

The **October - December 2013**

The Search

YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 33

Vol: 3



Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people of good will. This is the message of Peace given to us by God. Christmas means joy, love, sacrifice, peace and equality among humanity. This is the gift of God to us in the form of Jesus our Savior.

The good news of salvation will always remain relevant because every one of us needs deliverance from sin and wretchedness. We have become so small today, that we don't even deserve to beg for this gift, yet God in his goodness showers on us the gift of peace.

We need peace today in our self, in others, in society, in countries and in the world. Let us pray for this gift of peace always. At Christmas let everyone experience this peace and share it with all, so that God may always be present among us.

Immanuel – God with us!!!!



Merry Christmas

Happy New Year 2014



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

ANIMATORS TRAINING PROGRAMME

For YCS/YSM RYD, DYDs and Coordinators

Theme : Christocentric Leadership Training – Pilgrimage with Jesus

Place : Universal Solidarity Movement Centre, R 847 Mahalaxmi Nagar,
Indore – 452010, M.P.

Email: usmindore93@gmail.com ; Ph: 0731-4072057

Dates : 7-14 March 2014

Reg. Fee: Rs 4200 (Four thousand two hundred only)

Seats available: Only for 20 people. First come first served

(Kindly call Fr. Charles Menezes (Ph: 09448331894) and confirm your participation)

1st YCS/YSM NATIONAL CONVENTION – Proposed

Date: 4-7 May 2014

Theme: Explore, Experience and Exchange

Place: Warangal Diocese, AP region

Participants: 10 YCS/YSM members from each
Diocese, 1 animator and DYD/Coordinator

Registration Fees: Rs 500/ person

Contribution: Rs 5000/ diocese

2nd YCS/YSM NTA/EXCO Meeting

Place: Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Date: 11-12 January 2014

Asian Youth Day

Daejeon Diocese, South Korea,
10-17 August 2014

15 seats for YCS/YSMers. Package Rs 69,000.
Register your names immediately

NATP-CAFÉ - Proposed

Asian Level Animators Training Programme
Chaplains & Animators Formation Exchange
India, August 2014

National Working office shifted to Delhi:

As per the decision of the NTA/Exco and National Council the YCS/YSM National Office will be located in Delhi from December 1, 2013. You may direct your letters and correspondence to this address until further information:

**YCS/YSM National Director, CBCI Office for Youth, CBCI Centre, 1 Ashok Place,
Gole Dak Khana, New Delhi - 110001**

But the National Registered Office will be located at Chennai,
address given below:

**National Director – YCS/YSM India, Archdiocesan Pastoral
Centre, 25 Rosary Church Road, Santhome, Chennai – 600004;
Ph: 044 24641737; Mob: 09448331894 (Fr. Charles Menezes)**



What would JESUS do if he were here?

Alex was excited to participate in the recent programme held by YCS/YSM. The talks, discussions, songs, dances, exercises, workshops made him so elated that he vowed to change the world as soon as he headed back home. Everything was so nice and exiting. He participated well and meant well in doing something for the society. Once he was back, he shared his idea with all his friends and elders. They liked to hear him, then laughed at him and started fooling him. The enthusiasm and interest with which he came back home died down in the very way it started. He decided not to attend this type of programme again. Even if he did, not to speak about it to anyone.



I see people like him bubbling with enthusiasm to do something and when the programme gets over their interest dies down. They feel they could change the world but one thing they forget is that to change the world they need to change themselves. They feel let down when someone ignores their idea and get away from that dream forever because that idea is not deep rooted in them.

The problem is not in dreaming to do something but getting it down to one's core of being. Sustaining the dream is important. It cannot be done easily, because we deal with humans, with feelings and emotions. Everyone has a different experience of life. This experience enthruse people to do something. One who dreams big should be able to sustain the dream for a quite a long time, so that there is time to prepare to achieve this dream.

We have concluded the National Council recently. We have promulgated the Theme statement, National Action plan and taken up the new theme and thrusts. Have we taken trouble to assimilate these things deep into our daily experiences and steps to understand them and prepared ourselves to act on it? It is easy to make resolutions but to keep them and sustain them in our daily life is difficult.

I wonder where are some of our leaders who were a very part of our movement and recent council. If you have not changed yourself, don't dream of changing the world and get frustrated. Yet do not worry there is another chance for you. Ask yourself "What would JESUS do if he were in your place...?"

Am happy that many have understood the theme and thrusts, lived the spirit of the movement, many have sustained the spirit of the Council back home and started working on it. Making others realize the depth of this movement, changing your attitudes by changing self, living the spirituality and methodology will help you sustain the spirit further. Do not worry, people will laugh at you and make fun of you, but you are equipped enough to accept them as a challenge and sustain it in your life. What would JESUS do in this situation....?

Write to us. Are you ready for a change to happen in the society through you...? Read the best pages of successful people who have made a difference in the world. Start today...



An Appeal

Search

Is there place at your INN....?

Story: It was winter time. Joseph and Mary were expecting their first child. It was announced that the child would be born. It was also told that he would be the Son of God, born of Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Everything was ready. Everyone was ready. But there was no place to give birth to that child. Joseph and Mary kept knocking at the doors until they came to that inn. Is there a place in your INN.....?

No, was the answer. Going door to door begging for a place to give birth to that little baby was required, but no one knew what that baby would be, even their parents. If that was known, there would have been a queue of great people to offer their place. But.....!

YCS/YSM is on the lookout for a place now. This is also chosen by God and recognized by the church. It is on the street now. Is there place in your INN.....?

After serving the nation for almost 47 years from Chennai where it originated, it is still on the lookout for a place to lay its foot and to settle down in one permanent place. It is out of Chennai due to some reasons, which gave it space to work for all these years but not anymore. Being grateful to Chennai, it is looking for a place in Delhi. Is there a place in your INN.....?

We are at infancy stage and not old age because we work for teenagers and young adolescents. Given birth already, we need a place to rear them and we are looking out for a place. Is there place at your INN.....?

We have moved to Delhi, the Capital city of India and from here we would like to experiment, experience, expand and exchange the good that we do to our younger generation. We would like to settle down and make a lasting impact in India. We would like to reach out to as many students/teenagers as possible, so that it has lasting experience of life. We would like to work with young people of all faiths around us in a family atmosphere, so that they become stakeholders and ambassadors of this movement and bring about a lasting change in them and in the society. We would like YOU to be a part of this movement as well, so that you remain young always and be proud about doing a bit for the society at large in the way our Master has commissioned us to do. Are you ready to forgo something and give a place for us? It will pave way for a wonderful experience in your life too.

All that you need to do is to give us a small place at your INN.... for this baby called YCS/YSM. Is there place at your INN.....?

Kindly call us to 09448331894 (Fr. Charles Menezes, National Chaplain, YCS/YSM India) or 09425609199 (Archbishop Leo Cornelio, National Chairman, CBCI Office for Youth) or email us at yesysmindia@gmail.com



7 colours make a rainbow, 7 colours make a harmony,
7 days make a week, 7 continents make a world,
7 beautiful letters makes us **FRIENDS.**

DYDs – Please note:

1. Starting a unit in the School or Parish is your prime duty (not right) because you are appointed to cater to the student community.
2. To start the group, you need to visit the School Principal or Parish Priest, convince them the need of this movement and the benefit to the student community and make the preliminary preparations
3. Principal or Parish Priest has to appoint one or two full time Animators (Lay or Religious) and you need to give them the basic training about the movement, about Animation and their role as Animators
4. When you start a unit, make cells, elect cell leader and secretary, then elect the unit office bearers (Refer YCS/YSM Constitution – 4.3)
5. Once the diocesan units are created give basic leadership training to all the office bearers (YCS and YSM) and from among them elect the DEXCO. Elect two animators from DTA to help the DEXCO
6. Remember Animators training is a must and in which you shall give them basic information of the movement, cell meeting and their role as animators. There is no short cut to it.
7. Collect membership fees from each one of them and do the needful (Rule 3.4)
8. Support National news letter – The Search and promote also diocesan news letter, if any.
9. Start College cells or City Cells for former members who will assist you in your ministry. You can officially do this based on YCS/YSM Constitution amended at the National Council in May 2013.
10. Follow the Constitution in law and spirit to organize the movement systematically.
11. Conduct Diocesan level programs at least twice a year to gather all the members.
12. Rally on a particular issue - Student/children rights, Awareness on social/civic problems, Education rights, Peace Rally, etc.



**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

This year you can organize programs based on National Theme – **Students education in Modern Era – Interculturality:** (Cultural influence on Education and Educational influence on culture – input sessions or competitions, exhibitions, debates, essay writing, quiz, etc)

Units – Please note:

1. When you start a unit kindly convince the Principal and Parish priest about your right and need to organize YCS/YSM
2. Know your animator well or suggest a person who you feel comfortable with, to guide your unit. That person must be spiritually and socially oriented, deep rooted in the local society.
3. Start with creation of Cells and elect the office bearers
4. Study the basic notion of YCS/YSM – its aim, objectives, methodology, structure, cell meeting, cell life, spirituality, Constitution etc.
5. Hold cell meetings once a week regularly to know each other well and to promote faith formation by your faith sharing about social reality, than programs and activities. Activities are important but Cell meeting in YCS/YSM methodology on social and student milieu is a must.
6. Inform your parents and teachers about the movement, so that they may support you
7. Office bearers must do justice to their position by following the YCS/YSM methodology, aim and objectives.
8. Attend all the deanery level and diocesan level programs without fail.
9. Know and follow the constitution.
10. Keep up your dignity showing others the difference in you as YCS/YSM member.

**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

11. You may organize some programs based on the need of the Parish or School which should be student oriented and on the National theme.
12. Animators need to learn their role well and must be present at all the cell/unit meetings to guide the members.
13. You are sent a copy of The Search news letter, kindly read it and if you need more copies, kindly subscribe for more copies.

RYDs – Please note:

1. Promote YCS/YSM in your region for the good of the teenagers and students. Every School and Parish must have an YCS/YSM unit to promote faith formation of teenagers, thus to build a New Society.
2. Organize Regional DEXCO training and elect REXCO and work with them for the promotion and expansion of the movement in your region. Their term of office is for two years. Elect two Regional Animators to assist them in their activities. Meet twice a year.
3. Remember it is not your right but your duty to organize this movement for the sake of young students to train and guide them in their faith life. It should be done now.
4. Organize Regional Animators Training regularly to keep up the spirit of animation
5. Guide NEXCO members so that they may participate in the National level meetings without fail, while regularly visiting the regional and diocesan units and their activities.
6. Please do not miss NTA/EXCO meetings and bring Nexco members along, so that we can organize National level programs which are necessary.
7. Follow the Constitution to put the movement on track.
8. Organize programs based on the National theme – Students education in modern era.
9. Collect membership fees and support the National news letter – The Search
10. When there are National or International programs promote student members to participate.

Activities that can be conducted based on the National theme – Students education in Modern Era:

1. Input sessions on cultural effect on education and educational effect on culture
2. Debate on cultural invasion on our education and tradition
3. Debate on forcing uni-culture on us
4. Debate on Social media – benefits and adverse effects – How to manage it
5. Cultural show and exhibitions at deanery level, diocesan level or regional level
6. Cultural and traditional competitions like dance, skit, music etc, to promote and understand the culture of all faiths.
7. Visit places of cultural diversity.
8. Essay writing or write articles on Interculturality to notice board, wall magazine, News letter – Diocesan and The Search - national news letter.
9. Case studies are already sent to you through this Search issue – use them for Cell meetings.

God's Ways

A man was walking on a shaking bridge. He prayed for help! He saw God on the other side of the other bridge and asked God to come near. But God didn't come. Man got angry. With great difficulty he crossed to the other side and saw God holding the broken bridge. **GOD'S WAYS ARE AMAZING! TRUST HIM!**

- Ashley Rodrigues

YCS/YSM NTA/EXCO LIVE IN PROGRAM – DELHI

The first NTA/EXCO live in programme was held at NAVINTA, NEW DELHI from 5th to 7th October 2013. 8 regions participated in the meeting including 13 NEXCOS, 2 animators, 2 RYD, 3 DYD'S, Mr. Leo Joseph, National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Charles Menezes, Bishop incharge of CBCI Office for Youth Most Rev Leo Cornelio. The NEXCO members present for the meeting were Arman Lakra, Amiyalata from Odisha region, Jimmy P dang, Nowami and Gilbert from Northeast region, Bala Praneeth, Maria Immaculate and Prakash from Andhra Pradesh region, Sharon M. Kalinse, Jadzia Marilyn from Tamilnadu region, Angela from Bijhan region, Rohan Immanuel from M.P. region, Ashley from Northern region. The RYD's present for the meetings were Fr. Savyo from Goa and Sr. Agnes from Northeast; DYDs were Fr. Sudhir Dung Dung from Odisha, Fr. T. Fatima Reddy, Fr. Balaswamy and Fr. Yesu Ramesh from Andhra Pradesh. The animators present were Mr. Joseph S. Babu from Andhra Pradesh, Miss. Mary from Bijhan region. EXCOs from Goa, M.P., Karnataka, U.P and West Bengal were absent.

The meeting began on 5.10.2013 with the inaugural mass offered by Fr. Fathima which impressed all the delegates. We were welcomed by Fr. Charles and he continued with an introductory game which helped us know each other better. The new NEXCO's from Tamilnadu Jadzia and Prakash from Andhra Pradesh region were introduced to us in our NEXCO family followed by rationale of the meeting.

The first session of the day was conducted by Mr. Leo Joseph on the topic 'Who am I' in which a self introduction game was conducted and we all came closer to each other. The next session was conducted by Fr. Charles about 'My priorities in life' followed by group dynamics. We were given topics for discussion and we reflected on it. The session was very informative. After all the sessions for the day we had evening prayer with rosary. After supper we were taught action songs by Fr. Charles. The day thus came to end with lots of fun and information.



