



JESUS YOUTH

International Newsletter

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MAY WE BE PILGRIMS IN LOVE WITH THE GOSPEL AND OPEN TO THE SURPRISES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. LET US NOT MISS OUT ON THE GRACE-FILLED OPPORTUNITIES BORN OF ENCOUNTER, LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT. IN THE JOYFUL CONVICTION THAT, EVEN AS WE SEEK THE LORD, HE ALWAYS COMES WITH HIS LOVE TO MEET US FIRST

POPE FRANCIS' HOMILY AT THE HOLY MASS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE 2021-2023 SYNOD ON SYNODALITY.

HEART TALK

It is with immense joy that I am writing this note; I have been experiencing a special grace ever since I took the responsibility as the Jesus Youth International Coordinator. Thank you for your prayers.

In the past few months, I was able to meet with individuals from various countries and witness the uniqueness of our movement. One such experience that I fondly remember is the Jesus Youth African Prayer group, a weekly gathering in Qatar. In February (2023), I was fortunate enough to witness this gathering of around 100 young African brothers and sisters, which was fully coordinated by those young Africans. How joyous was their worship! They were filled with the Holy Spirit. This experience deeply moved my heart, convinced that Jesus Youth Movement has a very important role to play in the mission of the church with a unique relevance of evangelization in the so-called 'new normal' of present times.

A medium like "Jesus Youth Newsletter" is essential to connect us with each other, share good tidings and move forward with a common vision. After a break, we are starting the newsletter again and are planning to release it in print and digital form.

As we join the Synodal walk of the Church, I call each one of you to 'Journey' the path of synodality in every aspect of our movement; be it in the teams that we are working, our gatherings, Households, Ministries etc. Let there be outpouring of inspiration, clarity, and enthusiasm in becoming the effective and missionary evangelizers forming disciples to spread the synodal spirit of the church. Pope Francis said, "In the one People of God, therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit."

Dr. Midhun Paul
Jesus Youth International Coordinator



JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL 2022 - 2025



Midhun Paul
(Coordinator)



Vandana Maria Paul
(Asst. Coordinator)



Ammu
Zachariah



Charles Antony
Bastin



Febina
Baby



Nobin
Jose



Specioza
Murekatete



Soji
Joseph



Maria Sonia
Wilma



Fedi Jehad
Qastoon



Sebin
Alexander



Bejesh Pereira
(Mission Director)



Berly Earnest
(Animator)



Santhosh Mathew
(Animator)



Fr. Joseph
Ezhumayil
(Chaplain)



Manoj Sunny
(Formation Director)



Fr. Thomas Tharayil
(Priest in charge of
clergy and seminarians)

HEART TALK

Cover Story

Jesus Youth and the Synodal Path

Synodality has three areas: communion, participation, and mission. When Pope Francis exhorts the whole church to reawaken to this approach, it resonates well with what the holy spirit has been teaching us all along

A few years ago, I was taking a session for teachers at a Catholic college when a religious sister confronted me with a question: "What do you do in your campus gatherings?" I thought to myself, 'Wow, what's the problem now?' and went on to explain about the various activities. However, she interrupted me and said, 'One quiet girl in my class went for a Jesus Youth weekend program and returned totally changed. She addressed the class, and it touched the students so deeply that several initiatives have been happening ever since. How do you motivate youngsters this way?' I was relieved that was all she wanted to know. She was amazed by the newfound missionary fervor in her student.

This question has come up repeatedly, "How do these youngsters get motivated for a new commitment? We don't find this happening in many other trainings!" Recently a chaplain of a large University having many movements found the work of JY very special and wanted to get the recipe. Many bishops and heads of youth office want their leaders formed in the Jesus Youth way. However, leaders

in the movement often find it difficult to articulate the core dynamic of the mission motivation that the movement produces.

There is a pattern in the JY missionary journey

Looking reflectively at the troubled world around us is often the first big step. For instance, the Jesus Youth 85 conference, the namesake conference of the movement, had the theme 'Youth-World-85' for its first day, discussing the situation of the contemporary world. When a young person is touched by the Lord, he or she is challenged by the needs around and feels called to do something about it. A loving community setting is a special gift of every Jesus Youth and so one gets an opportunity to share and reflect on the above concern in such a community. This often becomes the seed for a future mission.

Once, in our prayer group, a youngster came and shared what he saw in a poor locality. The prayer for and discussion about that experience led the group to make weekly visits to that colony. Such prayer and discussions in an informal, friendly setting, where rigid rules and overseeing 'experts' are missing, often lead to new initiatives. I have heard different groups share, "We faced a big challenge, and there was no one to help and guide us. With all our hearts, we turned to the Lord, and gradually, a beautiful path emerged in front of us. With one heart, we went ahead."

