

KAIROS

GLOBAL



ALSO →

The Enthusiasm and
Dynamics of Jesus Youth 85
■ DR EDWARD EDEZHATH

Remembering
Jesus Youth 85
■ VARIOUS AUTHORS



Jesus Youth

A Missionary Movement At The Service Of The Church





MARY, MY MOTHER



Mother of God, Virgin of expectation, grant that the God-who-comes will find us ready to receive the abundance of His mercy. Mary Most Holy, 'Woman of the Eucharist' and Virgin of Advent, prepare us all to joyfully welcome Christ's coming and to celebrate worthily His sacramental presence in the mystery of the Eucharist. Amen.

EDITOR'S ROOM

DR CHACKOCHAN J NJAVALLIL

✕ @readkairos



THAT SMALL, NAMELESS YOUTH GROUP HAS GROWN INTO A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT CALLED JESUS YOUTH, OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BY THE HOLY SEE AND PRESENT IN OVER FORTY COUNTRIES.

Wonder What's in Store

It's unbelievable that forty years have passed! An undergraduate student back then, I was deeply involved in our college prayer group and the small monthly zonal youth gatherings. We didn't have a name for our group then – just a bunch of young people trying to grow in faith together. Life was simple – no mobile phones, emails, or social media. Our main means of communication were handwritten postcards!

I still remember one of those monthly gatherings vividly. The leaders spoke excitedly of a big youth meeting planned for the end of the year. A guest from Ernakulam came, who shared passionately about this upcoming event called *Jesus Youth 85*. His words and energy were contagious – we all knew that we had to be there.

At the venue I was stunned. The auditorium at Sacred Heart College, Thevara, was overflowing – over 2,000 young people! We had to be satisfied on the balcony. The whole atmosphere was electric – songs, talks, testimonies, and a kind of youthful enthusiasm that was just unforgettable. What touched me most were the music and testimony sessions – they were so alive, so real.

At one point, we were divided into groups based on our talents. I remember feeling a bit down because I doubted having any particular gift. But since I had to opt, I joined the 'letter writing' ministry. Looking back now, I smile at that choice – maybe that's where it all began. Even after forty years, I find myself still involved in writing and communication. Perhaps that was God's little nudge, guiding me towards what He wanted me to do.

And now, here we are in 2025. That small, nameless youth group has grown into a worldwide movement called *Jesus Youth*, officially recognised by the Holy See and present in over forty countries. From a handful of prayer groups and parish gatherings, it has become a beautiful way of life, inspiring thousands of young people across the globe.

As we look back, it's impossible not to stand in awe at what God has done. Truly, His ways are beyond imagination. And it makes you wonder, with a sense of wonder and gratitude, what more He has in store for this movement in the years to come.

To mark this Ruby Jubilee in a special way, we at *Kairos Global* decided to reach out to some prominent figures in the Church who have walked alongside *Jesus Youth* and ask them to share their memories and hopes. Naturally, we turned to the one person who could make this happen – *Manoj Sunny*.

Manoj, who has been the face of *Jesus Youth* at various levels of the Church, helped us prepare the list. Thanks to his warm relationships and witness, everyone we approached responded with great enthusiasm. He also shared a short reflection on the future of *Jesus Youth*, identifying four emerging signs that show how the Holy Spirit continues to lead this movement.

As we celebrate this milestone, we remember with deep gratitude all who have journeyed with us – the known and the unknown, and those who have gone ahead to heaven. Like the boy who offered his five loaves and two fish, we too offer ourselves to God, thankful to be part of the great miracle He continues to work through *Jesus Youth*.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

chackochan.njavallil@jykairosmedia.org



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For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

PATRON

Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil
(Ecclesiastical Advisor, Jesus Youth International)

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Fr Joseph Ezhumayil
(Jesus Youth International Chaplain)

PRINTER AND PUBLISHER

Dr Edward Edezhath

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr Midhun Paul
(Jesus Youth International Coordinator)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr Chackochan Njavallil

MANAGING EDITOR

Joshy Joseph, Houston, USA
(joshy.joseph@jykaivosmedia.org)

ISSUE EDITORS

Fr Alvin Mundackal	Aleena Joy
Bro. Anthony	Jyothsna DSouza
Kunnumpurath	Sijo Thomas
George Paul	Tania Rose Josun

CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Anto Puthur, Cochin, India +91 96055 11644
(circulations@jykaivosmedia.org)

ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION COORDINATORS

AUSTRALIA: Mintu Vijoy, Melbourne +61 452 538 785

BAHRAIN: Neenu Maria Jibin +973 33715472

BANGLADESH: Tias Victor Palma +880 1717-152023

CAMBODIA: Sophearong Ravy, Phnom Penh +855 96 426 5472

CANADA: Abhilesh Thomas +1 289 952 1785

EAST TIMOR: Noevia Maia Amaral +670 7625 5967

GERMANY: Anna Paul, Berlin +49 176 83495451

INDIA: Austin Michael, Mangalore +91 8277405251

IRELAND: Suresh V Joy +353 87 963 0904

ISRAEL: Darees Augustine +972 52 4415530

ITALY: Anoop P Varghese +39 3884256258

KUWAIT: Rajeev J Chacko, Ahmadi +965 66388310

MALAYSIA: Sweetly Kamala Prasad +60 162568139

NETHERLANDS: Jojo Varghese, Utrecht +31 684974552

NEW ZEALAND: Derick Daniel, Auckland +64 29 127 0650

OMAN: Jiju Paul, Ruwi +968 99467516

PAKISTAN: Asif Emmanuel +92 3022534254

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Abin Michael +675 7479 4368

QATAR: Sijo C Johny +974 3357 2544

SINGAPORE: Savio Francies +65 9021 9798

SRILANKA: Sonal Fernando +94 77 3818399

SWITZERLAND: Anu Jose +41 799177100

THAILAND: Vineeth Andrew +66 86 372 6601

UAE: Thomas Jose +971 521316868

UGANDA: Mboowa Ronald +256 706844152

UK: Mathachen Maduckakuzhy +44 7969 365686

USA: Denny Joseph +1 (832) 640-3106

FINANCE COORDINATOR

Leena Shaju, Cochin, India +91 62382 79115; finance@jykaivosmedia.org

DESIGN

Mustard Tree, Delhi, India

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MAILING ADDRESS

Kairos Media USA

3010 Mason Grove Ln
Pearland, TX, USA. 77584

info@jykairosmedia.org
+1 832 592 3675

Kairos Media UK

St Charles Street,
Sheffield S9 3WU,
United Kingdom

infouk@jykairosmedia.org
+ 44 7969365686

Kairos Media India

No 8/174, Navodaya
Studio Complex,
Thengod P.O.,
Cochin, Kerala,
India. Pin: 682030

infoin@jykairosmedia.org
+91 9895711718



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ASK



FR. BITAJU

Fr Bitaju Mathew O.S.S.T. belongs to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives (The Trinitarians). He serves as the Associate Pastor at the Pastorate of St Lawrence Martyr Parish, Hanover, and Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Laurel, Maryland, USA. He is a member of the Jesus Youth International Formation Team.

➤ Why do we pray for the dead?

The practice of praying for the dead is deeply rooted in Catholic theology and tradition, reflecting the belief in the communion of saints and the hope of eternal life. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers insights into this practice, emphasising the significance of intercessory prayer and the Church's understanding of life after death.

Communion of Saints: The Catholic Church teaches that all members of the Church – those on earth (the Church Militant), those in purgatory (the Church Suffering), and those in heaven (the Church Triumphant) – are united in a spiritual communion. This belief is articulated in the *Catechism*: 'The Church is a communion of saints. This expression refers to the communion of the faithful, the communion of the holy things, and the communion of charity' (CCC 946). Praying for the dead acknowledges this interconnectedness and the belief that the faithful can assist one another through prayer.

Purgatory: The Church believes in the existence of purgatory, a state of purification for those who have died in a state of grace but still need to be purified before entering heaven. *The Catechism* states, 'All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven' (CCC 1030). Prayers for the dead, particularly through Masses and other intercessory prayers, are seen as a means of aiding the souls in purgatory on their journey to heaven.

Intercessory Prayer: The practice of praying for the dead is also rooted in the understanding of intercessory prayer. *The Catechism* teaches that 'in the communion of saints, a prayer for someone who has died can be effective' (CCC 958). The faithful on earth can intercede for the souls of the deceased, asking God to grant them mercy and to expedite their purification process.

