

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF YOUTH

The youth of India today who are progressive in all respects are the real stimuli behind the changing face of our country. We have a lot of youth icons emerging out of common walks of life. Our youth not only think but they also believe that they can materialize their dreams. Today, there is greater awareness that the youth form the future, the way they form themselves. This is not only the case in India, but it is an international phenomenon. Hence, the United Nations aptly announced this year to be the *International Year of Youth* with the theme “*Dialogue and Mutual Understanding*”. It is a clarion call for the youth of today to realize their potentialities and to participate in all aspects of life infusing change and new life, the world desires. And hence, this proclamation invites us to re-assert and celebrate the importance of youth on a global stage. In this promising scenario, when the youth have become the cynosure of the world, as missionaries, we too need to think of different ways to involve the youth in our missionary endeavours. Today, we need to give ‘youth face’ to our mission. It doesn’t mean the young replace the old. But it invites us to involve the young people more and more in our work and provide them an opportunity for God experience through this involvement.

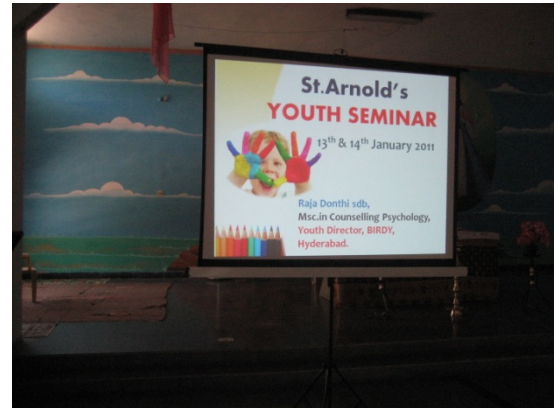


To keep our parishes and missions more youthful, India Hyderabad Province (INH) has been organizing various programmes and activities for the youth under the leadership of **Fr. Arokiaass**, the Youth Director of our Province. ICYM decennial celebration and the inauguration of the year of youth were celebrated in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh on June 26, 2010 and three of our youth leaders participated in the programmes and witnessed the role and presence of SVDs in the lives of youth. To mark the beginning of the year of youth in our SVD parishes and missions, **Fr. A. Jesu**, the Provincial Superior presided over the Holy Eucharist and inaugurated the Year of Youth in SVD Medak Region on August 22, 2010 at St. John’s Church, Ramachandrapuram. The parish youth participated very actively in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration. The youth were acknowledged of their active role and participation in all the activities of the parish. On the same day, a seminar on ‘Leadership’ was organized. ‘International Year of Youth’ was celebrated in the parish level on November 14, 2010 at St. Joseph’s Church, Patancheru. The day began with



the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. S. Arokiadass SVD, the Youth Director. During the homily, he addressed the gathering with the theme: *'Leadership qualities and what kind of leaders we need to be in the church, society and at large in the nation'*. The youth were addressed by different resource persons, on the themes like: *'Gospel Values, Time management and family'*.

Our SVD Parish Youth (seven of them) under the leadership of **Fr. S. Arockiadass** participated in the VIII National Youth Convention at Shillong from October 10-17, 2010. The theme for the convention was *'Live the Word Liberate the World'*. A large group of youth from all over India participated in the convention. The youth got to know the traditions and cultures, interacted with other youth groups. On



January 13 & 14, 2011, the Annual Youth Seminar for our SVD parishes and missions in Andhra Pradesh was organized at St. Joseph's Church – Patancheru. On January 13, 2011, **Fr. A. Jesu**, Provincial Superior inaugurated the Annual Youth Seminar. In his inaugural address, he addressed the youth on *'Inter-personal Relationship and Leadership'*. The resource person led the youth on the theme *'personality Development, Career Guidance, Love and Friendship'*. The seminar was concluded with the solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist on January 14, 2011 by **Fr. Praveen**, the Regional Youth Director of Andhra Pradesh. During the homily, he stressed upon *'the life of youth in the modern society'*. There were about 85 youths from our SVD parishes who participated actively and benefitted for their future life.

This is imperative in India today that the youth learn values from what we do and how we live because two thirds of Indian population is below the age of 35. If we can create the impact, surely, even in the future, our churches and mission stations will be filled with people and we can inspire many more to continue the mission of Jesus. The more we can appeal and allow them to participate in our mission, the greater we become relevant as missionaries today. May our founder who was a great visionary inspire us and intercede for us, as we strive to respond to this sign of the time with ever growing zeal and vigour.

