

The Jan - Feb 2017
Search
YCS/YSM National News Letter

Book 37

Vol: 1

**BRAVE CHILDREN
ROLE MODELS**



“It requires bravery to do something no one else around you is doing.”

- Amber Heard

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Search

Dear young friends, Greetings!

This is exam season in India. I know you are probably very busy studying these days. All your efforts will be seen when the result is out. Exams are a crucial part of our education and students preparing for exams often feel pressure from peers, family and school. Sometimes it is difficult to handle this because our parents want us to study all the time. But if a student is prepared well; not now during the exam time, but throughout the year, he/she is relaxed to face any tough exam. While a certain amount of stress may be beneficial in keeping the students focused, too much of it can cause them to perform poorly. If you pay attention to some of these following tips, it might help you to relax and face your exams well:

Preparation and planning - Prepare a time table and plan your day. If you get a holiday in between dont waste, but plan properly so that you have more time to revise.

Eat/Sleep well- Students have a tendency of not eating well and sleeping less. This will cause more problems. You need good sleep to remain fresh and your mind needs time to digest all that you have studied.

Meet friends/discuss in groups - Dont lock up yourself in a room. This is depressing. Meet your friends and discuss certain questions and take their opinion or try to understand what they think about that particular situation. Subjects like maths, accountancy, history etc. when you study in groups you will remember better.

Pray and relax- Spend some time in silence in prayer. If you like yoga/meditation, spend some time doing that. This will keep your mind fresh.

Avoid extra tea/coffee/soft drinks- Some students drink tea/coffee to keep them awake all night. These stimulants do a lot of damage. If there is any disorder in our sleep cycle, all our efforts go in vain.

There are many more ways to keep yourself fit and fine and destress during exams. God has given us wisdom and knowledge, let us use that fully and not wait till the end.

In this issue I have focussed on students who have sacrificed their lives to save others. In January before the Republic Day parade twenty five children/students were awarded for showing bravery. They saved their friends, parents, and neighbours from drowning, electrocution, thieves and a lot more. These students displayed immense courage and risked their lives to protect their loved ones. For me they are true role models. These students are of your age, they saw what was happening around them and acted immediately. YCS/YSM teaches us to SEE-JUDGE-ACT. We need to take this methodology seriously and start living this methodology. Life is a gift and we need to spend this gift for others. These children have shown us how to do that. Let us follow their example.

We are organising the second National Convention in the month of May in Kolkata. We will be training youth animators and prepare a plan during the convention to do something meaningful. We have kept the same theme of the last council, i.e. "Called to believe;begin;become". During the convention there will be sessions, group discussions, panel discussions on various topics around this theme. I request all the RYD's and DYD's to prepare your students and bring them to the convention. This gives them a great opportunity to meet the students of other region and learn more things.

Let YCS/YSM Light Shine

Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain

BE WHO YOU ARE

MY DEAR FRIENDS IN YCS/YSM INDIA

I am pretty sure that most of you would have made a “ New Year Resolution” and would be working towards it. But to fulfil or to achieve this resolution of yours, you need to do one thing. “Be who you are and not what others make you.”

It is often seen that people follow the things that their friends or colleagues do. But my dear friends, if they jump into the well will you also do the same? Well, I suppose the answer would be a simple “NO”. You might take opinion from others, you might gather the good things portrayed but at the end you should always reflect what is there in your mind .

It is often seen in the youth of today that they always carry a mask on their faces. This is not a visible mask but a mask which hides their true identity as a person. “ Everyone is made in the image and likeness of God” Each one of us have our own personalities, our own abilities, our own identity. So why should we be the one, who we are not. When you go out for shopping, say for buying clothes what would you prefer; a casual one or a branded one of the same price. In the same way the best brand you can wear is your own identity. Just remember that challenges may come your way. These challenges will always make you discover things about yourselves that you never really knew about.

Unless you know who you are, you will always be vulnerable to what people say .You are God’s poem that makes you a piece of art. Art is often beautiful more importantly, every piece of art has its own character and its own vision and value of the artist embedded in it. So it is in you what kind of an identity you want to create for yourself, because it will be your masterpiece.

So, be yourself and live your true identity, so that after years pass and you find yourself standing in front of the mirror analyzing what you really did all these years and then you will realise that you are lost in finding who you actually are and who you wanted to be.

This year we are hosting the National Convention at Kolkata in May and your presence there will help you find your identity and prepare yourself for the service to the society. Be ready to take a dive into it.

This is what a true YCSer/YSMer does. Welcome to Kolkata, the land of Mercy. See you in Kolkata

LET YCS/YSM LIGHT SHINE

Natasha Ann Louis

Long live YCS/YSM

IT'S MY CHOICE



A student's mind is said to be sensitive, confused, filled with conflicts, seeking for love or attention and also in search of knowing the importance of self. Almost everyday of our lives we face conflicts; between good or bad, positive choice or negative choice, etc. Ultimately we end up choosing something that we feel is right for us or we tend to seek help from others to choose what is best for us. But again it is our choice to accept the others' suggestions or to move on with our own. Some decisions may prove to be the best, whereas some may have a regrettable conclusions.

Most of the time we decide on choosing certain things, keeping in mind that ultimately we would be happy with it. Let's not generalise. It's not always that happiness is the only conclusion driven out by our own decisions. Sometimes we may feel positive (optimistic) or sometimes negative (pessimistic). Optimistic people live their lives to the fullest without actually worrying about tomorrow. On the other hand the pessimists are those who find their every decision or every step to be a failure.