On 6.10.2013, Sunday the day began with an inspiring mass by Fr. Savyo. After breakfast Fr. Charles introduced the Asian coordinators Ralph and Homme to us, who interacted with us and also shared their YCS/YSM experience. They gave a proposal to conduct NATP and CAFE programmes together in India.

Then a session on what is YCS/YSM, what is the role of a NEXCO in YCS/YSM, the reality of the movement was dealt by Leo. The session was very useful and it helped us to understand the important features of YCS/YSM.

The next session was conducted by Fr. Savyo D'Souza, RYD of Goa. He explained to us about effective leadership and also about the ways to become a good leader. He explained about value based leadership through games and group discussions. He created an impact through his inspiring speech and gave us confidence to lead the society in the right way. He also taught us about the qualities of a good leader and encouraged us to follow them through his speech. Thus we obtained high levels of hope to be a good leader.

The next session was conducted by Fr. Chetan, RYD of Delhi region about the networking of the movement as a NEXCO. He helped us to get a clear understanding about networking through various illustrations and examples, in a way interesting to us, like telling us about present day advertisements, advantages and disadvantages of networking, the present society's need for networking and so on. He interacted with us and made us to understand the need to network and also taught us how to



use it in a careful way, that we don't become addicted to it. The session was very informative and useful for us as members of NEXCO.

The next session was conducted by Fr. Fatima Reddy and Fr. Sudhir Dung Dung who dealt with the topic cell meeting. Fr. Fatima explained to us about the basic structure of a cell, its functions, how to create a cell etc. He conducted cell meeting by dividing us into various cells. He gave us a case study and made us to discuss it within our cells and evaluation was done.

Later Fr. Sudhir explained to us about the importance of cell meetings. As YCS/YSM is a cell based movement, he made us realize the need and importance of cell meeting. He also made us clear that cell meetings are based upon the methodology of YCS/YSM: SEE, JUDGE, ACT. We got an idea about the cell meeting through these sessions and also understood that any problem can be found a favorable solution through cell meetings. The case studies that we discussed in the cell meeting also helped us to understand the real purpose of cell meetings.

After that, election of national treasurer was held. It was held in this meeting because during the national council we could not get majority vote to anyone. Voting was done by secret ballot and Bala Praneeth Reddy from Andhra Pradesh was elected as the National treasurer for the term 2013-16. Fr. Charles announced his name as the National Treasurer officially.

After the election, a workshop on key learning of the constitution was dealt by Leo. Several topics were written on papers and we took them randomly. We were asked to explain about the topic so as to make us understand about the setup up in a more clear way. We got a more clear knowledge about the constitution. After this we passed the agenda and meeting with the Archbishop for the next day. We also discussed about the plan of action which we have proposed in the National council. We discussed about the visitation and participation, expansion, publication and communication.

We took the following decisions: We have planned to visit regions which were not visited by the previous NEXCO's and also try to participate in all the programmes as much as possible. We decided to visit all the dioceses in our own regions. We have decided to visit many dioceses and to create new units in schools and parishes and also to visit the units where YCS/YSM is existing, but need to be strengthened. We also planned to meet the Bishops of our dioceses and encourage YCS/YSM further.

PROGRAMS envisaged are: Spreading YCS/YSM in neighboring dioceses. NATP may be hosted between two regions. Interculturality programs between two regions and the duration of the programme could be 3 days. NEXCOs would be present for all the meetings. We have decided to give life to our search magazine by sending articles to it. We have decided to be in touch with all the Nexco members and maintain a relationship as if we all belong to one family.

After all these we had personal sharing in which we shared our personal stories with smiles and tears. We felt open to share everything as we all became as one united family and we felt



open to express our lives and we became closer and understood everyone's feelings.

On 7.10.2013, Monday, the day began with an inspiring mass by Most Rev. Leo Cornelio, bishop incharge of CBCI Office for Youth. This created a spiritual feeling within us. The meeting started at 9.00 am with the Archbishop. Sharon from Tamilnadu began the meeting with a short prayer and Jimmy Pdang, National President introduced the agenda and welcomed Archbishop for the meeting. Then the NEXCO members shared their understanding, experiences and feelings of the movement. Archbishop gave his message mentioning that YCS/ YSM provides self-confidence for the youth and it is a movement for nation building. He also said us that we mustn't ask what the movement contributes to me but what I contribute to the movement. Now a days the concept is "USE PEOPLE AND LOVE THINGS" but each person is valuable and it is our responsibility to heal the society and we have the power to do it. He also conveyed his regards to all the people especially to our parents for encouraging us and loving us. He concluded by saying, 'Love is the most important thing than money and any other things'.

After this, regional reports were presented. The evaluation of the national council was done. Suggestions were given for the next national council about the place and improvement compared to the previous national council. Three places were suggested by the gathering to have the next national council – Orissa, Bijhan and Andhra Pradesh. The RYD's are

requested to decide about it in the region and inform during the next meeting. Then the new NEXCO members were introduced and were officially initiated to the family. The reasons for the absence of the other NEXCO's were explained.

Information about the NSLTP was given by Fr. Charles. The proposal given by the Asian coordinators was informed to the Archbishop and after a short discussion we agreed to their proposal with the approval of Archbishop and National Chaplain to organize together in India as NATP-CAFE. Fr. Charles then informed about the membership fees and also about the condition of the Search news letter.

We had a discussion about the advocacy and expansion of the movement. The people in the gathering interacted with the Archbishop and gave suggestions. We also asked Archbishop for a new national office in New Delhi and he promised to provide his help in this issue and make arrangements for a new office for us.

Discussions were held regarding where can we have the next NTA/Exco meeting. It was decided that the next NTA/NEXCO meeting will be held at HYDERABAD on January 11th and 12th. Jimmy thanked the gathering. Fr. Charles also conveyed his gratefulness and the meeting ended with a prayer and blessing by Archbishop.

After the meeting we went for *Delhi Darsahan*, where we met the members of the ICYM youth who were going to take part in the NYC at Jalandhar. We enjoyed their cultural programmes and we also taught them our YCS/ YSM claps and action songs. After supper we all returned home, some of them returned to the venue except those who were taking part in the NYC.

Our sincere thanks to Archbishop Leo Cornelio, our ever loving National Chaplain, all the DYD's and RYD's, animators, Fr. Chetan for organising this place, our best friend Leo Anna and all my family members of NEXCO and also all those who helped us for the success in this meeting. LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE

- Sharon M. Kalinse - National Secretary



National Consultation on YCS/YSM India

St. Joseph Degree College, Hyderabad on 22nd Oct 2013

In the event of shifting the YCS/YSM National working office from Chennai to Delhi a National Consultation of the former National Chaplains was held at St. Joseph Degree College, Hyderabad on 22nd Oct 2013 in the presence of Chairman Archbishop Leo Cornelio. For the morning session former directors Fr. Johnny Monteiro, Fr. Vincent Monteiro, Fr. Vincent Arokiadoss were present along with Fr. Balaswamy RYD of AP, Fr. Fathima DYD of Hyderabad and Mr. Deepakraj, former Asian coordinator. For the afternoon session 4 former members from Hyderabad Mr. Alexander Philips, Editor and Media Consultant – former National and Regional Full Timer with Fr. Johnny Monteiro, Mr. James Sylvester, Advocate and Management Consultant and former NEXCO, National Part Timer with Fr. M C Michael, Mr. Antony, Web Designer- Regional Part Timer, With Parish YCS and Ms. Louisa, Teacher - National Full Timer with Fr. M C Michael joined us for the meeting.

The meeting began with a short prayer and Bible reading led by Fr. Charles Menezes, the National chaplain. In his introduction he explained the property issue at Chennai, Survey findings during the National Council and the opinions of other former members as to why we need to move to Delhi and then Archbishop Leo Cornelio headed the meeting.

Why this National Consultation?

Archbishop explained the background reason of having this consultation at this time. Due to property issues between YCS/YSM and Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, which was settled recently amicably, the National working office was decided to be shifted from Chennai to Delhi, the national capital for better visibility and coordination with the CBCI Office for Youth. We could have moved anywhere in India but moving to Delhi would have added advantage for the movement is one of the main reason. Though we wanted to have a desk at CBCI Delhi, it was not possible, citing decentralization of the national commissions from CBCI and hence, we need to buy a new place to set up our office, he said. During the previous NTA/Exco meetings at

Gujarat and Nagpur and during National council held at Bethel, Shillong it was unanimously decided to shift the office to Delhi. It will be helpful for us to spread this movement in a systematic manner to cater to the needs of many more students all over India and to work



in better collaboration with ICYM which also belongs to the youth Commission and would be beneficial for both these movements. It will have more visibility so that we could hold events that will help the youngsters and also the youngsters when they come to Delhi on some occasion will have a place to step in for some time and recuperate themselves. It will also help us to relate with other likeminded movements which are placed in Delhi.

Then the focus was shifted to the agenda of the day:

Agenda 1: YCS/YSM India National Movement today-Student reality, relation with the church and relevance in society.

Agenda 2 - Our vision for YCS/YSM India – Organizational changes and strategies to be adopted

Agenda 3- Our future role in YCS/YSM India – Engagement and promoting the movement (Voluntary and New Structures)

Fr. Charles said, we have movement present in 65 dioceses of India and around 1.5 lakh members but a lot need to be done to reach out to many more student members to train them in personality development, faith formation and social leadership for which we need support of the Hierarchy, youth directors and animators.

Archbishop Leo opined saying, strengthen existing schools and units rather than more

school units. Go to open minded schools. Important factor is to identify good animators. First positive struggle of the movement is to keep the movement relevant for the day. Concentrate on training lay leadership. Concentrate on the units or schools which are already functioning. Inviting priests and bishops who are not interested, to programs and activities would be the next step.

But others opined that to start with bishops, priests and animators who are genuinely interested will help us. Hierarchy support is very important. Focus on quality with few people than quantity. But reach out to many so that they are not deprived of a chance to change their lives. Later those others will follow it. Make use of relevant technologies to spread the movement.

After a day long discussion these conclusions were drawn:

1. Utilize the expertise of former YCS/YSM members for training and expanding the movement
2. Locate Bishops and Animators with YCS/YSM Experience and involve them in this process
3. Discuss the movement issues in Regional Bishops' conference and regional youth commission meetings every time as an important agenda to evaluate and

4. plan for its activities.
5. Stop comparing it with other movements, It is unique, Keep up the uniqueness in the process
6. Start Parish level, School level, College level, City level units to reach out to students
7. Involve likeminded movements in the process of training
8. Use drives and causes to fundraising. We shall collaborate with you.
9. Use documentation and social media towards promotion and advocacy
10. Have more people (Priests, Full timers, Student Volunteers) at the office for team work to reach out to more areas all over India
11. Ask for regents at the diocesan/regional level to help out the diocesan/regional directors
12. Create sub-centers for YCS/YSM wider reach to all regions.
13. Reach out to School heads/ CRI/ Religious Congregations and inform them about this movement with the help of Local Ordinary/ Heads of the Congregations.
14. Hold national level DYD and Animators training regularly.
15. Organize National Convention for publicity.
16. Settle down at Delhi to start working in this direction.

– Mr. Deepakraj

*Science brings facts together,
But cruelty separates one from another,
Communication brings world together,
Though geography separates each other,
Laws are framed to end evils,
But world is filled with evils
Clash for superiority creates fights,
We have no option but sacrifice our rights
Man is creating religion and race,
But feelings brings fights to face
Mankind is the creation of all mighty,
Unity and brotherhood is our divine
dignity
Poets call the world a golden bird,
But humanity is moving backward
Students hope for a future ahead,
YCS is only the answer to go ahead.*



COLOURS OF YCS LIFE

*Life is god's gift,
Stunned with various colours in it,
Joy and sorrow are its parts,
Making life a beautiful art,
Life is like a running train,
No matter whatever be the strain,
Happiness and success, gears on
Failures and depression are like brakes on,
But it is YCS which speaks to carry it,
Which is a plot of flowers on it,
Colours which are beautiful and bright,
So it is up to us to enjoy it till our last sight..!*

There is happiness and sadness, pain and gain, high and low tide, in the lives of every individual. To reach the goal, to fulfill once dream, and to attain self actualization is ones ultimate desire in life. To achieve all these everyone has to swim against the current and be successful human being.



International level Young student's movement of udupi diocesan in its infant stage itself serving nearly 500 students of the district. Serving out of the box of religion, caste, creed and colour, it shows the way to adolescent students to develop their personality and self development aiming towards to build a better society with honest citizens.

Keeping in mind the development of these young lives the YSM udupi held 3 days camp on 'Life Skill' development. A residential camp for Y.S.M [Young Student Movement] by YCS/YSM Udupi Diocese with the co-ordination by the department of St.

Mary's college shirva at Trinity Central School Perampali on 17th, 18th and 20th of 2013. The camp was formally inaugurated at 5:30pm. Fr. Edwin D'souza, the director of YCS/YSM/ICYM Udupi Diocese, Fr. Anil D'costa, the principal, Trinity central school Perampali, Fr. Fedric D'souza. Director of Youth commission of Kalyanpura Diocese as well as parish priest of Thottam Parish, Ms. Shobha D'souza Assistant Professor MSW dept. St. Mary's college Shirva, Mr. Lesley Auroza, district YSM/YCS Animator Udupi district and counselor in profession, Nekil Mathias, President YSM Udupi Diocese were present at inauguration function.

Fr. Fredric d'souza inaugurated the camp by igniting the lamp and gave inaugural speech followed by Fr. Edwin, who introduced YSM office to the gathering. Then Fr. Anil D'costa gave some insight about Trinity central School. Later Ms. Shobha Jacintha D'souza PG dept. of M.S.W St. Mary's college Shirva gave some key notes about the camp.

Formation of Cells:

To test the participation of the participants during the activities held during the 3 days camp the participants were divided into 4 cells they were given names of flowers like lotus, jasmine, rose and daliya. To take care of each cell there were students of MSW st. Mary's College shirva as Mentors and animators.

