

The May - June 2016
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YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 36

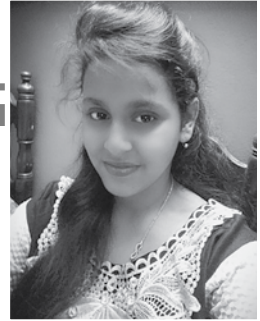
Vol: 3



Well done good and faithful servant Mt. 25:21

XVII NATIONAL COUNCIL 2016 - MEMORIES



LET'S BELIVE -BEGIN-BECOME

My dear friends in YCS/YSM India

Greetings from the YCS/YSM family. Hope you have enjoyed your summer vacation. The temperature outside is gradually decreasing followed by the heavenly down pour of the rains. The onset of the rainy season is very symbolic, nature tends to wash away all the dust and dirt on her and opens up to mankind the evergreen side. So with the onset of this rainy season we open up our hearts and minds and sweep away all the ill-feelings towards each other.

In the month of May we had the XVII NATIONAL COUNCIL in Delhi the theme and thrusts lays down a picture of our whole life before us. "Called to BELIEVE BEGIN and BECOME". The first question that comes to our mind is What should we believe? It is rightly said that 'to believe' is a free gift of God. The first person we should believe is God. He is the ultimate source of all things; be it visible or invisible. Secondly we should believe in our parents. They are the ones in the whole world who will never betray you and will be at your side when no one is there to help you. But above all these things we must first believe in ourselves.

Life has a lot of trials and temptations but the only thing that will help you to cross all these barriers is the belief that we have in ourselves. Always bear in mind that ones own resolution to succeed is more important than any other. The best way to predict the future is to create it and the best way to create your future is to believe in yourself. When you start believing in yourself it is the right time to begin. Be willing to be a beginner.

It is we who should believe and make other people believe too that all men and women be it from the higher or lower class of the society, be it rich or poor we need to respect each other's limitation and implement our Lord's teachings in our own lives. We should not live in a virtual world, a world full of materialistic things but should see the reality of life the struggle a person goes through to feed his or her family. Just seeing won't make a difference but it is we who have to be the voice of the underprivileged and the oppressed class. We will then tend to become a transformed person who has inculcated the values of love, equality and brotherhood in ourselves. Who not only sees the atrocities of life but also has the courage to deal with it so that we establish a better society that is the Kingdom of God.

To conclude, we the New NEXCO team humbly request you to support and cooperate with us. This is our movement, we are the torch bearers of YCS/YSM. It is our duty to live up to the methodology in addition to the new theme and thrust and show the world that we can be the change in the society.

LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE .

Natasha Ann Louis

Long live YCS/YSM

STUDENTS FOR SOCIETY



Greetings to all my YCS/YSM'ers,

Today we youngsters face numerous conflicts. The youth have become the main targets of these conflicts. Let us take some examples such as child labour, human trafficking, alcohol and drugs, exploitation, ragging, complicated educational systems, etc. All these problems trap the youth in cages which are filled with stress, disturbance and confusing state of mind. The students face difficulties in coming out of such social issues. That is when YCS/YSM help the youth in dealing with such issues by its methodology See-Judge-Act. Initially the movement is not based on what we do. It is based on what we become!

As we are in the golden jubilee year of YCS/YSM, the movement has contributed immensely to the youth to explore themselves deeply. Many people have contributed in strengthening the movement due to which our movement has reached great heights in and around India. Presently at the international level, Fr. Charles Menezes is the IYCS Chaplain; Mr. Manoj Mathew, Mr. John Siddham, Agnes Joseph and Loucilla Alcalá Dhabi have worked for IYCS; eleven people from India have worked at the Asian level as well. We thank each and everyone of them for making the movement vibrant in and around our country and for bringing laurels to the movement at the Asian and International level. YCS/YSM has successfully completed twenty six Formation Sessions, seventeen National Councils and one National Convention.

We need to discuss and work deeply on our theme "Called to Believe, Begin and Become" with its three thrusts 'Back to the Roots', 'Media and Me' and 'Human Dignity'. We need to grow spiritually and intellectually to become better citizens of the world. Fr. Chetan Machado, our National Chaplain who is an enthusiastic leader is a great example to many students in our country. The new NEXCO's eagerly look forward to working with him. We thank all our dear RYD's and DYD's for their support and encouragement and strive to work hand in hand in spreading the movement in the coming 3 years. Presently we have YCS/ YSM in 60 dioceses across our country.

We thank all our wonderful animators and coordinators who have been and are the backbone of the movement. Last but not the least I thank all the former NEXCO's who have become great leaders and inspired thousands across the country. Your hard work and leadership has been the cause for the success of the movement in India for the past 3 years.

The new NEXCO's shall work hand in hand as one family to build a better society, be the change and inspire others to build the Kingdom of God.

'I am ready to inspire. Are you?'

Regards,

-Jesvita Princy Quadras
National President

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”

We are witnessing a lot of violence these days. Newspapers and television carries stories of violence almost every day. There is domestic violence, violence against children, violence against women, violence between nations, neighbors. Sometimes it looks as if we don't enjoy peace. World has already witnessed two World Wars and many other wars. These days we hear about war against terrorism.



Why are we fighting? Why there is unrest? Can't we live in peace and harmony? Why people are killing each other? Questions are unending. There are no or few answers. Day by day new records are set. We hear newspapers reporting violence as 'the deadliest ever', 'the worst in the history', 'first of its kind' etc.

During most of these attacks, innocent people die or lose their near and dear ones. Target is mostly women and children. Read some of the terror attacks that shook the world in recent times:

On 16 December 2014, seven gunmen conducted a terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Pakistani city of Peshawar. They entered the school and opened fire on school staff and children, killing 141 people, including 132 schoolchildren, ranging between eight and eighteen years of age. This was the deadliest terrorist attack ever to occur in Pakistan.

On the evening of 13 November 2015, attackers killed 130 people, including 89 at the Bataclan theatre, where they took hostages before engaging in a stand-off with police. Another 368 people were injured, 80–99 seriously. The attacks were the deadliest on France since World War II, and the deadliest in the European Union since the Madrid train bombings in 2004.