Biblical Foundations: The practice of praying for the dead is supported by biblical references. For example, in 2 Maccabees 12:46, it is stated, *Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be freed from their sin*. This passage reflects the belief in the efficacy of prayers for the deceased, a view that has been upheld by the Church throughout its history.

Hope and Solidarity: Praying for the dead also expresses hope for God's mercy and the ultimate reunion of all believers in heaven. It serves as a reminder of the transient nature of life and the importance of living in a way that prepares one for eternal life. *The Catechism* emphasises that 'by praying for the dead, we express our faith in the resurrection and of our hope for eternal life' (CCC 1680).

In summary, the Catholic Church prays for the dead as an expression of the communion of saints, a belief in purgatory, and the power of intercessory prayer. This practice is rooted in scripture and reflects the Church's hope for the salvation of all souls.



YOUCAT 289

MUST WE ALLOW A PERSON TO USE HIS FREE WILL, EVEN WHEN HE DECIDES IN FAVOUR OF EVIL?

For a person to be able to use his freedom is a fundamental right based on his human dignity. An individual's freedom can be curtailed only if the exercise of his freedom is detrimental to the freedom of others. [CCC 1738, 1740]

Freedom would be no freedom at all if it were not the freedom to choose even what is wrong. It would violate the dignity of a man if we did not respect his freedom. One of the central duties of the State is to protect the liberties of all its citizens [freedom of religion, of assembly, and association, freedom of opinion, freedom to choose one's occupation, and so on]. The freedom of one citizen is the limit to the freedom of another.



Popetalk

DR. KOCHURANI JOSEPH



Prayer Intentions December

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



As pilgrims of hope, we must view our troubled times in the light of the resurrection. To hope is not to know, as we do not already have the answers to all the questions. But we have Jesus. We follow Jesus and so we hope for what we do not yet see.

There's no template for synodality across all countries. There is no single model for what synodality should look like in all countries and cultures. We have to be very clear; we're not looking for a uniform model. It is, rather, a conversion to a spirit of being the Church, and being missionaries, and building up, in that sense, the family of God.

Today we have become experts in the smallest details of reality, but we have lost the capacity of seeing the big picture, a vision that holds things together through a greater and deeper meaning. Christian experience wants to teach us to look at life and reality with a unified gaze.

Our time is marked not just by tension and confusing ideologies but also by a growing search for spirituality, truth, and justice, especially among young people. Feed your hunger for truth and meaning. Welcoming and caring for this desire is one of the most beautiful and urgent tasks for all of us.

Sadness and disappointments can give rise to unexpected joys and hope when one discovers that Christ 'walks with us and for us' in life. It is the Risen One who radically changes our perspective, instilling the hope that fills the void of sadness.

Among the vocations to which men and women are called by God, marriage is one of the noblest and most elevated. Marriage is a path to holiness and provides an example that the world today urgently needs of how to help one's children discover God's boundless love and tenderness, and strive to make them love Him in return as He deserves. Yet, to young people, the family as the Creator intended it could seem outdated and boring. Dear couples, I invite you to persevere courageously on the path, sometimes difficult and laborious, but luminous, that you have undertaken and put Jesus at the centre of your families, your activities, and your choices.

JESUS YOUTH



Dr Edward Edezhath, one of the pioneers of Jesus Youth, gives us a glimpse of the growth of the movement.

The Enthusiasm and Dynamics of Jesus Youth 85

→ Just a couple of weeks ago, I found myself in Houston, TX, standing outside St Angela Merici Church when I met Josy and his wife. A few other Jesus Youth were there too, and soon we were chatting away like old friends. Josy, it turned out, was the one who designed the Christmas card we used to prepare for the Jesus Youth 85 conference! I even had a PDF copy of it on my phone.

As we stood there reminiscing, Josy began to share some wonderful memories from those hectic but grace-filled days leading up to that historic gathering forty years ago. I was glad that I had most of the movement's early materials stored online. When somebody asked, 'Could we take a look at those Jesus Youth materials? It would be great to see what you all did back then,' I was more than happy to oblige.