Informative Sessions:

There were 4 training programmes held during this camp. They were – Life Skill training programme, Time Management, Leadership training, Personal Hygiene and health along with adjustmental problems of adolescent stage. The resource persons for these programmes were Mrs. Laxmi Acharya, Ms. Shobha Dsouza, Mr. Vignesh Holla, Mr. Mohammad Naseer, the professors of MSW Dept. st. Mary's college Shirva Udupi dist. Along with their 18 students.

Paper craft:

To develop the skill and creativity among the participants about the craft Ms. Shobha taught few paper crafts. The



students of MSW encouraged thee participants in their cells to learn the creative arts from the paper.

Street Play, Mask preparation / performance and dance training:

One part of this camp was Street play, preparation of Masks and performance and the training in dance. On 18th afternoon from 2.30 pm these above trainings were held simultaneously. Street play on the ill effects of the use of plastic was trained under the guidance of Mr. Vignesh Assist Professor. Mask preparation and display of a moral story performance was directed by Ms. Shobha Assistant Professor and also the dance training performed by Ms. Akshatha and Ms. Sowjanya Students of MSW.



Cultural evening: A beautiful cultural programme was held in the evening by the participants. There was a programme from every cell. Along with street play, Mask performance and dances were performed beautifully by the participants.

Games and Learning: There are different types of learning. Games are one type of learning. To respond to this there were well planned competitions held. One minutes games which increased the competitive spirit and also the participative skills. These competitions held between the cells so the team spirit among the participants increased.

Meditation and Yoga: To teach the importance of meditation and yoga in one's life there every morning from 6.45 to 7.45 meditation and various yoga's were taught by Ms. Shobha and the students of MSW.

Movie and Review: To cultivate the Moral values among the participants, the famous children's movie "Ball Pen" was shown to the participants. This movie gave away the lesson on leadership, courage, hard work, value for life, time management, authenticity, . The four cells then discussed in about the values and how they can be inculcated in one's life. This discussion was then put forth before the general assembly.

Valedictory function: On 19th at 3.30pm the valedictory function of the camp was held at the auditorium of the Trinity school. Rev. Fr. Anil D'costa presided over the function. Chief guest Professor Rajan V.N. Principal st. Mary's College shirva Mr. laxmi Santhosh Assistant Professor MSW dept. St. Mary's college shirva, and YSM udupi Diocese president Nikil Mathias was present Here in certificates for participants, winners of the different group games were announced by Ms. Shobha . Mementos and certificates were distributed to the animators and participants. Short speeches were given by the president and chief guest of the event. Fr. Edwin D'Souza director YCS/YSM appreciated and thanked the department of MSW shirva for their tireless service for three days.

If this camp brings some reformation among the participants, that will be the greatest achievement of the YSM of Udupi Dioce. Thanks to all who visibly and invisibly supported this camp which brought about the success in the lives of 43 young students of 19 schools of the district. We raise our hearts in thanks to the Almighty and all those who are the art of this camp.

Praying

A sick man who was brought to a hospital said to the good nun in-charge, "I have not prayed in thirty years. Pray for me." She said, "Pray for yourself. Sometimes the most strangest voice is the one most quickly heard."

- Ashley Rodrigues

The term interculturality refers to any aspect of any interaction between any cultures. A culture is understood as a group of people with a common identity that is based on common attributes, attitudes, practices and so on (such as a community of practice). Culture can include language, ways of thinking, ways of life, institutions, laws, rules of etiquette, material objects, etc. When two groups meet whose cultures differ significantly in any respect, interculturality becomes an issue.

Interculturality is becoming increasingly important in the modern world as more and more people migrate from one country to another to escape from conflict, persecution or poverty, or to reunite families. Interculturality is often problematic, because racism and xenophobia are widespread and locals and migrants often compete for limited resources or employment opportunities. But interculturality also has benefits, including cultural enrichment and creativity.

Interculturalism refers to support for cross-cultural dialogue and challenging tendencies within cultures. Interculturalism involves moving beyond mere passive acceptance of a multicultural fact of multiple cultures effectively existing in a society and instead promotes dialogue and interaction between cultures. Interculturalism has arisen in response to criticisms of existing policies of multiculturalism, such as criticisms that such policies had failed to create inclusion of different cultures within society, but instead have divided society by legitimizing segregated separate communities that have isolated themselves and accentuated their specificity.

Helpline - Interculturality : Tollfree number 1800 233 1250 ; 10 am to 2 pm

-Bala Praneeth Reddy, National Treasurer

REPORT

MAKE HIM YOUR BEST FRIEND & FAITH IN HIM IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Make JESUS your best friend & He will see through all your difficulties & worries, pain & sorrows says Fr Nelson Pinto speaking to the Y.C.S retreatants at Trinity Central School Perampalli, Manipal Udupi district.

The annual 3 days retreat commenced on 15-10-2013 Tuesday 9:30am at Trinity central school, Perampalli symbolically inaugurated by Fr Anil D'Costa, Fr Nelson pinto, & the director Fr Edwin D'Souza by lighting the lamp .The retreat began with praise & worship led by Osmond who helped all the participants to raise our hearts to God, followed by Talks, Rosary, adoration & action songs. The day was dedicated to the diocese of Udupi as it was the first b'day of the diocese.

The second day began with praise & worship by Osmond followed by breakfast & action songs . The whole day was dedicated to strengthen our bond with God. The whole group was divided into various cells & were given duties & activities. Speaking to the retreatants, Fr Nelson called the youth, "MAKE JESUS YOUR BEST FRIEND, add him on the friend list of your profile & you will become tension free". He helped the youth to make good confession followed by inner healing prayer.

On the third day, the work of the Holy Spirit could be felt in the joy of the participants, Who were pledged themselves for a new beginning. YCS, National Director, Fr Charles inspired the participants to do things that make a difference. The participants sang & danced to glorify the Lord & the retreat wound up with the lunch.

The retreat inspired the youth to know the importance of prayer, values & strengthened their bond with God. The youth got to know new people & enjoyed the new company.

- Johan REXCO Reporter, YCS Udupi

BURN BOOKS! BURN BRAINS!!

Adolf Hitler burned thousands of books, especially related to Semitism. He was observed with the purity and superiority of the German race. As part of cleansing Germany of all other inferior races, he murdered millions of people, especially Jews.

Dachau is a place 28 km from Munich city in Germany. During the Nazi regime there existed concentration camps with a number of prisoners. It was here that Adolf Hitler burned thousands of books with “unGerman” ideas in 1933. Among the 20000 volumes hurled into the flames were the writings of Albert Einstein, Friedrich Forster, Sigmund Freud, Helen Keller, Karl Marx and many others. A school drop-out, Adolf Hitler was by nature, anti intellectual. He was obsessed with the purity and superiority of the German race. As part of cleansing Germany of all other inferior races, he murdered millions of people, especially Jews. Having foreseen the danger libraries could cause, he burned thousands of books in this particular place. In memory of this barbaric act a monument was erected on this spot with this caption: **THOSE WHO BURN BOOKS WILL ALSO BURN THEIR BRAINS!**



When I was told of this historic blunder committed by Hitler and the caption written, I instantly thought of its application to present day society. Though the Internet and TV have transformed the large world into the global village, the reading habit of people, especially of the younger generations disappearing. Students and teachers who spend long hours before the TV and Internet do not read newspapers and printed periodicals. They do not read any books other than those related to their subjects. After completing formal education and obtaining university degrees, the teachers stop reading the books. Among the 300 schools I visited in almost all the states of India to conduct orientation for the teachers, hardly 12 percent of them read newspapers daily. Not more than one or two teachers in every school read a book during the year. Purchasing books is not an item in the family budget.

Many college and seminary libraries have stopped buying new books because the number of students who use the library has dropped considerably. Research students find the internet as easy means of collection information. Downloading and pasting data have become a shortcut to fulfill the obligation of presenting research papers. Today, obtaining degrees has become more important than learning. Libraries and books are needed only for those who thirst for knowledge and information. The new generation does not realize that in the company of books one can meet great saints, scientists and people who created history.

Today, we do not have a Hitler who burns books to destroy the brains. Electronic media with their cheap entertainment which take the precious time of both children and adults is doing the same thing as Hitler. TV with its cheap serials, modern songs and dance programs, the day and night cricket matches are killing more brains than Hitler and his Nazi organization who burned books to kill brains.

Everyday several inspiring books on dealing with a variety of subjects are coming into the market. It is encouraging to note that there are still people take interest to buy them and keep

up their reading habit. Regular reading of good books has an important role in the formation of young people. In the past every village and town had public libraries and reading rooms. These days, good reading rooms and libraries are seldom found even in the large cities. We had taken the initiative to start a public reading room in the heart of the city without any membership fee to create an interest in reading. Yet the people who came to use them daily, did not exceed twenty. After two years, we were forced to close it down.



All great men and women who created history were people who had a passion for reading and study. They were people who never stopped learning. They updated their knowledge by constant study and research. The modern generation considers education as a means of obtaining a degree with minimum effort which will qualify them to get a job for earning their livelihood. Instead of developing one's intellect the education system judges a student according to his capacity of memorize. The other aspects of education character building and increasing the strength of the will are totally neglected. Reading inspiring books out of the examination syllabi is essential for character building and developing mental, emotional and spiritual stamina.

Books cannot be substituted by Internet and TV. In the midst of books one can experience the company of great people and continue learning lessons of life. Books develop the brains of people who build the nation. When people stop reading the nation stops developing. Let books return to the daily routine of people!. Civilization will develop when there are more and more libraries.

A hundred years before the advent of Hitler, the German-Jewish poet, Heinrich Heine declared: "Wherever books are burned, human beings are destined to be burned too"

-Fr. Varghese Alengaden, USM Indore.

Funny but True!

1. A man is lucky if he is the first love of a woman and a woman is lucky if she is the last love of a man.
2. There is always another chance for everything in life. But the fact is that there is no chance of another life.
3. We realize value of life increases only after it is lost. For example- A live chicken Rs.60/- and tandoori chicken Rs.280/-.
4. When you read a love quote, you never think of the person who has written the quote. But you always think of the person you love the most.
5. Marriage is like a mouse-trap. Those on the outside are trying to get in and those on the inside are trying to get out.
6. The real problem doesn't start when a boy looks at a girl. It begins when she turns back and smiles.
7. Most relationships fail not because of the absence of love. Love is always present. It's just that one loves too much and the other loves too many.
8. When the relation is new, people find reasons to meet. But when it becomes old, people find excuses to avoid.
9. No brother in the world will allow his sister to speak with a guy on mobile at midnight. But every guy surely might be expecting someone's sister to talk to him at midnight.
10. How strange humans are! If we hate someone, we tell everyone without any fear. But if we love someone, we fear even to tell the loved one.

- Ashley Rodrigues, (NEXCO Northern Region)

Case Study for cell meetings

Model Case Study: Like everyday boy (son) was engrossed in computer. Daughter was listening songs. Father was busy with phone. Mother was watching her favorite serial on TV. Suddenly power went off. “Shit! “Why power off”, all murmured. “Inverter was spoiled”.

Mother lit a candle. All, one by one came around the candle. Mother started sharing her old childhood stories- the studies they did under a kerosene lamp..., those horrific stories..., those wonderful events... Father also opened up and started sharing his childhood stories and memories. All the children were enthusiastically listening those intimate moments, intervened with a few queries, as regards frightful events. They were sharing and listening to each other as if they came together after a very long time. They wondered since how long they had an intimate chat like that. Nobody realized the time passed by.



Case Study on Interculturality:

Case 1: A south Indian once visited a friend in North East. He had become friend through Facebook. In his state in south tobacco was banned and all the petty shops had to stop selling it. But when he visited his friend’s home in North east, they offered him beetle nut and tobacco. He made a comment on it, but it was necessary and respectful gesture to have it for the North Eastern community. The hosts were puzzled by the unexpected behavior of the guest. What would you do if you came across this situation?

Case 2: Caste system, unfortunately, still exists in India. Every religion says that we all are children of one God. Indian Constitution says we are all equal before Law. But, if a boy from certain community marries a girl from another community, our elders do not accept their marriage and do not tolerate it. How do you respond to this incident?

Case 3: One of my friends after 12th went abroad to study further. He was influenced by the free culture and fashion of the west. On his return he would not respect the local cultural beliefs and started boasting about the freedom and cultural differences there. His people at home got confused at the change taken place in him. Western Media promotes fashion and freedom of thought and speech. These may give way to change of behavior and shallow living. Religious values are discarded and personal values are compromised. How do you respond to these situations and the change taken place in him?

Case 4: Amar, Akbar and Antony are close friends. They study in the same class and sit on the same bench. Today is the feast at Amar’s home who belonged to Hindu community. School Holiday. Akbar and Antony are called to his home for the feast who belonged to different community. What do you suggest for a good participation in and celebration of the feast?

Case 5: Our neighborhood boys have organized a blood donation camp and Shramadhan (cleaning the vicinity) on next Sunday. They all belong to a Yuvak Sangha and do a lot of charitable deeds to the poor. You would like to partake but your parents object to it. How do you tackle this problem?

Case 6: Amona belongs to a traditional community. In her village different communities have their own traditional and religious dress. Some wear clothes and cover themselves fully. Some with the influence of western culture wear clothes necessary enough to cover themselves. She wants to look good with modern clothes. What do you suggest to Amona?



Case 7: Avinash was a sociable and studious boy. He scored good marks in last year final exams and was good at relating to others. He had lot of friends in the school and vicinity. Recently he got access to facebook and internet at home. Now he does not mingle with others rather always found immersed in computer and social media websites. He has gone down in studies and interacting with his friends. The social media is filled with good and bad sites. You doubt he is caught up with it. As a responsible friend what is your action in getting him back to your friends circle?