This path to mission involves different steps like coming face to face with a challenge, gathering with one heart, seeking the Lord's guidance, listening to one another for clarity, participative planning and going forth together. These are simple ways in which an enthusiastic youth group responds to a challenge. But what are its results? Firstly, some kind of relevant response to the challenge emerges. Secondly, every active participant in the process is formed in missionary spirit and comes out with some formation.

Every active Jesus Youth will have some such story to share, a story of participating in a community response, some growing challenge that resulted in a missionary initiative. And what is more? Every Jesus Youth group or ministry is the result of such a group dynamic.

This Jesus Youth journey is synodal

This missionary awakening and formative process in the movement can be better understood in terms of the synodal journey that the Mother Church delineates before us in recent years. "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium," said Pope Francis at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops. He stressed that synodality "is an essential dimension of the Church" in the sense that "what the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word 'synod.'"

Synodality or "journeying together" has three important concerns quite relevant for the movement:

1. Communion: Our God, the Father, Son and Spirit is a loving community, and we are also called to live that fundamental reality.

2. Participation: There we love and respect every one, especially in our attentive listening to each person.

3. Mission: Faced with any challenge the dynamic of a Spirit led community results in going forth to build the Lord's Kingdom in love.

EVERY ACTIVE JESUS YOUTH WILL HAVE SOME SUCH STORY TO SHARE, A STORY OF PARTICIPATING IN A COMMUNITY RESPONSE, SOME GROWING CHALLENGE THAT RESULTED IN A MISSIONARY INITIATIVE. AND WHAT IS MORE? EVERY JESUS YOUTH GROUP OR MINISTRY IS THE RESULT OF SUCH A GROUP DYNAMIC



FOR JESUS YOUTH MOVEMENT, FROM EARLY ON IN ITS JOURNEY, WHEN FACED WITH ANY TASK, FOLLOWING SUCH A PATTERN OF COMING TOGETHER, GOING THROUGH A PARTICIPATIVE PROCESS OF DISCERNING AND JOURNEYING TOGETHER HAS BEEN A HIGHLY REWARDING EXPERIENCE

For Jesus Youth movement, from early on in its journey, when faced with any task, following such a pattern of coming together, going through a participative process of discerning and journeying together has been a highly rewarding experience. Today, when Pope Francis exhorts the whole Church to reawaken that approach, it resonates well with what the Holy Spirit has been teaching us all the while.

A call to deepen the charism

In October 2021, Pope Francis initiated a two-year process of listening and dialogue for the Catholic Church, called the "Synod on Synodality," in which he urged everyone to deepen their journey towards synodality. Given this context, it is relevant to consider some of the unique qualities of Jesus Youth in relation to synodality.

Emphasis on walking in the Spirit: The journey in the Jesus Youth movement begins with a personal and transformative

encounter with the Lord, leading to an active Catholic life. As a result, individuals become more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Joyous community participation: 'Partying' has a special place in contemporary culture, but in the true spirit of the Master, building loving communities and having regular meetings with friends is high on the Jesus Youth agenda. There are enough avenues in the movement to foster this culture of communion.

Informality with personal focus: Formalized rigid paths keep many people out. Informality with personal attention is the way to be welcoming and respectful for all different kinds and cultures. Thus, joyful informality has always been the hallmark of Jesus Youth ways.

The Kingdom urgency: An evangelical eagerness to connect with the world, to confront the changes, respond to the challenges with love and prayer, and seek ways to make a Christ-centered difference are all characteristic ways in the movement.

Alive in the Church: An active Catholic approach involves thinking globally and connecting locally. Jesus Youth has always given priority to being active in the forward journey of the Mother Church and being a leaven wherever each one is present.



In these times the Church is urging the faithful to be alive and active in the evangelizing mission: *'An ecclesial mentality shaped by synodal thinking joyfully welcomes and promotes the grace in virtue of which all the baptized are qualified and called to be missionary disciples. The great challenge ... is to intensify the mutual collaboration of all in evangelizing witness based on everyone's gifts and roles, without clericalizing lay people ... avoiding the temptation of "an excessive clericalism which keeps them away from decision-making."* (Synodality in the life and mission of the Church, International Theological Commission, 2018. 104)

What can kill Synodality?

One big challenge in Jesus Youth is the lack of confidence in its informal and simple ways. A humble recognition and joyful acceptance of the ordinary gifts of the movement is necessary. The temptation becomes more persistent when other successful models seem to reap the harvest much faster. As a result, it becomes important to keep in mind some attitudes and approaches that would hamper the synodal journey of Jesus Youth and seriously weaken its missionary efficacy.

Intolerance to varied voices: The warmth of welcome and apparent lack of hierarchy of authority make Jesus Youth groups highly inclusive for everyone. There, everyone is heard and counted on. However, if only the "right ones" are heard due to prejudices or personal rigidity, the foundations of synodality can become fractured.