More than 70 people, including 29 children, have been killed by a Taliban suicide bomber who targeted Christians near a children's playground in a park in Pakistan. Some 300 people were injured when explosives packed with ball bearings ripped through crowds near the children's swings in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park, in Lahore, where many had gathered to celebrate Easter.

On 1st July 2016, at 21:20, five militants took hostages and opened fire on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan 2- an affluent area with many embassies in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 29 people were killed, including 20 hostages (18 foreigners and 2 locals), 2 police officers; 5 gunmen, a chef of the bakery and later at hospital, an assistant of a chef. The incident was the worst terrorist attack in Bangladesh's history.

In most of these attacks young people were used by the militants. Some of these images are still fresh in our mind. Young people carrying guns and bombs, willing to sacrifice their life. These young people are educated and well qualified. These are brainwashed in the name of religion and monetary benefit. I don't think God in any religion asks for bloodshed, killing of innocent, establishing his kingdom by killing each other. God wants us to live in peace. The Holy Bible says, "blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called children of God".

Lets spread peace. Create a culture of love and not violence. Lets learn to respect every human being because life is a gift of God and it is precious. As children of God it is our duty to make peace where there is violence and live in harmony.

God Bless You

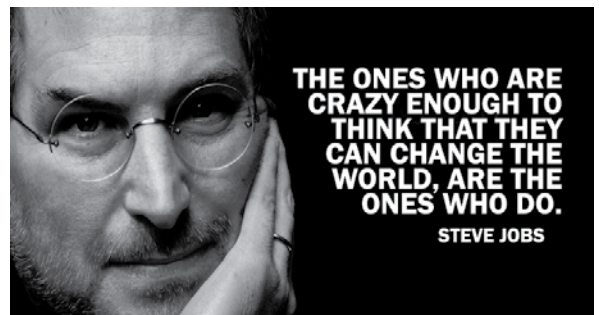
- Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain

HOW I WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD

‘Tiny drops of water makes the mighty ocean’ so it is said. The ‘world’, physically, globally, really big and I’ve come to learn that Change’ is also a very big word. How so?? Well, start by changing your daily habits. Tried that, didn’t work. So, imagine: Changing the world, literally means changing the daily habits and living patterns of over six billion people, that’s a lot. When people talk about changing the world, we go about thinking of ways that we can change things and people around us. This is impossible and will never work. For one, if we want to change a person for the better, we would have to be perfect ourselves which is so not possible. So, how about we try a different approach?? We start by changing ourselves, our negativities that is, and watch how the pattern unfolds and the domino affect taking place.

First thing first; change the way I see things about me. For instance, that cheerful happy girl in class is not really that happy. She has problem just like anyone else. See the tall menacing boy in the corner; he might not be so tough after

all but maybe lonely. The problem is that we categorise people. We see them, judge who they are, then put them into categories. Everyone does that (in their minds of course). We should change the way we think, be more kind and abandon the ruthlessness. Many a times, I have found myself surprised by people; some who I never thought would be the way they are. I found my best friends in people who I never thought I would come to associate with. The cold, serious girl turned out to be quite friendly and talkative, the stern one turned out to be the joker of the group. It is really simple; change the way you perceive people and the world around you will change for the better. Change the world with smile. Try it and be surprised or shocked. There is a quote that says, ‘A smile costs nothing but gives much: It is true. If you smile at someone, it can and will brighten their day. I know it brighten mine every time and a smiling face is welcomed more than a frown or a scowl or God forbid, a robotic one. A bit of humour can also help in the change as it did in my life. I am usually very quiet with people I don’t know and in a new school, that meant everyone. It was always later that I opened up and started sharing jokes and really talking.



Well, the day I told my first joke, my new friends stared at me as if I had sprouted another head. After a brief silence, one said, You're funny!! That totally changed my perspective on the world about me. I started thinking, 'Do I look that serious??' and thenceforth proceeded to share more jokes and loosen up a lot more. I have learned that it is not very good or wise to judge people before you know them because we have no right to do so without knowing the person first. All of us still, do it, however, whether consciously or not. It is indeed strange that society encourages us to be who we are and yet they judge us for it.

I would change my world one small step at a time; all the while hoping that people would take the cue to do the same. Great people can change the world with one action, one statement and maybe even one word. It is a latent gift that some are lucky to be born with and which one must use wisely. If you have the power over a billion people out there, it is high time for you to be responsible about it. This applies to world leaders, celebrities, especially teenagers, who can sway the opinion and even lives of about half of the world's population. Even normal, ordinary people like us have

a lot of influence on others around us- our elders whose expectations lie on us and the youngsters our juniors who look up to us. You might say- I am no Obama, or Justin Bieber or Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Teresa or a leader of any sort, but guess what, you don't have to be. And so, I'll



follow my own advice and practice smiling all the way home.

People passing me would feel sorry for the poor girl who seems slightly unscrewed and insane smiling at nothing; but I guess that this will make you smile and I would have succeeded in changing something in my world.

*Hakadahun Nongdu
NE Regional President*



TESTIMONY

In YCS my experience is very good. The council was something very new to me. It was a good learning time for me. The things I learned like Self Awareness, Self confidence and positiveness in me. I am thankful to the movement because the things that I learned from YCS I can't learn it in my regular life. The main thing that I learned and found interesting was the presidium and the Council process. It made me clear about the movement. In council got chance to meet new people and had new friends. The stay at YMCA was too good. Had a good time and learning experience. I am thankful to our National Chaplain and to all my YCS/YSM friends.

*- Julie Anthony
(St. Anthony School, Nagpur)*

YCS, A WAY OF LIFE

The YCS Movement entered into me in 1986 soon after I was appointed as the Regional Director of the Youth Commission of the M.P. Bishop's Conference. Until that time I had no association with any official Youth Movement. At that time the CBCI Youth Commission did not exist. The Youth ministry was part of the laity commission. CBCI constituted a separate commission for youth ministry to mark the International Youth Year. As M.P. regional youth Director I was fortunate to be part of the formation of the present CBCI Youth Commission. At that time Archbishop Abraham Viruthukulangara who was the chairman of MP Youth Commission also held the responsibility of CBCI Youth Commission. This gave me the opportunity to be part of many initial discussions and consultations regarding the formation of the National Youth Commission. Though I was not part of any official youth movement from the first year of priesthood I was fully engaged with the parish youth. As a parish priest my major activity was animation of youth. This passion for animation of youth led me to establish a youth center in Vidisha, the first of its kind in the whole of MP in 1986. Because of the uniqueness of the center and its multi religious nature,

the Governor of MP himself came to inaugurate this center. Bishop Abraham was also present together with Bishop Clemens Thottungal of Sagar diocese and many dignitaries of the town.