Case 8: You know that the school in your village belongs to you and all the children should attend school. Midday meal, books and uniform is provided to the poor. One of your neighborhood communities does not have access to education and certain religious customs does not allow their children to participate in the education process. You are aware of this problem. What do you do for your unfortunate brethren?

Case 9: Aruna is class X student and is back in the village during midterm holidays from city hostel. She has changed. Her clothes, style of talk and walk has changed a lot. People look at her with eyes wide open. They are in a cultural shock. She wants to try out the various cultural norms and beliefs. She knows that the religion and local culture controls the extreme methods of fashion. She also knows that the fashion and modernity has breezed into the ward robes of her village people. It affects their studies and plays havoc in the lives of villagers. As a responsible student how do you help your friends to manage it well?

Case 10: Jovi is well educated in the foreign country. Though well qualified he is not affected by the culture and religious freedom of the foreigners. He is back to the village after his studies and respects his teachers and elders as before. He has not forgotten his roots. He partakes in the cultural and religious activities of the village as before. How do you think it was possible for him to keep up the local beliefs and culture when all our friends fall prey to it? What would you do if you get an opportunity to study abroad?

Barber by Profession, he Owns 128 Luxury Cars!

Bangalore: 'Where there is a will, there is a way'. Ramesh Babu from Bangalore who is his late thirties dreamt big, but had no resources or godfathers to make his dreams come true. One of his desires was to own a fleet of luxury cars. Today, he owns not one or two or three, but 128 luxury cars including Rolls Roys, Mercedes, BMW and many more!

Ramesh's father who owned a small saloon died when Ramesh was a young boy. In 1994, after PUC, Ramesh preferred to run his father's shop rather than continue his education. His expertise soon made him popular, and his clients included policemen, politicians, film personalities, sports personalities and public figures. But he still cherished the dream of owning a car.

He started off by buying a Maruti Omni in 1994 for personal use. Instead of using the car for himself, he rented it out. Even corporate companies would rent his vehicle, sometimes for weeks. Once he started earning revenue from his car renting business, he went on adding more cars. Now he gives Rolls Royce on rent at Rs 50,000 a day, and when business is slack, he takes his wife and kids for a drive. "My dream of driving a Rolls Royce is finally fulfilled," says Babu.

While adding on cars, he expanded his saloon business too. "My first priority is my profession, my barber shop. That gave me bread. I visit all three saloons, and handle the work personally. This gives me enormous satisfaction," he says. "Most of the clients for my fleet of cars are celebrities, including Salman Khan, Aishwarya Rai, and others, and top corporate companies," he adds.

Today he owns 128 cars! He runs his business under the company name Ramesh Tours and Travels in Bangalore. His formula for success? - "All you need to succeed is confidence, relentless hard work, dedication, and undeviating focus on your goal and some luck..."



courtesy : daijiworld





NO ADMISSION FOR A “BAD CHILD”

Good education does not mean one hundred percent results with many distinctions. It also does not mean making people merely literate.

There is pride and prestige in sending children to English medium schools (Convent Schools). Competition for admissions, excellent results, appearance, name and fame, building and gardens go with such institutions. Interviews of children before admission, interviews for parents, the possibility of extra tuition, capability of extra donations, uniforms and polished shoes, unit-tests, monthly-tests, computer classes, other features and attractions to these institutions, are all worked in. Management, staff and parents promote them to build up “future citizens” of this nation.

Once, a parent with much concern got his son admitted to a good boarding school. But, after two years, he found that his son had not been “built up”. Instead, he was asked to take back his ward for lack of discipline. An indisciplined and corrupt society is very keen to teach discipline and good behavior to an eight-year-old boy.

His father brought the boy home and sought admission in a local convent school where the child had done his primary studies. The school refused to admit the child for reasons of indiscipline. The judgment was passed on the basis of the child’s behavior in his primary classes. “He is a naughty boy and we cannot admit him into our school” was the opinion of the school authority. “If you cannot admit him in your school” said the worried parent, “which school can admit him and make him a better boy?”

The questions simple people ask pose a great challenge to us. These questions demand an examination of our attitudes and values. We need to examine the very purpose of our educational institutions. Do we run schools to educate only “good” children? Who will take care of the “bad” children? What is the meaning of our religious commitment? How can we claim that we run the best educational institutions? Good education does not mean one hundred percent results with many distinctions. It also does not mean making people merely literate. Does our education promote values? Are we serious about this problem? Is there some truth that our educational institutions have lost their nobility and are now business centers?

Jesus categorically declared: “I have come to call the sinners and not righteous” We look for saints; we look for those who are well and not the sick. How long should Jesus stand in queues for admission in our institutions? When will we listen to the voice of Jesus in our decision making?

-Fr. Varghese Alengaden, USM Indore

Forthcoming programmes:

1. NTA/EXCO meeting at Hyderabad on 11-12 January 2014
2. Hyderabad diocesan annual meet at Hyderabad on 19th Jan 2014
3. Visitation to various dioceses with regard to expansion of the movement
4. Animators Training Programme, Indore – RYDs, DYDs and Coordinators 7-14 March 2014
5. 1st YCS/YSM National Convention, Warangal - 4-7 May 2014 - proposed
6. NATP – CAFÉ in August 2014 - proposed
7. AYD at South Korea, 10-17 August 2014

This article is on Children Neighbourhood Parliament organized by children themselves under the guidance of Fr. Edwin John. Does this inspire you....?



Naina Rao Athalye

Swarnalakshmi often dreamt of addressing a United Nations gathering. When this dream came true, she found herself sharing with the global audience many more of her dreams.

"You may notice that I have a sight impairment but I have big visions and dreams," the 13-year old from Tamil Nadu told the 57th United Nations session on the Commission on the Status of Women, which met in New York on March 8 this year.

"I dream the children should take pleasure in the love of their parents, their neighbours and of the world. I dream of equal rights for both men and women. I dream that no man is left hungry in the world. I dream that there are no wars in the world. I hear that the whole world is colourful. But to me, as I said earlier, the real colour is the colour of love. I visualise that one day I will join this august world of love."

Unlike the courageous Pakistani girl Mallala Yousufzai, whose address before a UN gathering was a global news event, Swarnalakshmi did not make big news. However, Swarnalakshmi, supported by the Christian Blind Mission India and the Neighbourhood Community Network, won the hearts of many with her little speech at the special session on 'zero tolerance against violence towards girls and women' and later at Fordham University in the same city.

Winning hearts is not new for Swarna, as her friends call her, as she has risen to become the 'prime minister of the Tamil Nadu state children's parliament'. In fact, she spoke about her organisation's work at the UN too: "We have children's parliaments in India. And the Tamil Nadu children's parliament has decided to tackle the issue of violence against girls and women by promoting rights awareness and actively preventing child labour, child marriage and by encouraging education."



I too have a dream

The vision of a visually challenged girl and hope of better governance

Although visually impaired, Swarna's inner confidence glowed through her smile and articulation. She is a fine example of how love and care from parents, teachers and peers can boost courage and leadership skills in a child with a severe disability.

Swarna's initiation into public life started with the 'neighbourhood children's parliament', known here as Anna Salivan, where children come together to not only discuss issues that matter to them but also find solutions for them and get the elders to deliver. She was first elected as 'communications minister' and later became 'finance minister'. Among many of her other achievements during her tenure as finance minister was mobilisation of resources for the children survivors of the Tahane Storm in Cuddalore

district and participation in the 'Nine is Mine' campaign that coaxes the government to allocate 9 percent of the budget to children's welfare.

Other children like her way of doing things and in time elected her the 'PM of the Tamil Nadu state children's parliament' in December 2012.

The only child of Ravi Duraiakannu, an Accenture employee, and Lakshmi, a housewife, Swarna aspires to become an Indian administrative service (IAS) officer so that she can better serve society, especially the visually and physically challenged, and work towards prevention of violence against girls.

Ask her if she'd like to become the country's prime minister one day, and Swarna says with an innocent smile, "Why not?"

PHOTO COURTESY NAINA RAO ATHALYE



Young parliamentarians

Swarna's confidence and vision are the product of her participation in the children's parliament – a concept based on a small group representation or 'sociocratic governance' where the voices of small and marginalised groups are heard.

Kees Boeke, a Dutch peace worker and educator, was the first to use this model among children in the Netherlands in the mid-20th century and called it the 'children's community workshop'.

Children's parliament is one of the many ways in which the rights of the children to participation (as prescribed under the articles 12 and 13 of the UNCRC; see box for more) are met. Today there are over 360 children's parliaments initiated by the Holistic Child Development India in collaboration with Kindernoithilfe, Germany and Eriks Sweden.

The children's parliaments in north India, Karnataka and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have 3,735 girls participating as parliamentarians with nearly 60% girls holding ministerial posts. These young parliamentarians, both boys and girls, undergo training in life skills, equipping them with the attitude to respect human rights,



Children as decision-makers

Articles 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) pertain to the right of children to participate in decision-making. These provisions are a welcome step for developing leadership qualities in children and getting their voices heard. Leadership skills among girl children, however, have not received much attention. Considering the gender disparities in India, involving girl children in decision-making may seem very utopian. Women's empowerment can begin with training women and girls in skills for management and governance. Experts point out that it can be started at home, where parents can encourage daughters to voice their opinions and take leadership in day-to-day home life. Mothers can act as role models for daughters by being good managers and leaders themselves. October 11 is celebrated as the World Girl Child Day.

assume responsibilities and enjoy their rights.

The children members elect their ministers through a process of consensus and parliament meets every week. Objections against those selected are discussed and resolved amicably.

Parliament serves as a forum for children to share their views about their school, family and friends alongside understanding their rights and duties.

Such a group has manifold benefits, especially for children at high risk. Knowing that they can come to a place where they are free to talk and be heard encourages them to share experiences of abuse and violence.

This is particularly true of culturally oppressed girl children who suffer violence due to their caste and the Devdasi system in Karnataka.

Civil society stakeholders such as teachers, women's self-help groups, panchayat elders and health workers form child protection committees within the villages and neighbourhood that help sustain these parliaments.

Boys in these parliaments not only

respect the right of the girl members but also follow instructions from girl ministers even if they have differences of opinion.

Involving boys in issues of gender discrimination has helped them challenge gender stereotypes, which have made them nurturers of girls' rights.

Not only are children in the 8-18 age group becoming more gender sensitive but they have also managed to create plastic-free zones in their villages and put errant teachers in their schools in place. They have also helped dalit children forced into bonded labour to return to schools.

What is truly delightful is that children have been actively involved in community service, peace education and gender reconciliation. ■

Dr Athalye is programme coordinator of the Department of Children at High Risk at Holistic Child Development India, Pune. She thanks Fr Edwin John at NCN, Sr Gladys, project partners and many wonderful children parliamentarians, Kindernoithilfe and Erikshjalpen. feedback@governancenow.com

ICYM National Youth Convention *Search* Jalandhar, Punjab

The National youth Convention of ICYM took place at Jalandhar, Punjab from 8 – 12 October 2014 on the theme Transformed by faith – transforming the world. Around 1500 youth participated in this programme. Previous to that all the delegates had an experience of home stay (days in the diocese) at various dioceses. It was an unique experience for many. We all gathered at Trinity College Grounds on the 8th Oct and the event started with the hoisting of flags of India, Vatican and ICYM by Cardinal Telespore Toppo, Archbishop Leo Cornelio and Bishop Franko Mullekkal of Punjab. The inaugural Mass was offered by the Cardinal followed by cultural programme by the Punjab groups.

On 9th the formal inauguration took place in the presence of Chief Minister of Punjab who hailed the contribution by the Christian community and offered to work with consonance with all the religious communities for the growth of the state. An panel event on faith sharing by the various entrepreneurs and a women empowerment programme by the panelists enlightened the youth on the need of these two aspects in life. The faith sharing of Bishop Franko Mullekkal and Mario Joseph were the highlights.

On 10th the programme continued with these events and all the youth had chances to mingle with each other so that cultural bond could be felt in the event. Exhibition of various stalls and other cultural events were held on that day. 25 thematic sessions were held on this day to elicit the new theme for the next three years. The new theme is “Touched by Christ – walk



the way of Christ”

On 11th the General Body meeting took place. The national activity report, annual budget and accounts, Yuvagram and other issues were sorted out at this meeting. During that time the non GB members had a fruitful session on donating human organs by Fr. Jerry Rosario, SJ.

On 12th a Peace Rally was organized and all the participants along with the local people took part in this long rally indicating the need of working for the peace in the world. It was followed by Concluding Mass by Apostolic Nuncio to India Archbishop Salvatore Pennachchio. Annual Youth Award ceremony was held at the end of the event and 23 youth were awarded with mementos and certificates for their selfless service to the youth of India in their particular regions. The programme came to a close with a grand closing ceremony with lots of fun loving, cultural programmes by the Punjabi youth with number of Balle Balle dances. 4 Nexco members of YCS/YSM India also participated in this memorable event and were awarded for their presence.

Congratulations to Fr. Franklin and his National Team for organizing this event so well and Fr. Peter the RYD of Northern region for successfully holding this event in Punjab. LOC and the fathers, sisters and faithful of Punjab did a commendable job under the leadership of Most Rev. Franko Mulakkal, the new Bishop of Jalandhar. Long live ICYM in the service of the young of India.

– Fr. Charles Menezes



The POPE of the POOR

Search

“My people are poor and I am one of them”, was the determined voice of the first Pope of the Americas Jorge Mario Bergoglio hailing from Argentina. Explaining his decision to live in an apartment and cook his own supper, he has always advised his priests to show mercy and apostolic courage and to keep their doors open to everyone. The 76-year-old Jesuit Archbishop of



Buenos Aires is a prominent figure throughout the continent, yet remains a simple pastor who is deeply loved by his diocese, throughout which he has travelled extensively on the underground and by bus during the 15 years of his Episcopal ministry.

