

The November - December 2014
Search
YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 34

Vol: 6

*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 Saviour.
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!!!!*



Joyous Christmas

Grace filled New Year 2015



BORN TO ACHEIVE !



My dear friends in YCS/YSM India,

Greetings. Hope you are doing well in your studies and YCS/YSM programmes .

“Failure is the stepping stone to success”. In the duration of student life, we fail many a time. A failure is truly a failure, only when we don't learn anything out of it. As a YCS/YSMer it is necessary that we implement our methodology(Awareness, Reflection, Action) in our day to day life and overcome our failure.

God has gifted every person with unique talents keeping a particular goal for us. We need to identify, develop and utilize these talents to achieve that ultimate goal in our life.YCS/YSM provides us this platform to recognize and develop our talents to guide us in achieving our goal, As well as to utilize each and every opportunity we get.

We had National Student Leaders Training Program (NSLTP) at Mangalore & Patna recently . It was a fruitful experience to spend time with the student delegates from other regions.

We had our 4th NTA/EXCO meeting at KROSS, Bangalore. That was an indeed auspicious occasion to have our newly appointed chairman Bishop Most Rev. Henry D'Souza & spent nice time welcoming him to this YCS/YSM family.

We have this newsletter “The Search” which provides a platform to exhibit our writing skills. Once in every two months a new issue is being brought out. So my humble request to each one of you to make good use of this newsletter and learn something out of it to inspire and motivate others to have personal copies of their own .

It is a festive mood to celebrate Christmas and even to start a new year with a new plans, thoughts and ideas. On behalf of our National Chaplain Fr.Charles and all the NTA/EXCO I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous Happy New Year 2015. Let the upcoming year be a fruitful one where you achieve all your goals that you have set for the coming year and may you move a step forward to achieving your goal.

Long live YCS/YSM.

Roshan Melwyn Lobo.



Can you make a difference?

Dear friends

Joyous Christmas and Grace filled New Year 2015 to you all. May the good Lord Lord bless you all and grant you your hearts desires.

It is a time of joy and celebrations. Everyone gives a gift to each other and makes others happy. You also might have something in your mind for someone dear to you. Come on, go on. Make others happy.



Bible says "God so loved the world that he gave his only son to the humankind", and that is Lord Jesus who came into this world and became a gift for us all. He called us asking to be a gift for others. Can we be ourselves a gift for others than offering things.

It is wonderful thing to be a gift for others. You have come across people who have become a gift for others. In the last issue you read about Malala and Satyarthi who offered themselves to be a gift for little children. Like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, numerous people have sacrificed themselves for the others. Can you be like one of them. Try it out, it is worth trying.

We have a number of life stories among ourselves in YCS and YSM members who have become gifts for others in their own way. Find out who they are and try to learn a lesson from them so that you also can be a gift to others which will be valuable in the eyes of God and humankind.

We had wonderful programs in the recent months. I could see beautiful gems among you who are so good and wonderful. I and sure that we have a bright future. May the good God bless you all, your animators, parents, friends and near and dear ones.

The world is going through a sad path. Everywhere there is so much bloodshed, killing, oppression, hatred and injustice. The world is looking at us with hope. Can we be a hope for the hopeless? Let it start at your home and then at your school, neighbourhood and vicinity. Be a person of peace and share it with others. Yes. You can do it.

We need people who can make a difference; who can do something which others have not done; who can dream; who can start dreaming where someone has stopped dreaming; who can make a difference in the lives of others. Can you be one who is a difference. God bless you all.

Fr. Charles Menezes

LEADERSHIP...

The unwillingness to be the flagship,
The reluctance,
to assume responsibility
and shying away from leadership

Just this much:
The better you are,

the more effective you can be at the top..
So, as not only a follower seek to be a leader..
Be the best follower to become the leader.

Be proud to be the head of the team and to
lead it!..

- Bernadette T, Arokia Madha, Aalayam,
Lakshmiapuram

Miracles do happen...!

Search

Miracle now for a man is something like a person being cured from an incurable disease or people being saved from an inevitable accident. But friends, the events that took place in my life in the month of October, year 2014 are unlike the normal understanding of a miracle but very much equivalent to one.

This all started with my cousin sister who was wonderfully born on 15th May 2003 and named Yana. For me, according to all, that I have heard about her, I can say that she was a miracle child herself. This I say on the basis of her extraordinary characters which were very different from the children of today.

She was a girl who never said no for prayers unlike some children of today who aren't eager enough to sit for prayers in between their favourite cartoon show, but Yana never did that. Another unique thing about her which amused me was that catechism was one of her favourite subjects, and when her parents gave me a chance to have a glance at her catechism copy, it clearly showed her interest in it. She was also known to be obedient to her parents and according to her dad, never did she raise her voice or argued with him ever. Compassion towards the poor and needy was also in the list of her virtues, *once she and her dad were at the church entrance where boxes of sweets were being distributed for free on the occasion of a feast, there she observed a beggar being chased off and not allowed to get a hold of the delicacy everyone was cherishing, on seeing this Yana got upset and began to query dad over this injustice, somehow her dad silenced her. As they left for home Yana requested her dad to stop by the gate for a few moments. She picked up her box of sweets hunted down that beggar and handed him over her compassion towards him in the form of the sweets she had.* This incident throws light to our movement's methodology that is 'See, Judge and Act', Yana first saw the injustice done, she judged it by asking her father analysing the situation and then acted over it accordingly. At such a young age she applied our methodology unknowingly. She acted as a true YCser that day. This incident also reminds me of what Jesus says *"The greatest in the kingdom of Heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child."* Mathew 18 : 4. Such was my little cousin sister.



Her life was filled with love, obedience, care and compassion but unfortunately she was suffering from the blood disorder known as sickle-cell which resulted in her frequent visit to the doctors. But this never held her from enjoying her life to the fullness.

Then one infamous day her health deteriorated so much that she was immediately admitted. With her admission in the hospital the faith of all her near and dear ones stood fast of her healthy return. But this faith of theirs began to stumble as the doctors diagnosed her with dengue, which was a very serious matter as she was already a sickle-cell patient. As predicted by the doctors she breathed her last on the 30th of September 2014 after a gruelling six days fight.

And now my friends, I tell you the miraculous works of our Lord and how he intervened in the lives of many through Yana. When she was admitted in the hospital continuous prayer was done for her recovery, but here the most astonishing fact was that it wasn't just the relatives who

offered their prayers it was everyone. The hospital was flooded with so many visitors, that the hospital authorities had to request the people to quickly pay their visit and leave immediately. Each and every person that ever even heard about it stepped out before the Lord for this child. The children she spent her playing hours with, continuously for 5 days came from school and without even changing their uniform assembled at the nearby statue of Mother Mary and knelt down and prayed. Old people filled up their empty hours of the day with prayers for her. And this prayer wasn't only from the city of Nagpur, it was being recited from many cities of our country, prayers were being offered for her recovery at family prayers, orphanages, convents, retreats, seminaries and also by prayer groups of far off places. One of the prayer groups received messages from forty thousand people showing their support towards Yana. And this huge source of prayer for Yana did not only include Christians but also people of other faiths. You can say that every person in her locality was in grief over these events. Though Yana had to battle her illness alone physically but spiritually she wasn't standing alone it was like she was backed by the people through their prayers. But the story doesn't end here after her demise she appeared to many in their dreams. *Yana's friend's dad, a Muslim, on the night of her death got a dream in which Yana was dressed like an angel and was in heaven (This man was unaware that Yana had died that very same night).* Many such people gave their testimonies, people who never spoke to God began to pray and read the Holy Bible, and she made many realize the value of prayer. For me this is nothing less than a miracle.



