive towards the Mother Nature. He added that the students have a great responsibility in saving the environment and they have to fight for it. The students were divided into few groups after breakfast to evaluate on the past three days and to come out with few action plans. Fr. Esthakiyus gave a concluding talk based upon the participation of the students and gave few tips to execute their action plans in their cells, schools and in their diocese. The students shared their experience and the values they imbibed through the IRSLTP. After the general evaluation, the Inter Regional Training Program was concluded by giving away the certificates to the participation with YCS YSM anthem.

Every Little Thing matters!!!

"It's not the quantity that matters but the quality" is what I learnt from the recent Inter Regional Student Leaders Training Program (IRSLTP). Though the students are small in number, they participated with full vigor and enthusiasm. I would proudly say that we have created the best, energetic, responsible and committed leaders of tomorrow. Above all, I learnt a lot from them. I sincerely thank the animators and the DYDs. Special thanks to Fr. Charles for the opportunity and Fr. Esthakiyus for organizing the program in training the young minds. I am grateful to all who prayed for the success of IRSLTP.

- Laranzia, Exco- TN

Christmas Fiesta - YCS Kolkata



I still remember the first time I heard about the FIESTA. It was on 13th October, 2011 - the day when the DEXCO met the EXCO for the first time and the EXCO was born. It was a dream then given to us to give it wings. At first I was over whelmed and a bit surprised as I did not expect it but once on board the team, there was no looking back. It wasn't a smooth sail however and sometimes the winds blew so hard and the waves rose too high but we adjusted our sail and set forth. Meetings came and went, our tensions increased before long the big day arrived. It was time for us to accomplish what we had started. 18th December 2011, dawned a foggy day out that did not dampen our spirits. We were focused with a 'Just Do It' smile on our faces. Busier than bees and we felt happy for being there. It was a good way of celebrating Christmas - being together as a one whole family. It felt so good. So right. It was a good gathering, the majority being members of various YCS units across the city and a handful of ex-YCSers. The day began with a Holy Mass and lighting of the candles by our Chief Guest, Prof. Maria Fernandes, the Vice Chairperson of Minority Commission of West Bengal. She had once been an YCSer and she encouraged us a lot in her speech. The day progressed long and slow and the events were held successfully without any major setbacks. We had once again successfully been able to provide a platform for young talents and bring our youth together. After lunch our gathering was graced by the arrival of our National Chaplain, Fr. Charles Menezes and the other National Council members. The on-stage events soon followed and a presentation by the DEXCO. The day closed with the prize distribution ceremony. The youth wonderfully connected with one another. The entire event is wonderfully stocked in the back of my mind. I'm grateful to all the DEXCO and my EXCO for their earnest contribution in making the event a successful one. **- Romy Mathew, DEXCO President, YCS Kolkata.**

STUDENTS FOR ANTI CORRUPTION MOVEMENT

- Alice Antony, Exco Nagpur

During the NTA/EXCO MEET at Kolkata from 17 -18 December 2011, we had a talk on anti corruption movement by Mr. Sunil Lucas the president of SIGNUS as the head representative of it and is involved in the media.

His talk was really informative to all the members present there and he made us known to the real scenario of corruption in India and about the anti-corruption movement too.

His talk inspired us and helped to know about this big issue. How can we stop corruption and the most important issue he talked was about the RTI ACT (right to information). This was not new to all of us but Sir made us understand the importance of it. It's our right to know about issues and any problems which we are facing and to get the correct information about it. It is for our concern regarding anything we want to know.

By the talk I was really motivated and my thinking about anti corruption changed. I got to know more deeply regarding this current issue which has awakened all Indians. And I would like to share what I learned from it.

Every now and then we hear about CORRUPTION. What is corruption? It is mostly concern with bribe and it takes several forms. Corruption is a global phenomenon and is omnipresent. Corruption has now increased in our society. At one time bribe was paid for getting wrong things done but now bribe is paid for getting right things done. Corruption is caused as well as increased because of the change in the present value system and the unethical qualities of men. Today the old ideals of morality and honesty are considered as an anachronistic. Corruption is a cancer which every Indian must strive to cure. There is not one section of the society which has been spared from it. Corruption begins from the root level i.e from the common man to the politicians, bureaucrats and so on.