He was born in Buenos Aires on 17 December 1936, the son of Italian immigrants. His father Mario was an accountant employed by the railways and his mother Regina Sivori was a committed wife dedicated to raising their five children. He graduated as a chemical technician and then chose

the path of the priesthood, entering the Diocesan Seminary. On 11 March 1958 he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus. He completed his studies of the humanities in Chile and returned to Argentina in 1963 to graduate with a degree in philosophy from the Colegio de San José in San Miguel. From 1964 to 1965 he taught literature and psychology at Immaculate Conception College in Santa Fé and in 1966 he taught the same subject at the Colegio del Salvatore in Buenos Aires. From 1967 to 70 he studied theology and obtained a degree from the Colegio of San José.

On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Ramón José Castellano. He continued his training between 1970 and 1971 at the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, and on 22 April 1973 made his final profession with the Jesuits. Back in Argentina, he was novice master at Villa Barilari, San Miguel; professor at the Faculty of Theology of San Miguel; consulter to the Province of the Society of Jesus and also Rector of the Colegio Máximo of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology.

On 31 July 1973 he was appointed Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina, an office he held for six years. He then resumed his work in the university sector and from 1980 to 1986 served once again as Rector of the Colegio de San José, as well as parish priest, again in San Miguel. In March 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis; his superiors then sent him to the Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires and next to the Jesuit Church in the city of Córdoba as spiritual director and confessor.

He was appointed Episcopal Vicar of the Flores district and on 21 December 1993 was entrusted with the office of Vicar General of the Archdiocese. On 3 June 1997, he was raised to the dignity of Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Not even nine months had passed when, upon the death of Cardinal Quarracino, he succeeded him on 28 February 1998, as Archbishop, Primate of Argentina and Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who have no Ordinary of their own rite.

Three years later at the Consistory of 21 February 2001, John Paul II created him Cardinal, assigning him the title of San Roberto Bellarmino. He asked the faithful not to come to Rome to celebrate his creation as Cardinal but rather to donate to the poor what they would have spent on the journey. As Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University of Argentina, he is the author of the books: *Meditaciones para religiosos* (1982), *Reflexiones sobre la vida apostolic* (1992) and *Reflexiones de esperanza* (1992).

In October 2001 he was appointed General Relator to the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Episcopal Ministry. This task was entrusted to him at the last minute to replace Cardinal Edward Michael Egan, Archbishop of New York, who was obliged to stay in his homeland because of the terrorist attacks on September 11th. At the Synod he placed particular emphasis on “the prophetic mission of the bishop”, his being a “prophet of justice”, his duty to “preach ceaselessly” the social doctrine of the Church and also “to express an authentic judgment in matters of faith and morals”.

He had four main goals: open and brotherly communities, an informed laity playing a lead role, evangelization efforts addressed to every inhabitant of the city, and assistance to the poor and the sick. He aimed to re-evangelize Buenos Aires, “taking into account those who live there, its structure and its history”. He asked priests and lay people to work together. In September 2009 he launched the solidarity campaign for the bicentenary of the Independence of the country. Two hundred charitable agencies are to be set up by 2016. And on a continental scale, he expected much from the impact of the message of the Aparecida Conference in 2007, to the point of describing it as the “Evangelii Nuntiandi of Latin America”.

Until the beginning of the recent sede vacante, he was a member of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Congregation for the Clergy, and the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. He was elected Supreme Pontiff on 13 March 2013.

- *Fr. Ronald Veigas, DYD Shimoga*

Lighting a thousand lamps – the Salma way

Chennai: It is not uncommon to find writers and poets who are influenced by Lebanese –American mystical poet

Kalil Gibran, the central figure in Romantic Movement that transformed the Arabic literature. Acclaimed Tamil poet and writer Raasathi alias Rokiah drew her inspiration from Gibran and the result was a series of writings under her pen name “Salma”, a character that finds mention in many of Gibran’s writings. Her writings created ripples in the orthodox Tamil society as she questioned the traditionally restrictive patriarchal society, on love, women’s sexuality and also challenged the efforts of the male dominated world to belittle women and keep them confined within the four walls of the house. Yes. Raasathi is no ordinary woman. She challenged the above taboos and through her profound efforts she was able to make a difference not only to her own life but also to thousands of women in Tamilnadu and elsewhere.



The moment people came to know that she was a writer who being a muslim questioned the taboos which made the male dominated society angry, but were calmed down with her knowledge as a woman writer. She contested election and became taluk panchayat president. There is a movie on her life “Salma” by well-known English director Kim Longinotto She runs a counseling centre for women. She worked with NGOs and travelled all over India and has become a Role model for thousands of women in India. She is the light that has defied the darkness in the lives of many women.



courtesy : daijiworld

It was a long awaited visit. I was planning to take some time off to interact with people who have served in this movement for quite some time with great enthusiasm. I landed at USM (Universal Solidarity Movement) in Indore headed by Fr. Varghese Alengaden, former Youth Director, MP.

It was a unique experience of family atmosphere where fathers, sisters and co-workers stay in a family bonded in love, so close with each other and live life. Everyone feels wanted, loved and taken care of. Fr. Varghese has been a loving father to all of them. There is spirituality lived through prayer and action. The Eucharist is lived in everyday life; inter religious prayer and time for reflection on every aspect of life. People of all faith live and serve in that place. Anyone who walks in is welcomed at the gate at any time of the day and night and likewise at the time of leaving. People of all faiths and children throng in to that place to experience the social and family life.

After a long journey to various places, I too landed at Indore on 28th Oct at 7pm and I found that great man at the airport to welcome me. It was a long distance, yet it was filled with love and care. I had been to USM in the first house, some 15 years ago and there are lot more changes in this place and people now. I had an opportunity to interact with Fr. Vincent, Sr Nisha, Sr. Judy, Neetu Joshi, Nitesh, Bincy and the girls serving them. It was a new world where people of all faith and walks of life lived in harmony.

The welcome and hospitality of those people, the inter religious prayers, the sharing at the Mass and especially day's evaluation - life line at 9pm, where everyone has a right to share what one feels about everything and plan for the next day is worth mentioning. They pray together, eat together, work together and live together. The vegetarian food in abundance and tea and coffee at any time of the day and night keeps you always full coz that is prepared out of love. Everyone is given due respect and especially the servants are looked after in love and concern coz they are the one who run the show. There is noise, singing, laughter, sharing, concern and everything what you want to see, you find there.

People who were a part of this movement are remembered and recognized here. Everyone's photo and name is inscribed on the walls and flexes on prominent places and learning them is a wonderful feeling. Along with father and sisters, main resource person Neetu is a Hindu, designer is a Muslim, two kitchen girls and driver are Hindu, others are Christians, and the movement organizing team is comprised of people of all faiths and well wishers are from all folks of life. Isn't it a cosmic family? The five path, way of life or "Panchamarg" is taught and lived here and those who have learnt from here do practice them for life. The 7 day training of vision formation for the students, animators training on mission of life and KNIT INDIA programme are the core teachings of this movement besides inspiring thousands of parents and teachers through their various training programmes.

Father Alengaden is sincere enough to say that this is an extended mission of YCS/YSM methodology See, Judge and Act is practiced. For every event and situation father would ask this question "What would Jesus do if he were here...?" Besides training the students, movement also caters to slum children through slum schools, without displacing the children from their daily chores but giving time at extra hours to educate them though appointed teachers. In a short time there will be 100 slum schools rearing to the needs of these children. It is a wonderful thing and wonder itself to know this.

I had an opportunity to meet many versatile personalities while visiting and wishing them at Dipawali with Fr. Varghese. Each one of them was clear about father's dreams and service. They are all stalwarts in various fields and talking to them was a wonderful feeling for me. Everyone was great thinkers and philosophers and artisans in their own field of work and life. They got involved in this movement.

knowing that this movement caters people of all faith and dreams of social transformation. I had an opportunity to partake in the wedding of Anna (with Vivian) who worked there for two years. She was one of the family members and all of them got involved to make it a great family event.

I understand that God works in and through different people in different ways and USM is one of the ways. People need to visit this place, live here for some time and experience the warmth and love of these wonderful people, so that we all get a new vision in life and in our mission. Every Christian movement in the church should cater to this idea so that the mandate given by Jesus Christ can be realized here on earth. May God keep this movement going for a long time and may God bless and transform the lives of hundreds of children who come over here for a new way of life.

(We will have an opportunity to experience this life when some of the Animators participate in the training programme organized at that place in March 2014.)

– Fr. Charles Menezes

Red light pincode did not hinder Shweta's quest to excel



courtesy : daijiworld

Mumbai: The facebook pages of Shweta Katti, the first girl from Mumbai's red light area to go to university abroad, give us a glimpse of the beginning of a new life at Bard University in New York. In August this year she joined the Bard College to pursue a degree in psychology, after she won a scholarship from that prestigious university to graduate in Psychology. This chirpy 18 year old is quite adept in adapting to the vast changes her life has undergone in the last two years. Her new life in USA is a far cry from the ruthless a harsh realities of life she faced having grown up in the infamous Kamathipura area of Mumbai. Shweta's voyage as the daughter of a Devadasi from red light area of Mumbai to Bard University in US, makes an intriguing reading.

Shweta who is originally from Belgaum in Karnataka, is the daughter of Vandana, a Devadasi who was brought up in a Pila house in Kamathipura, Mumbai's red-light area. Not being a sex worker and living in red light area, that too without the support of a man was not easy. Her mother fell in love with Ravindra Katti who accepted both the mother and the daughter and that is how Shweta got her surname Katti.

Her dark complexion was often the favourite subject for her classmates to abuse and insult her calling her with names like "kaali", "cowdung" or "kala bamboo". These remarks had wounded her psyche leaving an indelible mark in her personality. She became withdrawn, was scared to face the society and even suffered from low self esteem.

Apne Aap an NGO helped her to be in touch with Robin Chaurasiya, founder of Kranti, a NGO and she had a profound influence on Shweta completely altering the direction of her life. Her association with Robin gave her the much needed self confidence and having gained enough knowledge which boosted her self confidence, she toured different parts of India as the face of "Kranti" creating awareness among girls, their rights and about sex education.



Her essay on the Delhi rape case which she had prepared as part of the application process in foreign universities, resulted in her featuring among the New Week's list of 25 among under-25 women to be watched. An alumnus of Bard University, who was stunned having learnt her background, encouraged her to apply for Bard scholarship and with that Shweta has created history. Though the college has given her \$50,000 scholarship she had to raise another Rs. 9 lakhs through fund-raiser programmes and online donations by individuals.

REPORT

National Chaplain's activities

Search

1. July 15 – 18 office work. Visited 3 schools at Chennai for YSM training programme with the Diocesan Director.
2. July 19 – 23 visit to Mangalore to dispatch the Souvenir of National council.
3. On 26th travel to Shimoga diocese for the YCS/YSM training programme.
4. On 27th July training at Chitradurga for the animators and student leaders. 30 participants.
5. On 28th training at St. Mary's school for YCS office bearers and Animators. 80 participants.
6. On 29th training at Harihar for the YSM members.
7. On 30th recollection for the Priests of Shimoga diocese. 50 priests and Bishop Henry were the participants. After the recollection a talk on YCS/YSM to all the priests to encourage students to join the movement at Shimoga diocese.
8. On 31st visited 3 more schools at Shimoga and met the Principals and YSM members.
9. On 1st and 2nd August YSM training for the Student leaders and Animators at Gulbarga Diocese. 70 participants.
10. On 3rd and 4th visit to Mangalore
11. On 8th settlement of YCS National office issue with the Archdiocese of Madras- Mylapore and vacated the National office to settle down at Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre for some time.
12. On 9th Aug 2013 participated in St. John's Medical College jubilee, Bangalore and went to Delhi and then to Kathgodam for YCS program on 11th Aug 2013
13. On 12th Animators and Student Leaders training programme at St. Peter's High School, Kicha. 35 animators and 55 student leaders were present. Fr. Ronald Veigas and Fr. Vijay Tellis accompanied me.
14. On 13th training at St. Peters School, Kicha in the morning. 260 students joined YSM and training at Rudrapur School in the afternoon and 120 students joined YSM.
15. On 14th training at St. Teresa High School, Kathgodam and 250 students joined YSM and then training at Nirmala High School which will form YSM soon.
16. On 15th flag hoisting at Suchetana and flag hoisting at a Suchetana study centre in the nearby slum for rag pickers and poor slum students.
17. 15th evening recollection to Priests of Bareilly diocese where 22 priests were present.
18. On 16th a talk on YCS/YSM to Priests of the diocese during morning hours. Fr. Ronald gave a session on YSM to all the students of Bishop Cotton School. Hoping to start a movement there soon
19. On 16th visited Khatima School but could not address students due to PTA meeting.
20. On 17th visited Nainital. In the evening training at Suchetana for the residential students on YSM. 50 students joined the movement and then back to Delhi.
21. On 19th visited Navinta Delhi to prepare for the forthcoming NTA/Exco meeting.
22. On 21st participated in the recollection at Delhi and introduced YCS/YSM to the priests of Delhi diocese and then met Archbishop Leo to plan for the shifting of the office to Delhi.
23. On 22nd participated in the General Body meeting of ICYM at CBCI, to plan for the NYC
24. On 23 to 25 took part in the ICYM Council and planning meeting for NYC at Jalandhar.
25. On 28th talk on YSM to St. Francis School, Secunderabad, Rosary Convent School, Hyderabad, SFS School and Sacred Heart High School, Lallaguda. All the YSM members were given tips about Cell meeting and basic training on YSM. Visited Nexco member Bala Praneeth's house, animator Joseph Babu's house and Fr. Balaswamy, RYD at Regional office, Sikh village.
26. On 29th talk on YSM to students of St. Ann's School (SSC and ICSC) and Auxilium High School, Hyderabad.
27. On 30 and 31st YSM animators training for Nirmala sisters at Medchal, Secunderabad organized by Sr. Lucia. 14 animators participated in it.
28. Sept 2-5 work at Chennai office.
29. Sept 7-11 visit to Mangalore for Monthi Fest.
30. On 15th participated in the Monthi Fest celebrations at Nungambakkam.
31. On 18 – 22 visited Mangalore to settle the dues of NC issue.

