



FRANSALIAN YOUTH FOR RENEWAL & EMPOWERMENT

Annual Bulletin Vol. 5



**COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE
OF THE RENEWAL AND
EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG**

We cannot always build the future
FOR OUR YOUTH,
but we can build our youth
FOR THE FUTURE.

**THE YOUTH
NEED TO BE
ENABLED TO
BECOME JOB
GENERATORS
FROM JOB
SEEKERS.**

"My dear young people,
the **CHURCH** NEEDS YOU,
your enthusiasm,
your creativity
and the joy that is so
characteristic of you!"



FRANSALIAN YOUTH MISSION (FYM)

Our VISION

"A renewed society in **Christ** through Fransalian Youth and Children".



Our MISSION

"To share the ministry of the church in proclaiming the **Good news** of liberation from ignorance and orient those under our care to seek truth about themselves, God and world."



OBJECTIVES

- To empower young people to live as disciples Jesus Christ in our world today.
- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community and in the ministries of the MSFS.
- To foster the total, personal and spiritual growth of each young person by imbibing Christian values.
- To build self-confidence, a Godly character and values which create strong foundations in life.
- To empower the youth to realize the importance and purpose of life.
- To establish intimacy through a personal relationship with God.
- To develop courage and boldness to live as a Catholic Youth.
- To be equipped with interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.
- To empower the you to be a better steward of time, finance and resources.
- To help them find joy in reaching out to others in need.

Message



Dear Fr. John Barman and my dear Fransalian Youths,

I am so glad to hear that you have your fifth edition of FYRE. It is a great pleasure to see the growth of Fransalian Youth Mission in Northeast. I thank and congratulate Fr. John Barman for the tremendous work he overloads on himself to animate the young people of our region. I appreciate all his associates for planning the programmes very meticulously. It is very pleasant to see your Facebook page. I am overwhelmed at the huge number of youths taking part in the programmes. Congratulation!

Today's children are tomorrow's youth. Today's youth are the tomorrow's citizens. Every citizen has to be aware of his rights and be ready to dispatch his responsibilities. We don't become citizens overnight though age makes one legally a citizen. The right to vote alone does not make one a real citizen. Citizenship is a matter of maturity. A mature citizen is also a leader. He effectively puts first things first and carries it out with discipline. He gets others to do what and they don't want to do, to achieve what and they want to achieve. Set goals in life. Start with small steps. Success belongs to you. John Maxwell writes "successful and unsuccessful people do not vary greatly in their abilities. They vary in their desires to reach their potential." My dear youth desire to be successful! You may not reach perfection but you will surely progress.

I wish all the Fransalian youth best of everything. May Jesus and his Gospel values be root of all what you think, say and act. May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS
Provincial, Guwahati Province

Message



It gives me immense joy to learn that Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM) in Northeast India is bringing out the next issue of its annual bulletin FYRE (Fransalian Youth for Renewal and Empowerment). It is an apt forum to document its achievements and initiatives as well as to facilitate an ideal platform for the members to remain connected. On this occasion, I wish to extend my heartiest Congratulations and Best Wishes to the entire FYM fraternity - the Patrons, Director, Animator, Members, and all the Well-Wishers for all your future endeavors.

At its rebirth, with the appointment of Fr. John Barman MSFS as the full time Director of FYM, I was really fortunate to be closely associated with FYM as the then Director of FAsCE India. Since then, I see a great leap in its growth at all levels, being committed to the renewal and empowerment of youth and children, following the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, our Patron, under the dynamic leadership of Fr. John Barman. My sincere appreciation and congratulations to you dear Fr John Barman and the team for your commitment, hard work and initiatives for the cause of the youth and children!

An incident is told about a great Christian Missionary who had pioneered the Christian work in a far off island. A group of well-wishers - some of them who wished to join this Missionary in his work - wrote a letter to him, asking: "Have you found a good road to reach where you are? If so we want to know how to send other men to join you." The Christian Missionary however replied back: "If you have men who will come only if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all!" The beauty of life is enhanced, when people are willing to take the 'road less travelled'! And this can happen, only when one's life is guided by convictions! Now the question for introspection is: am I living a life of deep convictions in faith, which makes people to take notice of the Lord and help them come closer to Him? Am I filled with a deep passion for the Lord, which makes others to be attracted and fascinated to the Kingdom of the Lord?

I think, this is something remarkable about the FYM. They are people who are Christ-Centred, convinced and passionate to be agents of God's Kingdom. They draw young people to the responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community, wherever they are. Once more Hearty Congratulations and thanks to Fr. John Barman, the Director, Unit Leaders/Animators and the Members of FYM for your committed service and witnessing Christian life! May God bless all of us to Live, Love, Give JESUS!

Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS
Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province

Message



I am glad to know that Fransalian Youth Mission is bringing out its fifth issue of the Annual Bulletin "FYRE" 2020 shortly. I am sure that it will show case the present status, various activities and the talents of the youth.

There is absolutely no doubt about the strength and energy that a youth possesses. Unless these energies are positively tapped it can cause havoc in our society through a deviated behavior. It is here that FYRE is on its inroads into the hearts of young people through its dedicated service by bringing into them the awareness of their power inherent in building up a just and peaceful society. The Fransalian Youth Mission has grown over the years. I am glad that the Youth Mission continues to uphold the development of the youth in the Northeast region. I have seen the functioning of FYM very closely as Provincial Councilor of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries and I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Director and the Fransalian Youth for their hard work, dedication, initiative and strategies made to empower the youth.

With a clear vision for the future of our youth the FYM has begun conducting several empowerment and training programs to strengthen and channelize the energies of our youth for the social actions. Within a short time of its inception FYRE has proved that it is moving in the right direction and gaining momentum as more and more youth are joining to be part of this movement.

I offer my sincere appreciation to Rev. Fr John Barman for his great enthusiasm, clarity of vision, dynamic leadership and meticulous planning in organizing the various activities and also to all those who collaborate with him in fulfilling this mission. God Bless FYM!

Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS
Provincial Councilor for SAIM (Social Apostolate & Innovative Ministries)
Guwahati Province

Message



Being youthful, we're surrounded by a world that we don't always understand, and doesn't always agree with God's guidelines. One of the problems we need to deal with is a society that defines terms differently than God envisioned. This is a big problem as we don't always recognize the dangers around us. We live in a world where moral absolutes are not accepted, where truth is relative to one's position rather than a bedrock fact one can rely on. On a regular basis, we find sin being redefined as something else, something more acceptable, something more explainable, perhaps even less offensive. No-one likes being told that what they do is wrong. Even if that accusation is coming from God himself.

Look at the things that have become not only common place, but seemingly acceptable to a world that has moved away from a moral standard. Teen pregnancy continues to be on the rise. Single parent households are normal today, rather than the exception. Drug use is at epidemic levels in many areas. Lying, stealing and cheating are considered acceptable rules and norms for business deals. Hurting others, abortion, and even murder are found to be justifiable and acceptable ways of dealing with problems. It seems like the moral standard that was useful to us in past generations, has become outdated and ill-suited for today's way of thinking. Society has lost sight of the standard that God set for us. Instead, He's been replaced with a secular, moral frame work where nothing can truly be called morally right or morally wrong.

My heartfelt congratulations on this significant anniversary - one that marks 5 years since the foundation of the "FYRE" (Fransalian Youth for Renewal and Empowerment). Over the years, the magazine has forged an impressive path, attaining widespread recognition and becoming an authoritative national forum for the promotion of youth in the Church. It is particularly impressive that the magazine is aimed at a very broad readership, and that its writers succeed in combining the precision and depth of their academic approach with the entertainment of a popular format under the able, dynamic and spiritual leadership of Fr John Barman who makes himself totally available to the proclamation of the Gospel through FYRE.

Please accept my best wishes for your future success, good fortune, and the attainment of new triumphs.

Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS
Former Provincial
Erstwhile North East India Province

From the Director's Desk



It gives me an ineffable feel of accomplishment while penning down a message. It is obviously of immense pleasure that Fransalian Youth Mission, a youth movement of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales of Northeast India is going to publish the 5th Issue of Annual Newsletter the FYRE (Fransalian Youth for Renewal and Empowerment). It is the mirror of FYM reflecting its truthiness and will inspire the youth to come closer to Jesus and experience his love. It will also reflect and boost the talent of youth.