Impressed by the work which was done in Vidisha and the establishment of the unique youth center Bishop Abraham, the chairman of the Youth Commission of MP Bishop's Conference requested the Bishop of Sagar diocese to which I belonged, for my services as the regional youth director. Bishop Clemens Thottungal, knowing the importance of the youth ministry supported me to take up this important task together with the responsibilities of my parish at Vidisha. Thus the M.P. Regional Youth Commission got an office and Director in Vidisha. I started the work with a clean slate. Though there was another priest from Jabalpur who worked as a part time regional director, I got no records or furniture to start with. There was no office secretary or any one to help. I myself did the typing of the letters and reports and sent them to different dioceses without getting any response initially. Commitment, hard work and perseverance brought more youth and animators and I was happy to hand over a full fledged

YCS/
YSM and
vibrant
Youth



Commission to Father Jose Arrechira of Khandwa Diocese after four years.

The first consultation of CBCI Youth Commission took place in Bishop's House,

Fr. Varghese Alengaden
USM, Indore

Khandwa. It was here that I met Father M .C Michael who was the national chaplain for the YCS/YSM for the first time. He had come for the consultation together with Father KK Mathew who was the YCS/YSM chaplain for the whole of north India. I was initiated into the vision and spirituality of YCS by Father M.C. Michael during an informal discussion in Bishop's house, Khandwa. I was fascinated by what he told me, "It is a Movement based on the spirit of the second Vatican Council. We teach children to ask questions, first to themselves on the principle of see, judge and act. They are helped to become aware of social realities and reflect on them and make action plans to respond to these realities"

said Father Michael. The most striking reflection during the conversation was its Christocentric methodology. He further explained, "in YCS we look for solutions to every problem by asking, 'What would Jesus do if he were here?'" Gradually this method became a way of life for me. Later in moments of crisis it was this way which helped me to march ahead and find meaning in the most adverse situations. This was the beginning of the evolution of my personal spirituality and vision for life.

Since I was working as the regional youth director Father K.K. Mathew and Father M.C. Michael requested me to take up the additional charge of Regional chaplain of YCS/YSM for M.P. I was grateful to God that I got my first lessons of YCS/YSM Movement from two great pioneers of the Movement, Father M.C. Michael and Father K.K. Mathew. They were truly YCS animators who lived the vision and spirituality of the Movement in letter and in spirit. I had the opportunity to participate in a few training sessions with them in different places and see their works at closer range on various occasions.

Since the youth ministry was a new apostolate, there were no full time youth directors in many dioceses of MP. Many dioceses did appoint a person as youth Director but he was busy with many other responsibilities. I had a big job of building up an

organisation from scratch both by animating youth groups and also persuading Bishops to appoint a person as in charge of the youth in the diocese. Occasional training programs and meetings were organized to build the youth ministry in the region. We were able to organize a regional convention of over thousand youth leaders in the interior tribal region at Kunkuri. It was a great event both for its organisational success and also for education and inspiration for all who participated. It was a convention largely managed by young leaders.

Despite having a parish to look after, I managed time to visit schools to introduce the YCS /YSM by conducting orientations for the students and teachers. I travelled extensive to many dioceses in MP and Chattisgarh states. Within two years we had several YCS/YSM cells active in many schools. We were able to organize several meetings and training sessions for the YCS/YSM students and animators. I am happy that during this period we were able to train many dynamic youth leaders who later played very important roles at national level programs. Binu Varghese, Betty Kuriakose, Sandra, Everisto, Shobana Joseph, Callisto Gomes (now a SVD Priest), Cassandra, Susan John were some of the most dynamic youth leaders who still keep up the spirit of the Youth Movement and gather the old youth leaders despite their many responsibilities.

All of them confess that the Youth Movement and YCS/ YSM shaped their vision of life and still guide them to face the challenges of life bravely. I feel grateful to hundreds of young students who shaped my life and spirituality. As a tribute to the youth who helped me to grow, I dedicated my first book 'Encounter' to them in 1991.

As I worked as an animator many dreams related to the youth ministry and YCS/YSM emerged in my mind. My visit to Taize and meetings with youth in Europe, broadened my own vision. The small dream of animating an exclusive youth group in the church campus transformed into a lasting and inclusive vision to embrace the youth of all castes, creeds and cultures. I wanted to establish a community of youth belonging to all faiths, to take up the youth ministry with a lasting vision for the church and for the country. When I developed a new way of missionary work due to the influence of YCS spirituality and methodology, it creates to conflicts and confrontation with my new Bishop. Bishop Clemens who was a great visionary and lover of youth had retired and passed away two years earlier. The result was my transfer from the official youth ministry and



banishment to an interior village. I was cut off from the regional youth activities. I who was responsible to build up the youth movement and YCS/YSM in MP and Chattisgarh was distanced from the official youth meetings and activities both at the regional and national level.

Though I was cut off from the official youth ministry of the church the spirit of YCS /YSM was very much alive and grew in me. At every crisis and conflicts it became my habit to ask the question, "if Christ were here, what would he do?". Then I would search for the answers from the life and teachings of Christ. The methodology of the movement-awareness, reflection and action-became my way of life. This gradually revived the prophetic dimension of the priesthood in me. The YCS methodology also helped me to read the word of God in a different perspective. I started finding a new meaning in the life and teachings of Christ. As I had taught young students to ask questions I myself started asking questions about my own life and actions. Having looked into my own life honestly I started asking questions about the attitudes and values within the church structure. (My reflections on the teachings of Christ were later presented in 10

volumes of "God in Flesh and Blood" and other books. Thanks to YCS!)