32. On 23rd office work to settle NC project with Caritas India
33. On 26th visited Fr. Edwin at Nagercoil regarding Neighbourhood Childrens Parliament and took part in training at the DC office.
34. On 30th travel to Delhi in view of shifting National Office to Delhi having a registered office at Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Chennai.
35. On 3rd October 28, 2013 met the Asian coordinators Ralph and Homme at Manoj Mathew's office and held consultations regarding Asian office work and collaboration between India and Asian office.
36. October 5 – 7 NTA/Exco live in programme at Navinta, Delhi. 13 Nexco members, 2 RYDs, 4 DYDs and 2 animators were present. Archbishop Leo Cornelio, Chairman of CBCI Office for Youth interacted with the Nexco members and presided over the meeting on 7th. Asian Coordinators Ralph and Homme also visited and shared their work experience with the Nexco members on 6th and 7th and planned to organize NATP-CAFÉ in India next year.
37. On 7th evening along with Nexco members took part in DID programme at Cathedral, Delhi.
38. On 8-12 took part in the NYC at Jalandhar. 1200 youth participated in this historical event.
39. On 15th and 16th Summer camp at Valencia for the High school children with Fr. Vijay. 85 students participated in it.
40. On 17th visited the Udupi YCS members at Perampalli during annual retreat and interacted with them. 80 members were present
41. On 18th met Udupi YSM members at Perampalli during Life skill training programme, 45 members were present and in the evening gave a session on Stress management to YCS members of Mangalore South deanery at Permannur. 105 members took part in it.
42. On 20th took part in the ICYM-YCS Nach Sambhram, dance competition at Rosario Cathedral, Mangalore on the occasion of Year of faith.
43. On 21st reached Hyderabad to organize the National Consultation.
44. On 22nd YCS/YSM National Consultation at St. Joseph Degree College, Hyderabad. Chairman Archbishop Leo Cornelio, former National Chaplains Fr. Vincent Monteiro, Fr. Johnny Monteiro, Fr. Vincent Arokiadoss, RYD Fr. Balaswamy, DYD Fr. Fathima and former Asian coordinator Deepakraj were present. In the afternoon 4 former YCS members Mr. Alex, James Sylvester, Louisa and Antony joined the meeting.
45. On 23rd visited a few places with regard to setting up an YCS Sub centre at Hyderabad.
46. On 24th visited youth office at Warangal and then visited Nexco member Maria Immaculate's house to plan for the forthcoming 1st YCS/YSM National convention in Andhra Pradesh. Fr. Balaswamy, Fr. Fathima, Fr Vinod and David were present.
47. On 25 – 27 guided the YCS/YSM Winter Camp of Hyderabad at Ibrahimpatnam. 83 YCS/YSM members along with 85 students of the hostel and 8 animators took part in it.
48. On 28 met Fr. Varghese Alengaden at Indore, the director of USM and interacted with him with regard to YCS/YSM. Spent time with him till 3rd Nov. Met the Bishop of Indore and youth director regarding strengthening of the movement in Indore and MP. Visited several versatile people of Indore and interacted with them.
49. On 4th November training on YCS/YSM to the DYDs, animators and youth leaders of M.P region at St. Paul's School, during regional animators training programme. 23 took part in it.
50. On 13-17 organized NSLTP at St. John's Seminary, Hyderabad for the English speaking members of YCS/YSM supported by MISSIO. 57 members took part in it. Gave a session to the brothers leading YCS/YSM in schools on 14th November. Sharon accompanied me.
51. On 20-24 organized NSLTP at Vidhya Bhavan, Bhopal for the Hindi speaking members of YCS/YSM supported by MISSIO. 35 members took part in it.
52. On 27-28 training of trainers (TOT) at Gorakhpur, U.P. for the animators. 45 participants.
53. On 1st Dec 2014 back to Delhi to settle down and set up the national working office.

A Cowherd Village Boy - Now a 'Real Hero'

inspiration

courtesy : daijiworld

Bangalore: This is the success story of a young lad from Raichur district, a total illiterate now heading a computer team in a leading BPO. This is an ample example for all those who believe in sheer hard work, dedication and will to learn.

Ramesh Ballid had never even seen a school door. His parents had no expectations from Ramesh, as everyone thought he was born dead. New born Ramesh had not shown any movement, and the family planned to bury him within the first few days. But just before the burial rites, someone found breath in him and he was taken back!

He became a cowherd, taking the buffaloes out to graze. The only pass time he had was watching movies, and like every little boy, he was awed by the fights and stunts on the screen and wanted to become an actor.

A Hero Creates Another Hero: Well, creation of a hero by another hero is a very rare happening in our society. But Rajesh Bhatt, a young engineer from Sirsi in North Karnataka was the person who brought Ramesh to limelight. Rajesh initiated a company called 'Head Held High' with the support of his friends to identify illiterate villagers and transform them into a "work-ready" blue collar persons.

Rajesh Bhatt: Rajesh was a software engineer at a mobile VAS company. Along with his friends, he visited Devadurga village of Chitradurga to identify illiterate youths. Ramesh was one of the few youths he summoned for interview.

He asked him to say "My name is Ramesh." He couldn't pronounce it properly. Rajesh asked him to sit in a corner of the interview room and practice. After about two hours, when all the interviews were over, Rajesh asked him to leave. But, Ramesh stood up, stretched his hands for a handshake and said, "My name is Ramesh. 'Tenk' you." That was the turning point - Rajesh and his team decided to select him for training!



Rajesh Bhatt



(LEFT) In Sep 2007, Ramesh could not read or write and he was afraid of many things.

(RIGHT) By Mar 2008, Ramesh had undergone a transformation so drastic, his mom did not recognise him!

Ramesh, after about six months of training, went back to his home for his brother's wedding. His mother, who hadn't seen him for over six months, couldn't recognize him. She had to be shown his identity card where his earlier photo was printed to truly believe that it was her son! In four years, Ramesh has transformed fully - his looks have changed, his attitude has changed, and indeed in one word, his life, his world has changed! Today, he is a team leader in a BPO, in the computer department.

When a TV channel identified him for its 'real hero' award, he got an opportunity to brush shoulders with the likes of Mukesh Ambani, Asha Bhosle, Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble and many others. Everyone had one only question - "How did you manage to learn so quickly?"

Rajesh says, "Ramesh is now like a torchbearer who brings hopes to the lives of many more people like him in his village. And there, a lot of people, including those who have much more formal education than him, look up to him. His dream is to empower thousands more like him."

PHILOSOPHY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF LIFE

Philosophy is a rational enquiry into the forms, contents and implications of experience. It is an attempt at a complete knowledge of being in all the phases of its manifestation in the various processes of consciousness. The discovery of the ultimate meaning of essence of existence is the central purpose of philosophy. In the art of the perfect life, the science of reality, the foundation of the practice of righteousness, the law of attainment of freedom and bliss, and provides a key to the meaning and appreciation of beauty. It is the Vendetta or consummation of knowledge, Brahavidya or the sacred lore of the eternal, which is inseparable from Yoga astra or the methodology of the finite to the infinite. "Philosophy is love of wisdom, or striving for wisdom". It is a moral and intellectual science which tries to explain the reality behind appearances by reducing the phenomena of the universe to ultimate causes, through the application of law and reason.

Philosophy has its goal in the highest generalization conceivable, and this consists in the final grasping of the deepest meaning of existence taken as a whole. Philosophy is no doubt the grand artistic edifice constructed by the higher purified intellect of man, which is based on intuition and is a means to justify rationally once faith in truth. Philosophical knowledge in the true sense of the term cannot be had through sense experience, for the late is confined to appearances. The architect of monumental mansions of philosophy is not merely the abstract and unaided intellect, but the intellect free from all desires, purged of all prejudices and based on immediate intuition. A popular saying tells that "Philosophy is not wisdom of the world, but is knowledge of what is not of the world. It is not knowledge which concerns external mass or life but is knowledge of that which is eternal."

- *Maria Immaculate.*

LEADERSHIP IS AN ACTION NOT POSITION

Leadership is a process in which an individual influences the group of individuals to attain a common goal. The goal is attained by mutual cooperation and cohesive behavior. A leader infuses a sense of positivity and directs others to reach the specific goal. "Leadership is not a quality but it is an individual's behavior". A leader is someone who stands not only for his cause but takes responsibility and motivates other individuals also.

Anybody can be a leader, but everybody cannot be a good and true leader. Certain traits of a good leader are listed as: Intelligence, extraversion, adjustment, openness to experience, general self-sufficiency and consciousness apart from these qualities there are 3 more important characteristics to be followed by a leader, they are 1) Integrity 2) Credibility 3) servant hood Integrity means to have a code of values such as honesty, sincerity and wholeness. When you are a leader with integrity the people you work for or with are more likely to trust you.

Credibility is to be trustworthy and believable. A leader who has credibility doesn't promise change but makes it happen.

Servanthood is one of the most important characteristics of a leader. As we say, service to mankind is service to God. In the same way a leader should serve his people selflessly. Servant hood is to have humility not to be served but to serve.

A person who follows these leadership skills is the real leader.

There is a clear difference between a boss and a leader. A leader is a motivation for others and inspires individuals to aim high and attain that aim. But a boss only supervises over the subordinates. Power naturally comes to a leader but that power is not a tool of a leader.

A leader showcases a positive attitude and high self esteem. He assertively works towards the goal but gets pushy for it. A continuous self study training, evaluation and imbibing positive things in life develop the characteristics of a leader. Situations are never in our hands but reaction is always that we can control. A leader not only reacts positively but also helps other members of the group to see the brighter side of the picture.

A leader always executes the things effectively. He works as a team and team welfare is his primary goal. A leader is looked up by his team members critically also. A man of high moral values and integrity can only become a good leader. To sum up, leadership is a quality which is it

present naturally, is welcome or otherwise can be developed by acquiring desired skills. "Leader is unique and a leader should always maintain his uniqueness. A leader shouldn't go where the path leads him, instead should go where there is not path and leave a trail". Leaders are NOT BORN, they are identified.

-*Maria Immaculate*

inspiration

courtesy : daijiworld



Once Rs 5 Daily Wager - Now Multi-crore CEO...

Twenty-two years ago she was a daily wage labourer, earning a paltry sum of Rs 5 per day. Today, she is the CEO of a company which has a turnover of Rs 25 crore!

Born in Warangal, she was poor and her father admitted Anila to a government orphanage declaring her as having lost her mother at a young age. While in the orphanage, she completed her 10th standard with first class marks. In 1986, when Anila was just 16 she was forced by her father to marry Sangi Reddy. But Poverty continued to haunt even after

marriage, and she had to work in a farm for Rs 5 per day as wage.

As she was the only girl who had passed 10th standard with a first class, she was given the job of teaching poor students and elders in the village. She managed to complete BA from Ambedkar Open University, and later MA in 1997. After completing Masters degree she secured a government job as teacher a little away from her place, with a salary of Rs 400 per month.

She availed information from that relative about going to USA. She felt that if her relative could make it to the USA, why not her? She mastered English and computers in a year.

After six unsuccessful attempts, luck finally turned her way in the seventh attempt and she got the visa to fly to the USA. In the year 2000 she got a job as salesperson in a video shop where she started earning USD 420 a month. Having proved her dedication to work, she was next offered a job at ICSA company in South Carolina as manager. Later ICSA company asked her to resign because she did not have work (H1) visa. But she did not lose heart. She quickly learnt the procedure to get H1 visa, and she travelled about 2,400 km from South Carolina to Mexico to get the visa. Travelling alone to Mexico, and giving satisfactory answers to immigration officers, she managed to get H1 visa.

After she returned with a valid working visa, an idea flashed to her, and the entrepreneur in her told her - 'instead of working for others, why can't I open my own business?' She had another brainwave - of guiding newcomers to USA by providing complete information on H1 visa. By then she had managed to save about USD 40,000, which she invested in her new company 'Keys Software Solutions'. A boy from Gujarat became her first client, to whom she not only managed to get H1 visa, but also a job in a multinational company!

Today, she is the CEO Keys Software Solutions, which has an estimated turnover of Rs 25 crore! She proves that to be successful, one does not have to be equipped with exceptionally brilliant qualities or talents, what is required is aspiration, will and perseverance to accomplish. As they say, 'the harder you work, the luckier you get', and no one epitomises this better than Anila.

Report of the Activities of YCS/YSM Chennai

S.NO	NAME OF THE PROGRAM	Date	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	THEME
1.	Animators Training Program	23.08.2013	30	Importance of YCSYSM and the value of it
2.	Introducing YCS/YSM to the Theologians at Don Bosco	01.10.2013	30	Introduction to YCSYSM and the methodology of it.
3.	Zonal YCS Training Program	14.10.2013	50	The ROL and the Cell Life .
4.	Zonal YSM Training Program	23.10.2013	30	Model Cell Meeting. And the Impact on Personal Life.

- Kamal Francis, Coordinator, YCS/YSM Chennai Diocese

This Doctor is a True Role Model for All...

Mangalore: These days doctors work under a lot of pressure, and are often at the receiving end simply because a few of their flock do not do their duties faithfully. When it comes to government doctors, complaints and negative attitude and remarks are all the more common. But like every profession, the medical field too has its share of black sheep, and its heroes.



Here is a doctor, Dr Lokesh, who originally hails from Hassan district, studied at St Joseph School and high school, and after his PU in Mangalore, he was supported by Adichunchanagiri Swamiji in pursuing MBBS in Vellore medical college. Later, considering his marks, the Swamiji also helped him finish MD in medicine.

But Lokesh stuck to his dream, and was determined to serve the poor. After about 7-8 years of service in many hospitals, he was selected for government job. That was perhaps the right time for him to fulfill his dream. He selected Hassan's district hospital to render his service.