May be they have had lack of love or attention or perhaps they are too sensitive to understand the modern world or too innocent to adapt with the fast moving society. To them, life is like a roller coaster. For a moment, you see or find happiness and the next moment you seem to be filled with darkness around you.

Let me share my life experience with you. I, for a very long time was a pessimistic person, who felt worthless and found life meaningless and full of problems. Slowly I realised that I am not the only carrying around heavy burdens or facing problems, but there are many youngsters around me who are on the same track. My participation in the NSLTP held in Mangalore introduced me to a whole new broader world where I discovered that students or teens that I hang out with or any other normal student who are so much more humourous and whole hearted than I am had the most challenging or the most tragic past.

Time to introspect... They had a choice: to be upset and regret his/her past life or to simply move on. Well, boldly they said that they moved on. Most importantly they said that they learnt

**"MAKE THE
RIGHT
CHOICE"**
CHOICE

from the hardships they faced during their past experiences. Hope you remember, they are no big saints nor are they any philosophers. They are young souls, just like you and me. This very incident touched me and inspired me to change my outlook on life.

It is obvious that many of us teenagers keep facing numerous problems everyday. Don't worry about it. Remember you are not alone.. many others are going through the same pain

or worse than of yours. You simply need to be positive, bold, confident, believe in self and move on. Keep in mind: “Today may be hard. Today doesn’t remain still for a long time... There’s always a fresh and a beautiful tomorrow waiting just for you.”

So let’s not worry too much about the little or major things happening around us as they are meant to happen. Let’s live life to the fullest and fulfill our purpose here on earth.

I am ready to make a positive choice! Are you?

Regards,

*-Jesvita Princy Quadras
National Convenor*



INDIA'S YOUNG BRAVEHEARTS



The 9 year old braveheart from Arunachal Pradesh who died while saving two of her friends from being drowned in Pachin river, was chosen for Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW)’s National Bravery Award (Bharat Award) 2016 for her exemplary courage.

Late Peeju was born on March 30, 2007. She was a student of class IV at Alphabet Public School, Nirjuli.

The incident which took place on May 19 last year. Peeju had joined her cousin Tarh Charu, 11 and friend Phassang Marry, 12, who were attempting to cross the river at Jollang village . All of a sudden, Peeju saw her friend and cousin being washed away by the strong undercurrent of the river. Despite the risk, Peeju jumped into the water braving the strong current of the river, found her cousin and friend and dragged them to safety.

However, after an exhaustive struggle, Peeju was submerged and washed away by the strong current.

The National Bravery Award was presented posthumously to Peeju at a function in New Delhi by the Prime Minister of India. YCS/YSM India salutes Peeju for this brave act and sacrifice.

read all stories: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/44032/national-bravery-awards-republic-day/>

Bravery and courage sees no age or qualification and are inbuilt in a person. Such people etch themselves into the hearts and minds of others and become trailblazers for others. 3 children from different parts of Northeast India were on January 26 honoured for their exceptional bravery with National Bravery Awards.

2nd NTA/EXCO MEETING

Dates: 28th - 29th Decemeber, 2016
Venue: St. Antony's Shrine, KOLKATA
No. of Participants: 36
No. of National Team Members: 4
No. of NECXOs: 10
No. of RYDs: 3
No. of DYDs: 1
No. of Former NEXCOs: 3
No. of Animators: 2
No. of LOCs: 6



DAY 1, DEC-28th [Wednesday], 2016

The second NTA/EXCO meeting was held at St. Antony's School, Kolkata from 28th December to 29th December 2016. The meeting began at 11:00 am with some group dynamics and animation conducted by Ms. Jesvita [National President] and Ms. Rachel [National Secretary].

At 11:15 am, Ms. Jesvita welcomed the gathering and commenced the 2nd NTA/EXCO Meeting. Ms. Rachel gave a short introduction followed by the Roll Call.

Ms. Natasha [SEARCH- Editor] led the gathering into a short prayer followed by the Bible reading by Ms. Akansha [NEXCO]. Fr. Peppin, former DYD of Kolkata Archdiocese gave a short reflection, followed by a prayer song by WEST BENGAL REGION.

Ms. Rachel read the report of the previous NTA/EXCO Meeting held at Udupi on August 15th, 2016; it was passed by Fr. Alex, RYD of MP region. He also appreciated the NEXCO for presenting detailed report. Regional reports were presented by representatives. The highlights of the six-months were presented by the NEXCOS. Ms. Rachel moderated this session of regional reporting. The following copies were disturbed to the members:



- i. Preparatory Document-National Convention
- ii. Budget Plan- IInd National Convention
- iii. SEARCH newsletter- [Sept-Oct & Nov-Dec]

Thereafter, Rachel read the highlights of the recently organized national programmes. She read the following reports and short evaluation was conducted thereafter.

- i. NEXCO LIVE-IN Programme- Aug 13-15
- ii. NSLTP[Eng]- October 2nd -6th [Hyderabad]
- iii. NSLTP[Hindi]- October 9th -14th[Delhi]

At 12:15 pm, after a short break, Ms. Jesvita and Ms. Rachel shared their experience of CCBI National Youth Conference held at Trivandrum. They said it was a nice experience as some of them present in that conference had no idea about the YCS/YSM movement and they got an

opportunity to tell them about the movement. They also said that it was a wonderful experience meeting many people, get to know of other movements, to share about our movement to them as well.

The new NEXCOs were presented by their respective RYDS of the following regions:

- i. Justine- NEXCO- North East Region
- ii. Prankupar Wajiri- NEXCO- North East Region
- iii. Ravi- NEXCO- Madhya Pradesh Region.