Expert syndrome: Clergy, religious and animating adults have always

found a lively accompanying role in the JY group, without stifling its participative nature. Yet, an authoritarian approach can subvert synodal culture. This can come not only from the clergy but anyone with the mentality of the so called 'experienced experts.'

Preacher bias: With an eagerness to grow in faith, most Jesus Youth groups are thirsty for inputs. But a misplaced emphasis on teaching and content input can stifle community growth and the dynamism of simple mission.

Self-obsessed spirituality: The movement has Charismatic roots. Prayer has a very special place in it. But with an overload of pious practices and excessive focus on gaining personal favors, the group can move into a prosperity cult devoid of any sense of mission.

Project mentality: The heart of the synodal approach is a loving community moving into mission, but an attitude of worldly-wise projects approach focused on external goals can stealthily replace missionary fervor.

One of the eminent modern fallacies is the belief that motivational input or efficient training alone can generate mission or apostolic zeal. But mission is undoubtedly the work of the Holy Spirit, which bears rich fruit through a synodal journey. Like a sapling, it flourishes and blooms in the right soil and temperature, towards greater social presence and neighborliness.

Towards greater social presence and neighborliness

A person's journey in Jesus Youth begins with baptism in the Holy Spirit, which leads to a lively community where one is challenged to walk closer with the Spirit

AN ACTIVE CATHOLIC APPROACH INVOLVES THINKING GLOBALLY AND CONNECTING LOCALLY. JESUS YOUTH HAS ALWAYS GIVEN PRIORITY TO BEING ACTIVE IN THE FORWARD JOURNEY OF THE MOTHER CHURCH AND BEING A LEAVEN WHEREVER EACH ONE IS PRESENT

and build a lifestyle around the Six Pillars. This journey helps individuals become more alive in both the Church and society, enabling them to bear fruits of service and mission. It is a recurring experience in the movement that if one finds themselves in a mutually motivating ministry setting or fellowship group, they will go forth with a sense of mission and bear rich fruits of the Kingdom.

The Holy Father reminds us that "A synodal Church is like a standard lifted up among the nations." The whole world seeks solidarity and participation, but our social systems are controlled by a small but powerful few. The synodal formation we receive should equip us to be witnesses of a new culture in wider society and form leaders who can build a new world patterned after the vision of the Kingdom of the Lord. May the Spirit of the Lord guide Jesus Youth on the path of synodality, bearing greater fruits of mission and Kingdom leadership.



DR. EDWARD EDEZHATH,

a university teacher and researcher by profession, is one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth movement.

Honored with the title

of the Knight of St Sylvester (Chevalier) by Pope Francis in 2018, he is actively involved with various movements and initiatives. He is the Director, Research, Institute of Excellence, at Amoris Christi (USA) and lives in Florida with his wife, Audrey.



**DURING THE
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
FOR BISHOPS
AND REFERENTS
OF EPISCOPAL
COMMISSIONS FOR THE
LAITY, POPE FRANCIS
EMPHASIZED ON
THE IMPORTANCE OF
LISTENING TO THE VOICE
OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN
THE CHURCH**

The Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life, as part of its competence to "animate and encourage the promotion of the vocation and mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world," organized an event titled, "Pastors and Lay Faithful Called to Walk Together." This International Conference for Bishops and Referents of Episcopal Commissions for the Laity happened in the New Synod Hall, Vatican from February 16 to 18, 2023.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

This conference also provided an opportunity for the Jesus Youth Movement, along with a few other associations, to participate in the Congress and make a presentation on our work in the formation of the laity and building youth ministry. I was blessed to receive an invitation from the Dicastery to explain about the work of Jesus Youth in contributing to the mission of the Church.

The purpose of the conference was to increase pastors' awareness of the co-responsibility of the lay faithful in the synodal Church, emphasizing its nature, foundation, and the areas and methods for its application. The conference was structured into three days; the first day was dedicated to the nature and foundation of the co-responsibility of the laity, as well as the areas and ways of exercising it. The second day focused on the indispensable role of formation in achieving effective cooperation of the laity.



The final day included an audience with the Holy Father. These days were a powerful reminder of the importance of collaboration between pastors and lay faithful in the mission of the Church.

Key themes of the conference were:

Recognizing the unique gifts and talents:

This is an important message for the Jesus Youth, who often work alongside priests and other Church leaders in the mission to spread the Gospel. By recognizing the unique contributions of each member of our movement and fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual support, we can more effectively fulfil our mission.

Prayer and spiritual formation:

Participants emphasized the need for pastors and lay faithful to prioritize prayer and reflection in their daily lives, and to continually seek out opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal. Though we already make every effort to incorporate this message by making prayer and spiritual formation an integral component of our existence, we must intensify our efforts to seek out ways to grow in our personal holiness and foster a deeper and more enduring relationship with God.