"My dear Young People, the Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you!" Pope Francis

Several years have passed and FYM has reasons to be gratified. It has striven to render quality, viable and friendly opportunities to the youth in molding them Christ-like leaders, as instruments of hope and healing to the world. I am very much delighted that the Youth Ministry has gained its recognition and reputation for its organization in serving the youth of Northeast India in helping young people to grow in faith as they experience life in the community and actively participate in the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church. This however, is not easy because of the many distractions, pressures and diversions that are pulling young people away from the plan of God. The FYM has been trying hard and making noble effort to transform through evangelization and re-evangelization of the youth today.

Youth always seek for models. St. Francis de Sales is a model par excellence for both youth and youth ministers/animators. He was known for his being human and humane. Such a quality of his is a great aid to the young to be what they are and be best of themselves, without blindly trying to be someone else. This approach has enable to make inroads into the hearts of many youths in their spiritual and social interventions within a short period.

The last five years have been both eye opener and roller coaster. What an experience it has been to provide a platform and showcase a platform for the youth across msfs mission centres. The society, nation changes because the youth make choices, take chances, face the challenges and become the channels of peace and prosperity.

We at FYRE are delighted to wish each one of you-our young contributors, readers, well-wishers and friends a very Blissful year 2020.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the Provincial Administration of Guwahati Province and Dibrugarh Province for the personal interest in the Renewal and Empowerment of the young. I wish to express my gratitude to FAsCE India, Zonal Youth Animators, MSFS Provincialate Community, Guwahati, Confreres, my beloved Fransalian youth and collaborators for their whole hearted support and cooperation.

Live Love Give Jesus!

John Barman msfs
Director FYM, Northeast India



ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT BY THE YOUTH TO OUR LADY

We the Fransalian Youth of Northeast India, Come to you, O Compassionate Mother, O Mother of the Church
We bring to you the fullness of our youth....

*I want to earnestly ask our Holy Patron to inspire you so that
we may become like him, worthy servants of Jesus Christ.*

(Servant of God , Fr Peter Marie Mermier, Our Founder)

*True progress quietly and persistently
moves along without notice.*

(Heavenly Patron, St Francis de Sales)

Who is a Fransalian Youth?

Fransalian Youth is one who follows in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ, imbibe the Spirit of St Francis de Sales and make difference in the world today by offering youthful energies and talents to building a civilization of Christian Love, giving priorities to values and teachings of Jesus, the Lord and Master for the Reign of God.



From the Chronicles of Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM) North east India Province 2019

Fransalian Youth and Fransalian kids is a ministry undertaken by the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, Northeast India Province, empowered by the Holy Spirit in molding young Christ-like leaders as instruments of hope and healing to families, society and the world. The ministry to the youth is one of the apostolate of the Congregation. Fransalian Youth Mission flagged off in the year 1995 is the realization of the great vision and hard work of the MSFS Northeast India Province envisioning and realising that there has to be a massive evangelisation and re-evangelisation of the youth today. It aims at bringing about a change in the life of the youngsters and thereby in the society. It has already done a lot of work among the Youth through Youth Camps, Leadership training programmes, Awareness response, Animation programmes, Self-employment opportunities, Career Guidance, Teachers training programme, Youth retreats, Faith formation, Evangelization through music ministry, and Music coaching classes.

The ministry visualizes greater growth and development of the youth as well as the society. Illiteracy is one of the greatest obstacles for development. Hence, this ministry among the youth aims at the removal of illiteracy that hampers the development. The target groups of the Fransalian Youth Mission are the School and College Students, Catholic Youth Associations, Youngsters in the different categories, School drop-outs, Unemployed youth, Disillusioned and demoralized youth and working youth.

Today, Relying on the wisdom of this direction, Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales find themselves effective in the evangelisation of the youth.

January - February

A picnic to remember: The most awaited day of the year, yes the Fransalian Youth picnic! It was a bright Saturday morning on the 5th of January, the youth were extremely excited and gathered at the Parish premises accompanied by the Director Fr John went to SFS School Ground our famous picnic spot. All the youth kept singing songs, danced on the floor with great energy on the thumping dance numbers and there were amazing party games. After a tiring and fun packed morning all headed for lunch that triggered hunger and all relished the typical picnic food. Every one enjoyed and had great fun.



Nourishing the faithful: A three day retreat for the faithful of St. Peters Parish, Chandrapur, of Guwahati Archdiocese was organized from 11th to 13th January, 2019. It was really a wonderful blessing for all the retreatants. The program started with the Praise and Worship. The retreat was led by Fr John Barman msfs, Director FYM. He shared about Fathers love, Sin and Repentance, Holy Eucharist, Healing a continuous process through life, Personal Prayer, Word of God. In all around 120 participated.

Teachers Training Programme: On 17th and 18th of January, 2019, a two day Workshop for the teachers of St. Teresa's English Medium School, Rongjuli was conducted by Fr John Barman. The training of teachers focused on



making them better teachers in general. The workshop was creditable and informative. With the help of this workshop, the teachers learnt a lot and also stated that they would surely devise different activities to make ensure a sound teaching- learning for the children as well teacher themselves.

Students Orientation & Career Guidance Programme: Fransalian Youth Mission organized a three day Orientation on the theme Motivation and Career Guidance which is an essential ingredient for staying focused, engaged and fueling the desire to achieve. This program was organized for the students of Classes VIII, IX and X of Holy Cross High School, Borkola, Assam, on 18th February 2019. Approximately 110 students participated.



Parish Sabha: The All Assam Catholic Rabha Sabha was held at Rangjuli Parish, under Guwahati Archdiocese, from 22nd to 24th February, 2019. Rev Fr John Barman was one of the resource persons. He appreciated the

community and said that the Catholic Sabha that is active in different parishes across Northeastern dioceses has nurtured leadership qualities among the youth. The endeavour was to provide the faithful an opportunity to experience closely with due understanding the mystery of Christ. It's a welcome sign that many leaders are striving for the betterment of the community.

March - April

Zonal Youth Seminar at Sonapur Parish: On 2nd March, 2019, at St. Patrick Parish, Sonapur, two day youth seminar was held on the topic Young People , Faith and Vocational Discernment. A few Sessions were animated by Fr John Barman leading teens to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

Career Guidance at St. Paul's Catechetical Centre at Rangia : A two day workshop programme on Career Guidance was organized for the Catholic youth of Guwahati Archdiocese at St. Paul's Catechetical Centre at Rangia on 25th & 26th March, 2019. Around 35 youth participated.

A Veritable Spiritual Treat for Holy Week : St. Margarets High School, Peachlands, Shillong, organized a retreat for the students from 12th to 14th April, 2019, the Friday to the Palm Sunday. There were 300 student participants. Rev. Fr John Barman msfs, preached the retreat together with Jesus Youth who assisted and helped the students to make a good retreat. The preacher was able



to lead the students to a god experience which was shown clearly from all the students approaching the confessional. It was an enriching and very rich preparation of the students to understand and embrace the true meaning of Easter.

Easter Vigil Celebration at Mirem village, Pasighat : On 20th of April the Mirem faithful celebrated Easter vigil mass asserting that the feast of Easter was a joy in the life of every Christian and. The vigil was celebrated by Christians with special fervor. During the Eucharistic celebration, 4 persons were baptised by Fr. John Barman administered to them the "baptismal of promise". And on 21st April, Easter Sunday, or Resurrection Sunday, a festival and holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Fr John celebrated with the Garo community of Mirem village.



Music Training a Rich and Rewarding Experience : In view of the Annual College Day to be held in St. Clement College, Nagaon, from 23rd to 25th of April, there was a three day music opera training programme for the brothers and sisters of the college. Fr. John Barman in a very fitting manner guided



and trained them for the programme that included music, choir and dance. The performance was laudable and everyone performed well in the function.

Fransalian Youth Convention in Mawkhlam from 26th to 28th April: The Parish Priest of Our Lady of Compassion Parish, Rev Fr Genes Shanpliang msfs inaugurated the Convention. The Inaugural function was also attended by Fr John Barman msfs, Director FYM, who was also one of the resource persons who spoke about the ill-effects of drugs and other illicit substances. Around 140 youth from the Parish took part in a two-day convention which aimed at giving them platform to share knowledge and spread the Word of God as well as to bring change in society.