The New NEXCO members were welcomed by the NTA/ EXCO Team. Fr. Chetan stated that no more presentation of NEXCOS will be entertained in the coming days. At 12: 30 pm expansion of the movement was discussed. Each region expressed their views and ideas for the expansion of the movement. The NEXCOS from the regions also spoke about the work done in their respective regions. At 1:15, sumptuous lunch was served and everyone took a break to interact with each other.

The Second part of the NTA/EXCO MEET started at 2:15 pm. YCS/YSM newsletter 'The SEARCH' was the point of discussion. Ms. Natasha, Search editor explained about the news letter. She also explained about the subscriptions of the magazine. Ms. Rachel also briefed about the registration fee and articles for the Newsletter. The confirmation date was announced by Fr. Chetan- earliest by the 10th of every second month. NEXCOs coordination and participation in the movement was also discussed at this point.

Ms. Jesvita spoke about the contact details of the NEXCO Team. Ms. Rachel spoke the communication of the NEXCOS in accordance with National Programs and meetings. She also requested the cooperation from all the NEXCOs and asked them to communicate when requested. Both Ms. Jesvita and Ms. Rachel shared their difficulties in coordinating NEXCOs for national programmes and meetings.

Fr. Chetan, the national Chaplain gave information about the National, Regional and Diocesan level Students Leaderships Training Programs to be held in the respective regions. He also spoke about the Animators Training Programs to be conducted for the animators in the month of July 2017. He explained the reasons for conducting the Training programs in the regions. He also urged the members to take the movement seriously.

Soon after this, Regional Issues of the movement were discussed. Each NEXCO was given a chance to explain their regional issues:

North East- Ms. Rebecca [Animator] explained about the travel issues that her region faces. She explained due to improper facility and disturbance, they are absent for some of the national programmes.



West Bengal - Sr. Gauri [Animator] explained about the spread of the movement in their region. She said that only YCS has been functioning in their diocese and they are planning to start YSM in schools and expand the movement.

Tamil Nadu- Fr. Maria Susai [DYD] explained the communication problem in his region. He also mentioned that the absence of the NEXCOS and their participation from his region is because of some regional issues. Ms. Rachel was asked to explain about the regional issue which she in turn addressed the gathering about the communication problem with the region. Fr. Chetan clarified a few points raised during this discussion and said that attempts were made to sort out the issues. He also urged the region to support the movement and raise issues at at different platform without affecting the growth of the movement.



Some of the NEXCOS also shared the challenges they face. NTA/EXCO finalized the dates for the next meeting and it was agreed upon to have the next meeting also at the same place from 20th May 2017 just before the convention.

After the tea break all the participants left for ‘Nirmal Hriday’ Mothers House for the Eucharistic celebration at St. Mother Teresa’s tomb. Fr. Chetan celebrated the Eucharist and Fr. Alex shared the Word of God. They stressed on the feast of ‘Holy Innocents’ saying these little children sacrificed their lives for the sake of Jesus. After the Eucharist all the participants took a walk through Kolkata streets decorated beautifully for the Season. The entire park street wore a festive look. All the participants returned to the school for dinner followed by evaluation and sharing of the day

Day 2, 29th December, 2016

The second day of the NTA/ EXCO meeting began with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Phillip [RYD- Maharashtra-Gujarat Region]. In his homily he spoke about the presentation of Jesus in the temple and blessings of Jesus. He said that we should offer ourselves to God for him to fulfill his plans through us. We should become his instruments of peace to spread his gospel to the world as messengers.

After the Breakfast, Ms. Justine [NEXCO] conducted a short prayer and Ms. Vanshika [NEXCO] welcomed the gathering present. Fr. Devraj [RYD-YCS, West Bengal Region] led the group into a short prayer. Soon after the prayer, Fr. Chetan [National Chaplain], Fr. Devraj [Regional Chaplain-West Bengal], Ms. Jesvita Quadras [National President], Ms. Rachel Patricia [National Secretary], Ms. Vanshika Paul [NEXCO] celebrated their birthdays by cutting the cake.

Ms. Rachel gave a short introduction about the 2nd National Convention and started the discussion. Ms. Jesvita explained about the 2nd National Convention’s details. Fr. Alexander gave a short explanation about the experience of the 1st National Convention, which was organized under his care in Bhopal. He also explained about the challenges he faced during the programme.



Fr. Chetan explained the reason behind the convention to be held and the objectives of

the convention. He said that the timetable and the final copy of the preparatory document will be sent to all the RYDs and DYDs. An elaborate discussion took place with regard to the day wise programme, various committees; budget etc. members also suggested a few ideas to raise funds. It was decided to print raffle books worth Rs20 per ticket and also have a lucky draw. Members also decided to bring out a special edition of 'The Search' after the convention with advertisements and reports of the convention.

The following points were decided during the meeting:-

Dates-22nd -25th, May, 2017

Registration fee- Rs.500/- [per delegate including animators, DYD,RYD]

-Online registration (if possible)

Objectives and Topics for the Convention (mentioned in the preparatory document)

No. of participants, including LOCS and Animators- [450-500]

-Delegates-[10 per diocese]; Animators-[2]

-Other movements who can be invited [USM, ICYM, AICUF, Jesus Youth] 5-each

-Alumni-[3-5]

-Former Chaplains and NEXCOs

ELIGIBILITY – Students [above 12 years of age- VII std.]

-At least one year of experience in the movement.

Arrival/departure: 21st-Arrival - 26th-Departure.

