

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON WORLD YOUTH DAYS

MADRID 2011 – RIO 2013

Rocca di Papa, 28 March – 1 April 2012

Christian Education in India by Catholic Bishops' Conference India- Office for Youth (CBCI-OY); Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM), Youth Activ8 Foundation®

Objective:

To Promote, To Protect & To Project Youth resources both for Church and Society

Chairman: Most Rev. Leo Cornelio, SVD; Archbishop of Bhopal

Members: 1. Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas, OIC

Apostolic Visitor, Syro- Malankara Catholic Church

2. Most Rev. Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB; Archbishop of Kottayam

Secretary, CBCI Office for Youth-ICYM/YAF: Fr. Philip Franky D'Souza

Short History of CBCI-OY-ICYM

1944 CBCI was initiated,

1972 CBCI commission for Youth initiated

1986 Formation of CBCI Youth Commission & Directors:

- Fr. Benedict Joseph (1986),
- Fr. Satyasheelan SVD(1987-1993),
- Fr. Joel D'Cunha (1993-2002).
- Fr. Alwyn M.J. D' Souza (2002-2011),
- Fr. Philip Franky D' Souza (2011 onwards),

1999 from inspirational body to functional body Indian Catholic Youth Movement (September 14th 1999) Inaugurated on Feb 6th 2000 On the feast of St. Gonsalo Garcia (ICYM patron saint) On 9th Aug 2007 it was registered as YOUTH ACTIV8 Foundation (S/59418/2007 under Societies Registration Act 1860) CBCI PLENARY on "Youth for Peace & Harmony" Feb 24-march 2010 at 29th CBCI Plenary assembly chose & gave mandate to Youth Mission. Every two years we elect ICYM NATIONAL TEAM of Youth in the National Council which comprises of 13 regions of 165 dioceses.

Theme & Thrusts:

"Transformed by Faith, Transforming the World"

Networking, Gender parity, Employability & Caring for the Earth.

VISION: Enlightened, spirit filled and dedicated youth for a better India/world.

MISSION: Organizing and enabling /empowering the youth that they are imbued with a spirit of Missionary zeal and become promoters of Gospel values.

GOAL: Empowered Youth actively participates in pro-life movement, against corruption and fostering unity in diversity of cultures, traditions and literature.

Formation of Youth:

Various programs are organized in the National, Regional, Diocesan and Parish levels throughout the year for the formation of the youth. Due to the vastness of the country mostly the trainers are trained (TOT) in the national level then they go to the regions and dioceses to train others to reach the grassroots. Well established networking helps us to make this happen. CBCI –OY-ICYM visualizes the formation of youth through enabling the overall growth of the individuals. Episcopal Conference of India has taken this task about ‘Educating Indian Youth to be Missionaries’ seriously. Importance is given to have systematic catechesis from childhood to their young age in the church as well as School level. Catholic Charismatic Movement in India plays a greater role, through which many young people have rediscovered their vocation, accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. Many young people have opted to serve in the mission dioceses of India as volunteers. Vocation rate in India is gone up. Volunteerism is another fruit of this missionary formation. A pastoral plan for youth ministry in India: A journey to the kingdom is published also Spiritual Awakening – A training module on Youth spirituality is already published.

National Level Programs:

CBCI –OY –ICYM conducts Training of Trainers in Evangelization & Discipleship Training Programs, Spiritual awakening, Bible Literacy Programs, Team Building, Life skill Education also Renewal Retreats, Once in three years National Youth Conventions; which facilitates interaction and exchange of ideas among youth coming from various cultural back grounds of India. Theme and Thrusts are evolved in these conventions by the youth. Chaplains and Animators’ Training Program (CAT); Rigorous Training for the newly appointed Youth Animators for 10 days on Youth Animation is given every year.

Diocesan Level Programs:

As all the beneficiaries of all training programs are in the dioceses, specific planning is done while implementing programs in the 165 dioceses of India. Besides regular formation programs many other activities are conducted in the parish levels like house visits, medical camps, work camps, visit to the hospitals and rehabilitation centers etc. Another striking feature is the involvement in the political activities at the grassroots. The national Youth Survey showed that among the youth who are involved in active politics more than 60% are in the leadership positions. Special attention is given to develop value based leadership among the young people of India. Intention is that they should become light of the world and salt of the earth as Lord Jesus told.

World Youth Day Pilgrimage:

World Youth Day pilgrimages has a great impact on the Youth of India; many youth have discovered the purpose and meaning in their life in turn they have committed to witness Christ, served as volunteers, even some of them joined seminaries and religious life. Contribution of Taizé Community of France “Pilgrimage of Trust on Earth” by their support and collaboration with Indian Catholic Youth Movement many youth have been transformed in their faith and life. They have committed themselves in training other youth in their dioceses and regions. Amidst of persecution for faith in India, Faith in the Lord and Commitment for the faith is increased among the young people.

Fr Philip Franky D’Souza
Secretary CBCI Office for Youth-ICYM, India