My personal experience with her has been a very joyful and playful one. We mostly used to speak about ghosts and ways to catch some of them red handed.

“I would advise you all; according to me and Yana all of us are capable of catching a ghost. All you need is Ponds powder if the ghost is a female and Cinthol powder if a male and also a big sack bag, just spread the powder all over the floor at night and wait for the ghost to step over it and as you see its foot prints catch it with your sack.”

Everything that I have written above is just a theory by me and Yana so please don't experiment it at home. Her death broke a part of my heart which was quite unexpected because I hadn't spent much time with her. But even the little time that I spent, made me cry for the first ever time in a funeral. Her passing away opened my eyes and made me realize the value of a sibling. Now a days we youngsters are so much into friends that we forget our responsibilities towards our brothers and sisters. We should also take time out for them and balance our lives because you never know what is next; this is what she taught me.

This unification of people of different faiths is itself a miracle which was brought over by Yana who was of merely 11 years. So who says that Miracles don't happen? I Say that **Miracles Do Happen** and I am proud to be a part of one such.

Following is a poem which was written by a priest, he himself wasn't sure what was he writing because the words just came into his head and he penned it down. According to him this poem is a message from Yana to us.

Yana dead? No! Oh yes!
 Dead in physical sense:
 She can't open her eyes to see me.
 She can't use her physical ears to hear me.
 She can't open her arms to embrace me,
 or lips to kiss me.
 Her physical heart has stopped beating for me.
 Her physical frame goes to where it belongs: to the womb of Mother Earth.

Is Yana dead? Oh No!
 As I close my eyes,
 I can see her smiling at me.
 Her eyes wink with great admiration!
 Her spiritual arms are wide open, saying: "I love you! Come to me!"
 "My Heart" she says, "Brims over with immense love for you my: darling MOM, DADA, Sister
 Zena and family."
 "And oh yes! There are millions of others who have come to know me within a brief span when
 I was sick: they prayed and battled with God for my life: doctors, nurses, friends, people from
 all walks of life.

I have seen tears on many a faces. I wish I had physical arms to wipe them away.
 But you see I am totally free!
 Free as a bird on its maiden flight.
 Free from all physical pain and agony.
 Free to dance with all the angels and saints.
 Free at last to adore my Maker Face to face.
 Oh, what a joy to be in heaven.
 I wouldn't exchange even a single extra earthly day for the bliss I am enjoying today.
 But I know (my Mom, Dad, Sister and friends):

Your pain is real!
 The present darkness is overwhelming.
 Life may seem meaningless.
 You may even question: What's the use of all the prayers?
 Whether prayers are answered or not
 'When we pray, we testify in a Living God!
 And continuous prayer is the glorification of God.'

I know:
 You have to face life without me around.
 But in the spiritual sense: I am very real.
 Real like the oxygen you are breathing now though unseen.
 I can see you my Mom and Dad... I can truly hear you.

I am just a thought and prayer away.
 I shall still visit you in your dreams.
 And anxiously wait for you after your own pilgrimage is over on earth.
 I am truly blessed, being just a child of eleven years.
 Yes, Heaven is mine!
 My real life has just begun. Halleluiah!"

Let YCS YSM Light Shine.

– Melwyn Titus

Report of 4th NTA/ EXCO Meeting 15th – 16th November 2014, KROSS, Bangalore

The 4th National Team of Animators/ National Executive Committee (NTA/ EXCO) meeting was held at 'KROSS', Bangalore on 15th and 16th November 2014 with 23 members present from 8 regions.

Mr. Ebin and Fr Marianus Issac from Tamilnadu; Mr Roshan Melwyn, Sr. Irene Tauro and Fr. Mari Joseph from Karnataka; Ms. Roseline, Ms. Alisha Fernandes and Fr. Savio from Goa; Mr. Kevin Li and Sr. Gauri from West Bengal; Mr. Armaan Lakra and Fr. Ranjit from Odisha; Mr. Jimmy Padang, Ms. Mausami and Sr. Agnes from North East; Ms. Preethi, Ms. Richa, Mr. Mervyn and Fr. Alex from MP; Fr. Augustine from Patna; Ms. Jovita, the former National Secretary, Mr. Kamal Francis, Fr Ronald Veiges, Mr. Leo Joseph were the invitees and Fr. Charles Menezes, the National Chaplain were the members present for the meeting.

The absentees were from UP, AP, Ranchi, Northern, MG regions, as well as some Nexco members due to exams.

The meeting began at 06:00 pm with a prayer song, followed by a short prayer by Armaan. A reading from the Holy Bible was read and reflection was given by Fr. Ronald Veiges.

It was immense joy, to have Most Rev. Henry D Souza, the Chairman of CBCI Youth Council to attend his first NTA/EXCO after taking the office of the youth commission. The EXCOS introduced Bishop Henry to the members in a creative way. Jimmy, the National Convener and Roshan presented a bouquet to Bishop and welcomed him to the YCS/YSM family to which Bishop Henry gave back to them saying that the future lies in the hands of the youngsters.

Soon after that, the new members of the NTA/EXCO family namely: Preethi from MP, Mausami from NE, Roseline from Goa, Fr. Marianus Issac, the new RYD of Tamilnadu were given a symbolic welcome by presenting a flower. Everyone introduced themselves to the group and Mr. Roshan, EXCO of Karnataka briefly explained the roles and responsibilities of NTA/EXCO meetings.



The Chairman Bishop, Most Rev. Henry D'souza, during his address stressed on the lost Indian identity saying that India is a country of multiple identity - It's difficult to talk, but impossible to keep silent, he said. He encouraged the students to go the right way and do the right thing to become right person for others. He stated that catholic means 'universal' and it has to prepare the youth for future and urged them to become spiritual and political leaders. After his speech, he encouraged the members to share their minds and asked them to clarify if anything seeks his attention.

The members raised their interest in having a permanent place for the National YCS/YSM Office to which he said things are on the anvil to settle it through Fr. Charles. There were some suggestions as regards expansion of the movement and effective role of RYDs to which he said that he will do the needful provided we propose him the things from this meeting. He promised to take action by writing to the Regional Chairmen and RYDs and also making it known in the Episcopal body. He also urged all the YCS/YSM members to enroll themselves in the forthcoming data base program done by CCBI. Bishop gave his final blessing before supper and we called it a day.

Second day began with morning prayer, rosary and the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Mari Joseph was the main celebrant. Fr. Charles, in his homily emphasized that everyone has to take care of



their god given talents and must invest and inherit more.

After breakfast, we continued the meeting. The National report of the 3rd NTA/EXCO meeting held at Bhopal was read by Ms. Mausumi from NE, on behalf of Sharon, the National Secretary. After a few clarifications Fr. Alex proposed and Mervyn seconded the report and was passed. The regional reports on the regional activities from May to Nov 2014 were shared and clarifications were sought by other regions. Mr. Leo Joseph requested all the regions to send their reports and activities bimonthly to the National Office by email which can be updated in our newsletter and website.