BUDGET PLAN was approved: Rough estimate- 10 Lakhs, membership fee Rs. 10 from every YCS/YSM member to be collected; Regional Contribution-Rs.5000/- ; Diocesan Contribution-Rs.5000/-; Donor coupons to be printed [Raffle Book].

Thereafter, Ms. Rachel proposed the vote of Thanks. Fr. Devraj addressed the members and said that the Archdiocese will do everything possible to make the convention a big success. Ms. Jesvita concluded the second NTA/EXCO Meeting with YCSYSM Anthem and YCS Claps.

Long Live YCSYSM!

Raichel Patricia- National Secretary



POPULARITY IS NOT PROOF OF GOODNESS!



An Oscar award makes it popular all over the Western world only to mint money. Popularity neither guarantees 'goodness' in anyone nor does it expunge their wrong doings.

The film Slum Dog Millionaire created headlines in the media after it bagged eight

I do not understand the purpose of naming the film 'Slum Dog'. Are children in slums not superior to the numerous dogs that also live the slums?

Oscar awards. The whole country seemed to be proud of this achievement, if we are to go by media reports. Even the Congress party claimed a share in the glory, because the Oscar award came during its regime. A crowning

absurdity indeed! Thank God the poor kids from the Mumbai slums got national and international attention which will perhaps help them to improve their future prospects.

After the hype of the movie having bagged the Oscar awards, I decided to watch the film to make my own assessment. I am not competent to comment on the technical excellence, professional perfection and other cinematic aspects, therefore, I have no remarks to make on them. What I was interested in was the criteria which made it a great film, deserving so much admiration even from the Government of India. On that score, I found nothing deserving of admiration.

Some of the scenes in the film which may have appeared sensational for

an American or European audience, were silly and obnoxious for any realistic Indian. How many kids in the slums of India will swim through a septic tank to meet and get an

Fr. Varghese Alengaden
USM, Indore

autograph from film star, no matter how famous? How many poor kids from a slum will risk the circus trick of hanging upside down from the top of a running train in order to steal food from the plate of a passenger inside the train? Children do steal food, no doubt, especially when they are hungry. But there are other ingenious ways than this! The film depicts artificial scenes and rare incidents as if they are daily happenings in India. At times, one gets an impression that the western world enjoys being entertained by the poverty of India. An Oscar

award makes it popular all over the western world only to mint money.

The entire film is centered around a slum boy winning a TV quiz contest by sheer chance and luck rather than knowledge acquired through hard work. When at last, he wins the prize money, he is admired for his success. Suddenly, he becomes a celebrity. What moral lesson does the film give to the millions of poor people who watch it with excitement? Making money is success; making it through short cuts and without the usual hard work, is legitimized and awarded; this message stands out very clearly in the film. Gone are the days, when children and youth were motivated through the success stories of hard work and determination of great

men and women, who changed the destiny of the nation.



There was much criticism in the media, about the very title of the film. I do not understand the purpose of naming the film 'Slum Dog'. Are children in slums not superior to the numerous dogs that also live the slums? Again, the American brain will have hundreds of excuses and justifications for insulting children of Indian slums. Many sophisticated

urban artists will also find nothing degrading in such a title because the film won an 'Oscar'!

The Oscar is not the last word on good films. For that matter, any award is not enough proof of a good film. Popularity neither guarantees 'goodness' in anyone nor does it expunge their wrong doings.

Finally, a word to the Hindu fundamentalist groups like Sri Ram Sene, Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena and others, who act as moral police to protect the culture and dignity of India; Why wasn't their national pride hurt and their patriotism exhibited when they watched the film which depicted the poverty, dirt and filth of Mother India? Were they afraid of fighting an 'Oscar' because it comes from mighty America? ❖

IYCS ASIA

JOIN US!

IYCS ASIA CLIMATE SUMMIT and
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

March 13 – 19, 2017

Assumption Retreat House
Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City
Rizal, Philippines



THEME:

**“PROTECTING OUR COMMON HOME:
STUDENTS TAKING ACTION TO
PROTECT CREATION AND BUILD
SUSTAINABLE PEACE”**

Jesus encounters Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4: 5-42)

This is an interesting story from the Bible, with a few pointers, enlightens and enables us to evaluate our actions in the youth ministry. Here we understand the perspective of Jesus, so human and practical yet divine in inspiration.

What is Youth Ministry? It is to bring Jesus to youth and youth to Jesus in the present reality. Jesus never gets old. We need creativity and conversion to face the reality of being human.

Evangelization in the youth ministry is not strategies but involves the young in the spirituality to encounter Jesus. It is not

giving information and knowledge about Jesus but the PERSON OF JESUS.

The question remains - Do our creative actions in youth ministry lead young people to Jesus? How do we train and form youth as evangelizers?

Here, we come to know how the human encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman made her an evangelizer. She could experience him and proclaim Jesus as Son of Man much before Jesus went through the process of Resurrection.

This story can be divided into 6 parts and explained in IYCS Methodology.



Fr Charles Menezes
IYCS Chaplain

A. Truth of Life/Reality : **Awareness (See)**

1. Jesus is a traveler.

- He walks with his disciples. As human he experiences tiredness, weariness, thirst, hardships.
- He begged woman for a drink - water.
- We as followers of Jesus are asked to journey, travel with the young and the rest of the humanity. Jesus comes to us as humble simple traveler;
- He invites us to journey with him. Pope Francis asks us to walk with people (Caminare) - Are we humble and simple in our approach to travel with the young.
- Can we remove pretensions, pride, ego, judgmental attitudes?