In order to get developed in today's scenario Corruption Free State is India's need. And in fulfilling this need the youth power can play an important role. Many people may say that we are against corruption, but in reality are they really against it? Just by telling or by shouting slogans and by participating in the rally is not enough instead we must know about it and must do something about it. Then only we can say that we are following the path of anti-corruption.

We the students can make a beginning to eradicate corruption and make a big difference in the society. By making students and people aware about it and by resisting the temptations of using unfair means in our examination we can shun this uncanny malpractice. We can ask our parents and relatives to be true and sincere towards their

job and day today affairs. By doing this we can try to vanquish corruption which has earned us a bad name for us.

Corruption is an intractable problem like diabetes, can only be controlled, but not totally eliminated. We can't root out corruption completely but it is possible to contain it in to tolerable limits. Honest and dedicated efforts in public life, control over electoral expenses could be the most important prescriptions to combat corruption. We all need the will to do it.



VISIT TO SHISHU BHAVAN, YCS Nagpur

- SHARON RAYMOND, Animator Y.C.S

On 7th of Dec 2011, the students of Y.C.S from Providence Girl's High School, Nagpur (Maharashtra) with two animators Sr. Shaiji Augustine and Ms. Sharon Raymond visited Shishu Bhavan. Later on Mr. Melywn Titus (Exco) and Mr. Arivind Kulthe from S.F.S school joined the group.

As the students reached there, they were divided into two groups and they interacted with the small children, played and chatted with them. Small kids felt very happy when they received chocolates and biscuits from the students. Afterwards all the students gathered in one group and had discussion among themselves about their experience. They gathered more information from the sisters of Missionary of charity who are running it. One thing everybody felt in their experience was they were very lucky that they have parents who take care of them.

Experiences of Some Students

I am Stejji. When I came to know about the visit, I thought I will enjoy out nicely. But when I saw those poor children who were so small that they cannot even walk and talk properly I felt I was blessed that I have my parents to take care of me. Now I value them a lot. Thank you Y.C.S for the visit and showing me the reality.

- Stejji Michael

Hi friends. I am Tasbhiha. After visiting Shishu Bhavan I came to know about how rich I am that I have someone to take care of me. I really feel happy that I have parents. Thank you Lord for giving us a family.

- Tasbhiha



Environment and our Response

Environment and natural resources are often viewed almost exclusively from the ecological or the commercial point of view. The basic concern of human beings is forgotten. Environment is primarily people. It is the human element that gives meaning to ecology and the environmental question becomes relevant to society only to the extent that it is viewed in relation to the people who are affected by it. The main concern while studying the state of the environment has to be its relationship with the people who depend on it for survival.



Based on the understanding of this relationship it becomes imperative to work for the restoration of a balance between nature and human needs.



Over the centuries human beings had learnt to live in harmony with nature. The environment had catered to people's needs and them in turn, through various ways and that the environment was not destroyed. Thus through a judicious utilization of these resources, the appropriate equilibrium between resource availability and human

needs was maintained. However, in the past few decades the overwhelming desire of industry to squeeze out profits from these limited and precious resources and their consequent commercialization have led to the loss of all vested interests in preserving this equilibrium. Today the trend seems to be one of indiscriminate over exploitation of these resources resulting in environmental deterioration.

Today, the reasons for environmental deterioration are deforestation, mining, power plants, pollution like; water pollution, air pollution, land pollution and the main reason is human beings. There is an old Indian saying:

"If you play around with nature
Nature will play around with you"

In today's world, there is no proper maintenance of environment. So development has to be made immediately. If development is to have any meaning it can be done only within the framework of the people. In other words development acquires its full meaning and potential only when it is of the people, by the people and for the people.

Let us join our hands to save the environment.

- **Laranja Renit Ruby, Exco- Tamilnadu**

“YUVA GRAM” the land for the Youth

This was a Land which was given to the MSFS congregation in the early ages of the Archdiocese of Nagpur by the British after a wide spread of Cholera causing death at a large scale. Later the present Archbishop of Nagpur His grace Abraham Viruthukulangara gave a big piece of the land to ICYM of which he was the first director, thus the name came “YUVA GRAM” the village of the youth. This land is situated in the outskirts of Nagpur, in a village area



called Padhri Thana. From the last Four years every president of ICYM has had a stay at the YUVA GRAM worked there to preserve the lands fertility. They have undertaken a project of building up an animation center in which all activities will be conducted for the youth. This will attract both national and international interest.