Strengthening Inter Religious Trust and Respect: Rev. Sr. Justina Kahit msmhc, Diocese Youth Director (Guwahati) along with the parish youth organized a seminar on inter-religious meet to live in peace and harmony. Fr John Barman msfs, the resource

person at a gathering of 80 youth representatives at Cathedral Church Hall, Dispur on Sunday, 28th of April, 2019, said Our youth are the future of Nation and we must start from them. The sessions were mainly to engage youth and promote family values

Inspirational Seminar for Students : On 29th of April, 2019, St. Mary's School, Lakhimpur, organized Seminar for the Students. Fr John Barman was the resource person. The objective of this seminar was to give in-depth information about courses, and careers, make informed educational and career decisions, an opportunity for discussion on different career links and inputs on study skills, memory techniques and time management. Students from Cl. 9 & 10 attended the Seminar.



Teachers Workshop: A regular workshop was conducted by Fr John Barman msfs for the staff of St. Mary's High School, Lakhimpur, Assam, on 30th April, 2019, to keep the teachers abreast with the teaching-learning process and it was an opportunity for them to learn new skills. It indeed helped the teachers to comprehend the medium of connecting to the student's world.

May - June

Overview of Parish Retreat: 10th to 12th of May, 2019, It was a weekend retreat open to all men and women faithful of Divine Mercy Parish, Yingkiong. It was an opportunity seeking to grow in their relationship with Christ regardless of their present level of faith and practice. The purpose of the opportunity



was to enable them reflect upon themselves, their relationship with God and their community.

Inauguration of New Academic Year: To mark the Inauguration of the New Academic Year 2019 -2020, On 13th of May at St. Francis de Sales School, Silapathar, one day Orientation programme was organized for the student of Class IV to VII. Fr John Barman was the resource person.

Parent animation programme: On 14th of May, 2019 a One day animation programme was conducted by FYM team for the Don Bosco High School Parents, Silapathar, focusing on the importance of Parents involvement in their children's education. A total number of 140 participants were present.

Students Orientation Programme: On 15th of May at Don Bosco High School, Silapathar, one day Orientation programme was organized for the student of Class IX. The objective of the One-day orientation programme was to sensitize the students regarding the curriculum, study schemes, examination pattern and training structure. Through the orientation programme, students were also made to understand the scope and opportunities and importance to be sensitive for their career. Fr John Barman was the resource person.

A month of Accompanying Young Vocations at Umroi Holy Redeemer Renewal centre : The month of June was precisely to help young vocations Meet Jesus



and find the path to deepest fulfilment. "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full". (John 10:10)

The Youth and Vocational discernment recognizes the importance of the perspectives of the young. We stand at their side. We glimpse the future with them. We walk with them in order to perceive and discern where the Spirit is leading our young.

July - August

Students Seminar at St. Joseph's School, Manikbond: On 4th of July, 2019, a Seminar on motivation and positive thinking was organized to inspire young students. And on 5th of July Training for teachers and workshop was conducted by Fr John Barman to enable teachers to help children to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to succeed in life.



Fransalian Youth Cultural exchange program at MSFS Study House, Shillong on 7th July, 2019: It's so important not only to encourage youth to Cross-Cultural Exchange but also help youth discover new perspectives on self, God, and faith, but most importantly helps the church grow more like Christ who has come for all. The Fransalian youth of



Shillong and Arunachal Pradesh (SFS College, Aalo) shared with each other the richness of cultures through cultural dances and interactions and through friendship and hospitality.

Youth Retreat: From 8th to 10th of July, 2019, Fransalian youth from SFS College, attended in a Youth Retreat designed to help young people encounter God in a way that is new to them. It was a wonderful opportunity for the young people to learn, bond, and grow in their faith.



National Youth Sunday: Fransalian youth of SFS Parish, Guwahati, celebrated National Youth Sunday on 4th August 2019, at Hatisila. It was observed across India. The Youth Commission of the Conference of



Catholic Bishops' of India (CCBI - Latin Rite) decided to celebrate the first Sunday of August as a day dedicated by the Bishops to the young people especially in India. As per local convenience to celebrate youthfulness and Christian faith the youth organizing committee organized a common meal, some community cultural programmes, recreation, games, competitions etc. The various programmes enabled the youth to discover their true Catholic identity, thus become the best humans like Jesus.

A Perfect time to Give direction to Life: A three day retreat programme by Fr John Barman msfs on Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures; The Creed; Liturgy and Sacraments; Christian Morality; Prayer and Spirituality was conducted for the Minor Seminarians of MSFS Minor Seminary, Nidadvole, Vizag Province on August 10th to 12th, 2019



Pastoral Course on Youth Ministry at Oriens Theological College: Two full days of lecture on Youth Ministry for the deacons of Oriens



Theological College was conducted on 19th and 20th of August, 2019, by Team Fransalian Youth Mission. An experienced team of Fransalian Youth was ushered in by the Director Fr John Barman for the two days of course. The sessions fostered and confirmed a positive link between caring shepherd and youths' attitudes toward the church, although it is far from obvious that most youth pastors successfully adopt relational ministry. The Priorities, Challenges and Trends in Youth Ministry were the topics very intricately touched upon.

September - October

North East India Regional Pastoral Conference 2019 : The Regional Pastoral Conference 2019 was held from 30th August to 1st September at Don Bosco Institute (DBI), Guwahati. The three-day event, saw the participation of all the Bishops, Priests, Women Religious and around 150 youth and lay delegates from the 15 dioceses of the seven states of North East India, dwelling on the theme "Responsible Youth Leaders for a Better Church and Society" in the context of



the challenges the youth face today and its implications to Society. Rev. Fr John Barman msfs, presented a Paper on 'Profile of a Youth' and Mr Albert Deka, President, Fransalian Youth of Guwahati zone, presented a paper on 'Presence of Youth among Marginalised Youth'. Everyone much appreciated the work that FYM is doing.

Don't we all need a pause from life sometimes? : A three day retreat was preached by Rev Fr John Barman msfs, at St. Joseph College from 12th to 14th of September. The retreat was about resting, resetting and recentering focus on Christ in a way that is without pressure and it was also preached on The Love Of God, Sin and Forgiveness, Worship On Holy Spirit. Around 600 students attended the Retreat and experienced the presence of God in their lives. Many opined that they really enjoyed most everything about this retreat. Students from all faith had attended the Annual Retreat.



Bongaigaon Pastoral Conference 2019: The Bongaigaon Pastoral Conference got underway at Social Service Centre, Bongaigaon on 12th October, 2019. The 2019 edition of one day Pastoral conference was inaugurated by Bishop Thomas Pullopillil, Bishop of Bongaigaon, who gave the Inaugural address and welcomed Fr John Barman msfs, the resource person to speak on "*Christus Vivit*" to the Priests of the Diocese and to take the discussion on Youth forward. The priest delegates and lay delegates from across the diocese were present and the forum had an honest discussion on way to smooth collaboration of Youth and the Youth Animators.



The Indian Catholic Youth Movement [ICYM] hosted the national youth conference at Secunderabad, October 13 - 17. The importance of the conference was to dialogue and talk in a synodal way, just as Pope Francis asks of the church. "I am the Servant of the Lord; May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38) was chosen as its theme. It invited youth to understand their call in life and re-affirm their Commitment to God and His will, in response to all the concerns and matters discussed in the synod, just as the young Virgin Mary did.



Purpose is two ways-to give young people a chance to talk, share and express their thoughts and concerns and the church listens to. Secondly, it is to educate and impart knowledge to young people about faith and important matters in life, such as media, leadership, politics, history of Christian faith, vocation and many other topics in the form of workshops. It is a more dialogue-based programme. The theme this year planned in a way to help young people understand the post synod perspective of a joyful, youthful life and an attempt towards the implementation of the synod to grassroots youth. It was based on the final document

of the 2018 synod and *Christus Vivit* (Christ is alive). More than 500 youth including invitees and guests are expected to attend this national youth event. Fr John Barman msfs, was also one of the active participant and contributor by way of being Moderator for different Sessions of Discussions

Animation on Leadership for the Bambina Religious Sisters: One day animation programme by Fr John Barman msfs on Leadership was conducted for the Juniors sisters of Bambina Sisters at Provincial House, Manik Nagar, Guwahati on November 21st, 2019.