Then we moved on to evaluate the 1st National Convention held at Bhopal, MP from 18- 21st May 2014.

Positives: Proud and happy to participate in the first ever National Convention; Food, Stay and arrangement of the venue were excellent; The choice of resource people and the selection of topics were apt; Time table, seriousness of the topics and punctuality of the resource persons was appreciated; The presence of the governor of MP was encouraging; Inter religious prayer and panel discussions were impressive; The release of YCS/YSM Resource book was a boon for the movement; Tireless work by Fr. Alex and his team of LOC was praiseworthy; The programme was student oriented and conducted by them was praiseworthy; Separate sessions for the animators was effective;

Objectives of the conventions are met and fruit of the convention is seen in various dioceses shows the effectiveness of it.

Points to improve: The inconvenience due to hot weather; Little more cautious in the names of the delegates in certificates was required; Lack of preparation from the part of the region; Last minute confirmation of delegates from a few regions was a problem for organizers; Better choice of participants required; A few resource persons could not get down to the level of students; Some Nexco members were not able to grasp the largeness of the convention due to lack of preparation; Former national coordinators could have been called.

Challenges: Fr Charles and Fr Alex accepted that the financial crunch was the biggest challenge; They also expressed that the input and the initiative was higher but the output from the students is comparatively less; Some Dioceses and student members could have contributed a little more to lessen the burden of finance.

Opportunities: Each diocese was given chance and could possibly bring more participants; felt happy to share their experiences with the other dioceses; Former Nexcos' participation would help us; Resource persons could be among ourselves to make it effective; Animators could mingle and know more about other parts of the country; Felt like a family gathering.

Altogether, the first National Convention was a successful one and the NTA/EXCO members felt the need of such conventions in the future and suggested to have it once in three years and hence decided to have next convention in May 2017.

Fr. Charles raised a question to the NEXCO'S whether they were following the rules and regulations of the constitution. He urged them to follow the constitution in spirit and letter to put things in order.

He too highlighted a few corrections in the constitution are made like: a. Rule 6.17 - CBCI Youth Council; b. Appendix VIII – National Convention and IX - Former members and city cells and other few grammatical mistakes are set right to which, the members agreed

the changes and amended to be ratified in the forthcoming National Council.

The next point in the agenda was the selection of new Nexcos. Only a very few regions have used their quotas like, MP, Karnataka, AP, and North East. UP and Ranchi has not responded and haven't presented any NEXCOS yet. Goa, Tamilnadu, Patna and Northern are yet to fill the quota. Fr. Charles appealed to all the RYDs to choose the NEXCOS as early as possible and not to deny their right to be part of the national body, since we are already half way through the term. He added saying that it's the right of the students to take part in their own movement and it's our duty to organize them.

Kevin Li was the star of this moment with an action song which rejuvenated the mood. On to the topic of the expansion of the movement, many queried about the concept of YCS City Cells and College cells. Fr. Charles made clear that they will not be a part of the DEXCO team but will directly come under the patronage of the DYD. The former members could be made use as animators, student volunteers and as resource persons and they could be nominated in the Asian and International levels.

At this juncture, the NTA/EXCO members felt the need of holding a National DYDs meeting cum training which could help the movement to strengthen and expand and proposed to have it in the month of July 2015. We would propose Chairman Bishop to write to the Regional Chairmen in this regard and as regards expansion of this movement in the regions.

The NEXCOS and the RYDs were given a clear picture that it's mandatory to elect DEXCO and REXCO team in their dioceses and regions

respectively to put the structure in order for the benefit of the student community.

It was noticed that some of the RYDs find it difficult to respond to the needs of YCS/YSM in the regions. In that case it was suggested that the Regional Youth Commission elects one of the DYD or Layperson as the Coordinator of Regional YCS/YSM under the guidance of RYD and that person should be given full rights to organize the programs who would be duly recognized by the Regional Episcopal body. It was proposed that the National Chairman will write a letter to the Regional Youth Commission Chairpersons as regards this issue and do the needful.

It was felt that we all are called to take YCS/YSM as a mission towards student community and not something personal, so that we may give utmost importance to them and encourage them to participate in all the programs and get good exposure to the reality to face life positively. If someone is not able then step down to make way for others who can do justice to this mission.

Since the regions namely, Goa and Orissa were leaving afternoon, the agenda of the Call for International Chaplaincy was discussed. After receiving few calls from the former members, Fr. Charles accepted for nomination of his name to make the presence of the Indian movement felt in the international level. He asked the regions and the individuals if they were willing could nominate his or any name suitable for the IYCS International Chaplaincy to which December 20 is the last date. It was time for lunch.

After lunch an action song was taught by Sr. Irene, the Regional Coordinator of Karnataka. Then Jimmy requested the NEXCOS to concentrate more on the Search newsletter and encouraged them to collect more subscription and advertisements. Fr. Charles added saying, the NEXCOS and the RYDs should put more effort, because it is theirs and because of which we have it bimonthly. He also requested to send more articles and reports of the regions with photos so that it is known throughout the world. The editor's role was questioned. Ms Annette was unable to perform as the Editor of the Search. The members requested Sr. Gauri to consult her and to reply back to the NT as soon as possible. Mr. Roshan expressed his



interest in taking up the responsibility and was asked to wait for Annette's reply.

The NEXCOS shared their views on their participation and their performance as the National Exco, to which many accepted that they haven't given their best. They were aware that they only have another half of their term and promised that that will do more in strengthening and expansion of the movement. They were reminded to have good rapport with their fellow NEXCOS and their RYDs and their DYDs and to write and collect more articles and subscriptions for the National Newsletter. Fr. Charles narrated efforts the shifting of office from Chennai to Delhi and informed the members that it was decided in the National Council held in Shillong, Former Directors Consultation and NTA/EXCO. If in future they feel to change the place it can be done and settle anywhere in India. But as far now, the National Working Office will be in Delhi and the Registered Office will be in Chennai.

Regarding training programmes, Fr. Charles said after the National Convention held at Bhopal, many regions and dioceses have organized Conventions which is a good sign of advocacy. He gave a brief picture about the NSLTP programs and recommended every regions and dioceses to organize Animators Training Program as well as Student Leaders training program.

The next topic of the agenda was the Alumni National Program. It was decided to be organized in Oct 2015. The members felt that it should sustain itself independently with the help of the Alumni members. It will be a large get together which could be like a spiritual retreat and will help us to know the former members and will be helpful as resource person and animators. Regarding the place decision will be taken later. While speaking about the need of the national advisory committee, the NTA/EXCO felt to give it a thought and to consider it during the National Alumni Program.

Then Fr. Charles Menezes announced the call for the new National Coordinators or full timers or Part time volunteers for the National Office in Delhi. It's finally decided to publish it in the next Search issue and to look for someone who is suitable for the position.

Call for the next Asian Coordinator was also open. He invited the regions to suggest right

members to have our presence felt in the Asian level. The Asian Coordinator has to work from Manila, Philippines for the term of three years. Mr. Kamal Francis was interested from the region of Tamilnadu and the other regions were also welcomed to nominate if any soon. A few more explanations were given by Fr. Charles on the election process of the IYCS International Chaplain.