Lately three Students of YCS/ YSM, Nagpur participated in the visit to the YUVA GRAM on 18th February 2012 along with the newly elected office bearers of Indian Catholic Youth Movement. They visited the land and prayed for the success of the project. They also celebrated the birthday of one of the YCSer. Later they prayed the way of the cross by climbing a hill consisting of the fourteen stations. Following that they took part in the Holy Eucharist and also interacted with the villagers.

The Project in YUVA GRAM was started four years ago but till now nothing has started but the youth has never lost hope and have always strived for its best. When we asked these three students to share their experience to us they delivered four very meaningful words “IT IS NEVER LATE.”

- Melwyn Titus, Exco- M.G & Gujarat

Tips for Better Life

- Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate antidepressant.
- Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
- Buy a DVR and tape your late night shows and get more sleep.
- When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, my purpose is to _____ today.
- Live with the 3 E s Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy.
- Play more games and read more books than you did in 2011.
- Make time to practice meditation, and prayer. They provide us with daily fuel for our busy lives.



Suicide

Introduction: In everyday life we hear, see and watch a lot of suicidal stories and such incidents. From the age of 5 to the age of 95 people think of committing suicide for one or the other reason. There are number of articles related to it. You might have come across people or your friends sometime saying s that they feel like committing suicide. Here are a few tips for you to help those people thinking of doing so.

WARNING SIGNS

Conditions associated with increased risk of suicide

- ❖ Death or terminal illness of relative or friend.
- ❖ Divorce, separation, broken relationship, stress on family.
- ❖ Loss of health (real or imaginary).
- ❖ Loss of job, home, money, status, self-esteem, personal security.
- ❖ Alcohol or drug abuse.
- ❖ Depression. In the young depression may be masked by hyperactivity or acting out behavior. In the elderly it may be incorrectly attributed to the natural effects of aging. Depression that seems to quickly disappear for no apparent reason is cause for concern. The early stages of recovery from depression can be a high risk period. Recent studies have associated anxiety disorders with increased risk for attempted suicide.



Emotional and behavioral changes associated with suicide

- ❖ Overwhelming Pain: pain that threatens to exceed the person's pain coping capacities. Suicidal feelings are often the result of longstanding problems that have been exacerbated by recent precipitating events. The precipitating factors may be new pain or the loss of pain coping resources.
- ❖ Hopelessness: the feeling that the pain will continue or get worse; things will never get better.
- ❖ Powerlessness: the feeling that one's resources for reducing pain are exhausted.
- ❖ Feelings of worthlessness, shame, guilt, self-hatred, no one cares. Fears of losing control, harming self or others.
- ❖ Personality becomes sad, withdrawn, tired, apathetic, anxious, irritable, or prone to angry outbursts.

- ❖ Declining performance in school, work, or other activities. (Occasionally the reverse: someone who volunteers for extra duties because they need to fill up their time.)
- ❖ Social isolation; or association with a group that has different moral standards than those of the family.
- ❖ Declining interest in sex, friends, or activities previously enjoyed.
- ❖ Neglect of personal welfare, deteriorating physical appearance.
- ❖ Alterations in either direction in sleeping or eating habits.
- ❖ (Particularly in the elderly) Self-starvation, dietary mismanagement, disobeying medical instructions.
- ❖ Difficult times: holidays, anniversaries, and the first week after discharge from a hospital; just before and after diagnosis of a major illness; just before and during disciplinary proceedings. Undocumented status adds to the stress of a crisis.



Suicidal Behavior

- ❖ Previous suicide attempts, mini-attempts.
- ❖ Explicit statements of suicidal ideation or feelings.
- ❖ Development of suicidal plan, acquiring the means, rehearsal behavior, setting a time for the attempt.
- ❖ Self-inflicted injuries, such as cuts, burns, or head banging.
- ❖ Reckless behavior. (Besides suicide, other leading causes of death among young people in New York City are homicide, accidents, drug overdose, and AIDS.) Unexplained accidents among children and the elderly.
- ❖ Making out a will or giving away favorite possessions.
- ❖ Inappropriately saying goodbye.