2. Jesus stops at Jacob's well

He was thirsty and tired.



Jesus was first - (before the Samaritan woman reached the well to fetch water)

- What are the wells people go to when they are tired, burdened, frustrated?
- What are the wells we frequent when we are frustrated?
- What are the wells frequented by the youth when they are frustrated in life?

Are we aware of them? - We don't know, neither their parents know.

- As Church and youth animator or youth leader – Are we getting there first or are we always late?
- Are we there to meet the hungry, tired, weary? – Because our presence is important.

From the well we discern to draw clear living water. It may be ordinary well but clear water. (Is the water the well we frequent adulterated?)

3. Where is the well located? - Sichar (Samaria)

It is a hostile territory for Jews and Jesus enters the hostile territory. Woman was surprised to see him there.

- It is easy to enter friendly territories. For young people there are a number of friendly territories but they are adulterated.



- For Church many sectors are not friendly - the worldly sinful structures, social and systemic evils etc. They are contrary to the Gospel.
- The world is sinful and broken but it is still God's world. And this broken world provides opportunity for evangelization.
- Evangelization is proclaiming and not complaining. We are aware of the migration of the young people. Migration is a wound. Migration is not future but present. It is a tomb experience and Jesus can transform tombs into Resurrection.

Truth of Faith : Reflection (Judge)

4. Jesus engages (encounters) woman into simple conversation

He speaks about vessel, water, family, husband, thirst etc.

- Woman is surprised – Why do you know me? Are you the Messiah?
 - Jesus tells her about herself without any judgment – plainly, lovingly, compassionately and she experiences him. It is HE – Personal encounter.
 - Who are we and who is Jesus for us? - Getting to know ourselves better will help us know Jesus. This process requires patience, time and perseverance.
 - Woman experiences truth of herself and Jesus. Samaritan woman came for water and now she is thirsting for truth/life. She does not require water jar anymore – I have found the Messiah.
- We need to give the youth religious experiences of

Jesus. If Jesus is not known then what and whom do we preach? - Rules, policies, strategies....?

5. We need to Sustain the Spirit

- People who heard her, went to Jesus and asked him to stay with them and he stayed for 2 days.
- He stayed in the hostile territory. He encountered women, husbands and children. They said - now we have seen, touched and experienced him ourselves. They have gone to others to tell what they have seen and heard. 1 John 1:3- 'What we have seen and heard...we proclaim to you'.
- As youth ministers and members of IYCS-JECI, these pointers will help us to channelize

our efforts in preparing young as Evangelizers and thus encounter Jesus and transform ourselves and the world around us.

Pointers:

- Traveling, identifying the wells frequented by young, water - clear and adulterated, territory – friendly and hostile.
- Courtyard of the gentiles - Pope Francis wants us to go to the courtyard of the periphery; People of other faiths; Non-believers; Catholics who have gone to the periphery.
- Human encounter and woman becomes evangelizer – Proclaims Messiah before Resurrection. My encounter with the young – Does it reflect Jesus?

Truth of Method : Action (Act)

6. Questions for Action

- Q1. How do we see sign of hope, opportunity in this miserable situation today?
- We are called to address the world of sufferings, of young people
- Q2. What is the emotional first aid for the young Migrants (from Church/life)?
- Listen to the youth and their aspirations; Feel the expression of their faith in a faithless manner; hear the faith of the faithless.
- Q3. How to facilitate encounters?
- World is divided. Unity happens with encounters. Space created in human encounters will remain forever. ♣

NB: Send your personal reflections to mail@iycs-jeci.org

SYNOD OF BISHOPS: XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment

Pope's Letter to young people

My dear young people, I am pleased to announce in October 2018 a Synod of Bishops will take place to treat the topic: "Young people, the Faith and Vocational Discernment." I wanted you to be the centre of attention, because you are in my heart. Today, the preparatory document is presented, a document which I am also entrusting to you as your "compass" on this synodal journey...

N.B. We have sent the copy of Preparatory document and Pope's letter to all DYD/RyDs.

We request all YCSers to answer these questions and send the copy to National Office.

IYCS is sending a questionnaire on youth voice on the youth issues. Check and reply to the link given below: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdaiKbCEwa1IvOVZarCmFXFlhWhHhQlfW_1SjY4KIFGHj1LRQ/viewform

FORMULA OF A MIRACLE

Once there was a church in a small town. As time passed by the number of people attending the church was decreasing. The priest of the church was concerned about this matter since it was serious. Good children were turning away from their Father's house. Eventually a day came when people stopped coming to the church. The priest seeing this became extremely sad.

From that day onwards he would kneel down before each and every seat of the church, weep and pray to the Lord, requesting him to fill the church with His children and help them to find their way back. Soon the priest got a letter stating that he will be transferred to another church. The priest left the church to the new place with disappointment.

A year passed by and one day the priest received news from the new priest. The priest was surprised to hear that the church which he once left was now the most crowded church in that town. The people would come to church to rejoice, sing, worship and enjoy the presence of God everyday. The priest immediately knelt down where he was and this time he had tears of joy. He thanked God for hearing his prayer and restoring back the faith of the people.

Reflection: We all want miracles to happen in our lives. But what is the formula behind it; have you ever thought of it! The formula of a miracle is not complex as some maths theorem formula or some chemistry compound, but it only requires a few things:

Prayer: The priest prayed on each and every seat and corner of the church. He sowed the seed which was his prayer. The most important part of any miracle is prayer. It is the beginning of the spark before the big bang can happen.