We moved on to discuss the venue for the 17th National Council in 2016. Based on the previous NTA/ EXCO meeting, MG region was interested but there was no further response. The next in line was Northern region and MP. It will be held in Northern region in 2016 and if not plan B is MP.

After having a lot of discussion, the body decided to have their next NTA/EXCO meeting in May 2015 in Goa. Fr. Charles suggested that it would be better to have NSLTP in English in May in Goa, since the rest of the regions have already hosted it. The dates will be confirmed and informed soon after finalizing with the respective regions and RYDs. NSLTP in Hindi will be in Oct 2015 and Kolkata will be contacted and venue will be finalized.

Finally a small evaluation of the NTA/EXCO meeting was done and the following were the comments from the participants:

- It's good to see the students' interaction and conducting meetings on their own
- Congrats to the NEXCO members for the perfect agenda, punctuality and was able to finish the meeting on time.
- It felt like a family while planning and sharing.
- Our sincerest gratitude to all the NEXCOS participated and missed the other NEXCOS.
- Able to witness the change and growth of the NEXCOS from their election and now.
- Everyone's suggestion were respected and given recognition to all.
- Wished all the NEXCOS to have the same caliber when they go back to their regions.
- NEXCOS participation in discussion need to be more and they need to own it up in the next meeting.

In the end, Fr. Charles thanked everyone for their presence. He thanked each and everyone for their valuable contribution towards the

student community in building a new society. Mr. Leo Joseph thanked Jimmy, Fr Charles, all the NEXCOS and RYDs for inviting him to this NTA/EXCO meeting. Mr. Kamal Francis too expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to witness the proceedings of the National

Committee meeting. Finally, Jimmy officially thanked all and called it an end of the 4th NTA/EXCO meeting. The meeting got over with the YCS/YSM Anthem and YCS YSM Clap at 4pm.

- Ebin Navis, TN



“MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP...”

I had read these lines many a times... This poem by Robert Frost was and is uprightly influential, but I had until now, never even understood what it really meant. But today, this line has proved to be true in my life.

I was very much preoccupied with the thoughts about USM. Many people had told me about it and it added fuel to the fire i.e, my raging desire to be there. And, just as fate would have it, Fr. Charles informed me about it and I went there as a delegate with ICYM NEXCO's.

USM came like a call to me, a call within a call. It meant as if someone was pointing at me & saying “YOU”(U). I was confused and I asked if the person pointed at me... And the call said YES(S) But still another doubt troubled me... “I AM?”(M) . With this, I was very sure that I had just been given an opportunity to answer and heed a higher call!

After reaching USM, it was like experiencing a very serious life. I have been to many programs but this was nothing compared to them. Every session, every movie and even the walls (where the program was held) spoke to me; made me think & contemplate. The concept of “aham brahmami” i.e; God is within ME made me value myself. The ideas & concept of having a mirror & praying was awesome. The things that touched my heart & soul were, the inspiring atmosphere of USM, change that took place in USMers, the love and gentleness bestowed by the USM staff, punctuality & the selfless mission and sushma ma'am (who is deaf and dumb). I learnt many things by others lives than sessions. To highlight some are:

1. Punctuality-the notion that every fraction of second counts was very inspiring.
2. Awareness about the present scenario regarding society and church.
3. Critical analysis of the movie with new dimension of viewing values hidden and not merely entertainment.
4. I was very much carried away by one thought that was we dont want hundred Gandhi's or Jesus.... only one us enough.!, I realised that its not the quantity or number of students in a program that is important but it is the quality and number of transformed student is important.
5. Inter religious prayers provoked patriotism within me.
6. I realised how YCS/YSM methodology can be lived. I learnt to put words in deeds/actions.
7. I learnt how to face criticism, crisis in my life in a better way than getting angry or directly jumping into action.
8. I had a vision and also mission but had no idea how will I execute it in my life. USM thought me this important lesson of life.

USM is a beautiful experience which evryone should have. Its a good opportunity to rediscover oneself. I would ask all of you reading this to once experience this, trust me unknowngly ther will be a change within you. I would lik to extend my gratitude to Fr.Charles, Fr. Franklin,who motivated me to be here & gave a new dimension to my life. And of course I can't bear the thought of forgetting to thank Fr.Varghese Alengaden... It was he who taught me, changed me & helped me to rediscover a “hidden Frivita (me)” within myself. A big thank you to the USM staff who taught me the value of love, care, dignity, gentleness. Finally last but not the least a humongous thanks to all my fellow trainees & a touching farewell to USM..... U...S...M...

- Frivita Dsouza, Karnataka

My
Experience
@ USM



ORGAN DONATION



Bangalore, Oct 13: The twelve year old Deepika, daughter of Krishnappa a gardener suddenly fell ill last year. In the initial stage, it was taken as anaemia. But later she was diagnosed with juvenile nephronophthisis. The family had only two options, either to go for kidney transplant or for dialysis.

“Finding a donor becomes a problem. It was heartwarming to see an illiterate gardener overcoming social and mental challenges and donate his kidney,” said Dr Saumil Gaur, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist at Narayana Health City in the press meet. By breaking the social barrier prevalent in the lower economic strata of giving importance to the male child, Krishnappa has shown them the way and has also inspired the people affected with the stigma. Krishnappa is back to work. Deepika will go to school soon.

Chennai: A grief stricken mother of a 30-year-old software engineer M. Pakshirajan who was declared brain dead after a road accident has decided to donate her son’s organs to help the ones in need. “He was the only son of his parents and the youngest in the family. All his five sisters are elder to him,” said A. Raghuraman, Pakshirajan’s brother-in-law.

Mumbai: Kavita Karkare, wife of slain former Anti Terrorism Squad chief Hemant Karkare, passed away at Mumbai based P D Hinduja hospital, Mahim. She was declared brain dead. “The two daughters and son have consented to donate their mother, Late Mrs. Kavita Karkare’s organs for the treatment of needy patients.”

What is Organ Donation?

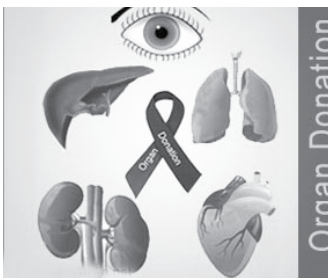
Organ donation is the process of a person donating their organs for transplant. These are given to someone with damaged organs that need to be replaced. An organ transplant may save a person’s life, or significantly improve their health and quality of life. After death, one person can help as many as eight people by donating their organs. They can benefit many more by donating tissue, such as skin, bone, corneas or tendons. There is no age limit to becoming a donor. A person’s physical condition, not age, is the deciding factor. Specialist healthcare professionals decide in each case which organs and tissue are suitable. Organs and tissue from people in their 70s and 80s are transplanted successfully.

Most people waiting for a donated organ need to have a kidney, heart, lung or liver transplant. One donor can help several people because a single donor can donate a number of organs, including: kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, small bowel, pancreas.

Tissues that can be donated include: the cornea (the transparent layer at the front of the eye), bone, skin, heart valves, tendons, cartilage. All donors have the choice of which organs and tissues they wish to donate.

How to donate organs?