Later that evening, we gathered at home, opened up some old files, and dived into the story of Jesus Youth 85. The group was full of questions – curious, inspired, and eager to learn about the roots of the movement. As I watched their excitement grow, I realised I was the one most moved. What began as a casual sharing turned into a heartwarming journey back to some of the most joyful days and the people who made them unforgettable.

A JOURNEY FROM 1976

One of the things that caught everyone's attention that evening was a simple but precious document – the *Milestones*, a list I've been keeping since 1976. It's a record of small beginnings that slowly shaped something much bigger.

In June of that year, two large retreats were held in Kerala, and in Cochin a lively prayer community, St Teresa's Group, was born. A couple of months later, a retreat for college students took place at St Paul's, Kalamassery. From then on, year after year, something remarkable was happening – interconnected events that brought together young people from across Kerala.

Among the photos we looked at was one from 1977 – a follow-up gathering from the previous year's Kalamassery retreat. That snapshot offered a glimpse into the fashion and energy of youth from that era. Some of those young faces would go on to become key leaders who guided the growing movement in its early years.

A SEVEN-YEAR JOURNEY

Then came the first big leap. In 1978, we organised the first major youth gathering proposed by Fr Fio – and I still have a pink brochure and a few old programme badges from that event. It was the culmination of years of effort: local youth meetings in different cities, five central retreats in Cochin, and countless small initiatives by passionate young people.

That December, nearly 800 participants came together at Sacred Heart College, Thevara. My friends were full of questions about that year – how it all came together, what kind of work young people were doing then, and what kept them so motivated.

We also looked at a 1981 document – the first attempt at a strategic plan for a connected statewide movement. It proposed dividing Kerala into 14 zones, each with its own youth leadership. 'What led to that?' someone asked. The answer brought back memories of a great challenge from Fr Gino: to form a dedicated youth team and adopt a more focused approach to youth ministry. That spark led to a series of consultations and, eventually, to the structure that would carry the movement forward.

THE FIRST LINE GROUP

Soon, we reached a photo of the *First Line Group* – the key architects of what became *Jesus Youth 85*. Eighteen of us began meeting in July 1982, after two major self-awareness and leadership training programmes. We stayed connected for years, not just as a team, but as a close-knit community with a shared sense of mission.

We weren't just organising events; we were building zones, forming leaders, and training others in self-awareness, ministry, and leadership. Those years were a time of vision, friendship, and deep commitment to helping young people meet Christ in real, transformative ways.

THE LEGACY OF A POPE

Looking back, it's amazing how the wider Church journeyed alongside us. In 1978, as we were preparing for our first big youth conference, a new pope was elected – John Paul II, the young, vibrant shepherd who would become the great champion of youth. His words and example continually inspired us.

Then came his bold announcement: **1985 would be the International Year of Youth.** Suddenly, the whole world seemed to be looking at young people with new hope. The Jesus Youth network – by then a statewide charismatic youth movement – joined that global wave with enthusiasm.

I even found a few photos from the International Charismatic Youth Conference held in Rome in 1985, which I was blessed to attend. It brought together youth from 75 countries, led by Fr Fio. I had written an article about that experience for a local newspaper, describing our encounter with Pope John Paul II. The ideas and inspiration we received there deeply influenced how we shaped *our own* conference later that year.

A NAME AND THE TEAMS

Next, we looked at some old planning notes – pages filled with ideas, names, and sketches. The *First Line* group had proposed four possible names for the 1985 conference. Finally, one was chosen at a meeting in Trichur. The three main themes, *Youth World 85*, *Jesus World 85*, and *Jesus Youth 85* – reflected the movement's unfolding vision.

We even reviewed the original programme sheet. Our dream was to create something fresh and different from anything young people had experienced before – creative, participative, and alive. One memorable session used a sheet filled with different artistic faces of Jesus. It became a conversation starter, inviting participants to reflect on their personal image of Jesus and their call to mission.

And of course, we spent some time talking about the conference logo – the one that later became the *movement's* logo. Designed by Jose Jacob, it captured the spirit of Jesus Youth beautifully. I showed everyone

When we tallied the numbers, we found about 216 farmers, 77 teachers, 345 students, 270 workers, and many others – nurses, businesspeople, artists, and so on. Each came with their own dreams and callings. These details helped us organise workshops that spoke directly to real lives – and reminded us that holiness grows in everyday contexts.

the preparatory leaflets and materials Jose created to help participants enter into the vision of that groundbreaking gathering.