Hardship/trail: The Priest went through hardships when the faith of the people was decreasing. He experienced pain seeing the people turning away from God. He cried it out to God and God collected his tears and used it to water the seed (prayer) that the Priest had sowed. There no miracle without any hardships or trails but perseverance is needed and then only can the miracle take place.

Faith: It is one of the most important essence of a miracle it the driving force. Just like a candle can't give light without air, the same way without faith a miracle can't take shape. Faith is like air which is very much needed for the growth of a plant. When Faith stops blowing so shall the plant stop growing and miracle will seize to take place.. The Priest made his prayer in full faith that God will grant his prayer one day. He kept his faith strong and he never let his faith stop blowing

God's presence: Lastly God's presence is needed. Without His presence no miracle can happen. He is the source of all power. Jeremiah 17 verses 7&8 says: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." When we have God's presence which is the Light of the World it helps to bind up all the elements that we have poured into miracle and that when His power creates a miracle in Our Life. In the story the people found their way back to the church because the Priest sowed his seed (prayer) before God and his presence (light) combined the faith and hardships and made a beautiful miracle.

Formula for a miracle= prayer(seed)+ hardships/trails/tears(water)+faith(air)+God's Presence(Light) ❖

Angelo Whittis, homeless teen, given family and football future by coach

“Anybody that can go through what this kid has gone through in one lifetime, and still find a way to get up again and get knocked down and get up again... I think they’re amazing,”

Growing up, high school athlete Angelo Whittis never had a stable home — he stayed with various relatives and often slept in friends’ cars. Now, thanks to his football coach, the formerly homeless Detroit-area teen has a family both on and off the field.

“Anybody that can go through what this kid has went through in one lifetime, and still find a way to get up again and get knocked down and get up again... I think they’re amazing,” said River Rouge High School football coach Cory Parker.

Angelo didn’t know his father and his mother was in and out of prison, so his grandmother and uncle took him in. But both relatives had drinking problems. Whittis moved around from living with one relative to another and, at times, ended up on the streets.

Whittis is among the over 1.5 million youth nationally who are homeless. The issue is particularly severe in Detroit, a city which has been hard-hit by the recession.

“I think I take every bit of it out there on the field with me,” Whittis said. “Every bit of it.”

To distract himself from these challenges, Whittis took up football as an after-school

activity. Coach Parker would drop Whittis off at different locations after practice, and soon realized that the boy didn’t have a regular place to sleep. Parker opened up his home to Whittis, where the teen still lives with Parker’s wife and infant son, who is now a “little brother” to him.

“It meant a lot to me,” said Whittis. “I felt like I was special, and at that time in my life, I finally felt like I was somebody.”

Now a senior on the honor roll at River Rouge High School and inside linebacker of the school’s football team, Whittis is setting his sights on the future — and likely a college football career.

David Boone, a formerly homeless teen who headed to college last year, also made his Ivy League dreams come true despite growing up in a challenging environment.

“All of these life lessons have shaped me into who I am,” Boone wrote in a blog post, “transforming my dreams and aspirations and allowing me to free myself from what was becoming an unproductive environment.”

Are you inspired by Whittis’ story? Have you ever had a coach that changed your life? ❖

Source: the huffington post

INDIA'S YOUNG

BRAVEHEARTS

Fourteen-year-old Siya Vamansa Khode from Dharwad, who saved her two-year-old brother from certain death due to electrocution by risking her own life in April 2015 when she

was just 12, received the Indian Council for Child Welfare's (ICCW) National Bravery Award from PM Narendra Modi on January 23.

In April, two years ago, Siya was playing with her younger brother and cousins when she decided to go on the rooftop. The toddler followed her; but after playing for a while she suddenly realised that her brother was nowhere to be seen.

"I thought my brother may be playing hide and seek. I called out for him. But got no response. I started looking for him, and when I found him, he was still and speechless. Even as I was wondering what had happened, I realised to my horror that he had come in contact with a live wire," Siya had narrated the incident.

She had been in a fix: Not touching him would mean that her kid brother would certainly die, while touching him to save him would mean risking her own death along with her brother. So, she did the next best thing: She held him by his shirt and tugged hard.

"I mustered so much energy, I can't still believe that my brother came out of the live wire's contact and fell unconscious. Even I fell at a distance. I screamed for help and my parents immediately rushed to the spot," she had said.

Siya's father Vamansa Khode said he had rushed upstairs on hearing Siya's screams. Siya explained what had happened and the kid was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where they were able to save the child, thanks to Siya's brave act. Siya is among 25 children from different parts of India who received the bravery awards.

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Nagaland boy Thanghilmang Lunkim is among the 25 children who have received the bravery award this year. **The Class VIII** student was awarded the National Bravery Awards on January 23. He, along with other awardees, was honoured on Republic Day in Delhi.

Lunkim, then a Class VI student at the Rivenburg Mission School, Medziphema, had saved the life of another student, Megovisie Nakhro, who had fallen into a river while crossing the Mezoma Bridge in Dimapur in September 2015.

Thanghilmang Lunkim belongs to Kuki tribe and he is the youngest son of four children of Thankholen Lunkim, a police constable in Nagaland Police, while Megovisie Nakhro son of Neisavituo Nakhro in Tsiepama Village, resides in El-Shaddai Hostel, Medziphema Town.

The brave heart aspires to "join the Indian Army someday" adding, "We must never hesitate to help those in need as all of us will need the same help one day or the other."