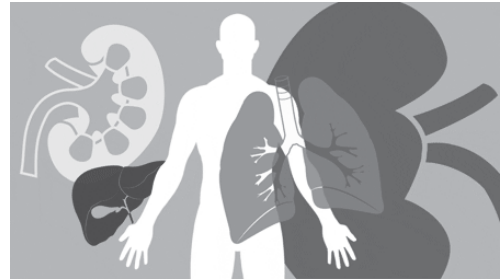
The NHS Organ Donor Register is where you record your pledge to donate organs and tissue for transplant after your death. You can join the NHS Organ Donor Register at any age. While 90% of people say they support organ donation, only 27% have actually joined the NHS Organ Donor Register. You need to tell your family what your wishes are because they will be asked to confirm them after your death. The donor’s physical condition is an important factor. There are only two conditions – known or suspected HIV or CJD – where organ donation is ruled out completely. In all other circumstances, healthcare professionals will make the decision about whether organs and tissue are suitable for transplant, taking into account your medical history. Because organs have to be transplanted very soon after the donor has died, they can only be donated by people who have died in hospital. Most people don’t die in hospital, but at home. Doctors and nurses are committed to doing everything possible to save your life. Organs are always removed with the greatest care and respect.



More than 400 people die waiting for an organ transplant each year. Around 500 more die because, while waiting, they become too ill to receive a transplant and have to be removed from the list. Most donated organs come from people who die while on a ventilator in an intensive care unit following a severe head or brain injury, a major accident such as a car crash, or a stroke. Most tissue needs to be donated within 24 hours of death, but more people can be considered for tissue donation because, unlike organ donation, they don't have to die in hospital.

Legal position on organ donations: Organ donations are legal by Indian law. The Indian government enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, which allows organ donation, and legalized the concept of 'brain death'.

Brain death: Brain death is the irreversible and permanent cessation of all brain functions. In situations of brain death, a person cannot sustain his own life, but vital body functions may be maintained in an 'intensive care unit' for a short period of time. Such persons are kept on artificial support to maintain oxygenation of organs so that the organs are in a healthy condition until they are removed. Organs of such patients can be transplanted to terminally ill patients.



Documents required: The donor needs to fill a prescribed consent form, which can either be downloaded from the ministry of health and family welfare, government of India (<http://mohfw.nic.in/>) or accessed from the medical facility that is approached for organ removal. A written consent from the lawful custodian of the body after the death of the patient in a prescribed application form is required. The potential donor can also approach organ donation agencies for a donor card. Although not legally binding, the donor card is a means of expressing ones willingness to donate kidneys and make family more understanding towards the cause.

Points to remember: A panel of four doctors needs to declare brain stem death twice in a time frame of six hours. These are: the medical administrator in charge of the hospital, an authorized specialist, a neurologist/neuro-surgeon and the medical officer treating patient. Healthy organs should be transplanted as soon as possible from the donor to the recipient.

The authority to give consent for organ donation lies with the person lawfully in possession of the dead body. There is neither charge nor payment made on account of organ donation.

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a confidential national database that holds the details of more than 19 million people who want to donate their organs when they die. By adding your name to the NHS Organ Donor Register, everyone will be aware of your wishes, making it easier for them to agree to your donation. You can join the register in a number of ways, including:

- by completing an online form
- by calling the NHS Donor on Line

Even though there are a significant number of people on the register, most people will not die in circumstances that allow them to donate their organs. This makes it more important that as many people as possible join the register. You should discuss your wishes with your family and medical staff so they are aware.

Checking for a match: When an organ becomes available for donation, it is checked to make sure it is healthy. The blood and tissue type of both donor and recipient are also checked to ensure they are compatible. The better the match, the greater the chance of a successful outcome. People from the same ethnic group are more likely to be a close match. Those with rare tissue types may only be able to accept an organ from someone of the same ethnic origin. This is why it is important that people from all ethnic backgrounds register to donate their organs.

Types of donation: There are three different ways of donating an organ. These are known as:

a. donation after brain stem death **b.** donation after cardiac death **c.** live organ donation.

Donation after brain stem death: Most organ donations are from brain stem dead donors. This means the donor has been confirmed brain stem dead following a severe brain injury. The circulation is supported by artificial ventilation until the donated organs have been removed. Heart beating donations have a high success rate because the organs are supported by oxygenated blood until they are removed.

Donation after cardiac death: Organs and tissue can also be donated after cardiac death. Almost all donors of this type are people who have died in intensive care from severe brain injuries, but who are not quite brain stem dead. In these cases, the organs must be removed within a few minutes of the heart stopping to prevent them being damaged by a lack of oxygenated blood.

Live organ donation: A live organ donation usually involves one family member donating an organ to another family member. The relative is usually blood-related, most commonly a parent, although it could be a partner.

Following changes in the law, it is now possible to be an altruistic donor. Altruistic donors are unrelated to the patient but become donors as an act of personal generosity. Kidney donations are often made from living donors, as a healthy person can lead a normal life with only one working kidney.

Courtesy - Google

My experience @ USM

“Some moments are nice, some are worth writing”, hence I am here to pen down my nice moments at USM. It was nine years that I didn't step out of my state and the time was ripe for me to be in Indore for a change in my life through USM.

I was pleased to see two sisters standing at the gate waiting for our arrival and their hospitality and caring nature surprised me at the first sight at USM. The two days of rest helped me to recover my tiredness and get ready to be a part of this program.

The meaningful holy mass and inter-religious prayer service helped me deepen my understanding of word of God. The journey with Jesus of Nazareth gave me strong experience and understanding of the personality of Jesus of Nazareth. He is the greatest of all animators and it helped me deepen my faith in him. The movie DEV helped me understand the meaning of animation.

Missionary context of the church was analyzed critically which made us realize that we are the salt of the earth which preserves the true values of life and heals the wounds of people and adds taste to the world. We need to come up with right action.

The miracle of possibility thinking which is lacking in most of the people today made me realize the power of every individual, but we must develop within us. *“I think therefore I am”* and *“Ho jayega”* attitude will enable us to do marvelous deeds in our life. Various examples of people like Edison, Ekalavya, Wright brothers, Charles D' Gaulle and others who made inventions and differences in life enabled me to be different and do something in life despite the difficulties and hurdles I need to face. Why not I attitude will help me think beyond the horizon make a difference in the society. The movies DHARM and IQBAL were inspiring to me, one highlighting the importance of spirituality and other perseverance as an animator. Preserving the God given originality among youth helps the nation to bring about new ideas in the field of education, social work and religious context.

At USM I also enjoyed the companionship of Mr. Alphonse IAS, national, regional and diocesan youth leaders, the staff and sisters serving at this centre. The food served with love, the cleanliness and hygiene and hospitality was praiseworthy. The time table disturbed me because I lack punctuality, yet it helped me learn the importance of time. These values will be with me forever.

I have captivated the beautiful moments here that will wow my heart when I remember them. I thank everyone who had encouraged me to be a part of this program and all my friends over here who have become brothers and sisters for life. I thank Fr. Varghese, Fr. Charles, Fr. Edwin for giving me this opportunity to learn something beautiful and worth for my life.