WHO WERE THE PARTICIPANTS?

Someone asked, 'Who actually attended the 1985 conference?' That led us to the registration forms – a fascinating snapshot of the youth of that time. Participants shared not only their professions but also their interests and areas of mission.

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A PROGRAMME FULL OF SURPRISES

The Jesus Youth 85 conference, held from 26-29 December 1985, was organised by the Charismatic Renewal of Kerala and coordinated by a large and passionate team. We had one big question before us: *Can we have a youth conference without endless talks?*

After much discussion, we decided on one major input each day and filled the rest of the time with creative, participatory sessions: **Day 1:** *Youth World 85* by Fr Gino, **Day 2:** *Jesus World 85* by Fr Vellanikal, **Day 3:** *Jesus Youth 85* by Alicekutty

In between, we packed the days with panel discussions, serendipity exercises, picture-based reflections, life-situation workshops, theatre, and music. One highlight was a panel titled *Being a Christian Today* featuring a politician, a professor, a social worker, and a police officer – all sharing how they witnessed

to faith in their public life.

Looking back, we could all see that the seven years of preparation bore fruit in that dynamic, joy-filled event. It marked the beginning of a new phase – a movement alive with ministries, creativity, and missionary zeal that soon spread across India and beyond.

PLANS THAT BROUGHT EVERYONE ALIVE

As Josy and I revisited those old memories, what stood out most was the sheer energy of those preparatory days. People from every corner of the state – dancers, artists, writers, theatre enthusiasts, planners, musicians – all got involved. Of course, not everyone understood what we were doing. Some felt it was 'too worldly' or 'too artistic.' But our conviction was clear: *Jesus was building a movement that spoke to the youth of our times.*

Jose Jacob, our programme and publicity coordinator, regularly brought out a series of beautiful leaflets, encouraging the formation of a new culture, small groups, and offering reflection materials. The creativity, energy, and teamwork of those days truly embodied what Jesus said: *You will know a tree by its fruit.*

Forty years later, that fruit is still ripening. What began in 1978 and took a big leap in 1985 continues to inspire, form, and send out young people around the world. The pilgrimage goes on – and the joy of Jesus Youth 85 still lives in every new heartbeat of the movement.

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One of the pioneers of the Jesus Youth movement, an international preacher and author, **Dr Edward Edezhath** is a retired professor from St Albert's College, Ernakulam. He is presently a researcher at Amoris Christi in Florida, USA.

MISSION

TALK

A STORY OF
HOPE, SONG,
AND DIVINE
SURPRISES

Neil George and Sunny Gudinho
share their experiences of going
on mission to Madagascar.

With the people of Ambohimasina
after a programme

For nearly a month, our small team – the Sisters of the Destitute, Fr Dinny VC, Fr Bibin CST, and us, Sunny and Neil ventured into the beautiful and rugged landscapes of Madagascar. We journeyed through the Dioceses of Antsirabe and Morondava, and what we found there has changed us forever.

Our mission was simple: to be witnesses of Christ's love. But the ways in which

He revealed Himself to us, through the incredible people we met, were anything but ordinary. Everywhere we went, we were struck by the humble lifestyle of the people. Yet, in this simplicity, we found pure joy. The villages were alive with the laughter of numerous children, their faces shining with an innocence that captivated our hearts. We were welcomed not as strangers, but as family. In every village, we were greeted with



vibrant *Tongasoa* (Hearty Welcome) songs. We couldn't help but get lost in the vibrancy of their music and dance, their lively rhythms a perfect expression of their joyful souls.

THE WOMAN WHO TAUGHT US HOW TO LIVE Maami of Ambohimena

Our journey began in Ambohimena, where we met a woman named Maami. In the quiet halls of the Missionary Sisters of Charity convent, we found her battling a rare mouth cancer. Her situation was excruciating until Sr Christy MC told her the story of the late Ajna George. Called the 'Nightingale of the Holy Eucharist,' Ajna was a young JY from Kerala who had battled a similar form of cancer with radiant faith. It was as if a light was switched on in Maami's soul. The story, which had travelled all the way from India, connected two souls, continents apart. When we met and prayed with Maami, we didn't find a woman defeated by illness. We found a soul on fire, unafraid of death for, as she said, she was 'meeting Jesus every day in the Eucharist.' Maami, in her suffering, became our teacher. According to the sisters, it is through the intercession of Ajna George that today Maami has a strong and unshakable faith.