Almost all the patients who visited district government hospital were poor and treated for free. The first thing he did was to get to know his patients personally and talk to them with love and care. "Many a time, their sickness disappeared after I freely mixed with them," says Lokesh. "If medicine is not available in hospital, he gets them from other medical shops by going to the extent of borrowing money from his friends, just for the sake of poor patients," his patients say. He bought a maruti van with his hard earned money and made it ambulance. "My parents' dream was also to see me serve the poor, so I started this free ambulance service in their name," Dr Lokesh says.

For the poor people of Hassan district, Dr Lokesh has been a real boon, a blessing. His style of service is truly a model for the young generation. Without doubt, he stands out among many famous doctors who earn name and fame, but do little for the poor.

Hundreds of years ago, there lived a man named Vikram. He deceived people and took money from them. But all through him to be a nice and honest person.

Many years later, Vikram was very old and weak. It was time for him to go to hell or heaven. One evening a strange dark figure appeared at Vikram's house. Vikram was very terrified. The strange figure said "Don't be afraid, I will not harm you. I am Death and I have come here to take you to hell." When Vikram heard this he was very frightened. He thought of a plan to get rid of this Death. He said "Death I want to live one last day. Please don't say no, I know death doesn't wait but please." "Alright," said death "only one day". And Death disappeared. The next day Death came again."Lets go" said Death. Vikram said "Death, I am ready but please fulfill my last wish, I want to give you something." "Ok" said Death . And they went to a near by forest. In the forest was a very large tree with a hole in it. "Go inside and get your gift, Death" said Vikram. Death went inside,Vikram took this chance and covered the hole with a rock. In a flash Death was trapped !!!Vikram laughed. Now he would be immortal !Vikram danced with joy.

Many, many years went by Vikram grew very old. He passed his 150th birthday but while all others died he continued to live. He was sick,weak and worried. One nightVikram thought "I have lived so long but I am not happy. Why to be immortal then ,its, worse than Death Tomorrow I will release Death. The following morning Vikram went to the forest and uncovered the hole and released Death. He fell at his feet and begged "Death please forgive me I know now men are mortals. I beg pardon. Take me to Hell now". Death was pleased he said "Ok I forgive you and I shall take you to heaven for admitting your mistake."

"DEATH IS IRREVERSIBLE"

SEASONS

January makes me feel so cold,
February makes me another year old,
March makes me the flower unfurled,
April makes me the wheat all gold,
May makes the breeze so hot,
June makes the sweet a lot,
July brings first drop of rain,
August means its pouring outside the window pane,
September means little cool,
October means holidays from school,
November says winter is here,
December wishes all "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Wisdom Evergreen

1. With patience, it is possible to dig a well with a teaspoon.
2. A wife who cannot cook puts the blame on the utensils.
3. No matter how hard you try, a bull will never give milk.
4. The fly is small, but it is big enough to make one man sick.
5. If God sends you down a stony path, he gives you strong shoes.
6. Do you need proof of God? Does one light a torch to see the sun?
7. Everyone makes mistakes. That's why there is an eraser on every pencil.
8. A good thing sells itself. A bad thing advertises itself.

Smile please

Three drunkards entered a taxi. The taxi driver knew that they were drunk, so he started the engine and turned it off. Then he said: "We have reached your destination." The first guy gave him money and the second guy him a large speech of thanksgiving. But the third guy slapped the driver. The driver was shocked and knew for sure that he was caught. Then the third guy said, "Control your speed next time. You nearly killed us!!!!"



NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME (NSLTP)

Place : St. John's Seminary, Hyderabad
Date : 13th to 17th Nov 2013
Number of Participants : 54 student leaders & 7 Animators
Theme : Leadership and interculturality

Resource Persons:

Fr. David – Youth Psychologist & former DYD of Hyderabad
Fr. Sagayaraj – Asst Principal of St. Joseph Degree College, Hyderabad
Mr. Joseph Babu – YCS/YSM Animator, Hyderabad
Mrs Margaret – Professor and Social Activist
Mr. James Sylvester – Lawyer, Editor and former member of YCS/YSM
Fr. Showry – Educationist and Director of Biblical commission, Andhra Pradesh
Fr. Balaswamy – DYD of Guntur and Professor in Cultural activities in AP
Fr. Charles Menezes, Chennai – National Chaplain,
Mr. Leo Joseph – Former National Coordinator
Mr. Kamal – YCS/YSM Full timer, Chennai

Others – Fr. Fathima Reddy, DYD of Hyderabad, AP, Fr. Ronald Veigas, DYD of Shimoga, Karnataka, Fr. Balaswamy – DYD of Andhra Pradesh

Introduction: The National Student Leaders Training Program (NSLTP) for the English speaking regions was held at St. John's Seminary, Hyderabad from 13th to 17th November 2013. Fifty four Student Leaders from four regions namely: Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and North East took active part in it. Fr. Bala, the DYD of AP, Fr. Fathima Reddy, DYD of Hyderabad, Fr. Ronald Veigas, DYD of Belgaum, Sr. Agnes, DYD of North East along with 7 animators helped the students in giving their best participation.

13.11.2013: The program began with an introductory prayer led by Fr. Charles, the National Chaplain. Fr. Bala welcomed the students and asked them to make use of this opportunity to become Better Leaders for tomorrow. The Students introduced themselves and Fr. Charles gave us the key note address, explaining what is meant by NSLTP. The time table was proposed and accepted by the participants. Few games and action songs helped the students to break the ice. Soon after the lunch, the students were divided into six permanent groups, where we chose our President, Secretary and a name for the team. Bala Praneeth Reddy, Sharon and Joshi were selected as the Camp Leader, Secretary and Time keeper respectively.



A short outline was given for the exposure and the students left the venue to experience the reality among the people. As per the methodology of YCS/YSM the SEE part contains experiencing the reality. Accordingly they were instructed as to how to view the reality and become aware of it. Hence, they visited market, shopping mall, narrow roads, street vendors, etc. Students personally experienced the reality and witnessed new things. Soon after returning the venue, they shared their experiences and evaluated the reality and reflected over it in their respective groups. The day came to an end after the Eucharistic celebration offered by Fr. Bala and organized by the Andhra Pradesh region.

14.11.2013: The new day began with the Holy mass offered by Fr. David. The main theme of the Eucharistic celebration was kindness and was well organized by the Tamilnadu region. The first session was handled by Mr. Joseph Babu. He made us clear about 'Who is a Leader'; 'Whom we consider as a leader' and the qualities of a leader. His activity based games and practical way of approach made us reflect about the topic. It inspired and motivated us to become better leaders.

The next resource person of the day was Fr. David. He made the students to think the reality of the society by comparing it with the places visited during the exposure. The key note of his speech was: "When we see the reality, we don't think, rather we feel" and vividly he explained us the feeling level of any person on any reality. The SEE part was dealt with clear idea.

The following session was proceeded by Mr. James Sylvester. He began his session with a simple question, "Are you happy?" Though it looked like an easy answer, the students realized the in and outs of the places where we stay. It helped us to reflect on the reality and make our judgments count on our personal experiences. From the session the students understood that Happiness is a feeling that comes when we make others happy and for that reason we should always be ready to come to the aid of the other. Reflection on the exposure visit was clear for us to deal with any situation we encounter with.

Hats off to the Karnataka region for the beautiful evening prayer that helped us all to reflect the whole day. After supper, Mr. Leo Joseph helped the participants to know each other better through the 'Clock Game'. The game made us to know each other better and to remember all names. A short video clipping of their Exposure day was played and the students were highly motivated. The day ended with the evaluation and night prayer.

15.11.2013: The day three began by invoking the God's blessing through the Eucharistic Celebration lead by the North East region and offered by Fr Fathima Reddy. The theme was: 'We live in the satisfaction by helping others'.

The first speaker Fr. Sagayaraj, taught us the ABCD of success in Leadership through his personal experiences in his life. 'We are better than what we think', made a positive impact in the student's mind. In the end, he concluded saying that a leader is one who has backbone.

Mrs. Margaret through her group activity of forming towers using old newspapers brought out the leadership skills of many students. She clarified the differences between a leader and a manager through a power point show.

We were so happy to have Fr. Balasamy the DYD of Guntur diocese who dealt with the topic of 'Interculturality'. Having been lived in Europe for many years he was able to demystify the tough topic of What Interculturality actually means? Students actively participated and had a healthy argument in the form of a group discussion.

After sitting hours together inside the hall, the students were taken to the ground to have some value based games. The students enjoyed to the fullest and learn the value of Equality and Brotherhood by practically explaining how the rich and poor treat each other and themselves in the society. We made sure and promised that as future leaders we will not behave in the same manner.

Soon after coming back to the hall, Fr. Charles led a session on 'The Spirituality of YCS/ YSM'. He explained the term Spirituality with religiosity and the different connotation for being Spiritual. "Every individual is created by the image and likeness of God" and we must learn to see God in our neighbours and reality too. In order to reach God we need to start loving and forgiving our enemies. After a short evening prayer, the student broke for supper and came back for a movie show. The name of the movie was 'Cool Runnings' an African movie based on Team work, perseverance and Leadership.



16.11.2013: The fourth day of the NSLTP began with much hope and expectation with the Holy mass offered by Fr. Ronald Veigas. It was well organized by the Karnataka region.

The whole day's session was handled by Fr. Showry, the Director of the Catechetical Commission of Andhra Pradesh. He dealt with the topics namely: Witness to leadership, Qualities of a Good Leader, Requirements of a Good Leader, and Leadership styles and made it realistic practical through games and activities. He taught us the ways to recognize a good leader and to be a good leader. The washing of the feet of each other helped us understand that YCS/YSM leadership is all about servant leadership. It was a soul touching experience of life.

Session II was about the Interculturality and Social Analysis. He concentrated on the aspects of Culture, Intercultural and multi cultural societies. The session made us to understand more about the thrust of this year namely: 'Interculturality'.

In the final session, we as a group discussed the case studies and tried our level best in giving a proper solution to that problem. We compared them with our own culture and society and understood that Interculturality is found everywhere in this 21st Century.

Having all the sessions of the four days in our minds, we formulated an action plan for our unit and diocese based on the major thrust of the National Theme- Interculturality. The presentation of our action plan helped us to think broader and the cross questions from our fellow group members helped us to understand it better. Mr. Kamal and Leo helped us to formulate the action plan accurately.

The next part of the agenda was evaluation. We evaluated personally on the given questions and assessed the success of the NSLTP Hyderabad. Before supper, Maria Immaculate, the Exco of Andhra Pradesh shared her life experience and the proud story of being an EXCO in this esteemed movement.

Students were given time to prepare for their cultural and was requested to assemble inside the hall after the supper. Five students and one animator on behalf of all the participants shared

their fruitful experience in being a part in this National Student Leaders Training Program. The participants were so happy to expose their talents and encouraged the talents of the others too. Fr. Charles, Fr. Fathima and Fr. Ronald honored the participants with certificates and mementoes. Fr. Charles, the National Chaplain thanked each and everyone for the success of the program. He also made note of the future programs to be held and invited the participants to work more for the movement. Thanks to Leo Joseph and Kamal Francis who showed the 4 days program in an audio visual show.

17.11.2013: On the final day as the part of interculturality the participants visited few historic places in Hyderabad namely the Golkonda Fort, Charminar and the Palace and left to their respective regions. The NSLTP 2013 at Hyderabad was a great success due to the cooperation and coordination of every delegate behind it. Thanks to Fr. Bala and Fr. Fathima for their preparedness, all the Resource persons for guiding the delegates in the real meaning of leadership and leading the sessions effectively, the seminary staff for providing place and Fr. David for organizing exposure visit. Let YCS/YSM Light Shine!

- *Sharon Kalise, National Secretary, YCS YSM India*

Evaluation:

Experience of the participants: We got a better relationship with each other and learnt many new things. We acquired leadership qualities within us. We realized the importance of leadership. We need to cultivate good values among us to bring a change in us. We learnt to keep very high expectations for the next NSLTP. We realized how important interculturality is and utilize this knowledge in making changes in our attitudes. We have become more than what we are now. We realized and decided to change our negatives thoughts to positive.

Topics we liked most: Leadership in students' milieu. We were very clear about the ABCD of success. We enjoyed the teamwork in the tower building. We understood the meaning of interculturality. We learnt about the YCS spirituality. We learnt and realized the values of life. Through washing of the feet, we realized the importance of life and the true meaning of servant leadership.

Resource Persons:

Mr. Joseph Babu: Very clear but more creativity required. We came to know who is the leader and ones qualities. He inspired us saying every individual is a leader

Fr. David: Inspiring talk and practical, Analysis on society was clear and distinct. He helped us realize and become aware of the problems in our society.

Mr. James Sylvester: Thought a little dragging and monotonous. Very clear in thought and matter and helped us realize change in us. Some felt he was very negative in thoughts and beating around the bush sometimes.

Fr Sagayaraj and Margaret: Action at it's very best, Could have given a little more time to him. Made easy to understand, Concept of taking decision was the best & sharing his own experience.

Fr. Balaswamy: Poor presentation, Was not able to capture the attention of the participants. Made us interactive through group discussions. Some more clear understanding should have been given.

Fr. Showry: Inspiring and pretty much clear. Sensible activities made the session more interesting, Meaning of interculturality needs to be given more clear understanding. The servant leadership was explained and clarified well.

Leo and Kamal: Very helpful in conducting small activities and supported the flow of the programme. Down to earth in dealing with the participants.

Fr. Charles: Clear in his thoughts and good at organizing. Gives full freedom to explore things and learn. Creative and strict in dealing with the participants with regard to discipline and programme activities.

Learning: We learnt not to be a dictator and how to respond when we stumble in life and how to come out of it. We will make a change and take education to the poor children who are not a part of it. Being a servant leader is the greatest lesson we have learnt. We will try our level best to organize and start YCS in all schools/parishes. We will spread the importance of interculturality in our homes and everywhere.