- Darryl Quadros, YCS Udupi

1.	4/3/14-5/3/14	Free Dental Camp	Oral Health and Anti-Tobacco Awareness along with Free Dental Check-up for the School Students .	150
2.	15/6/14	One day unit level orientation	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life along with Career Guidance Program	30
3.	29/6/14	Formation of New YCS Cell	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Lif	
4..	4/7/14	Formation of a New YSM Cell	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life	30
5.	12/7/14	Youth Cetechesis	Taking Catechism to the Youth using ROL	10
6.	18/7/14	YSm zonal Training Programme	Introduction of YCS /YSM and Importance of ROL And how one can change through it?	45
7.	19/7/14	Archdiocesan youth action networking forum	Impact of YCS/YSM in 21st Century and Coordination to link all the Activities of Youth Movements	15
8.	20/7/14	Reunion of ex-YCSYSM'ers	Reviving YCSYSM in the Diocesan Level and how effective activities can be planned?	10
9.	30/7/14	Formation of a New YSM Cell	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life	30
10.	1/7/14	YCS/YSM unit exco elections	Analysing See-Judge-Act along with Elections	50
11.	3/8/14	Inauguration of ycsysm cell	Importance of ROL And how one can change through it?	30
12.	6/8/14	Formation of a new ysm cell	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life	60
13.	14/8/14	One day unit level orientation	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life	30
14.	15/8/14	Archdiocesan youth action networking forum	Reviewing how effective Youth Movements have done in the recent years ?	20
15.	24/8/14	ex-YCS/YSM'ers reunion day	Reviewing how effective YCSYSM have done in the recent years ? and whats been lacking ?	15
16.	31/8/14	YCS one day camp	Introduction to YCS/YSM and Impact of YCS/YSM Values in Individuals Life along with leadership principles for life	50

- Kamal Francis, YCSYSM Chennai

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME - MANGALORE

The National Students Leadership Training Program in English was held from 5-9 November 2014 at pastoral institute, Shantikiran, Bajjodi, Mangalore. 75 students and 7 animators from 6 dioceses participated in it.

5th November 2014

The day began with the registration followed by the ice-breaking by DEXCO of Mangalore. Fr Charles Menezes gave the orientation to the participants about the dynamics to be followed for the entire program. At 3pm inaugural program was held in which Rev Fr Victor Machado, Director of Pastoral Institute, Mangalore was the Chief Guest accompanied by Fr Charles Menezes, National Chaplain YCS/YSM INDIA, Fr Edwin Correa, Director YCS/YSM Mangalore Diocese, Mr. Leo Joseph, Miss Rosalia Cardoza and Roshan Lobo, NEXCO. The program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and the chief guest in his presidential address said "Anyone can be a leader if someone motivates you". Later all the participants were taken out for a reality check to places like the dumpyard, central market, ashram and service bus stand. It was an exposure to know the reality of life and living. After the participants were back there was a sharing on what experience they had visiting these places which were interpreted through diagrams in a charts. Supper was served and the day ended with an evaluation.



6th November 2014

Prayer is always important and this day too began with inter religious prayer. After breakfast action songs were sung by the participants. First session was on the first part of YCS/YSM methodology-SEE by Fr Joachim Fernandes. He spoke on the social analysis of the reality exposure. He stressed on how simple methods can be made use of through this by giving real life examples. After a short break 2nd session was by Fr Ronald Veigas, Director of Shimoga Diocese. He told us about what is YCS/YSM, the structure, methodology and objectives.

The second part of the methodology was taken up by Mr. Leo Joseph. He took examples of the reality check and gave a gist on how we can judge on what we do. After tea break outdoor games were conducted by the DEXCO, Mangalore. After games there were inspirational videos shown for our self transformation. Supper was followed by cultural activities from all dioceses. Then

evaluation of the day was done which concluded with a evening payer.



7th November 2014

The day began with inter-religious prayer. After breakfast action songs were thought followed by the report of the previous day. The first session for the day was on the 3rd part of the methodology -ACT stressing on leadership in national integration by Br Sunil Fernandes SJ. He had the session with various activities like

preparing charts, games which gave social message and discussion on how each person would like INDIA to be. After lunch Fr Charles took up another session on movement spirituality and religious plurality. Refreshments were provided and later there was group discussion on various social issues. There was personal sharing which was held group wise which was followed by cultural program group wise and some inspirational videos were shown. The entire day was ended with inter-religious prayer service.

8th November 2014

With inter-religious prayer we thanked God followed by breakfast and action songs. The 1st session was on how to witness leadership and on its review of life. After a short tea break there was cell meeting conducted by Ms Nirma D'Souza based on the methodology of YCS/YSM –SEE, JUDGE AND ACT. After this session all animators and participants travelled to Pangla, Udupi to witness the “Konkani Fest” which showed the culture and tradition of Konkani Catholics. After the fest all visited the birthplace of Madvacharya and a temple at Pajaka. Reaching back to Mangalore at 8pm supper was served. Later individual cultural performances were given by the participants and animators. The day ended with evaluation.

9th November 2014

The final day of this training program began with a concluding mass celebrated by Rev Fr Mari Joseph, Karnataka Regional Youth Director along with Fr Charles Menezes, Fr Edwin Correa and Fr. Ronald Veigas. A session on self appreciation was conducted by Mr. Leo Joseph which helped the participants to appreciate and thank each other. A small concluding ceremony was held where Fr Mari Joseph was the Chief Guest along with Fr Charles Menezes, National Chaplain YCS/YSM India, Fr Edwin Correa, Director YCS/YSM, Mangalore diocese, Miss Frivita D'Souza, President YCS/YSM, Karnataka, Roshan Lobo, NEXCO and Joyline Dsouza, President YCS Mangalore Diocese. Formal program began with a short prayer, chief guests speech, sharing of experience from all dioceses, distribution of certificates and a vote o thanks by Fr Charles where he tanked all who had helped him and participated. The program was ended by singing YCS/YSM anthem. The 5 day training program was a successful one as all gave in their best and took part actively.



NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME - PATNA



YCS/YSM India National Student Leaders Training Programme in Hindi (2) was organized at Sewa Kendra, Patna from 19-23 Nov 2014. 62 student leaders and 8 animators from Hindi regions participated in this

programme.

Programme began with ice breaking session knowing each other conducted by NEXCO Ms. Angela and Armaan. Then orientation and program dynamics was initiated to them by Fr. Charles. Our former NEXCO member Mohit Michael who is running a school at his village shared his life experience in YCS with us. After this students were divided into groups where they got a chance to interact with students from different regions.

The program was inaugurated by Archbishop William D'Souza, Archbishop of Patna. He gave us an inspiring message about 3 mantras i.e. See, Judge and Act. He told us to use these three mantras in our life to progress so that each one experiences the power of God in themselves and have a successful future.

At 4 o'clock the six groups went for exposure visit to different places to have an awareness of the reality. Group 1-went to Kurji mode and mall, Group 2 – Digha market, Group 3 – Gandhi maidan, Group 4- Digha ghat, a non formal education centre, Group 5- Orphanage, Group 6-Kali Mandir. By 6:30pm all groups came back to the venue to prepare the reports and chart of what they saw and explained about it. Everyone shared their vivid experience. Questions were raised and the groups cleared out everyone's doubt. This was a very good experience students had and after this inter-religious prayer service was held. With evaluation and prayer the day came to an end.



The day began with morning inter-religious prayer. The day was full of activities. The session on one of the key points of our methodology SEE given by Fr. Alexander was very informative. He made us realize how to be aware of the things around us and the importance

of awareness as it enables us to get the idea of the reality around us. Student delegates were able to pin point what they saw during the exposure visit and enlisted the things in the reality. It is not only to just see with our bare eyes but to become aware of the things we come across in our day today life.