A THIRST DEEPER THAN ANY RIVER

The Road to Ambohimasana

Have you ever ridden a bike for 30 kilometres on roads that are more dust than dirt, just to get to church? We have. With dust completely masking our faces and with aching bodies, we wondered if anyone would even be there. When we finally arrived in Ambohimasana, the sight that greeted us washed away all our pain. The church, so remote, was overflowing with hardworking people whose devotion was awe-inspiring. Their deep love for the Holy Eucharist was visible in their active and heartfelt participation. They sang with their



It was as if a light was switched on in Maami's soul. The story, which had travelled all the way from India, connected two souls, continents apart. When we met and prayed with Maami, we didn't find a woman defeated by illness.

Clockwise from top: The Tractor to Ankilizato village; Sunny holding a baby of a lady we met on the street; Holy Mass celebrated in a village where we preached to non-Christians.

Their deep love for the Holy Eucharist was visible in their active and heartfelt participation. They sang with their whole beings. And though they have little, they offer their portion to the Lord with such generosity. It was a powerful lesson for us: they lovingly share whatever they have, welcoming everyone with a richness of joy that material wealth can never buy.



Joyfully greeted by a crowd of children during a house visit.

whole beings. And though they have little, they offer their portion to the Lord with such generosity. It was a powerful lesson for us: they lovingly share whatever they have, welcoming everyone with a richness of joy that material wealth can never buy.

GETTING LOST AND FINDING GOD'S PLAN

The Tractor to Ankilizato village

One of the most powerful lessons came when everything went wrong. We were on a tractor, carrying the Blessed Sacrament, on our way to a remote village in the forest. We were supposed to arrive at 9.30 am, but hours passed, and we realised we were lost. Frustration could have set in, but God had other plans. The village we stumbled upon was a place where a mission school once stood. Our accidental arrival was like a seed of hope planted in forgotten soil. After being with the people and sharing God's love with them, we finally got directions and arrived at our original destination at 1.00 pm, hours late. We expected an empty church. Instead, we found everyone – the children, the elders – waiting patiently. They hadn't given up. That day, we learned that even when we are lost, God knows exactly where we are.

A JOURNEY HELD BY GRACE: OUR GRATITUDE

This mission was carried by the love and sacrifice of so many, and we want to express our deepest thanks.

A very special thanks to the leadership of the Sisters of the Destitute: Mother Liss Grace SD (Superior General), Sr Francia SD (General Counsellor of Mission and Evangelisation), Sr Merin Jose (Mission Superior of Madagascar Mission) and the entire team of young and dynamic resourceful SD sisters for their vision, dream, planning, and implementation of this mission in Madagascar.

To the Superiors and Sisters of the Destitute of all five communities (Ambohimena, Ambohimasana, Soavina, Ankilizato and Ankilimida) who wrapped us in their care, giving us a place to rest and nourishing us with food and kindness.

To Fr Dinny VC and Fr Bibin CST, our spiritual fathers on this journey. They listened to our confessions, celebrated Mass with us



every day, and were the pillars of strength that held our team together.

A special word of appreciation goes to the CMI priests in the Morondava diocese. Their local knowledge and guidance were invaluable, and their hospitality and support in all the local arrangements made our work in that remote region possible.