Others: Food and stay: Comfortable and good; Activities: Need to be much more creative. Many were pretty familiarized and can be used in our programmes. Program was a bit hectic.

Organizers: Very well organized. Felt at home. Leo and Kamal were awesome. Fr. Charles Thank You Very much. Everyone was good. Please try to select the best ones from all dioceses to take part in a national level program as some were not much participative.

Suggestions: Days to be extended. It is a must for every year. Spread the messages through social networking sites, More DYD'S and Animators can be called for to participate.

- **Participants**

L K Atheeq's Journey from Pavagada to World Bank, Washington DC



courtesy : daijiworld

The little town of Pavagada in Tumkur district may perhaps never have thought that a son of their soil would one day be a senior advisor in World Bank, the premier international financial institution.



Luthfulla Khan Atheeq, hailing from a humble agricultural family, is presently the joint secretary to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and has been appointed senior advisor to the executive director of World Bank. He will be taking up the post in Washington DC at the end of this month. He has served in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), New Delhi for the past five years, joining first as director and going on to become the joint secretary. Prior to that, he served as project director of Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan in Karnataka, and as the deputy commissioner of Mandya and Hassan.

The journey from Pavagada to Washington DC, however, was not an easy one. All through his almost 20-year career as an IAS officer, he has been known for his upright, honest and spotlessly clean image. When he was transferred from Mandya as DC, scores of people had gathered to pay rich tributes and bid him farewell, and when he was transferred from Hassan, much before the completion of his tenure, the move was protested by the people.

Smile please

Ram : We do not understand a single thing our professor teaches us.
Shyam: That's somewhat better. Our professor himself does not understand what he is teaching.



NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME (NSLTP)

Place : Divya Vani, Bhopal
Date : 20th to 24th Nov 2013
Number of Participants : 35 student leaders & 5 Animators
Theme : Leadership and interculturality

Resource Persons:

Mr. Regi – Preacher, Professor of Social Media and computer engineer, Bhopal
Mrs Rashmi Sharma – Youth Psychologist & Philanthropist, Bhopal
Fr. Alexander – RYD of Madhya Pradesh
Sr. Vinita – Professor and social Worker, Bhopal
Ms Shaila – Social activist and Charismatic Preacher, Bhopal
Mrs Preethi Mathur – Professor and Social worker for migrated youth, Bhopal
Fr. Maria Steevan – Parish Priest & former DYD of Bhopal
Fr. Anil – Social worker and Professor of Communication
Savio Daniel – National vice president of ICYM and Social activist, Bhopal
Fr. Charles Menezes, Chennai – National Chaplain
Others – Fr. Franklin, National Director of Youth Commission
Fr. Stanley - Designate youth director, Bhopal
Fr. Shallmon – RYD of Madhya Pradesh – ICYM
Fr. Saji – Parish Priest of Misrod Parish
Fr. Philip Topno – RYD of Maharastra and Gujarat

Introduction: The second NSLTP in Hindi was organized at Divya Vani, Misrod, Bhopal from 20-24 November 2013 . 35 students and 5 animators from M.G, Odisha and MP region participated in it. Due to examinations three regions withdrew at the last minute from attending the program. Hence the number was reduced from 60 to 35. Fr. Alexander the RYD of MP and ICYM Bhopal members helped us organize the place.

20.11.2013: The programme began with registration on the 20th followed by inauguration. Fr. Franklin, National Youth Director was the chief guest and Mr. Regi gave the key note address as to how to become a good leader in our student milieu and society based on the scriptural quotations and good examples. Fr. Franklin wished well and blessed the participants.

Then we were divided into four groups, namely Rising stars, Orchids, 8 disciples and Christ the King. Then as per our methodology, See, Judge and Act Fr. Charles explained to us the dynamics of Exposure visit. The first exercise would be to SEE, to become aware of the reality. From 3 to 6 pm we visited Cathedral, Mother Teresa House, Nirmala Ashram and Shishu Bhavan where we came across old age people, small children abandoned by the parents, mentally and physically challenged and orphan children.



We could see the hard reality hardships of life and the people who serve them do it with cheerfulness. It was heart touching to see that there were people having children but ended up in the old age home and small children abandoned by their mothers. It was very sympathetic. We interacted with

all those people and understood that we need to be happy in whatever we have in life. We are so lucky to have everything though some of our friends lack the love of their parents due to various reasons. We could see the narrow roads, unhygienic surroundings, animals on the roads and beggars on the market side. We felt that we are also a part of making of this reality. Back home we also do the same and simply do not bother and now we feel it is not right and something has to be done with regard to this. We came back at 7 pm.

Evening prayers were conducted by MP region and Fr. Philip Topno offered Mass for us. After supper all the groups got together to write the report along with a chart preparation based on the exposure visit. We chose our group leaders and named the group with a motto. Duties were assigned to us and we went to take rest at 10pm.

21.11.2013: The day began with the Mass offered by Fr. Shallmon and the liturgy was organized by MP region.

First session was on Leadership in particular given by Dr. Rashmi Sharma. She dealt with the qualities a leader should have and through ant philosophy she explained how we should sustain our dream of being a leader. Each one is a leader ad she convinced us about this truth. It was a very interactive session and it set us in the right mode.

The second session was on social analysis based on the exposure visit conducted by Fr. Alexander. He made us to become aware of the reality which we visited and not only that we could trace back to our own vicinity for which we are also responsible. Instead of blaming the society we need to put our e3ffort to make it a better one. We interacted well in the session.

The third session was on Social analysis and transformation conducted by Sr. Vinita. She helped us understand what actually is social analysis, how to respond to the life situations, why two leaders are not the same and everyone has a leadership type in them. She explained to us how children can a make difference in the society by citing an example of Neighborhood children parliament who did a change in the village of Khandwa.

Through group dynamics Fr. Charles enlightened us about our ambition and focus in life, to have patience to achieve that and to be active in all that we do. Archbishop Leo Cornelio visited us that evening and spent one hour with us. We interacted with him asking some of the questions pertaining to life, student reality and his experience of working with the young and students. He was delighted to meet us and blessed us. After supper we had some group dynamics and action songs and with evaluation we went to bed.

22.11.2013: Fr. Stanely offered the mass for us to begin the day organized by Odisha region. He taught us to participate actively in the mass, to listen to the word of God and to feel the presence of Jesus in the host.

The first session was conducted by Ms Shaila on National leadership in Student milieu. She explained to us what leadership is and what qualities we need to possess. Leader is one who leads, influences commands and guides. She asked us to be somebody special with our good qualities. Citing the examples of great leaders she helped us to understand the qualities we possess and how to use them in our day to day life which would help us have a national vision. We need to



dream big like our forefathers did and that will enable us to work for larger society.

Second session was on Effects of interculturality on education guided by Prithi Mathur. She is working with the people who are displaced from one place to another and explained us that culture is something natural to human being required to be in touch with, it gives us identity, instead of blaming we need to adapt and accept, the good morals and positive things needs to be lived on and try to mix with all wherever we go. To have this she asked us to have eye contact, take care not to hurt others in our talk. It was very interactive session and we have lots of questions to clarify our doubts.

Third session was on social reality and YCS/YSM leadership held by Fr. Charles. First he gave us a gist of the movement, its aims and objectives, methodology and cell meeting, history and structure. Then he explained us that YCS/YSM leadership is servant leadership. This is what promoted by Jesus and to become a serviceable leader we need to adapt this. To have an experience of servant leadership, we washed the feet of each other as Jesus did. During that time we could experience that we all are servants of each others. We felt good, proud, shy, peace, relaxed and happy to do this. A leader is one who serves and not to be served. After evening prayer conducted by MP region we had evaluation of the day and went to bed.



23.11.2013: The Mass was offered by f. Saji and liturgy was conducted by Odisha region followed by photo session.

Then Fr. Maria Steevan guided us with the session on Witness to leadership and Review of life. In this session we observed that the leader must pray always before any task which will help discern the will of God in doing well to others and cited various examples of great people who have excelled in their life. We need to change first to bring about change in others, failures are stepping stone to success and it should be taken with the positive spirit, stop blaming but to take action. He asked us to generate enthusiasm, operate to our potential and to destroy negative attitude. Change starts with ourselves and origin only from within like Abraham Lincoln.

Second session was on analysis of interculturality and society. Fr. Anil led the session in the Act part of our methodology. Through video clips from various movies he explained us the need of accepting and understanding other religions and cultures. It was inspirational and delegates took active part in it.

The third session was conducted by Savio Daniel on the topic interculturality and education and global response. He made us to understand why intercultural association is important in our life. Through video clips and advertisement glitches he explained us the effect of it on our daily life and education. The present mass media and social sites, facebook and other things were clarified to us as to how to use them for our benefit. It was very interactive and we gained a lot off knowledge from it.

Then Fr. Charles took a session on spirituality of YCS/YSM and explained as to how see, judge and act is interconnected in it. If we follow it with clear understanding we will overcome any problems in life and it should be made our way of life.

Then we prepared action plan based on SMART system. Unit wise and diocesan wise activity was proposed for leadership and interculturality. Fr. Charles explained us to make a clear action plan and corrected our mistakes. It was followed by written evaluation of the program. Then we had an activity as regards self appreciation. We had to write a good quality each of our new friends which in turn will help them feel good and it was taken to the evening prayer and thanked God for granting us those good qualities.

After supper all the regions performed their cultural item through dances and certificates and mementoes were offered to the delegates. Four of the delegates shared their experience and promised to do well in the future in unit level and diocesan level activities.

24.11.2013: As a part of intercultural activity we all went to the next parish for mass and to mingle with the people of other cultures. We offered prayers, took part in the procession and made friends with them. Then an outing was arranged to visit the cultural heritage of MP. First we went to visit the Rosary garden at Cathedral church and then to the museum where we could view all the cultures of India, western, northeastern, tribal, state wise, etc. The artifacts, utensils and their old things which they used and the dress they wore were a sight to watch. It was so colorful and rich what we heard during the session came to life when we saw those things. We were lucky enough to see in our own eyes the cultural heritage of India and we resolved to accept, respect and adopt every culture we come across. After lunch we visited a lake side, some went for boat ride and left for our homeland with rich experience of intercultural diversity and leadership which will place us on servant leadership style. We resolve to use this knowledge to work for the society at large with the national vision and grow in strength to make a difference in life.

- Rohan Emmanuel, Nagpur and Mervyn John, Bhopal.

Evaluation: Before coming to NSLTP we had no clear idea about it. We were in confusion as to how to get adjusted with the students from other regions. But at the end of the program we were satisfied and completely enriched with the company of new people, new thoughts and ideas.

The best leadership model is Servant Leadership which we learnt here and appreciate the most. The video clips, input sessions on Leadership and Interculturality and action songs opened our eyes to find out the hidden dormant talents and helped realize them in our daily living.

The exposure program helped us to See the reality differently. Washing the feet of one another helped us to practice servant leadership in action, with humility and love. We understand the importance of punctuality, taking up responsibility and to make action plan through SMART style.

The way the program was organized was highly appreciated. The Resource persons and organizers of Fr. Charles and Fr. Alexander and his team did a commendable job. We are grateful to Fr. Pius and other fathers for the food and accommodation provided.

All that we learnt here was much more than we expected. In turn we promise to practice it in our milieu and would like to help others to bring them up with good leadership qualities. Talks on intercultural integration and practicing it in groups here was quite concrete of that challenge. We found it thrilling to adjust and learn from each other. We appreciate the good resource persons who were well prepared to take up the sessions related on the topics at our level. We expect, hope and pray that YCS/YSM would organize much such training continuously and many of our members also get a chance to participate and benefit from it for their lives.

- The participants

For those who have 'No Time', this Teacher is an Inspiration...

Bangalore: Quite often we hear excuses like 'Very busy, sorry', 'No time at all'. But here is a primary school teacher Aarathi, who has now risen to the post of Assistant Commissioner, one of the prestigious positions in the state.



This teacher could complete only her TCH training (after PUC). Like everyone else, she too had 24 hours a day, but unlike most, she utilized her time wisely. Between the years 1990 and 2000 she did her correspondence course in BA, followed by post graduation in Kannada and Social Studies, and topped it up with Med. 1998 onwards, she attempted KAS (Karnataka Administrative Services) preparatory exams. Twice she failed, but in the third attempt in 2010 she secured distinction in preparatory and got the ticket to sit for KAS exams. But the best was to come. She secured the second rank in KAS, and now she will be posted as assistant commissioner in the state revenue department.

"I am not extraordinary. I do not take coaching classes, but I do utilise the free time by reading atleast 3-4 Kannada and English newspapers, general knowledge books, IQ books, etc. When exams approach, I take time off from the school, spending hours on studies. My intention is to serve my state with honesty and dignity and approach the problems of poor people. My dream has come true, and I am delighted," she says. Truly, Aarathi is an inspiration to all those who give excuses when they are capable of achieving anything they dream of.



Brave Girl Gets Police Pat for Helping to Catch Thief

Bangalore: On Friday April 20 Bangalore police commissioner Jyothi Prakash Mirji honoured a woman for showing bravery when a thief entered her house and then handing him over to the police. H S Jayashree who is in her mid-thirties, works for Kirloskar Bangalore and stays with her brothers at Nandini layout.



Last week when the brothers were away, she stayed alone at home as usual. At around 2 am, she noticed a thief entering her house by removing the tiles. But instead of getting scared, she assessed the situation, picked up a weapon and threatened to kill him if he got down! Simultaneously she called the nearest police station without the notice of the thief.

"I have been brave right from childhood, never getting scared of such things. I get up early every day and leave for office by 5.30 am. I have saved police station's and other important numbers in my mobile, and that helped me to call the police instantly. The police too responded quickly and caught the thief before he could escape," said Jayashree. Truly, Jayashree's bravery reminds one of 'Onake Obavva', the great woman of this land.





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

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