Collaborative approach to

evangelization: We are called to be missionary disciples and share the joy and hope of the Gospel with young people. We have people from various cultures, languages and age groups; those with different schools of thought and from all states of life. By working closely with members of so many variances, we can create a collaborative and unified approach to evangelization, one that draws on the unique gifts and talents of each member.

Formation and ongoing education: The Church is constantly called to renew and deepen its understanding of the Gospel, and this requires ongoing formation and education. The Jesus Youth can take up this message more vigorously by placing a greater emphasis on our own spiritual growth and by actively and systematically providing opportunities for formation to all our members.

Importance of prayer and discernment:

The Church is called to discern the signs of the times and to respond to the needs of the world with compassion and wisdom. Placing prayer and discernment at the centre of our mission, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our



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activities has always been our core value, and we must make it a common practice to incorporate this message more deeply.

A culture of encounter and dialogue:

The Church is called to be a sign of unity and peace in the world, and this requires a willingness to engage with others in a spirit of openness and dialogue. We can apply this message by fostering a culture of encounter and dialogue in our own communities, reaching out to young people of all backgrounds and inviting them to encounter the love of Christ.

It was a huge blessing to listen to Pope Francis address the conference on the final day. His message emphasized that evangelization is not just about sharing a message, but about encountering others and journeying with them. He also stressed the importance of being open to the Holy

Spirit and allowing Him to guide our evangelization efforts. We can take this to heart, as we continue to seek innovative ways to share the message of Christ with others.

The Pope also emphasized on the importance of listening to the voice of young people in the Church. He stressed that young people are not just the future of the Church, but are also an important part of the Church today. He further challenged the Church to do more to listen to young people and involve them in decision-making processes. This is something that Jesus Youth can work towards, as we seek to build a Church that truly listens to the needs and concerns of young people.

Let us heed to the Pope's call to be bold and creative in our evangelization efforts by being completely open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In this way, we can be powerful agents of change in a world that is in desperate need of the love and hope of Christ.



Shoy Thomas

has been a Jesus Youth movement since 1999 and held various leadership positions within the movement. He has served as the Jesus

Youth International Coordinator, National Coordinator of India, and Regional Coordinator of Karnataka. In addition to his involvement in the Jesus Youth, Shoy has also worked with prominent corporate companies in Bangalore. Presently, he serves as the head of operations at Jesark Group of Companies.

The MISSION WALKERS



UGANDA LEADERS' GATHERING

IN DECEMBER, A GROUP OF LEADERS FROM ACROSS UGANDA HAD A ONE WEEK PROGRAM WITH THE AFRICAN MISSION TEAM AND SHOY THOMAS.



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY PRAYER GROUP, UGANDA

A Jesus Youth prayer group has started in Makerere University, Uganda. The weekly prayer meeting takes place every Thursday in the St. Augustine Library of the University Chaplaincy. Creativity has been added to bring about liveliness and fun through games, songs, plays which have encouraged more youth to join the movement. The youth engage in evangelization programs, intercession, mission work, and some charity projects. A Christmas Charity project was held in Mulago Hospital in the Children's cancer community in coordination with Temba retreat centre. The full-timers have also helped the youth grow spiritually through the movement.

IN JANUARY 2023, A ONE-DAY PROGRAM CALLED "SPRING" WAS SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA. AROUND 20 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE PROGRAM.



EAST TIMOR,
ALSO KNOWN AS TIMOR-LESTE, IS A SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRY. JESUS YOUTH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 2016, WITH FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS VISITING AND INITIATING VARIOUS MISSION PROJECTS. IN NOVEMBER 2022, A NEW CORE TEAM WAS RECONSTITUTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SHOY THOMAS.



SOLOMON ISLANDS (Island Country in Oceania)

In November 2022, two Jesus Youth missionaries from Australia journeyed to the Solomon Islands to spread the Gospel. Collaborating with the Salesian community, they conducted encounter retreats and held a six-day program culminating in the feast of Christ the King, reaching out to parishes and technical

institutions. Despite the lack of essential amenities such as electricity, TV, and fridges in the majority of homes, the locals were filled with inner joy and a genuine thirst for the true richness of the love of Christ. As they returned with grateful hearts, our missionaries declared, "The Church is alive and active."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

- ONE MONTH MISSION EXPOSURE
- MISSION WITH CAREER
- SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM VOLUNTEER /MISSIONARY COMMITMENTS

If you are inspired to take up Mission, the International Mission Team is ready to help you. Contact missionoffice@jesusyouth.org

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

(Country in Oceania)

A team of seven missionaries from Australia and New Zealand embarked on a missionary journey to Papua New Guinea from 27 December 2022 to 8 January 2023. Proclaiming the Gospel to more than 2000 young people in different parts of the country, they relied on the power of the Holy Spirit and witnessed first-hand the personal encounters young hearts had with Christ through the sacraments, Eucharistic Lord, and in each other. The celebratory culture of praising the Lord in song



and dance without any apprehensions was a joyful experience for our missionaries and fueled their motivation to move on to the next region. The prayerful procession through Koroba, aimed at ending violence in the region, was a true sign of the body of Christ at work through His people. The three retreats held in Muli (Kwabi), Mendi, and Koroba (Hela) were a resounding success.