Search

REPORTS

KARNATAKA

YCS ROSARY MEET HELD IN MANGALORE DIOCESE

At the background of the centenary of Marian appearance in Fatima (1917 - 2017) the Young Catholic Students (YCS) in the diocese of Mangalore held 'YCS Rosary Meet' on Sunday 29th January 2017. The Rosary had to be prayed all over the Diocese on a same day. Accordingly the members gathered in their own parishes and prayed five decades of Rosary devoutly and creatively like holding lighted candles in hands, singing etc. In many of the parishes the parish priests and people in large number accompanied the students.

The twofold objective of the prayer campaign was the good result for all the students in the forthcoming final exams and also to proclaim the Marian Devotion. The young PUC students guided by the priests and accompanied by the animators took part with



a lot of enthusiasm. Bishop of Mangalore Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius P D'Souza had blessed the students prior to the meeting through a video clipping in the media. Rev. Fr. Rupesh Madtha, the Mangalore Diocesan Director for YCS/ YSM had generated this

idea and administered the Rosary Campaign. There are around 2,500 YCS (PUC) students in the Mangalore diocese spread in 102 units of 12 deaneries of Mangalore diocese.

NORTH EAST

YCSYSM REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

13th December 2016: A day began with a short Prayer and Bible reading, after which Ms. Hakadahun NONGTDU welcomed everybody to the meeting. Sr Bernadeth, Northeast Coordinator, took a session about leadership and stress on about the importance of realizing oneself. During tea break, there was a small gathering where we cut Christmas cake as a sign of our joy and celebrate together. Then continue with the sharing of REXCOs about themselves, their families and their hardships and joy to meet together as a cell.

Then immediately after lunch, followed by formal meet. REXCOS were joined by Sr. Meristela, DYLA and Coordinator of Nongstoin Diocese and Jimmy Pdang, former REXCO. In the meeting many things were discussed about how we can sustain and expand the movement. Sr Bernadeth then told that schools were active but the structure is not present. Thus they do not follow the method of the movement properly. REXCOS with the help of Sr Bernadeth decided to follow up to all units where YCS is present. It was also decided to have animators training in the month of February and venue is Bethel, Shillong

Regarding Student's Leadership training

program, REXCOs said that we will ask the national office if we can have it together with NSLTP probably in the Month of April and venue will be tentatively in Guwahati.

REXCO also decided to bring YCS/YSM northeast magazine and will be printed twice a year, Sr Bernadeth then told that the work will start from January itself and REXCOs decided to send articles and also collect the reports from their own dioceses.

After many things being discussed, we had evaluation of the day where Rexcos shared their joy and happiness to meet each other and discuss about YCS. Ms. Hakadahun thanked everyone present and the day concluded with YCS /YSM clap.

KARNATAKA

YCS SHIMOGA - RETREAT

There were 1600 participants. Separate retreat for YCS and YSM students. Resource persons were Fr. Roman Pinto, Fr. Plus D Souza and Fr.



Ronald Veigas. Hosted by Sr. Lucy Mascanehas and Fr. Gilbert Lobo. Organised by Yuvamitra, Youth Commission of the Diocese of Shimoga.

NORTH EAST

YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAMME

NERYC - Youth Commission of North East

organised a training programme for the animators from 9th February to 13th February 2017. Programme was held at Bethel, Barapani, Shillong. This was attended by over fifty animators from different dioceses. Programme was aimed at training animators and equip them to work in their dioceses as youth ministers. YCS animators from many dioceses participated in the programme.

Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain conducted a few sessions. Sr. Regina, NERYC Regional Secretary organised this event. Most Rev. Thomas, Chairman bishop of Itanagar celebrated the Holy Eucharist



on 10th and wished each participant of the programme.

Programme concluded on 13th February 2017. Vicar General of Guwahati diocese celebrated the Eucharist on this occasion. On the previous night all the participants were given participation certificates. Mr. Jimmy Pdang, former national convenor was present during this programme and helped in conducting this training.

YSM UDUPI - PARISAROTSAV:

YSM Udupi diocese organised a one day awareness programme on environment called 'Parisarotsav'. YSM students from all over the diocese participated in this event which was held at Our Lady of Sorrows campus. Fr. Charles menezes, International Chaplain was present on this occasion.

Each unit was awarded and recognised for their contribution. Fr. Lawrence, Director of Diocesan Education Board was the chief guest for the concluding programme. He spoke about the importance of saving our environment. Fr. Chetan, National chaplain was present at the concluding programme and gave a short message. Students of YSM conducted the programme and thanked everyone for the success. Fr. Edwin, Diocesan Chaplain appreciated the efforts of YSM students and thanked them.



YCS/YSM MANGALORE

We are happy to inform you that in the year 2016-17 there are around 2,460 YCS students in 102 units and around 500 YSM students in 19 high schools and PU colleges in the Diocese (survey).

Six committees are formed for the better coordination of YCS/YSM in the Diocese. There are 6 WhatsApp groups for the same where we can inform and discuss matters online. As a new venture a few slogans are formed which are very popular among the students in the past 6 months and an extensive use of media (Promo, TV, WhatsApp, Facebook, News Papers, Letters and Announcements) is made to attract the students. The facelift is in progress in different levels from 'Cell to Central'.



The systematization of YCS in the 12 deaneries is done and taken keen interest to keep them vibrant in all deaneries through time to time reminders, support and encouragement.

As a new venture, special awareness to the students on alcohol, drugs, respect to elders, love affairs, interreligious marriages, faith, vocation, govt. jobs etc and a discussion to the animators about the vision of YCS/YSM in Mangalore is added in the Beginners' Camps held in all the Deaneries.