Verbal behavior that is ambiguous or indirect: I'm going away on a real long trip., You won't have to worry about me anymore., I want to go to sleep and never wake up., I'm so depressed, I just can't go on., Does God punish suicides?, Voices are telling me to do bad things., requests for euthanasia information, inappropriate joking, stories or essays on morbid themes.

Start by considering this statement :

***Suicide is not chosen;
it happens when pain exceeds resources for coping with pain.***

What can I do to help someone who may be suicidal?

Take it seriously.

Myth: The people who talk about it don't do it. Studies have found that more than 75% of all completed suicides did things in the few weeks or months prior to their

deaths to indicate to others that they were in deep despair. Anyone expressing suicidal feelings needs immediate attention.

Myth: Anyone who tries to kill himself has got to be crazy. Perhaps 10% of all suicidal people are psychotic or have delusional beliefs about reality. Most suicidal people suffer from the recognized mental illness of depression; but many depressed people adequately manage their daily affairs. The absence of craziness does not mean the absence of suicide risk.

Those problems weren't enough to commit suicide over, is often said by people who knew a completed suicide. You cannot assume that because you feel something is not worth being suicidal about, that the person you are with feels the same way. It is not how bad the problem is, but how badly it's hurting the person who has it.

1. Remember: suicidal behavior is a cry for help.

Myth: If someone is going to kill himself, nothing can stop him. The fact that a person is still alive is sufficient proof that part of him wants to remain alive. The suicidal person is ambivalent — part of him wants to live and part of him wants not so much death as he wants the pain to end. It is the part that wants to live that tells another I feel suicidal. If a suicidal person turns to you it is likely that he believes that you are more caring, more informed about coping with misfortune, and more willing to protect his confidentiality. No matter how negative the manner and content of his talk, he is doing a positive thing and has a positive view of you.

2. Be willing to give and get help sooner rather than later.

Suicide prevention is not a last minute activity. All textbooks on depression say it should be reached as soon as possible. Unfortunately, suicidal people are afraid that trying to get help may bring them more pain: being told they are stupid, foolish, sinful, or manipulative; rejection; punishment; suspension from school or job; written records of their condition; or involuntary commitment. You need to do everything you can to reduce pain, rather than increase or prolong it. Constructively involving yourself on the side of life as early as possible will reduce the risk of suicide.

3. Listen.

Give the person every opportunity to unburden his troubles and ventilate his feelings. You don't need to say much and there are no magic words. If you are concerned, your voice and manner will show it. Give him relief from being alone with his pain; let him know you are glad he turned to you. Avoid arguments and advice giving.

4. ASK: Are you having thoughts of suicide?

Myth: Talking about it may give someone the idea. People already have the idea; suicide is constantly in the news media. If you ask a despairing person this

question you are doing a good thing for them: you are showing him that you care about him, that you take him seriously, and that you are willing to let him share his pain with you. You are giving him further opportunity to discharge pent up and painful feelings. If the person is having thoughts of suicide, find out how far along his ideation has progressed.

5. If the person is acutely suicidal, do not leave him alone.

If the means are present, try to get rid of them. Detoxify the home.

6. Urge professional help.

Persistence and patience may be needed to seek, engage and continue with as many options as possible. In any referral situation, let the person know you care and want to maintain contact.

7. No secrets.

It is the part of the person that is afraid of more pain that says doesn't tell anyone. It is the part that wants to stay alive that tells you about it. Respond to that part of the person and persistently seek out a mature and compassionate person with whom you can review the situation. (You can get outside help and still protect the person from pain causing breaches of privacy.) Do not try to go it alone. Get help for the person and for yourself. Distributing the anxieties and responsibilities of suicide prevention makes it easier and much more effective.

8. From crisis to recovery.

Most people have suicidal thoughts or feelings at some point in their lives; yet less than 2% of all deaths are suicides. Nearly all suicidal people suffer from conditions that will pass with time or with the assistance of a recovery program. There are hundreds of modest steps we can take to improve our response to the suicidal and to make it easier for them to seek help. Taking these modest steps can save many lives and reduces a great deal of human suffering.

- **Leo Joseph, Chennai**

- Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.
- Dream more while you are awake.
- Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
- Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds & walnuts.
- Try to make at least three people smile each day.
- Clear clutter from your house, your car, your desk and let new and flowing energy into your life.