KENTUCKY MISSION, USA

The students and staff of School of Nazareth in Florida, along with two full-timers, embarked on a one-week mission from March 6-12, 2023, to Kentucky, USA. The 18-member team visited three parishes, conducted house visits, participated in service

projects, held a Lenten mission and confirmation retreat, and facilitated prayer sessions. The mission was led by Pastor Fr. Terrence De' Silva, and it proved to be a transformative experience for both the students and the parishioners.



UPCOMING MISSION EXPOSURES IN THE USA

In July 2023, a group of approximately 24 individuals from Pelican Narrows, a First Nation community reserve in Canada, will be travelling to Florida for a youth camp that will take place from July 1 to 7. Prior to this, there will be a youth mission outreach program to Canada from June 16 to 27, 2023.

EXPLORATORY MISSION TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



In October 2022, a team of seven members, including two children, travelled to the Dominican Republic (Caribbean Islands) in response to an invitation from Italian missionary friends of Jesus Youth in Haiti. These friends wanted the team to explore possibilities for outreach among the sugar plantation workers and their families, the majority of whom are Haitians who have fled their country. The group visited the Diocese of San Pedro de Macoris, under the guidance of Bishop Santiago Rodríguez Rodríguez, and the Bishop has invited us to collaborate with him again in the future.

HELD IN TWO PHASES,
BEGINNING WITH FOUR
ONLINE PREPARATORY
SESSIONS, FOLLOWED BY
A PHYSICAL GATHERING
IN KERALA, THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SAW A FEW HISTORIC
MOMENTS FOR THE
MISSIONARY MOVEMENT



LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF THE DELEGATES

The 2022 International Assembly was held in Kerala, from November 18 to 20. It witnessed the participation of 210 delegates from across 17 countries. Held in two phases, beginning with four online preparatory sessions, followed by a physical gathering in Muvattupuzha, it saw a few historic moments for the Missionary movement.

The three-day physical gathering included key updates about the movement, discussion on formation and mission, and various initiatives from across the globe. The focus of this year's Assembly was 'Voice of the Delegates' which was in response to the feedback consensus of the previous assembly in 2019, to follow a synodal approach. Prior to the gathering, an online form was sent to all delegates to submit a synopsis of their reflections/concerns/proposals. All submissions were reviewed by a committee and categorized under relevant themes for easy presentations and discussion. Delegates from across the globe presented various topics and the Assembly discussed in groups key focus areas.

Dr Edward Edezhath brought the focus on Synodality in the Jesus Youth movement. He shared about the two-year process of listening and dialogue in the Catholic Church and how Synodality was present in Jesus Youth from its inception. He stressed that it was this listening to one another's inspirations and the sharing among the members that has been the path of forming missionary disciples, outgoing communities, and missionary initiatives in the Jesus Youth movement. He also helped all reflect and discuss in groups on how all members could continue to journey in the spirit of Synodality.

It was also blessed with the presence of Bishops and key leaders from across the globe. Most Rev. Mar George Madathikandathil, Bishop of the Diocese of Kothamangalam, Most Rev.

Mar Joseph Pamplani, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Tellicherry, and Most Rev. Mar Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad and Jesus Youth International Ecclesiastical Advisor, enriched the delegates with their words of wisdom.

During the Assembly, the International Council was reconstituted with Midhun Paul getting elected as the Coordinator of the Jesus Youth International Council. The council includes, Vandana Maria Paul (India), Charles Antony Bastian (India), Ammu Zachariah (USA), Specioza Murekatete (Uganda), Febina Baby (UK), Maria Sonia Wilma (Qatar), Nobin Jose (Singapore), Fadi Qastoon (UAE), Sebin Alexander (USA), Soji Joseph (Australia), Berly Earnest (India), Animator, Santhosh Mathew (UAE), Animator, Fr Joseph Ezhumayil (Chaplain), Bejesh Pereira (UAE) (Mission Director), Manoj Sunny (India) (Formation Director, Fr Thomas Tharayil (Priest in charge of Clergy and Seminarians).

The last day also saw a historic moment for Jesus Youth - the Celibate Commitment Ceremony of Vandana Maria Paul and Linu John. The liturgy of the ceremony was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Dr. Alex Vadakumthala and Bishop Mar Raphael Thattil.

The Jesus Youth International Assembly 2022 was indeed a time of prayer, discussion, and discernment for the key leaders from different parts of the world.



A NEW DAWN



During the second Bishops' consultation meeting in Dubai in 2019, the Bishops encouraged the leaders of the movement to go ahead. In 2022, the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, also gave their guidance and motivation for this new step in the movement. After more than a decade of consultation and discernment, three women took the Celibate commitment: Vandana Maria Paul from Telangana (Hyderabad), Linu John from Kerala (Kanjirappally), and Dhanya Elevathingal from Kerala (Ernakulam).