November - December

3rd Regional Fransalian Youth Conference held at MSFS Provincialate Campus, Satgaon - Guwahati: A three day Regional Fransalian Youth Conference and meeting of Fransalian Youth was held from 15th to 17th November, 2019 under the banner of 3rd REGIONAL FRANSALIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE 2019 and the THEME for the event was 'Youth Power 2019...It all begins with you!'

It was organized by Fransalian Youth Mission in collaboration with FAsCE India, an Initiative of MSFS Northeast India Province at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. The Conference was attended by the Youth representatives from MSFS Parishes of the Northeast India province and Odisha region



and also from city parishes of Guwahati. A total of 140 delegates were present.

Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM) Northeast Region Director, Fr John Barman msfs, welcomed the delegates and the dignitaries during the inaugural session on 15th November. The keynote speaker on the occasion was Fr Saji George, Executive Director Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education (FAsCE) India. The primary goal of the conference was to foster cross-cultural exchange and friendship, to develop leadership, team building and entrepreneurial skills among participants and empowering them to take leadership in sustainable development goals, and providing challenging learning experience for young people, the power of youth and giving them an opportunity to network among young peoples and discuss the challenges the world is facing currently.

The eminent speakers at the conference were Mr. Allen Brook, Mr Ranjan Baruah (CEO Youth Foundation), Mr. Abhinash Narzary (Advocate), Fr Carlus Barowa msfs, Fr John Barman msfs, Sr Lizy SC, and Mr. Luish Aind IPS, DIG (Special Branch, Guwahati). They deserve special compliments and praise for sharing their understanding of positive youth development whereby, young people are empowered to reach their full potential. There were also group discussions and competitions organized.

The Conference ended with a Fransalian Youth Awards Ceremony conferred to young achievers in recognition of their ongoing commitment, dedicated service and fine leadership. The Honorable Chief Guest, Mr. Luish Aind IPS, DIG, Guwahati gave away the awards. Thus, the closing of this conference was not an end, but a new starting point.

8th All Siang Districts Fransalian Youth Convention 2109: The Fransalian Youth Mission, Arunachal Pradesh Zone in collaboration with FAsCE India organized 8th



ALL SIANG DISTRICT FRANSALIAN YOUTH CONVENTION - A three day program on the theme: "Here I am the Servant of the Lord" from 6th to 8th December, 2019 at SFS College, Yeggo, Aalo. In all 160 youth from eight Parishes took part in the convention. The Convention was inaugurated in the gracious presence of the Fathers and Sisters of the Campus. The participants were involved into various activities like group discussion, community game etc. Resource persons were called upon from various fields. To name a few Dr. Rebecca DMO, Siang District who spoke on the importance of Positive Mental Health and Physical Health, Fr Varghese Manickathan and Fr John Barman msfs pointed out the importance of growing in the knowledge of God's word and in their faith in God and being good and educated catholic in order to be good leaders in the society.

On the second day i.e., 7th December various competitions (Inter Parish Cultural competition) were organized during the convention. Most Rev. John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar was the Chief Guest on the occasion and exhorted the Youth on the importance of living a sacramental life especially emphasizing on sacramental married life. It was also an occasion to win a lot of accolades and trophies and prizes as youth group from parishes showing everyone that together they can win! It was a time of celebration, and enjoying achievements together.

The Entire Gathering present there also celebrated the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Bishop by way of felicitation and a short cultural evening. Most Rev. John Thomas thanked the organisers, the fathers, sisters and the youth present for felicitating and praying for him. On the third day, 8th December, the Convention concluded with the Eucharistic procession that was conducted at the Deanery level, held at St. Mary's Parish, Aalo. The Fransalian Youth along with several Parishes of the Deanery marched through the streets of Aalo.

Finally, a sincere heartfelt thanks to the Arunachal Apostolic Community and in a special manner to Rev. Fr Vipin George the Zonal Fransalian Youth Animator for the tremendous hard work and effort that was put in to make the program absolutely fabulous.

Thanks to FAsCE India for the support.
LIVEJESUS!

Fransalian Youth Guwahati Unit Pre-Christmas Celebraton: Pre- Christmas celebration was celebrated in a grand manner on 21st Dec. 2019 at Bonda Village, Narengi. Fransalian youth organised the one day function. The whole program was a story about 'The Birth of Jesus' which had fusion of prayers, songs, dance, cake cutting and competitions and distribution of clothes. On this occasion clothes and gifts were distributed to the villagers. Thanks to Mrs. Irene Sequeira, Stella, Gerard, Prema, Jacqueline and the team (from Bangalore) for the concern towards the poor and the needy and making their best effort to provide clothes to them. Thanks to Nabam Family for



the generous financial help and the Fransalian Youth of Narengi Parish for organizing such a memorable program efficiently.

Army organised Christmas celebrations at Narengi Army Camp on 25th December: December holds special place in the hearts of the people for it is filled with feelings of joy, celebrations and merriment as we celebrate the festival of Christmas. Christmas provided an opportune time for Fransalian youth to gain a greater connect with the Army personnel as the elaborate programs and dances related to the celebrations witnessed willing and extensive participation and performances by the Fransalian youth that added colour and flavor to the occasion.



4th ALL UPPER ASSAM FRANSALIAN YOUTH CONVENTION 2020, AT SILAPATHAR:

A three day program from 16th to 18th January, 2020, All Upper Assam Fransalian Youth Convention was held at Don Bosco Campus, Silapathar. Around 160 youth spent three days in encountering Christ through worship, sessions and workshops conducted by Fr John Barman. Besides, there were also other Fathers from the community and sisters who animated the sessions and were a super host to the entire event. During those days the youth and young adults at the Youth Convention also got some time for fun and fellowship, including the talent show, competition and cultural dance celebration. On the Inauguration and Valedictory function day (Award Ceremony) Rev. Fr Emmanuel



Mappilaparambi msfs, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province was the Chief Guest and gave away the awards. Over all it was a stupendous Youth event that was so well organized.

Thanks to FAsCE India for the support.

FYRE: Fransalian Youth for Renewal and Empowerment is an Annual News Bulletin of Fransalian Youth Mission of the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales of North East India Province. Fire reveals and purifies. Fire reveals things in darkness and it purifies the surroundings by burning unwanted materials to ashes. Jesus too, like fire reveals the Truth and purifies all of us from sin. The Cross at the centre symbolizes Jesus Christ who is the foundation of this youth ministry. The Youth who accept Jesus as our savior is renewed; and those who live the values of the Gospel are empowered. Fransalian Youth Mission is committed to the cause of the renewal and empowerment of youth in North East India through dynamic and rejuvenating human service.

FYM Anthem...LIVE LOVE GIVE!

The Lyrics and music composition by Fr John Barman msfs.

*The Anthem was released by
Rev Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial
Superior,
Erstwhile Northeast India Province*

We are the youth anointed
and chosen
By the maker the Lord of Creation
We are the backbone of the
Church of Christ
Lads and lasses connected to Christ
Out of the world you made us a
nation
To announce the good news of
liberation
FYM Northeast India Voice of Youth
Empower Young People Choice of
Youth
FYM Northeast India to you we
Cling
Come Sound the motto:
Live Love Give!
A light to shine the path youth
for Christ go
Transfrom young people let its
light show
St Francis de Sales model for youth
Refined renewed Fransalian youth
Come let us follow
where he doth lead us
Righteous and holy in him shine
out.

SPIRITUAL BALANCE AND YOUTHFULNESS IN THE CRAZY WORLD TODAY

Keeping a spiritual balance between "earthly good" and "heavenly good" is important to our everyday walk with Christ. Since this is a fallen world, we automatically tap into our earthly ways. It is easy for us to be in this state, but eventually it wears us down. Paul says in (Romans 8:6-8) that to live spiritually balanced is to live life in peace.

With this being said, we can't live so "naturally" that we create idols all around us. Paul discusses in Galatians to live by the Spirit and we will not fall to our sinful nature. We still must go to the Bible whenever situations arise and strive to live like Christ daily. Christ was literally the King of spiritual balance. He was perfectly God and man. He was tempted as we are tempted, but never sinned. He knew the Bible very well and knew exactly what to say to fight off the enemy.

Spirituality is a process of personal transformation, either in accordance with traditional religious ideals, or, increasingly, oriented on subjective experience and psychological growth independently of any specific religious context. In a more general sense, it may refer to almost any kind of meaningful activity or blissful experience. There is no single, widely-agreed definition for the concept. Spirituality can never be taught by anyone. The only teacher is your soul. You have to grow from the inside to become spiritual.