It is the YCS /YSM spirituality which helped me to face crises in priesthood positively. When I received six transfers in two years and thought of quitting the priesthood three different times it was the YCS way of thinking and analysing that helped me to stay and fight the lonely battle. Moved by faith in Christ, I opted to build a society of love, peace and justice in my own capacity and in the available space. I responded to different issues and people always asking the question which I learned in YCS "if Christ were here what would he do"?

While living and working in Pratapgarh, a remote village mission in Raisen District of Sagar Diocese the worst man-made tragedy in India took place; Demolition of the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya on 6th December 1992 which was followed by nation wide communal riots and blood shed which paralyzed the whole nation. Hundreds of innocent women, children and men were killed and burnt alive all over the country. Hatred and violence spread like wild fire. I was keen to know the response of the church leaders. My mind was working with my YCS background and the prophetic role that church should play at such a critical moment. I was clear that Jesus wanted his disciples to respond in a proactive way. His message was loud

and clear, "Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God". With anger and frustration I asked myself, 'why doesn't the CBCI issue at least a statement to condemn the violence? Why doesn't the CRI speak up? Why don't the Bishops issue a pastoral letter asking Christians to work for peace in their own localities?' In my moments of prayer I could hear an inner voice speaking to me, "Who is the church? What is the church?. The answer was clear as crystal: "I am the church. When I act the church acts. Why don't I do something in my capacity instead of waiting for bishops and superiors?' It was a very enlightening voice.

I immediately discussed this with Father Jacob who was working in the same region and contacted our district collector offering to go for relief work with a medical team and ambulance to Bhopal city where hundreds were killed. Mr. N.P.Singh, the district collector told us that the situation was under control and relief work was going on. However he asked us to collect some food and blankets because more than 2000 houses were burnt and it was winter and the month of December. We discussed with the local leaders and shopkeepers and the response was overwhelming. Within two hours we could collect 20 kg wheat and 25 thousand rupees. This was a great experience and I started reflecting again about the future course of action.



YOUTH
ENDING
VIOLENCE

Once again my activities and life with young students came to my mind. My old dream of working with youth of all faiths for national integration and experimenting a community life consisting of people from all castes, creeds and colour as a new wineskin to contain the new wine of challenges came to my mind. I proposed my dream project to my Bishop which was out rightly rejected. Then I asked him to give me permission to experiment it elsewhere out side my diocese for which he reluctantly agreed. I met Bishop George Anathil of Indore diocese and discussed about my dream project. Since he knew me through my work as the regional youth director he welcomed me whole heartedly to launch the mission in Indore. Thus a Movement was born on 16 July 1993 after six months of Ayodya violence. It was a YCS response to a serious national problem.

The Movement was launched initially as Dharma Bharati Institute of Value Education and Peace which was later renamed as Universal Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace. Half a dozen friends from all religions constituted the support group in Indore. For all practical purpose it was a one man mission without funds, without personnel and without any sponsors.

Indeed it was God's mission. I formulated separate animation programs for students and teachers based on the YCS spirituality and methodology. Slowly but gradually the mission took shape. Crisis is part of any mission, especially when we work with people of diverse backgrounds and faiths. The differences were basically because of the YCS spirituality and methodology. I was very firm about keeping up the nature and mission of the Movement. The values of participation, evaluation, critical analysis, transparency, team work etc were practiced while I was leading the youth movement. As part of the Movement spirituality right from the beginning, I had started the practice of free and frank evaluation at all levels. The AGM of the Movement was open to any one who was not an official member. Annual report and the audited statement of accounts were published and distributed to the public. Every member of the Movement knew about the income and expenditure of the Movement. I was firm to keep my originality and self respect. No political leaders and religious fanatics were invited to any of our meetings only because they did not fit into our value system. I decided to run the Movement with out

projecting any big names and patrons. Slowly and gradually we succeeded. Despite much negative publicity, often by those who do not know us, the Movement got great momentum. More and more animators and volunteers from all religions came forward. Congregations and dioceses started recognizing our work and invited us to animate their members and guide their educational institutions. UN invited us for two of its international meetings one at the UN Head Quarters and the other in Thailand. Organisations from abroad were impressed by our work and invited our animators to talk about our experiment of peace education to the youth and social workers there.

The modules and programs for various groups improved. One thing remained without change; the YCS spirituality and methodology of awareness, reflection and action. The mission was renamed as Universal Solidarity Movement of Value Education for Peace to keep the spirituality of the Movement. It was an option I made from the first day that we will function from a rented house. Since the last 18 years the national /international office / community functions from a rented house. It is an open community of young and



old, men and women of all castes, tribes and faiths living and working together to establish a civilisation of love; a just and peaceful society as YCS visualized.

As a person who benefited from the YCS spirituality I can speak with conviction that USM is an extension of the YCS. We have reached out to 900 schools giving orientation in the YCS way. Over 700 student leaders of school cabinet from different states come to the USM community at Indore for a seven-day residential leadership training every year in different groups. Over 1000 young students and teachers gather once a year at the national level for live-in together in the YCS way. The difference is that it is not a convention and yuva mela but a very serious reflection of young students who will be creating the future. The difference is that all the training sessions and national level gatherings are self financed, i.e the participants pay for the expenses of the event. Leaders and formators of many congregations –both men and women–come to the USM community for an exposure and training to learn how to re-design their community living. Again it is the YCS spirituality and methodology which is used in all these orientation and training sessions.

I was fortunate to have the encouragement and service of many youth leaders and animators who worked in the YCS and youth commission.

Seeing the authenticity of the way USM worked, some members who had been active in official Movements of the church joined us as volunteers and fulltime animators. Lavina D'Souza who was the diocesan youth president of Mangalore diocese worked with us as a full time animator leaving her job in the school till she got married. Sister Elsa Muttatu who was the YCS

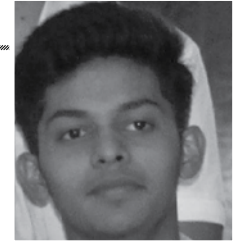
Time is running out and the precious wealth of the nation and of the church is getting lost. Again we need to ask the question: "what would Jesus do to animate the youth of today?"

co-ordinator worked with us for two years. Father Charles Menezes, the former YCS Chaplain of Mangalore visited Indore to join our meetings and integrated the personal transformation module into YCS. Ajish Pothen, the youth leader of Bhopal diocese was a regular participant of the USM programs. All of them saw that the USM had deepened the YCS spirituality and expanded to include youth and people of all faiths. Even the training program for priests and religious is based on the YCS vision and spirituality because it is basically the spirituality and vision of Christ.