His Excellency Mar Raphael Thattil (JY International Ecclesiastical Advisor) and His Excellency Bishop Alex Vadakumthala (JY India Ecclesiastical Advisor) led the Commitment Liturgy of Vandana and Linu during the International Assembly.



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY 2022 HOSTED ANOTHER HISTORIC MOMENT - THE BEGINNING OF CELIBATE COMMITMENT IN THE JESUS YOUTH MOVEMENT

The discernment for celibate commitment in the movement started along with the discernment for priestly formation in Jesus Youth. During the first Bishops' consultation held in Dubai in 2010, there was a detailed discussion with the Bishops who unanimously encouraged the possibility of Celibate commitment within the movement. A few women in the movement started discerning their vocation and after several informal consultations, they began coming together from 2015 onwards. There was a deep desire among the members to explore and experience this radical life and communion in the Holy Spirit.



As Vandana's mother Mrs. Yuleta Paul couldn't join her, two of her elders, Adolf Goldwin and Sr. Mary P.T. accompanied her to the altar. Linu's parents, E.M. John and Marykutty John accompanied her to the altar. In his homily Bishop Alex Vadakumthala befittingly commented that the celibates' lives will be a witness to the fact that 'Our Lord never fails us.' The unfailing love and guidance of our Lord manifested in its fullest during the commitment ceremony of the celibates, alongside the love and support of their families, the Church and the JY community.

Dhanya Paul took the Celibacy commitment on the 27th November 2022 with His Excellency Bishop Thomas Chakiath leading the liturgy. Dhanya's parents E. J. Paul and Elamma Paul accompanied her to the altar.



IRELAND



INDIA



IRELAND



UAE



UAE



UK



INDIA



UAE



QATAR



BAHRAIN



INDIA



KUWAIT

THAT CHRIST MAY BE FORMED IN THEM

One of the major milestones for a Jesus Youth is taking the Regular Commitment. Over the past few years, JYs across the globe have been undergoing the formation journey. Many of them attended the commitment retreat and have now taken the Regular Commitment in the movement. Here are a few glimpses from the commitment retreats:



INDIA



JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS' TRAINING



St. Sylvester's Monastery,
Montefano Ampitiya, Kandy,
Sri Lanka
2nd July 4.00 PM to
29th July 2.00 PM

JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMMES



Camillian Pastoral Centre,
Bangkok, Thailand

JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL ANIMATORS LEARNING PROGRAMME

5th (4pm) to 16th (2pm)
September 2023

JESUS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL LEADERS LEARNING PROGRAMME

2nd (4pm) to 16th (2pm)
September 2023



Jesus Youth

*Go into all the
world and preach
the gospel to the
whole creation*

MARK 16:15



JESUS YOUTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

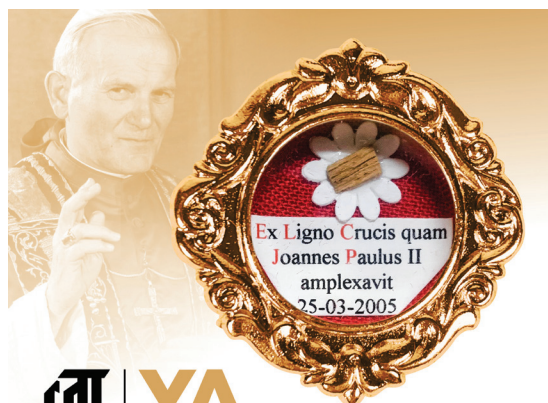
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**ST
JOHN
PAUL II** | **YA
TRA**

A JOURNEY WITH ST JOHN PAUL II

जागो Yatra is an intercession initiative of जागो wherein individuals would be traveling with the relic of St. John Paul II across India and venerating the Pope who travelled the most. The initiative would start from April 16 and end on 4th October the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, our patron.

GLIMPSES FROM THE JESUS YOUTH WORLD



Gaude in Spe, Kuwait



Enroute 2023, Ireland



Reconstitution, Bahrain

CANADA

● National Leaders Gathering 2022

The National Leaders Gathering took place from October 28 - 30, 2022 at the Valley of Mother of God retreat centre in Orangeville, Ontario. Leaders from six provinces, around 105 participants were present. Manoj Sunny (JY International Formation Director) and Fr. Shibu Kallarakkal (Chaplain- National Youth Team) led this group of leaders through thought provoking and spirit filled sessions.