Today's youth lives a hectic and pressure filled life. People see a chair and think of it as a piece of furniture. They never appreciate the hard work that has gone behind making it what it is....nor do they sympathize with the tree from which life was torn out with a single stroke of the axe. Spirituality helps us find mental peace and contentment. We learn to be mindful of what we are doing and what we see. While eating a fruit, spirituality not only makes us mindful of its taste but also makes us think of the way it became what it is, it makes us see the blossoming tree, the rain, the wind and the sunshine as well as the farmer's hard work and the patience and care with which he nurtured the little sapling into a fully grown tree.



Today's youth struggles to find the purpose of their existence the struggle to find peace and support in this harsh and fast paced world. They have started to lose faith in religion because it never gives them what it promises. They fail to relate to what is preached to them. Depression is rife among the younger generation. People frequently commit suicide under peer pressure, lack of success, lack of friends, love or satisfaction in what they do. People have lost their will power they can no longer cling to hope, hope that tomorrow might spell the arrival of brighter times. They no longer find the reason for their existence and collapse under the burden they have to cope with everyday. It is here that spirituality again comes in. "I am spiritual but not religious" is the ongoing trend. They no longer want to abide by written rules to approach God, they want to explore find unconventional paths to inner peace and material success. Young people follow spirituality because they want to take their life into their own hands be free to do what they want and whenever they want without any constraints they want to feel responsible for their own life and what they do they no longer want to put the blame of their failures on God nor do they want to give the credit of their successes to Him. They no longer want to box themselves in as A Hindu or a Christian or a Muslim. They believe that when they die, all their accounting will be done to God and then they don't want to walk through a door with a label on it because there is only one God and for Him it doesn't matter which religion you belong to what matters is what you have done in your life. And this is what spirituality actually does, it doesn't teach you about God, it teaches you the fundamental principles of life, gives you advice on how to live and helps you understand the true value of friendship, honesty, love and other qualities It makes you see the brighter side of life, see the good in others and keep your faith in humanity.

Today's youth suffers a lot under depression and stress peer pressure often makes them think that they are useless and just a waste of space they are better off dead so that someone better can take their place. Spirituality calms their troubled soul, gives them hope. It makes them think rationally. It stops people from thinking that they are just a waste of space and are better off dead so that someone better can take their place because it creates a doubt in their hearts: "How do they know that that someone is going to be better than them He or she could be worse for all they know". This gives them hope, hope that God must have sent them into this world for a purpose and that tomorrow might spell the arrival of better times. The Almighty is as perfect as anyone can be spirituality opens our mind, removes evil from our hearts helps us reach the stage where we no longer hold any attachment to this material world and where problems and poisonous words and deeds said and committed by mere mortals can no longer hurt us.

To attain enlightenment we must never approach God with the thinking mind because it may only stimulate our intellectual activities, ideas and beliefs we should try to do so with our crying heart because it will awaken our soulful and spiritual consciousness. Religion, as perceived by us, boxes us in and prevents exploration, experimentation and free mixing between people. True religion and spirituality are so entwined that it is impossible for us to tell the difference between them there are scarcely any who understand religion's true meaning so we just follow what we understand. Religion, as perceived by us, makes us a devotee of God while spirituality brings us close, in terms of qualities and wisdom, to the Almighty Himself.




Spiritual balance is an ongoing process. No one is ever going to have it all together like Christ did, but we can strive to grow in Him spiritually and love people naturally. We do not need to focus on one more than the other. Reverend Jim Nohta said, "We can become so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good." We should all strive to have a spiritual balance in our lives and pursue Christ daily.

Bless you!

Miss Miracle T, Shillong



FRANSALIAN YOUTH MISSION



SFS IS A LOFTY MODEL OF:

- Accompanying the Young
- Walking with the Young
- Defending and Befriending Young
- Empowering more than 'Powering Over' Young
- Matured Friendship
- Integrated Humanist
- Compassion and Respect due to Young
- 'All things to All' Approach

Committed to the cause of the renewal and empowerment of young

John Barman msfs



St. Francis De Sales:
*A great example of matured
 friendship of both youth and those
 who minister to youth.*

Youth everywhere reflect their times and since the very beginning, have been filled with confusion, contradiction, a variety of values and indistinct goals. They are struggling to discover where they fit into this puzzle we adults call world.

Often Youth's moodiness, criticalness, giggles, sulkiness and quarrelsomeness, brashness, daydreaming and argumentativeness - all behaviours that tend to irritate adults - signify not character but special needs. Therefore, in the youth ministry there is the need to be deeply sensitive to youth's moods and realize that many behaviors are symptomatic of inner struggles they feel - struggle with forces they do not yet understand. In the process of nurturing the young patience is an utmost need for both youth and those who minister to youth. In the sensitive task of enabling and empowering the young the gentle approach of St. Francis De Sales can be a greatest aid. In dealing with the young he himself had great consideration for them and therefore he reminds that for young severity is not pleasing. Not emotions to be displayed, but quietness and tranquility. Be gentle, gracious, compassionate, simple and good natured, charitable and patient.



Mobilize the community: "Ministry with adolescents mobilizes all of the resources of the faith community in a comprehensive and integrated approach"

Promote cooperation among ministries: "Of special importance to effective ministry with adolescents is cooperation among the leaders, ministries, and programs in a faith community as they work together in a common effort"

Integrate youth within parish life: "We strongly encourage all ministry leaders and communities to call forth the gifts of all young people and empower them for ministry to their peers and leadership in our faith communities"

Involve a wide variety of adults and youth in a wide variety of roles: "This approach involves a wide diversity of adult and youth leaders in a variety of roles. Many will be involved in direct ministry with adolescents; others will provide support services and yet others will link the ministry effort to the resources of the broader community"





Tips to

Youth Workers

1. **BE THERE:** Your presence matters more than you may realize. Youngsters want to see you among them. Your presence can prevent many mistakes which are fruits of thoughtlessness rather than malice.
2. **TAKE THE INITIATIVE:** Wish them, talk to them, smile at them. Don't wait for them to wish you and talk to you.
3. **TALK OF THINGS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN:** Their interests come first not yours, even if these interests seem strange to you.
4. **BE FAMILIAR, NOT ALOOF:** Familiarity breeds confidence, and there is no Education without confidence.
5. **DON'T IMITATE YOUTH:** Don't try to act like them in language, dress or behavior.
6. **BE REASONABLE:** Give reasons for your requests and decisions. Your aim is to develop convictions, not blind obedience.
7. **CONSULT THE YOUNG:** Give a hearing to their requests and suggestions.
8. **CORRECT, BUT DON'T HUMILIATE:** Correct them gently, yet firmly, when they do wrong. But don't humiliate them in public.
9. **DON'T BE CRUEL:** Never makes fun of someone's physical defects, or background, or lack of talents.
10. **DON'T BEAT:** Avoid physical punishments.
11. **BE HONEST:** Admit your mistakes and accept suggestions and criticisms. Youngsters will esteem you if you do so.
12. **CULTIVATE VARIETY:** Don't repeat the same way of doing things, whether it is in prayer services or meetings or talks.
13. **HELP THEM TO REFLECT:** Don't simply tell them what to do. Ask them to give their views and suggestions.
14. **PRAISE THEM:** When they do something well however small the achievement may appear to you.
15. **BE IMPARTIAL:** No favorites please, no gifts to special friends, no attention to one or the other or to a few.
16. **SEE THE ADULT IN THE CHILD:** See what this youngster can become, with your help. He/she may look raw, immature and hard to be understood. But we need to ask them; what can he/she become? What is he/she capable of?
17. **BE PREPARED:** On the problems and questions that concern most youngsters.
18. **ENCOURAGE AND DEMAND:** Encourage them in what they can do well, point out what they are good at and demand that they give of their best. If you don't help them to excel, you are helping to destroy them.
19. **MAKE THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR FORMATION:** As they grow up, more and more initiative and decisions should be left to them.
20. **GIVE THEM CHANCES TO SERVE:** Young people are energetic and generous. They need chances to help, to serve, to sacrifice themselves for a cause.