The session on leadership by Fr. Alwyn was very educational. We learnt what are the types of leadership exist among us and how to come up and express ourselves on various issues. We also learnt the qualities of a good leader. The inspirational videos shown in this session were very motivating.

The session by Fr. Chetan on the second point of our methodology JUDGE made us realize the importance of reflection without which the action part is useless. He also gave the session on media



and the mindset of the present generation which made us realize that somewhere or the other we are going wrong and there is a need for improvement. To bring a change we need to initiate and be the change around. We also learnt the undercurrents like the structure on which our society stands and continues to sustain these problems.

The outdoor games showed us the advantage of team work and we enjoyed them well. The video shown by Fr. Charles was inspirational and made us realize that our parents are very important to us and we should take care of them when they are old as they did when we were small. He also told us about discipline in life and its advantages. The evening prayer was very good and with its help we were able to relax and meditate on God. The cultural program presented by all the regions was very entertaining and superbly done. Through this we learnt that we should take part in it, put in our best effort and enjoy what we do. We had evening evaluation where all pen down their opinion about the program and shared with each other in the groups. Altogether the day was long and tiring but it awakened our mind and changed our outlook of society.



The day started with an inter-religious. After breakfast Fr. Chetan explained us about YCS/YSM, its origin, aim, methodology, etc. Then Fr. Anto Joseph gave a session on one of the key points of our methodology i.e. ACT and made us realize how we can work for national integration. He inspired us to dream big in life and work hard to achieve and fulfill our dream and about equality and importance of education. After this Fr. Chetan dealt with the session on JUDGE part and helped us to reflect on media and its effects giving examples on advertisement as to how it fools the younger lot. The game played by the students in which they had to dress one of their group members as any one of the national leaders with the use of newspapers showed their creativity.

Then we were shown a movie DHARM based on religiosity and spirituality which helped us to understand the difference between them. We must balance them together in our life.

The workshop on CAFÉ in which all the groups had to go to different animators to understand the topics was very effective and creative. There were six topics - Poverty and Education, Corruption and Compromise, Child Labour and Child Rights, Friendship and True Relationship, Inequality between Rich and Poor and Religious Harmony. We made a good report on these issues and understood how YCS/YSM helps us to reflect on social issues. Then in the cultural activities the students did Tableau based on the themes. With evaluation the day ended in which the students expressed their feelings about the program and what they liked. The day was good and inspired all of us.



The day started with morning prayer. After breakfast we did some action songs and everyone participated enthusiastically in it. Then Fr. Charles explained the spirituality of YCS/YSM and explained us where we can find God and how to see God in the reality. Then the session was conducted by Mr. Mukti prakash who was also a leader in YCS/YSM. He asked our knowledge about YCS. He told us about his ambition as he always wanted to be an orator and explained us about the words of the Bible. He taught that see, judge and act is like a triangle. It's like my side, other side, your side.

Then Fr. Charles explained about the YCS cell and its structure and taught us how to conduct cell meeting. Cell meeting should take place every week or once in 15 days. Then all the animators conducted a model cell meeting which taught us the effective manner of conducting cell meeting.

Then we saw a movie named 'do kalakar', which showed us the difference between ambition and mission. We were asked to pen down our ambition in life and to change this ambition into mission. All the animators shared their experience about witness to leadership. Then the evaluation took place on the film 'do kalakar'.

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



The day began with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Sabu. After breakfast Fr. Charles took a session on Self appreciation in which he showed two videos which helped the students to understand why we need to be positive in thinking and doing. Accordingly we were asked to write our action plan to change self and do something in the society. Five path program was explained to the delegates by Aparna who asked them to take these five path seriously so that they can become true YCS/YSMers. The students took an oath prepared by themselves to make a difference in the society and to work for India's development.

As an action plan delegates wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Bihar about the filth on the road side at Kurji more and Gandhi maidan and sent copies to Prime Minister and Dist administration for further action. A letter to the Editor of Hindustan was written by another group. An oath was prepared by one group and a poem was written by another group. A poster depicting the condition of the surroundings was prepared by one group.

Then the delegates were led to personal and diocesan evaluation followed by concluding program. Fr. Amal Raj was the Chief Guest. Four student delegates and two animators shared their experience on NSLTP and resolved to do their best to work for the society and poor. Fr. Amal gave a fitting message saying that if each one works for the good of the society by changing oneself a New Society can be built soon. Participants were given certificates and a photograph each as a memento. Fr. Charles and Fr. Sabu thanked all those who made it a successful program. Armaan and Angela compeered the program. The five day program came to an end with YCS/YSM Anthem and clap. The participants left the venue with fond memories and a heavy heart.

- Angela Antony and Armaan Lakra, Nexco



When I was given the opportunity by Fr. Savio , the Director of the Youth Centre in Goa, to attend the National Student Leaders Training Programme , I was thrilled. I've been exposed to so many experiences in the 5days. It's been a very educative experience for me as an animator. I learnt that in YSM/ YCS Movements, Every child is a divine treasure placed in the hands of our teachers by the Almighty with full trust in their human abilities. With this we venture out to nurture holistic persons who are intellectually competent as well as humanly compassionate. We focus on the personal growth and the social commitment of their students. In this training programme besides the intellectual dimension their emotional, creative, physical and the faith formation were taken care of. Interacting with so many people from different states, understanding their cultures, experiencing love and team spirit helped us all to grow.



A special to The team who organized and conducted the training program deserves special appreciation for the tireless efforts taken by them in preparing and sharing with us the resource materials, powerpoints, videos . Thanks to the youth of Mangalore for the variety of action songs taught to us. May God Bless them for all their efforts and dedication in helping the Youth.

Dylan I. Fernandes

Holy Cross High School, Goa



My
Experience

NSLTP EXPERIENCE: Shimoga Diocese

The day always began with inter-religious prayers in which we learnt a lot to understand the power of prayer. We were shown inspiring videos which helped us to reflect on various factors of our actions. We liked the video which showed the love between parents and children and we prayed for our parents. We learnt that everyone loves us but we should also be a person who loves the other. We liked the session by Br Sunil where he spoke on leadership and how a leader should be. We learnt to be independent and he said that when we ask more questions we learn a lot. We liked almost everything and had a very pleasant time in Mangalore.

Jesvita Quardos, Mangalore: I Jesvita from Angelore parish was honoured to be a delegate of NSLTP. For me it was more than a training programme. The knowledge I have gained in this training programme is something that cannot be explained in mere words. Right from the first day to the fifth day it has been a lifetime experience for me. This training has taught me the values and virtues which are very important to transform an individual into a dynamic leader. Before I came here little did I know the significance and importance of YCS/YSM. But now that I have attended I can surely say I know a lot more than before. It has taught me the importance of keeping surroundings clean, respecting elders. Respecting elders and seeking their blessings should be a wonderful feeling. Sharing of personal experience through every day evaluation and group wise interaction was a different and an amazing thing. It has also helped me build my personality and be responsible, well-mannered, a person who manages time, appreciative, non-discriminative, self-reliant and be respectful. I liked the methodology of YCS-See, Judge and Act. I would like to thank all who were a part of organizing this training and Fr Charles specially for giving us an opportunity to learn something beautiful which is very useful and for giving me a chance to come up in life. These 5 days will always be cherished in the forth coming years. Thank you!!!!