It is a pity that the youth movement in general and YCS/YSM in particular are reduced to routine conventions and regular picnics abroad. While organizing large conventions and publishing colourful magazines with big statements how much attention is paid to the transformation of youth and their animators? How much attention is paid to appointing priests and nuns as animators? What kind of training and orientation is given to these animators? These are my concerns because as I go around the country I do not see any YCS and YSM in our schools. The youth movement in the parishes and dioceses are reduced to decorating the church for feasts, making the crib, singing carols and going for picnics.

Again inspired by the prophetic mission of the YCS spirituality I wrote a letter with many constructive proposals to the CBCI chairman of the Youth commission when I came to know that the CBCI was going to discuss about the youth meeting in its meeting at Guwahati, Assam. At last the out come of the meeting was a routine statement with pious advice and theological expressions.

Time is running out and the precious wealth of the nation and of the church is getting lost. Again we need to ask the question: "what would Jesus do to animate the youth of today?" ❖



I was a boy who was fully dependent, a boy who was very shy, a boy who was never interested in interacting with anybody, a boy who was not at all responsible. My world was limited within my family, schoolmates and my playground.

I was always taken care by my parents, teacher and fellow mates. This year, I was elected as the Captain of St. Peter's house (Yellow house) of my school, before I could realize the responsibility and duty of a leader. I was informed by my parish priest Rev. Fr. Mathew Kumblumootil, that I was chosen from our parish and had to represent our diocese in YCS/YSM Seminar. I was not aware of this YCS/YSM organization at that point of time. I had no idea that this programme was going to bring a drastic change in me and it was going to teach me the true meaning of leadership.

16th May 2016, in the YMCA Campus, among all 140 delegates of different region I felt lonely among the multitude. While interacting with them I start learning different skills of life which was necessary for becoming a perfect individual. As the theme of YCS/YSM council for this session was "called to believe, to begin and to become" I also started to believe in the spiritual strength that was within me, began to improve the inner qualities, in order to become a perfect person. Coming seven days were the days of learning from the exposure visits, discussions, group sharing, prayers, animations (that was fun) and etc. I learned a lot of thing from the YCS/YSM members. Rev. Fr. Chetan was strict, at the same time friendly, Our Staffy (Stafford Mantel) was Caring and loving, Our mighty Roshan was Energetic and Vibrant, my dearest buddy Gilbert and Anjela didi had an Approachable and welcoming nature, my strength my fellow mates of my region, the man of action, Fr. Mari Joseph (our Superman) and true mentors like spiritual priests and nuns. These all personalities were bringing changes within me.

I realized these changes, within me, on the day of election for the members of the council. Because of these changes, a boy, who was not known to anyone before one week was their choice. The same boy who was fully dependent, was shy, was never interested in interacting with others, was not responsible had now proven himself worthy to be the National Treasurer with the help of YCS/YSM. That was a great leap for me, from a school student to an elected National Treasurer of YCS/YSM.

As a part of change, for the first time I took the responsibility of booking my ticket myself and travelling for the first time all alone to Indore to attend the live programme of YCS/YSM. For this positive change I give thanks to YCS/YSM.

And I hope I will be able to bring changes not only in me but also in my surroundings in future....

Thank you YCS/YSM ...

THANK YOU

Search



As the former National Secretary from 2013 to 2016, I take this chance to show my gratitude to all my beloved ones who were with me in each and every moment throughout my tenure. First of all I thank almighty God for his abundant blessings. Secondly to my beloved Mom and Dad who supported me every time. They understood me and were always with me in whatever I do. They love YCS/YSM more than me. Fr. Charles with whom we started our journey; he made us learn from our mistakes, he was and he is with us, as a good role model, a guide and friend. Thank you father for all that you are to us. We will always follow you and we miss you a lot. Fr. Chetan, our CM, with whom we ended our journey; a unique soul. We always wondered how come you were always silent and never panicked for anything. But later specially during the National Council days when we NEXCO's were with you, you made us feel proud, when you trusted us in all that we did, even if we were wrong, you let us do things. Your confidence in us made us confident too. Thank you dear chaplain. We love you and miss you. Leo *anna*, my brother, who was with us, who is with us and who will be always with us; the pioneer of our team, without whom it was impossible for what we are now. He made us understand "*change self – change others*".... He is that person who made us feel and live as one family. We learnt everything from him. Thank you *anna* for all that you are to us. Kamal *anna*, for being a constant supporter full of positive energy always encouraging us in our failures and appreciating in our success. Thank you Kamal *anna*. Aparna *di*, our cute little charming friend, who made everything possible with her cheerful attitude. You were with us in all our success and failure. Thank you my sweetest sister. Midrash *bhai*, you are Mr. Perfect...!!! Whenever we were in need you were there to fulfill all our needs. Your regular reminders through phone and your selfless dedication for our movement made us look at you a step higher. Thank you *bhayya*. A big hug to all my predecessors, specially Melwyn, Alice *dii*, Jovita *dii*, Joycee *dii*....and to each and every one of them. Your presence made us motivated. Love you all.. A special thanks to "my President", Jimmy Pdang, with your calmness and smile you made everything possible. You proved who you are and made everyone feel astonished when you speak. I am a great fan of yours and have learnt and 'stole' many good ideas of yours. Thank you my president. To all my fellow NEXCO's, my sisters and brothers, my family, we have failed together many times but finally we also appreciated our success together. We cried, we laughed, we yelled, we did everything together. Togetherness is our strength. I couldn't compress all our feelings in a single word, "thank you"....but more than that I love you all a lot for your presence. Thank you my friends. To all the RYD's, DYD's, Animators, all the sponsors, well wishers and to all other people who constantly helped us throughout our tenure. We express our gratitude whole heartedly. I also take this opportunity to wish all my successors to carry on this movement with true spirit and desire and always make YCS/YSM light shine. May God bless you all my fellow YCS/YSM NEXCO's 2016 to 2019.