*All these tips can be summarized in one in one principle
The young need not only be loved, but they need to see that they are loved*

Mr Khraw, Shillong



PRESENCE OF YOUTH AMONG MARGINALISED YOUTH

The Fransalian Youth Movement is an important part of my life. This is where I grew up and was formed; it is my family within the Church. I am happy to share my personal experiences lived in recent years with the Youth Movement.

In the Gospel passage (Jn 20:1-8), John recounts to us that unimaginable morning that forever changed human history. That morning: in the first light of dawn on the day after the Sabbath, near Jesus' tomb, everyone sets off running. Mary Magdalene runs to inform the disciples; Peter and John run toward the sepulchre. Everyone runs everyone feels the urgent need to move: there is no time to lose; they must make haste. As Mary had done - we remember? - As soon as she had conceived Jesus, goes to help Elizabeth.

Yes, we have many reasons to run, often just because there are so many things to do and there is never enough time. At times we rush because something new, beautiful, interesting attracts us. To the contrary, at times we run to escape from a threat, from danger.

Jesus' disciples run because they have received the news that Jesus' body has disappeared from the tomb. The hearts of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and John are full of love and beat fervently after the separation that seemed definitive. Perhaps the hope of seeing the Lord's face again is rekindled in them! As on that first day when he had promised: "Come and see" (Jn 1:39). The one who runs the fastest is John, certainly because he is the youngest, but also because he has not ceased hoping after he had seen, with his own eyes, Jesus die on the Cross; and also because he had been close to Mary, and thus he was 'infected' by her faith.

When we feel that faith is waning or is lukewarm, let us go to her, Mary, and she will teach us; she will understand us; she will help us feel faith.

Since that morning, my dear young friends, history has never been the same. That morning changed history. The hour in which death seemed to triumph, actually the hour of its defeat is revealed. Not even that heavy boulder, placed in front of the sepulcher, withstood it. And since that dawn of the first day after the Sabbath, every place in which life is oppressed, every space in which violence, war, misery dominate, where man is humiliated and downtrodden, in that place, a hope of life can still be rekindled.

Dear friends, we have set out on a journey and we have come to this conference. It takes courage to risk a leap forward, a bold and fearless stride to dream and, like Jesus, to realize the Kingdom of God, and to commit our self to a more fraternal humanity. We need fraternity: take a risk, go forward

We need to run faster - attracted by that most beloved Face that we adore in the Holy Eucharist and recognize in the flesh of a suffering brother or sister - May the Holy Spirit encourage us in this race forward. The Church needs our enthusiasm, our intuition, our faith.

Personally, as youth of FYM I have worked with many young people, coming from different backgrounds. We worked with the poorest, with the marginalized. We have included them in our programs, involving them in various activities. This is our way of journeying together with the young people as FYM. We have many ideas and we want to be an active part of the Church. It is nice to know that the Church wants to give young people a voice, knowing our experiences and our point of view.

Jesus said "Learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart," Mt. 11:29b. Therefore FYM is founded with the intention of building up a civilization of Christian Love through education in Catholic Virtues. We are taught enough to give values to education but education in 'values' is questionable. Paul told Timothy, a youth in the faith, 'Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.' (1 Timothy. 4:12). God specifically entrusts young people, to be leaders- to lead by example. According to St. Francis de Sales, Youth, if properly educated, are capable of courageous faith and considerable usefulness in the Holy Catholic Church.

Young people are "burning bush" through which God speaks. This strong experience of God can allow us to respond to the cry of the young. We want to be a movement of the poor for the poor maintaining that this is our way of living the Gospel in a radical way and of being more available and prompt in responding to the needs of the young, bringing about in our life a genuine exodus towards the neediest. Migrants, refugees and unemployed youth challenge us in different partsthey invite us to find ways of collaborating and to adopt ways of thinking that are more open, supportive and courageous.

We cannot wait for today's young people to build the church. We need their energy and enthusiasm right now. Pope Francis knew that the youth are very much important in the church ministry, they need to be given responsibility to unleash the leadership and charisma in them. He called Youth that they are "The Now" of the church and the church wanted them to be active and do something to contribute to the church according to their capabilities. The country where all the citizens are working becomes a developed nation. Likewise, the church where all her members are doing their duties as a true follower of Christ makes the church prosper and be more fruitful.

We should inculcate the 'art of giving' among the youth and the happiness that comes with it, be it materialistic, intellectually or spiritually. There is much joy in giving than receiving and as youth we must take risk and not be afraid of offering our service to the church and especially to the marginalised and downtrodden ones. Youth being enthusiastic can do much more work working in groups. It is important to have youth that come together with the same motive and goals of giving something to the church especially volunteering physically (actions) because youth is everybody's prime age and can do much more physically. This is the time that youth need to be guided and nurture in order to become the pillar of the church.

The presence of youth among the marginalised people is very much a good sign of relief and hope for them especially when hope to them seems to fade away because of their past experience. Every person whatever they are, they have something good in them. However, the surroundings around them sometimes killed that seed of goodness silently making way for the evil to take lead and take control of their lives. A good seed planted in a good soil cannot grow to its full potential without being nurtured and taken care of. It is very much the same with human being, the good in them naturally will be masked and at last engulfed by the evil. Therefore, its high time for the youth ministry to take special care in finding the lost sheep, pray for them, be present with them and take center stage in their life to help them to get back to normal and

being more humane. As youth for marginalised people we should always remember to have patience and trust in God. We will be criticised in many ways in lending a helping hand to those marginalised people and especially when there seems no hope of repenting or recovery back.

In this modern world we find more youth are depressed, especially the educated ones. The lack of job opportunities and insecurity have made them become frustrated and feel like they are becoming burden to their families and thus leading them stay away from the church and civic life. We should be courageous enough to take lead and find solutions or partner with someone who can train and make them skillful in finding something that will make them grow and find their true potential to help them earn and survive and off course doing these by walking side by side with the spiritual care of the church and christian values. And dear fellow youth members let us remember "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." - James 2:17. Never be too shy and selfish to do small things that make someone smile today. I hope that we are brave and be the now of the church to help someone that hides somewhere in the corner and make them to be able to stand up again and be happy and feel being loved.

I end with citation from *CHRISTUS VIVIT*... "Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some. It is not only for those who seem closer to us, more receptive, more welcoming. It is for everyone. Do not be afraid to go and bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away and most indifferent. The Lord seeks all; he wants everyone to feel the warmth of his mercy and his love". He invites to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighbourhoods, in school or sports or social life, in volunteer service or in the work place. Wherever we are, we always have an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel. That is how the Lord goes out to meet everyone. He loves you, dear young people, for you are the means by which he can spread his light and hope. He is counting on your courage, your boldness and your enthusiasm.

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"

Mr. Albert Deka
President, FY Guwahati





"You are the Now of God"

Pope Francis celebrates the closing Mass for the 34th World Youth Day in Panama, announces the next WYD venue, and tells young people to keep saying "Yes".

Pope's concluding message to the hundreds of thousands of World Youth Day participants and pilgrims from all over the world can be summarized in one word: "Now".

Not today but Now

"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". Taking his cue from the Gospel of Luke, the Pope interpreted that "today" as "now". "Jesus", he began, "reveals the now of God". "In Jesus, the promised future begins and becomes life". Unfortunately, continued the Pope, "we do not always believe that God can be that concrete and commonplace, that close and real". Because "a close and everyday God, a friend and brother, demands that we be concerned with our surroundings". "God is real because love is real", he said.

Not tomorrow but Now

The Pope described the danger of living in "a kind of waiting room, sitting around until we are called". Both adults and young people risk thinking "your Now has not yet come", he said, "that you are too young to be involved in dreaming about and working for the future". Pope Francis referenced last year's Synod of Bishops on Youth, saying it helped us realize that "we need one another", that we have to "encourage dreaming of and working for tomorrow, starting today". "Not tomorrow but now", he said. "Realize that you have a mission and fall in love", said the Pope. "We may possess everything, but if we lack the passion of love, we will have nothing".

Not meantime but Now

For Jesus there is no "meantime", Pope Francis continued. "He is not an interval in life or a passing fad. He is generous love that invites us to entrust ourselves". The Pope invited all young people not to be "paralyzed" by "fear and exclusion, speculation and manipulation". But rather, to recognise the "concrete, close, real love" of Jesus. The Lord and His mission are not "something temporary", said Pope Francis, "they are our life".