● Option for the Poor Week

During Christmas time, Jesus Youth Canada hosts a special drive to focus on the 'option for the poor.' During this time, JY across Canada take up different initiatives to help the people around them, especially those who are less fortunate. This year's initiatives included clothes drives, giving out Winter Care packages to the homeless, serving soup and sandwiches in streets, helping out in different soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

● Ontario Regional Assembly

The new regional council was elected during the Ontario Regional Assembly held on April 1 2023. Fr. Thomas Pullickal helped the assembly delegates in the spiritual preparation prior to election and the assembly concluded with the anointing of new council with Fred Mathew as the Coordinator.

MALAYSIA

● Recollection Day

The JY Malaysia organised a day of recollection on March 18, 2023, at the Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Kuala Lumpur. Rev Fr Andrew Manickam OFM Cap, the resident priest of the Church of Our Lady of Fatima, Kuala Lumpur, conducted the sessions and adoration. The session focused on a call for spiritual restoration by returning to the Lord, and around 40 people participated in the retreat

EUROPE

● Rise & Go

The Europe Leaders Conference, "Rise & Go" was held from October 21 to 23 at Fatima, Portugal. The theme of the conference was, "Mary arose and went with haste (Lk 1:39)." His Most Reverend Excellency, Alphonsus Cullinan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, Ireland, inaugurated the conference gatherings. We had representation from 12 countries in Europe and the participants included 3 priests, 60 adults, and 9 kids.

To strengthen our missions in Europe, countries selected their mission country; active countries like the UK, Ireland, and Germany adopted sibling countries in order to uplift their ministries and activities. We also had our post conference gathering (virtually) on 13 November.

BAHRAIN

● National Team Reconstitution

On March 3, 2023, close to 70 committed members gathered together at the Sacred Heart Church to elect the new National Council of Jesus Youth Bahrain. Midhun Paul (JY International Coordinator) led the election process, while Vimal Thomas (previous National Coordinator) and his team welcomed the new team led by Arun Paul (National Coordinator), Samantha Saldhana (Asst. Coordinator), and six other members. During the event, Rev. Fr. Saji Thomas blessed the new team and provided an enriching reflection.

SWEDEN

● The first physical gathering of the Family ministry in Sweden was held in. Five families came together for a time of prayer and fellowship along with an activity on Love languages.

POLAND

● Jesus Youth helped with the lenten journey of a multicultural group of young people in Poland.

KUWAIT

● Gaude in Spe -2023

Around 314 Jesus Youths from different ministries and languages celebrated

National Assembly, Qatar



Recollection Day, Malaysia





Go Forth, UK



Rise & Go, Europe



Family Enrichment Program, UAE

this much awaited National Conference on February 25, 2023. We had representation from various countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Africa. The day was blessed with the presence of Bishop Eugene Nugent (Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait), Fr. Carlos, Fr. Johny, Sr. Vineetha (Carmel School), and Adv. Raju Varghese. Conference was based on the theme "Rejoice in Hope" from Romans 12:12 which rekindled the fire within us once again.

IRELAND

● Grow in Grace, 2023

JY Northern Ireland organised their first outreach event in Belfast on February 11, 2023. It was a one-day program with separate streams for couples, teens, and pre-teens. The outreach was carried out in collaboration with Jesus Youth Ireland and Northern Ireland ministries. The sessions focussed on Christ-centred lifestyle, families growing in grace, and beauty and need of Christian fellowship.

● Salt & Light, 2023

Salt and Light was a weekend retreat held near the stunning valley of Glendalough in Ireland, in February 2023. The intention of this programme was to build the upcoming 40 leaders of the campus ministry and for a time to encounter and recognize Christ in their lives.

● Enroute 2023

On March 4, 2023, the Jesus Youth Ireland Nurses Ministry conducted a Nurses Meet,

"ENROUTE 2023- LEINSTER" in St. Agnes Church Crumlin, Dublin. 79 new nurses participated in the program.

QATAR

● National Assembly 2023

Jesus Youth Qatar National Assembly 2023 saw leaders of the movement from different zones coming together on 10 February 2023, to discuss, discern and pray for the future direction of the movement in Qatar. This assembly recorded key updates about the movement in Qatar, as well as current updates including formation and mission. A new national Council was elected with Varghese Francis as Coordinator. It was indeed a joyful and prayerful time of listening to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

● Expectant Mothers and family gathering

Jesus Youth along with the Syro-Malabar parish conducted a gathering for pregnant women on 17 February 2023. Our women's team adopted each family and has personal follow-up with them by nourishing spiritual inputs and supporting them personally during their pregnancy period. In the context of GCC, the struggles of pregnant women are different and this gathering was able to bring solace to many.

UAE

● JY Annual Gathering 2022 – JYAG 22

In the UAE, the Jesus Youth UAE Annual Gathering was held at St. Antony of Padua

Church, Ras Al Khaimah on December 2, 2022. Around 1500 Jesus Youth met each other after a long break due to Covid-19 and experienced the warmth of fellowship in the movement. The gathering was enriched by sessions and video presentations related to JYUAE's future journey and various initiatives. JYAG 22 turned out to be a great celebration for the community, after the Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 2019.