YCS/YSM is a beautiful platform through which we can realise the reality practically. Each and every YCS/YSM'er taught me a new lesson and each and every single moment in YCS/YSM is a beautiful experience. I am a YCS/YSM'er now and forever and when I think about it, it's a happy realisation. I cherish each and every moment with my fellow YCS/YSM'ers. I would miss you all but still I will serve my movement forever. I have changed myself and I will try to change others too. NTA/EXCO meetings at different places..... all national level programs, first convention, first alumni meet... when I sit back and reminisce this epic journey, I have no words to define my movement. I love my movement and once again I thank each and every one of you.

Let YCS/YSM light shine...

With love and regards,

Sharon Michael Kalinse, (former National Secretary)





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REPORTS

YCS/YSM ORIENTATION - GUWAHATI ARCHDIOCESE

Archdiocese of Guwahati Youth Commission (AGYC) organised YCS/YSM Follow up program on 8th June 2016 at Don Bosco School Kumarikata and on 9th June 2016



at St Zeviors' School Tamulpur. Around 120 students took part in the programmes. Sr. Christina Sangma, DYD Guwahati and Sr. Bernadeth Kropi YCS/YSM North East Regional Chaplain were the resource persons. The sessions began with a prayer. After ice-breaking sessions students were reminded about the YCS/YSM Objective: CHANGE SELF-CHANGE OTHERS, followed a workshop on the theme Called to Believe; Begin and Become. Students were enthusiastic and interested to be part of the movement.

YCS/YSM - DIBRUGARH DIOCESE

Dibrugarh Diocese: Follow up programme and Orientation programme

s were conducted in various schools in the diocese by Fr. Noas Lakra DYD



along with some youth coordinators. Orientation programme and follow up was conducted at St. Mary's School Doigrong where hundreds of students participated.

YCS/YSM - AIZAWL DIOCESE

YCS meetings and activities and various programme were organised in Aizawl by Fr. James Laldinliana DYD Aizawl and



Ms. Rebecca Khiangte YCS coordinator. They organised zonal teachers programme at Don Bosco School and zonal teenagers & YCS meet.

YCS/YSM - DIPHU DIOCESE

YCS/YSM North East Diphu Diocese:
Training of Animators, Orientation and



Follow Up Programme were conducted in various schools of the diocese by Fr. Nelson Teron DYD and Team of coordinators. Orientation programme was conducted at All Saints School, Bokolia. We also conducted a programme on cleanliness drive at Sacred Heart Art School. Animators Training was conducted at St. Mary's School and student orientation programme was conducted at St. Thomas School, Hidipi.

UDUPI- YSM CENTRAL COUNCIL ELECTION

YSM Central Council Election – 2016-17
Udupi : Young Students Movement (YSM) of Udupi Diocese Training and Central Council Election was held on 25 June, 2016 at Don Bosco Hall, Udupi.



The programme was scheduled from 9am to 2pm. The programme was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. William Martis, Treasurer PWS, Udupi, by lighting the lamp followed by an inter-religious prayer.

The training session was conducted by Mr. Norbert Misquith. It was initiated by ice breakers and thereafter followed by the orientation about YSM to the students. The topic of the session was “Students Education in Modern Era”. Meanwhile animators undergone a training which was given by YSM director Fr. Edwin D’Souza. Resource Person Mr. Norbert Misquith conducted the elections.

The office bearers of YSM, Diocesan Council are as follows:



President	Ceyona D’Souza
Vice-president Male	Venance Lewis
Vice-president Female	Treesha D’Souza
Secretary	Vinissa Tauro
Joint-Secretary	Slawyn D’Souza
Treasurer	Royal Lewis,
Reporter	Harikrishna Bhat

Mr. John William Veigas and Mrs. Reshma Martis were appointed as the animators of the movement.

It was followed by the Oath taking and the valedictory programme. The dignitaries present were – President, Ms. Hazel Martis, Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM President, director Fr. Edwin D’Souza, Resource Person Mr. Norbert Misquith & diocesan animators.

The newly elected president Ms. Ceyona D'Souza delivered the vote of thanks.

Priyanka Noronha, YCS President compered the program. About 19 School YSM units took part in this event, gathering about 113 students and animators from Udupi Diocese.

YOUTH CONVENTION YCS- MIAO DIOCESE

Miao Diocese Celebrates 10th Anniversary and Jubilee of Mercy with Youth Convention The Diocese of Miao with its Headquarters in Miao Changlang District celebrated its 10th Anniversary of its glorious existence and the Jubilee of Mercy for Youth with a grand



Youth Convention at Don Bosco School Kheti Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh from 27 to 29 May 2016.

Miao Diocese that caters to the all-round development of people in East Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its 10th Anniversary together with the celebration of Jubilee of Mercy with the Universal Church with a series of events for different groups of people in this party of the country. The first of this series was a grand Catholic Youth Convention held at Don Bosco School Ground at Kheti village Tirap District.

Speaking on the concluding day programme, Mr. Riba, EAC Judicial Tirap District,



lamented the lack of sufficient role models for the youth in the society. "You must motivate yourself, and acquire the leadership qualities so that you can be role models for the future generation", he said.

There were 900 youth from all the eight districts of east Arunachal Pradesh attending the three-day event.

The sharing by Catholic Youth leaders on the second day of the convention was the highlight of the event. Miss Rita Lowang, HOD Social Work, RGU, Itangar, from Luthong village, shared with the youth her success story and advised them to accept and love themselves first. She said, "Youth from our districts lack opportunity and confidence. But you should face the situation and overcome your fear." Mr. Nepha Wangsa, Gold Medalist in Political Science from Ngissa village of Longding District told the youth to stop dropping-out. "Poverty should never be an



excuse for you to drop-out from schooling. I am from a humble family myself and if you have the desire and determination to succeed in life nothing would stop you”, he added. Dr. Wanglit Mongchan another scholar from Borduria village of Tirap District said your commitment to succeed combined with a disciplined life and prayer is the ‘success mantra’.