The Now of God

At the conclusion of Mass, the Pope thanked all those who have contributed to making this "World Youth Day dream come true" in Panama. But his last words were for the young people themselves: "We are on a journey", he reminded them. "Keep walking, keep living the faith and sharing it". And do not forget, said Pope Francis, that "you are not the tomorrow, you are not the 'meantime', you are the Now of God".

Mr Joseph M, Arunachal

Four takeaways from new papal document



Addressed "to young people and to the entire people of God," *Christus Vivit* is broken into nine chapters: young people in Scripture, Jesus as a youth, the experiences of young people, a great message for young people, the paths for youth, the roots of young people, youth ministry, vocation and discernment. As is to be expected, Pope Francis quotes heavily from the final document of the synod but also from saints, previous popes - including St. Paul VI, St. John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI - the documents of the Second Vatican Council, and also from his own addresses and documents. There also is input from the document that resulted from the pre-synodal meeting in March 2018 with young people.

Here are four key takeaways from *Christus Vivit*.

Young people are rich in role models.

Be it within Scripture or through the examples of the saints, young people have no shortage of those to whom they can look for guidance. "A wise young person is open to the future, yet still capable of learning something from the experience of others," Pope Francis writes. First and foremost among the examples is the young Jesus himself.

"Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you. It is very important for you to contemplate the young Jesus as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts" (No. 31). And Jesus' mother, Mary, "is the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility. ... With open heart and soul, she replied, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord' (Lk 1:38)". Pope Francis also highlights several young saints, including St. Sebastian, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and others. Pope Francis reminds the young people that while these are models of holiness, each young person is different and called to his or her own path to holiness.

The challenges facing the youth are real. But they find their antidote in three great truths.

Pope Francis also outlines the many challenges that are facing young people today around the world, including "violence in countless different forms," ideological colonization, and the desires, hurts and longings prevalent in today's world. In particular, he highlights the dangers of the "digital environment," migration and abuse, including clergy sexual abuse.

"Thank God, those who committed these horrible crimes are not the majority of priests, who carry out their ministry with fidelity and generosity," the pope writes. "I ask young people to let themselves be inspired by this vast majority." And he added some encouragement: "Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness" (No. 107), adding: "If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails".

At the same time, Pope Francis highlights "three great truths that all of us need constantly to keep hearing": that God loves you; that Christ sacrificed himself to save mankind; and that, echoing the title of the exhortation, "Christ is alive!" He continues: "Because he lives, there can be no doubt that goodness will have the upper hand in your life and that all our struggles will prove worthwhile. If this is the case, we can stop complaining and look to the future, for with him this is always possible".

The key to making the years of youth count is friendship with the Lord.

Pope Francis reminds the youth that they won't know the "deepest and fullest" meaning of their early years "unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus" (No. 150).

"With the same love that Christ pours out on us, we can love him in turn and share his love with others, in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established," he writes. "... Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent" (Nos. 153-154).

To begin and maintain this friendship, Pope Francis encourages regular prayer, which he calls "both a challenge and an adventure."

"Gradually Jesus makes us appreciate his grandeur and draw nearer to him," he writes. "Prayer enables us to share with him every aspect of our lives and to rest confidently in his embrace. At the same time, it gives us a share in his own life and love" (No. 155).

He also encourages young people to mature in holiness and to move forward as courageous missionaries. "You have to discover who you are and develop your own way of being holy, whatever others may say or think," he writes. "Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy" (No. 162).

He continued: "He invites us to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighborhoods, in school or sports or social life, in volunteer service or in the workplace. Wherever we are, we always have an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel" (No. 177).

Discerning one's vocation is how young people can respond to the plan the Lord has for them.

Pope Francis saves his final advice for the subjects of vocation and discernment. Vocation, he writes to the young people, "is a path guiding your many efforts and actions towards service to others." It is "a recognition of why I was made, why I am here on earth, and what the Lord's plan is for my life" (No. 256). To respond, we must find "our true selves in the light of God and (let) our lives flourish and bear fruit" (No. 257).

In addition to the priesthood, religious life, and participating in work, the pope writes eloquently on the call to family life, saying that our sexuality is a gift from God that allows us to love and to generate life. He acknowledges that, with divorce, separation, second unions and single-parent families, many young people are left with a bad taste in their mouth regarding marriage. But, the pope says, "it is worth your every effort to invest in the family; there you will find the best incentive to mature and the greatest joys to experience and share. Don't let yourselves be robbed of a great love. Don't let yourselves be led astray by those who propose a life of rampant individualism that in the end leads to isolation and the worst sort of loneliness" (No. 263).

When discerning a vocation, the pope suggests young people consider the following questions: Do I know myself, quite apart from my illusions and emotions? Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses? How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church? What is my real place in this world? What can I offer to society? Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service? Could I develop those abilities?

"In the end," he writes, "good discernment is a path of freedom that brings to full fruit what is unique in each person, something so personal that only God knows it."

Mr Rajesh Tudu, Gogamukh

With Profound Gratitude FYM would like to...

Thank the Provincial of Erstwhile Northeast India Province Rev Fr George Panthanmackel and the Provincial Administration for the wonderful support given during the past one year (2019) to the Fransalian Youth Mission, Erstwhile Northeast India Province. The support, timely intervention, piece of advice and guidance has brought supply of energy and warmth to the smooth functioning of the Youth Mission.

Secondly, under the aegis of the FAsCE India, FYM has been able to receive strategic direction in the areas of ministry ensuring performance management. A sincere thanks and gratitude to Fr Saji Puthiyakulangara, the Executive Director of FAsCE India and the team for all the support extended.

Presently, Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM), Northeast India has been at the forefront of many major youth movements in the Northeast implementing various activities such as youth leadership training programs, peace clubs, annual youth exchange programs, youth catechesis, youth retreats, animation program for the school students and teachers and other youth related activities.

Thirdly, FYM is working towards the formation of Fransalian youth group, peace clubs, in all our centres, in proximity to the action plan. The youth mission has also been able to extend its helping hand to some of the remote villages and its inhabitants by doing charitable activities like supply of clothes, books and bags, feeding the poor, visiting the sick in the hospitals, visiting the old-age homes - bathing them, spending quality time with them and feeding the street children etc. Thus, these extraordinary deeds have been made possible due to the generous contributions and donations of cloth and financial support by a few generous benefactors and donors from around the major cities of India who help us to prosper in this mission of reaching out to clad the poor etc.

Fourthly, In order to work with youth it needs extra support, therefore there are Zonal youth animators (8 nos.) to coordinate and strategically carry the youth mission forward in the respective zones (Upper Assam, Lower Assam, Khasi Hills, Garo Hills, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh).

FYM also brings out a news bulletin called FYRE (Fransalian Youth for Renewal and Empowerment) every year highlighting the works of the year (diary) along with wonderful articles and reflection pen down by the youth.

Fifthly, recognizing the need for a place where young people from our missions can come together under one roof discussing current issues that affect the lives and those they will lead in the near future, Fransalian Youth Mission with FAsCE India co-organizes Annual Regional Fransalian Youth gathering for all the youth of MSFS missions across Northeast India. The Program gives a great opportunity for our youth to connect to positive outcome, for youth leadership and development that exhorts the youth to stay connected to Christ keeping the values - rooted in the spirit of Fransalian family.

Live Jesus!

Young people, be true Athletes of Christ



A Joyful time of our life is a youthful time. Youthful time is a time when we feel happy and free, we feel we are everything and nothing can defeat us, at times not even Death but in reality that is not true.

Looking at the life of youths, every youth wants to be fit. But this fitness; Is it pertaining only to physicality? Or should it be more than that. Let us look at the life of an athlete. An athlete is a person who is full of passion and enthusiasm in the things that he is doing; so much of dedication is needed to be a winner. He dedicates his entire time and energy to achieve his goal. He only sees his goal as his purpose in life.

Jesus today calls us to train ourselves 'to get in shape', by this he not only means our physical appearance but our spiritual lives. AT the beginning of this year let us look at our lives as youths, may be our spiritual lives are torn like a torn cloth, or may be it needs to be mended by a tailor. I our tailor 'Jesus' or is it our 'peer'? Are we willing to get in shape, are we willing to face every situation by witnessing Christ in our lives?