A new YSM unit in Rosa Mystica PU College Gurpur was inaugurated and a new facebook (fb) page is created YCS YSM Mangaluru Diocese

The CBCI Chairman for Youth council, Most Rev Dr Henry D'Souza, (Bishop of Bellary) addressed the Diocesan Executive Council.

We are grateful to Most Rev. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Vicar General, Chancellor, Deanery Deans, YCS Deanery and Unit Directors, Sponsors, and members of six Committees, Guests, Animators and Students for their collaborative efforts to YCS/YSM. We also thank the National Director Fr Chethan Machado for his encouragement in the past six months and hoping the same in the future.

Fr Rupesh Madtha, Director, YCS/YSM, Mangalore, Karnataka



YCS DELHI organised a meeting to review the programme conducted in the Archdiocese. Sr. Mercian, coordinator along with other team members met to discuss the future course. Soon after this meeting a few units were visited to revive the movement.

REPORT

National Chaplain's Activities

1. 1-9 December - Office work, the Search Newsletter work in Delhi
2. 9 December - Seminar on Vocation Promotion at Holy Child, Punjabi bagh
3. 11 December - Cathedral Bells carol fest - Delhi YCS organised this event.
4. 14 December - BSI Christmas celebration with vulnerable children. Session.
5. 19-20 Chennai, CA's Office
6. 26-28 Kolkata - NTA/EXCO meeting. 24 participants
7. 10 January 2017 - Seminar for teachers at Rosary Sr. Sec. School, Delhi. 100 teachers participated
8. 11 -15 Visited home, Mangalore.
9. 16 January, Bangalore for CCBI Centre to take charge of Youth Commission.
10. 17-19 at CCBI Centre, farewell and welcome to outgoing and new secretary respectively.
11. 19-21 Participated in ICYM National Convention at Vamanjoor, Mangalore
12. 22-23 January, visited a few places along with NYC delegates in Mangalore
13. 27-28 January - Chennai office work.
14. 30-9 February in Bhopal for CCBI Plenary meeting.
15. 10-14 February in Shillong for Animators Training Programme. 65 participants.
16. 19 February - Delhi, career guidance programme for students. 140 participants
17. 20 February - Jalandhar for Secretaries meeting.
18. 24-29 February, The Search work and office work in Delhi.

Future Programmes:

1. 13-19 March 2017 -Extra ordinary Council meeting & Asian climate summit
2. 20-21 May 2017 - NTA/EXCO meeting in Kolkata.
3. National Convention - 21-26 May 2017 in Kolkata
4. National Animator's Training Programme 10-15 July 2017 in Delhi
5. Animators & RYD/DYD meeting 12th July 2017 in Delhi
6. Asian Youth Day: July 30-Aug 6, 2017 in Indonesia.
7. World Youth Parliament: 6-11 August 2017 in China

Those of you would like to send students for any of the above events, kindly contact the National Office for further details. These events are organised by different organisations.

Kindly mark your dates for the 2nd YCS/YSM National Convention which will be held in Kolkata from 21 May to 26 May 2017. Details are mailed to you. For registration fee and other details kindly contact: Fr. Chetan (09891792505), Mr. Midrash Mathew (9560900149)

OUR FATHER :

“Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” - Jn 14:8-11



There was a rose growing in a garden. It was happy as it got everything air, water, minerals and most importantly sun light which helped it to convert these to its food. The rose always wanted to touch the sun because it enjoyed the light the Sun emitted. It would call out to the Sun to come near so that it could feel it. But nothing as such happen and the rose would get upset. One day, while the Sun was shining, a cloud appeared and blocked the sun light from falling. The rose slowly started to realise that the rays of the sun which it felt was the way in which the Sun was touching it all the time. That's what the

rose didn't realise before. When the cloud went away and the Sun's ray fell on the rose again. It enjoyed the ray which was falling on it because it realised that the Sun had made contact with it from the very beginning.

Moral : Just like the rose, we want to see God our Father (Sun) but we must realise that Our Father has given us Jesus (Sun's ray) and it is through Jesus we see our God the Father. In the gospel of John 14:8-11 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Who is Jesus?

He is the symbol of Love ... Love that died on the cross to set us free.....so that we can see our God the Father .So let follow the path that our Father has set for us that's is pure love Jesus Christ

The question lies now, What is the path of Jesus Christ?

The path of Jesus is Love which refrains from SIN....it is pure Love that heals the world and shows the people the light in their life

When we Hug a friend , take care of a friend , comfort someone, be obedient to our parents , guide our siblings , spread the Word of the Lord , helping the less fortunate etc all these are the path of Love set forth by Jesus Christ and when we follow them we are following Our Fathers ways and He Blesses us.....So let Pure Love win and Heal the World and show us the Light ❖

- Marc Dobson

YCS/YSM INDIA

cordially invites you to

II NATIONAL CONVENTION

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TO
KOLKATA**

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Park Circus
21 - 26 May 2017**



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NATIONAL THEME

CALLED TO BELIEVE – BEGIN – BECOME

Thrusts

Back to the roots; media & me; Restoring human dignity

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1 Ashok Place, New Delhi - 110001; Mob: 9891792505**

Email: ycesysmindia@gmail.com; Website: www.ycesysmindia.com, <https://www.facebook.com/ycesysm.india>

YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



Young Bravehearts of India 2017



Youth Ministry Training, Shillong



Young Christian Students/Young Students Movement, (An Unit of CBCI Council for Youth)
YCS/YSM National Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, 25 Rosary Church Road, Santhome, Chennai - 600 004
Ph : 044 - 24641737, e-mail : yccsystmindia@gmail.com; website : www.yccsystmindia.com

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