All the youth enjoyed all the sessions of the conventions and were grateful to the organizing committee for organizing such a useful convention for them in Tirap District for the first time.

Mr. L. Wanglet, Ex-Minister Gov. of Arunachal Pradesh too addressed the youth and explained to them to keep up the importance of culture in life. Citing the example of Ms. Oseola McCarty, a washerwoman, who became a great example for iconic leadership, exhorted all the youth to be leaders even without portfolios.

Mr. Tajom Aboh, Parliamentary Secretary and Ex-Minister Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh too addressed the youth during the convention. The youth also had a group sharing session in which everyone participated actively and

came up with valuable suggestions to become leaders of the society.

Bishop George Pallippambil SDB, the Bishop of Miao and the person who envisioned such an event sent his greetings and blessings to all the youth present for the convention. He said, “The youth leaders who shared their success stories are examples of the contribution of the Diocese of Miao to the society over the last 10 years. I hope some of the delegates sitting here would be there on the stage to motivate the other youth in the next convention.” He exhorted all to say to themselves ‘I can, I will and I must’. Rev. Fr. C. C. Jose, Vicar General of the Diocese of Miao thanked all the youth for their active participation and the organizing committee for organizing such an important event like this to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Miao Diocese.

The event came to a fitting conclusion with a colourful Grand Finale with colourful cultural dances from almost all the tribes of the east Arunachal Pradesh.

Miao Diocese was established in the year 2005 with Bishop George Pallippambil SDB as its first Bishop.

- *Fr. Felix Anthony*

MY EXPERIENCE

I was glad to be the part of 16th National Council. My experience of NC cannot be explained in some words. Right from the first day till the last I had an amazing experience. National Council has taught me the importance of YCS/YSM, the values, my family, my friends and my surrounding. I am lucky that I go to school, I have sweet home. As we went for an exposure to slums which was a part of YCS/YSM methodology-SEE. I could see small kids having willingness to study, but unfortunately they could not afford it. When I went for NC I didn't know anyone there but when I left from there after seven days I could say that I had many friends who were really loving and caring. I would like to show my gratitude towards our National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado for arranging everything to make us to learn something. This National council has made me responsible, confident and self-reliant. These seven days will always be cherished in my heart. Long live YCS/YSM, Let the light of YCS/YSM always shine!!!

- *Vanshika Paul, National EXCO (Northern region) Delhi*



REPORT

National Chaplain's Activities

1. 1-3 May 2016, visited West Bengal. Participated in Commitment Day and visited nine schools and met YCSers
2. 4-6 May 2016, Office work - Preparation for the national Council. Fund raising
3. 7 May 2016, Gave a talk on good parenting and values to parents at St. Michael's School, New Delhi.
4. 9 May, 2016 Students' Cabinet Orientation programme at Fr. Agnel School, Greater Noida. Forty students participated.
5. 10-14 May, 2016 Preparation for the National council. Arrival of some delegates.
6. 14 -15 May, 2016 Visited Council venue twice to make arrangements. Greater NOIDA
7. 16-22 May, 2016 National Council
8. 23 May,2016 at Navinta with delegates of the council
9. 27 May, 2016 met the delegates from Karnataka region.
10. 28 May,2016 ordination of Anshu Vibhor.
12. 30 May, 2016 get together for National Council volunteers.
13. 1-4 June 2016, Summer Course at Pratisksha for major seminarians.
14. 4-6 June, 2016 Bangalore for CAT programme.
15. 9 June, 2016, CCBI consultation at NBCLC Bangalore.
16. 10 June, 2016 ICYM National Council meeting at Bajjodi, Mangalore. Met bishop Henry, Chairman of CBCI Youth Council during this meeting.
18. 11-13 June, 2016 visited home.
19. 14-19 June,2016 YCS Summer Camp at Sahoday School, New Delhi. 120 students participated.
20. 21-23 June,2016 office work in Delhi.

Future Programmes:

1. August - NEXCO students live in programme (dates not yet finalised)
2. WYD at Krakow from 16th July to 2nd August. 1st NTA/EXCO meeting.
3. Animators Training Programme September 1-8 at USM, Indore.
4. NSLTP's in the month of October (venue and dates will be announced soon)

For Animators Training Programme, Kindly contact the National Office to book your seat. There will be limited seats. For registration fee and other details kindly contact: Fr. Chetan (09891792505)

STUDENTS FOR SOCIETY



Greetings to everyone!

Raichel Patricia is here with you, YCS/YSM is an “Identity” for me. I am in YCS/YSM for the past five years. I had a passion from my childhood to create some kind of change in my surrounding and I’m very happy to share that YCS/YSM is making my passion coming true each day of my life. YCS/YSM has been a great part in my life. To be more clear, this opportunity to be YCS/YSMer was given as a miraculous gift to me from Lord Jesus Christ. This movement has made me to identify “ Who I really am and What should be done -being me”. As youngsters, students join in many activities for their identities. But this is a movement which stands unique to be the “identity” for students. To be a part of this movement makes me feel best and to live meaningfully in this world. More than a person to bring happiness, YCS/YSM has taught me to be the reason for happiness. I am happy and privileged to share the changes happened to me becoming a YCS/YSMer. Before being a part in this movement my life was just something rare to be spoken before people, a life without friendship and courage, somewhere... to be someone. But after getting into this wonderful family of YCS/YSM... I realized who is “ME”. It has been a great platform in my life to achieve my greater heights. I am thankful to my school who gave me the knowledge to be a part in this family!