As young Christians we should follow the example of an athlete and be a vibrant athlete of Christ. Should our lives attract or scare others to Jesus? In Mathew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." How many of us as youth actually understand this phrase, do we really keep Christ first in our lives before other things or do we keep God as a Plan 'B'. Is Christ my choice of chance? Looking back at the life of an athlete he chooses to be one, to be dedicated. Why not as young catholic youths we understand this phrase and be an athlete of Christ, to dedicate our lives in serving God, because without him our life has no meaning. As youths our lives can get very messy and confused. Do I turn to God as my helper or do I look for an advice from others? An athlete may not win every time that he plays but yet he still loves his passion so dearly and is committed to it. So also in our lives we do fall, we do stumble to a point that we feel God does not hear my prayer or even so he does not exist, it is here that a real commitment and faith in him that plays a role in our youthful life. By staying committed implies that we need to pray, we need to go to church, we need to read the Bible, we need to receive the different sacraments offered by the church. It is by doing so that the Grace of God will flow in our lives, what is impossible for man is possible for God. As youths we encounter a lot of difficulties, anger, jealousy, pride, all these vices can be overcome if only our life is in tune with the Lord.

Let us all wake up from slumber and begin a new life witnessing Christ and be true athletes of Christ.

Miss Vannecia W, Shillong

One Sentence Mantra.....

from Fransalian Zonal Youth Animators

Youth Ministry
Changes the Church...
Fr Thomas E,
Arunachal Pradesh



Young people are
the Now of the Church...
Fr Saji K,
Garo Hills, Meghalaya



Youth Ministry allows
to engage in the Parish
in a meaningful way...
Fr Marcillenus, Nagaland



Youth Ministry is
pretty Foundational and
vocation work, main factor as so
many are able to hear God's call....
Fr Genes S,
Khasi Hills, Meghalaya



It's worth investing in
Parish Youth Ministry...
Fr Albert Sahayraj,
Lower Assam



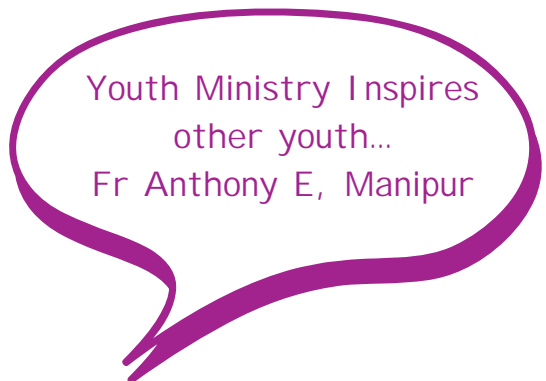
Youth Ministry brings
youthful spirit to the
Church (Parish)...
Fr Milkus T, Upper Assam



Youth Ministry Inspires
the Church...
Fr Lijeesh, Mizoram



Youth Ministry Inspires
other youth...
Fr Anthony E, Manipur



Fransalian Youth Mission

Membership Form

*Passport
size photo*

Name.....

Parish.....

Date of birth..... Age Sex.....

Mobile No..... Blood group.....

Father's Name.....

Mother's Name.....

Studying/Working.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Hobbies.....

Applicant

President

Director

LAUGHTER & HEARTSTRINGS

Wife ... How much do u love me ?
Husband ... 72%
Wife ... Why not 100% ?!!
Husband ... 28% GST on * _luxurious items_*



a hero
is an ordinary individual
who finds the strength
to persevere and endure
in spite of
overwhelming obstacles.

- Christopher Reeve

Very heart touching
(A bitter truth)

An old man
took his phone
to a Repair shop.

Technician: Nothing
is wrong with
this phone.

Old man with
tears in his eyes
said: Then why
DON'T my
children ever
call me ?



POVERTY IS NOT MADE BY GOD,



**IT IS CREATED BY YOU AND ME
WHEN WE DON'T SHARE WHAT WE HAVE**

This is an amazing picture: Abdul Raheem, an Afghan soldier who lost both his hands in war, who had suffered brain death. Joseph of Kerala and daughter are looking at the hands that once caressed them. The transplant surgery was performed by Dr Subramanian Iyer (blue shirt) of the Amrita Hospital, Kerala. A Hindu doctor - a Christian organ-donor - a Muslim recipient - that's humanity! God is Great 🙏



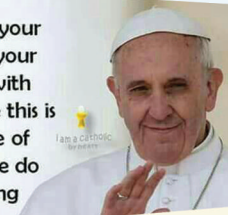
Did You Know?



Children of Indian politicians live luxurious life and later on join politics. But the son of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu serves in the army to defend his country.

Please Share this post maximum so that all Indian politicians can see this post.. by TheYouth team

Take care of your
spiritual life, your
relationship with
God, because this is
the backbone of
everything we do
and everything
we are.



Sir Winston Churchill's argument
against granting India freedom

"Power will go to the hands of rascals, rogues, freebooters; all Indian leaders will be of low caliber & men of straw. They will have sweet tongues & silly hearts. They will fight amongst themselves for power & India will be lost in political squabbles. A day would come when even air & water would be taxed in India."

(HE WROTE THIS 64 YEARS AGO)

We INDIANS have worked very hard to prove him right!!!



The oldest computer
can be traced back to
Adam and Eve.

Surprise! Surprise!

It was an Apple.

But with extremely
limited memory.

Just 1 byte.

Then everything
crashed.

A request to Ambani by an alcoholic

sir please enter into liquor
business too. Name it Pio.
Make liquor free and charge
only for snacks.



Impact and advantage of regular exercises. Those who do versus those who dont.
Better to Wakeup, eat mindfully n workout!!



FRANSALIAN YOUTH IN ACTION



Fransalian Youth Award Ceremony



Christmas Celebration at Army Camp, Narengi



Education opens up life



Eucharistic Procession..FY Walking with the Lord



Fransalian Youth Convention, Upper Assam



3rd Regional Fransalian Youth Conference 2019



Fransalian Youth Shillong... Feeding the Hungry



Mama Irene... A Fransalian Friend & Generous Giver



Sowing the Seed.. Fransalian Youth of Arunachal Pradesh



ICYM Hyderabad... a Moderator

FRANSALIAN YOUTH IN ACTION



Little Hearts yearn for Jesus



Proclamation to the young... Hamren



Shepherding the Flock



Vocation time..I hear God Calling!



Spiritual Moments ... Be with us Mary



Spiritual Moments ... Be with us Mary



Walking with the Lord in the Streets of Aalo



National Youth Sunday.. Have some fun!



FY Core Committee Meeting



SAIM Councilors & FYM National Coordinators meet, Bangalore

FRANSALIAN YOUTH IN ACTION



Fransalian Youth Clad the Poor



Gospel Dance Competitions

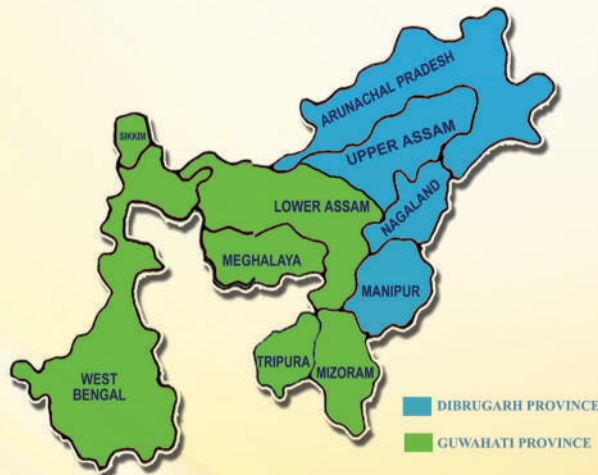


FYM is grateful to Miss Stela & Family, Prema, Julia & friends from Bangalore, Lorean & Family for their generous help.

Hearty Congratulations



Fr Sabu Francis Manasrayil
Guwahati Province



Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil
Dibrugarh Province



Fransalian Youth Choir... Installation of Two New Provincials on 24th Jan, 2020



Fransalian Youth Dance to the tune of Feast Day on 24th Jan 2020



**Mother of Compassion
Pray for Us!
Our Patroness**



**St. Francis de Sales
Our Heavenly Patron**



**Servant of God
Fr. Peter Marie Mermier
Our Founder**



FRANSALIAN YOUTH MISSION

MSFS PROVINCIALATE

SATGAON-NARENGI, UDAYAN VIHAR P.O.
GUWAHATI-781 171, ASSAM, INDIA

Live Jesus!