● Family Enrichment Programs:

The National Family Team in the UAE has scheduled a series of Family Enrichment Programs for 2023. The first program started on March 11th with a retreat and was completed on March 12th, 2023, with 11 families in attendance.

INDIA

● Jesus Youth Kerala Family Conference

Jesus Youth Kerala Family Conference (JYKFC) was held at St. Joseph's model school, Kuriachira, Thrissur from December 29 to 31 based on the theme 'Love, Live, Lead'. The presence of Archbishop Mar. Andrews Thazhath, Mar Raphael Thattil, Mar Tony Neelankavil, and Bishop Dr. Alex Vadakkumthala during the conference made it a blessing. Together with them joined the 38 priests, 23 religious sisters, 1220 elders, 236 babies, 375 kids, 361 preteens, 329 teens, 645 families, and 638 youngsters as volunteers who came together to experience and live the joy of Christ. As an outcome of this



Cultural Exchange Programme, India



National Leaders' Gathering, Canada



Kerala Family Conference, India



Familia, New Zealand



Awaken Conference, USA

conference, 238 families took one month of mission commitment, 195 families committed for accompaniment and all families pledged to be part of a family Small Group. The three-day event was graceful, blissful, and spirit-filled. The ripples of the conference have brought forth a big wave of missionary zeal in the JY families and the movement itself.

● Cultural Exchange Programme

Culture Exchange Programme (CEP 2022) started on December 9, 2022, with a 7-day resident retreat at Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor. Around 160 participants from 12 states of India participated. Upon completion of retreat they were sent in groups to dioceses/zones across Kerala for eight days, during which they had various exposure programs to experience the culture of Kerala, and the richness of catholic faith. The program concluded with a three day gathering from December 26 - 28, 2022 at Ettakkur Parish in Aluva, where all the youth participants shared their experiences.

● Rooted in Christ

The Jesus Youth North-East Conference themed "ROOTED in Christ" was held from December 27-30, 2022, at Carmel Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, Nagaland with over 500 participants from the five North-East states - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. The inaugural Holy Mass was celebrated by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima along with other priests. The presence of priests and senior leaders for various sessions was a blessing. The conference was a time of celebration to remember the journey of Jesus Youth in the North-East and to get back to the roots which is Christ Himself; it has brought immense blessings upon the land of the North-East and many future fellowships, retreats and programs are planned.

UK

● Jesus Youth Leaders' Gathering

JYUK conducted a leaders' gathering on January 28, 2023, where all the regional and ministry team members came together to dream for the future of the movement. More

than 100 participants were present for the gathering and everyone felt the mighty move of the Holy Spirit throughout the gathering. Every single VOICE was heard and addressed and everyone shared their dreams for the movement.

● Walsingham Pilgrimage

Every year, Jesus Youth UK gathers together during the month of October, which is dedicated to Mother Mary, for a pilgrimage in Walsingham, a place believed to be the site of an important vision of the Virgin Mary. This year on October 29, 2022, almost 500 JYs, along with their families and kids, came for the pilgrimage.

● JY Teens Ministry

In December 2022, the Teens ministry conducted exposure retreats and Teens Line Gatherings in different regions, with the focus on the topic of Theology of the Body. The teens were accompanied by Nick Koepell from the Theology Of the Body Educators group. There was also a music gathering in February 2023 to equip those inclined to music to develop their talents for the glory of God.

NEW ZEALAND

● Familia 2023

A family retreat conducted in Christchurch and Auckland on February 25-27 and March 4-5 respectively, was led by Manoj Sunny and Beena Manoj. It was a real blessing and many couples have renewed their commitment and had a fruitful retreat.

SINGAPORE

● Jesus N.E.T

On March 4th, over 100 people from various streams gathered at Punggol Seminary for the Jesus N.E.T (Nourish, Evangelize, Transform) gathering. The event aimed to bring together all the Jesus Youth from different streams together for a time of fellowship, while also focusing on the core mission of the Christian faith: to nourish, evangelize, and transform lives. The different ministries shared updates of their events and plans for the future.

This was an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the past and look forward to the future. The music concert by the Music Ministry was a wonderful way to close the gathering and provided an opportunity for attendees to worship and praise God together.

USA

● Awaken Conference

Over 1000 participants flocked to the mountains of North Carolina from December 28, 2022 to January 1, 2023 for the AWAKEN conference, the national gathering of Jesus Youth USA. The event aimed to rekindle the fire of faith, strengthen the bonds of fellowship between families and young adults, and bring new life to the movement. From inspiring talks and engaging breakouts to lively worship sessions and exciting outdoor activities, attendees left the conference with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to their faith and community.



*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia, quia quem
meruisti portare, alleluia,
resurrexit sicut dixi, alleluia, ora pro nobis
Deum, alleluia.
Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia. Quia
surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.*