Joining this movement made me more energetic and vibrant, get to know different sorts of people from different parts, interacting with people with a big open smile and a good handshake, to create a friendly environment. Moreover, this family has lots and lots of brothers and sisters in one home! I am proud enough to say that I became a great speaker and leader after entering into YCS/YSM. Yes being a part of this family involving teenagers, makes them to be aware of the reality of life and stand unique from the crowd!! I am thankful to say that YCS/YSM gave me full satisfaction to live life knowing the true worth of it. I am blessed to say that entering YCS/YSM started the journey as diocesan leader continued...to be the National Secretary at present. It is indeed a proud moment for my parents to say that “Our daughter is a leader” as YCS/YSMer. I find joy and happiness in their face that I owe being a part in YCS/YSM and as a National Secretary! My family YCS/YSM made my dreams come true as leader and a simple child who wants to make her parents proud. To conclude YCS/YSM is an “IDENTITY” for me to stand unique among many and traveling -as YCS/YSMer is a wonderful experience . I take this moment to thank all my friends who made me to inbuild my talents and explore it to others..I also thank a special person who inspired me to be here...from my region! Thank you all. As the thrust portrays to believe, to begin and to become in which YCSYSM made me to discover my stone of talent to build God’s Kingdom. I invite everyone of you too, to be the reason for the change and to build God’s Kingdom! Once a YCS/YSM’eralways a YCS/YSM’er.

Let YCS/YSM light shine!!!

Thank you!!

Raichel Louis Patricia, National Secretary
(Tamil Nadu - Region)



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE...



Dear YCS/YSMers

It is my great joy and I consider it as a blessings for me to be part of YCS/YSM Family and how much more to be part of NEXCO Team of 2013-2016 as a Convener. The journey started when I was elected as a NEXCO from North East Region in November 2012 and without my knowledge of the role and responsibilities of a NEXCO I attended the XVI National Council at Bethel, Shillong where I was elected as the National Convenor for 2013-2016. I remember the day when I was told to introduce myself before the council participants and at that moment I couldn't even speak and introduce myself properly. But then I tried to be confident and that was the beginning for me to find out what is my role as YCSer and as a Convenor. However, I fell in love with YCS/YSM and understood the movement, my role and responsibilities and how it is relevant for me on the day when we had our NEXCO Live in Program and First NTA/EXCO Meet and perhaps it was the day that I met my other NEXCO members with whom I shared a lot and who always stands by me and supported me wholeheartedly. From that moment I shared with them my happiness my sorrows and together we worked. We had fun, we laughed and cried. YCS has given me a platform to be so close with all of them, they are my family and there is no other joy for me than this beautiful relationship that I had with all my NEXCOs. With all their love and respect and with their simplicity and humility they had given me the strength to serve the movement for three years and the greatest success for me during the past three years was not the measurable works that I do or completed but the way I have lived with my NEXCOS.

Today I have learnt a lot, I can speak before thousands of people but to me what is most important was how I have lived with my NEXCOS as a family matters. Dear NEXCOS thank you so much for the most wonderful three years of my life, thank you for giving me a chance to serve you, serve the movement as a leader. You have inspired me in a very special way. I have learnt a lot from all of you especially your kindness, love and care and I believed we will continue to grow in life together as a family. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who have helped and supported me in my journey as a NEXCO. In a special way I thank Fr. Charles my former National Chaplain the man who had encouraged me and left a deep impact on me and helped me since the beginning of my tenure, Fr. Chetan my current National Chaplain whose humility, words and deeds have been one of the best and fine ways for me to look upon as one of my role models. I thank my former North East Regional Coordinator Sr. Agnes and current regional coordinator Sr. Bernadeth and all our RYD's from all regions who have helped me and entire NEXCO family. I thank in a very special way the man who was always behind me and will always be with me whenever I need him and that is our most beloved Leo *Anna*. Thank you *Anna*, you have inspired me personally in a very special way and I know you will always be my elder brother who stands beside me. I thank my parents for giving me a chance to grow, my friends, teachers and all those who supported me through your prayers and other ways of helping. Dear NEXCOs, Leo, Fathers, Sisters, Friends and Everyone... THANK YOU SO MUCH... your kindness, your encouragement, your support, your helping hands and your prayers are not a waste because looking back three years ago and with the consideration of what I am today I am proud to say that I have changed, YCS has brought a change in me, you have brought a change in me.

Jimmy Pdang.(Former National Convenor)

Grateful

TESTIMONY

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Before I became a NEXCO, I was a type of person who used to only stick to a few friends in my school and locality and would spend most of my time in front of my computer playing online games. One day, through God's plan, I was chosen to become the NEXCO of my region. Thinking back, at the time, I was quite hesitant to take up the post which I am glad right now that I took because God had used it as a medium to transform my life. I started meeting a lot of new people, learning new things like how to travel in public transport, public speaking, organizing events, and most importantly meeting the most important person in my life right now, and that is Jesus. Today, he is a friend, a mentor, someone irreplaceable, and whatever term you use to describe someone close to you, as it is because of him that I am who I am today and what I will become tomorrow.



During the process of transformation, a person will always experience hardships and difficulties and it will always be within the limits of what we can handle for it is written,

“The Lord will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify us and refine us like gold and silver”
–Malachi 3:3

The process of refining silver requires the silversmith to hold the silver in the fire and sit in front of it. When the silver starts reflecting the image of the silversmith that is the time when the silver is fully refined. Putting in any longer will destroy the silver. In the same way God refines us by putting us through hardships until we start reflecting his image.

As for me, what I hope is that this transformation that has happened to me and that which will happen in the future may become an instrument in transforming others; not through words, but through my lifestyle.

“Change Self – Change Others”

- *Kevin Li, Former NEXCO*

NEXCO 2016-2019

Name	Post	Region
Jesvita Princy Quadras	National President	Karnataka
Raichel Patricia L	National Secretary	Tamil Nadu
Jeris Joseph	National Treasurer	Uttar Pradesh
Natasha Ann Louis	Editor-Search	West Bengal
Mary Roshni Toppo	Liturgical Secretary	Madhya Pradesh
Akanchha Kachhap	NEXCO	West Bengal
Rikam Bagang	NEXCO	North East
Vanshika S. Paul	NEXCO	Nothern
Clacoius Rodrigues	NEXCO	Karnataka
R. Prem Prasanth	NEXCO	Tamil Nadu
Akhil M. Benny	NEXCO	Madhya Pradesh
Nisha Kumari	NEXCO	Bihar
Alex Anthony	NEXCO	Bihar
Pradeepraj R.	NEXCO	Tamil Nadu
Riya Kerketta	NEXCO	Odisha
Abinisha N.	NEXCO	Tamil Nadu

XVII NATIONAL COUNCIL 2016 - MEMORIES



YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



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