Experience - Patna Diocese: We came to know about the structure of cell meeting and learnt not to be selfish. We need to change our behavior and talk to people politely. We make people aware of this movement. The arrangements were very good and we liked the animators, fathers and the resource persons. We learnt about the difference between ritual and spiritual values. We learnt that we need to respect people of all religion, accept them as our brothers and sisters and thus make a difference in the society. We should participate in every festival to have a good relation with our friends. We share and help the poor & needy people. We should help our friends when they get disheartened, get into depression. We should save money and try to help the needy. We need to honour our elders and parents which is a sign of good behaviour, honesty, sincerity and punctuality. If anyone comes to us for our help we will try to help them in every possible way.

We will pray daily for peace, skip a meal once a week, do a good deed every day, honour our parents, teachers and every human being. Next year in NSLTP we want to have a session on “Students relationships towards teachers and parents”.

Activities of National Director

1. Organized NSLTP at Mangalore in English from 5-9 Nov 2014. 82 participants
2. Visit and talk to YSM St. Raymond's, Vamanjoor on 11th Nov 2014. 60 participants.
3. Talk to AC sisters at Bondel on 13th Nov 2014 about methodology of YCS/YSM which could be incorporated in Catechesis. 36 participants.
4. Mass at Karkal shrine on 13th Nov 2014
5. Participated in CCBI seminar on 14-15 Nov 2014 at NBCLC Bangalore. 120 participants
6. Held NTA/EXCO meeting at KROSS Bangalore on 15-16 Nov 2014. Bishop Henry and 23 NTA/Exco members participated.
7. Organized NSLTP at Patna in Hindi from 19-23 Nov 2014. 70 participants
8. Office work at Chennai on 25-28 Nov 2014
9. Participated in Chennai diocesan YCS Founder's Day on 28th Nov 2014 at Pastoral Centre, Chennai. 100 participants
10. Break for 20 days to visit relatives from 1-20 Dec 2014
11. Christmas ministry at Mangalore in Dec 2014

Forthcoming programs:

1. Visit to North East – Kohima, Guwahati, Dimapur, Shillong, in Jan 2015
2. Delhi diocesan youth programme in Jan 2015
3. Talk to Priests of Mangalore diocese in Jan and Feb 2015
4. Participating in ICA program in Feb 2015 at Shillong
5. Visit to YCS units in Delhi in Feb and March 2015
6. NTA/EXCO meeting in May 2015
7. NSLTP in English in May 2015
8. National level Animators training in May 2015
9. All DYD meet on YCS/YSM in July 2015
10. NSLTP in Hindi in Oct 2015
11. YCS/YSM Alumni get together in Oct 2015



The much awaited YCS/YSM winter camp finally had arrived which was held on 18th and 19th October 2014 at Emjala. 160 students from eight schools and city cell along with their animators were present.

We all gathered in a hall and invoked God's blessing by lighting the lamp by Livia Fernandes the DEXCO president and a short prayer service conducted by Rev. Fr. Charles and Rev. Fr. Vinay. Then we were all shuffled into different groups. It was the interactive session. Later we had various activities based on our methodology - See, Judge and Act. We were divided into 8 groups/cells. Each cell had a representative and an animator.

Beginning with the blessing of the holy family we went to a Mother Mary shrine which was inaugurated on the first day of our camp. We had our meals there. Then Fr. Charles led us to analysis of exposure visit and sent us again for field visit. We set out for the field exposure in our respective groups.

The main purpose of this exposure was to experience the life of the villagers and the way they viewed and lived their life. We interviewed the village people and shared our stories with them. After this we all gathered in groups to prepare a report of what the exposure was all about and what we had learnt from it and presented it before supper.

We wished Fr. Charles on his birthday with cutting of a cake and we were lucky to have him with us. We were led to a prayer service in which we remembered our parents and prayed for them. The video shown was a heart touching one which reminded us the hardships our parents went through.

After dinner we had a talent show where all the participants had come out with their beautiful innate talents. After evaluation we went to bed at 11pm.

On 19th we woke up at 6:00 am and after breakfast assembled in the hall for Mass. After the mass we got into our groups and our activities began. We watched a few inspirational videos which touched each and every YSMers hearts.

Then we were led to CAFÉ which was a good exposure for us all. Animators divided themselves into eight groups with different topics and we could gather round them with our queries. We learnt a lot of things from them and reported it to the group. This was a memorable camp which ignited the power of YCS/YSM into many people and created awareness of many new social issues. We had an amazing experience and learnt many new things which we will try to practice in our life. Every minute of this camp was precious and memories remain with us. Let YCS/YSM light shine. "Once a YSM'er, always a YSM'er."

- Livia Sanjana Fernandes.



CHRISTOCENTRIC LEADERSHIP RETREAT

USM, INDORE, 27 OCT – 3 NOV 2014

ACTION PLAN

The programme Christo-centric leadership retreat was a leap in the unknown because no one was sure about the real face of Jesus. Once the journey was treaded through the movie “Jesus of Nazareth” the unknown face of Jesus and hidden truths about animation came to light. Many other topics and movies enlightened us with regard to the challenges Indian church is facing and the need to be more spiritual by practice of ritual in the right manner. Mainly in the light of Jesus the greatest animator we treaded through the problems the Indian church has faced and has been facing with a view to the future threats to follow.

The attacks on church in various parts of the country has caused a lot of damage to life and property in the name of conversion but it has failed to conscientize the faithful of other regions due to lack of connectivity and sensitivity. We feel that we need to contextualize our spirituality and support the cause of people who are targeted and wounded physically and spiritually. A planned communication and strategy by the church in general will be a great help, but it all depends on the strong leadership; otherwise it will be a peace-meal protest which will affect the perpetrators rather instigate them.

Secondly, we need to find the real meaning of spirituality which is inclusive because Indian church is multi-religious and multi-lingual. Youth need to spread the wings far and wide to accept and understand people of all faith and work towards national integration. We feel that only rituals and exclusivism will not help us evangelize Christ’s message.

Thirdly, the vision that we hold today is hollow and lacks meaning because we feel that we still hold on to old imperialism and a serious study and research is required. The vision and mission with a prophetic voice and deeds only will be able to build the kingdom of God with lasting fruit. We agree we have failed to produce lasting fruit and everything is not lost and the young with right vision which is broad, inclusive and lasting will hold on to the mantle of our lasting vision. A lot needs to be done in this regard.

Promotion of movements like YCS/YSM and USM which are inclusive e in nature will help us promote true spirituality of Jesus based on values which will enable us be the salt of the earth. Inter- religious dialogues, prayers, social actions which gather all people need to be promoted. The example of USM can be a learning cradle and some more such centres will help us live true spirituality. There are umpteen opportunities for collaboration and that will help us work united in realizing the dream of Jesus going back to the life of early Christian communities.

Finally, YCS/YSM has a vision which is inclusive and broad but only need to be understood by people in hierarchy and promote the movement further. This is the only official tool for us to reach out to the people of all faith with a little change of policies based on the present need to the society and signs of time.

Let our efforts bear fruit and may God bless all of us to march ahead working hand in hand, if not walk alone as Jesus did to build the kingdom of God.

- Fr. Charles Menezes

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