While visiting the Betania sisters, who live on an island, we witnessed something that perfectly captures the impact of these dedicated servants of God. As we arrived, a group of little children came running toward us, their faces lit up with joy. They were so excited to see the priests and nuns, took hold of their hands, and followed them around, smiling with such innocent delight. Watching this, we couldn't help but think that the reason these children were so drawn to them wasn't just curiosity, but a genuine experience of love. In a place like Madagascar, their presence is more than just a mission; it's a living reminder of hope, kindness, and God's love. Everywhere we went, you could see it – the light in people's eyes, especially the little ones, who somehow know that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Anticlockwise from top: The whole team dancing to a Malagasy song in Soavina parish; Neil receiving a basket of rice and a live duck from a village as a token of gratitude; Maami, the woman who was inspired by the life of Ajna George

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE

We are sure that our work was to plant a seed of God's word in this land; growing it into a plant is God's will. There is so much hope in this mission land, especially for uplifting the youth and families to live a life of dignity. We went to give, and we received so much more from the beautiful people of Madagascar. ■■

Prior to his current commitment as JY India Coordinator, **Sunny Gudinho** had been working as a college principal in Harihar, India. He is married to Patrishiya Dsouza and they are blessed with two daughters.

Neil George Kottoor is an entrepreneur and a music educator. He is married to Amulya and they live in Kochi, India. He is also part of the JY India formation team.

ENCOUNTER

Per Aspera ad Astra

(Through Difficulties to the Stars)



On the occasion of St John Henry Newman being proclaimed as the 38th Doctor of the Church, **Chris Colaco** writes about England's most famous convert to Catholicism.

John Henry Newman, born in London on 21 February 1801, was the eldest of six children in a family of modest means. His early education, intellectual curiosity and love of learning guided him to the venerable halls of Trinity College, Oxford. Raised in a devout Anglican household, Newman developed a deep familiarity with Scripture from an early age and was an avid reader of it. In his later writings, he recalled experiencing profound moments of spiritual awakening at the age of fifteen, numinous encounters that would shape the direction of his entire life.

Being a part of the Anglican establishment in Oxford, he desired to be a minister of Christ and to take a vow of celibacy, which was uncommon at the time. He pursued Anglican orders as a way of dedicating his whole life to God. The day after his ordination as a deacon in 1824, he wrote, 'I have the responsibility of souls on me to the day of my death.' In the following year, he was ordained a priest and was a curate in Oxford. As a curate, he was known as a kind-hearted man, especially for visiting all his parishioners, notably the sick and the poor.

In 1826, Newman began tutoring at Oriel College, where he lectured to students and guided them in their faith. He took this duty very seriously, recognising that rekindling young students' enthusiasm and helping them return to faith were essential religious responsibilities. Because of this, he was accused of having favourites due to his zeal, and as a result, the college refused to assign him students to tutor.

This gave him extra time for study,

during which he came to appreciate the beauty of the patristic fathers – those who passed down the faith and established a solid foundation for early Christianity. He was indeed seeking the 'true Church' within Anglicanism. After dedicating time to studying the patristic fathers, John Henry Newman experienced one of the most decisive and transformative periods of his intellectual and spiritual life. Early Church Fathers like Augustine, Athanasius, Ambrose, and many others became for him living witnesses of the undivided Church. It was a profound realisation for him to recognise that the early Church was not merely a fellowship of believers but a sacramental body that preserved unity through bishops and councils. This historical and patristic study inspired him to seek a deeper understanding, and in fact, St Athanasius profoundly influenced his works. As he extensively studied how doctrines in the Church develop organically through conflict and reflection while remaining faithful to their essence, he later wrote a masterpiece, *An essay on the development of Christian Doctrine* in 1845, where he articulated how the development of doctrines preserve apostolic faith just as a mature tree preserves the life of its seed. Throughout his reflection and study, he also had a transformative journey not only in the intellect but also spiritually in which the Church Fathers shaped his prayer life, his view of holiness, his Marian devotion, and what it meant to belong to the Body of Christ. The fruit of this study and reflection was not only intellectual illumination but also came at a personal cost. After years of grappling with his conscience, Newman

resigned from his position at Oxford and retreated to Littlemore, where he led a semi-monastic life of prayer and study. It was here, among his translations of the Fathers, that he finally realised that the Catholic Church was the true continuation of the ancient Church he had come to love, a conviction that would later crystallise in his famous words, 'To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.' Moved by this conviction and ready to act upon the truth he had discovered, Newman sought full communion with the Catholic Church.

At Newman's request, Dominic Barberi, an Italian Passionist priest, arrived at Littlemore on 8 October 1845 to hear his confession. Newman was received into the Catholic Church, marking a significant step in his journey. His conversion to Catholicism had numerous consequences. He lost his friends, his family rejected him, and he could no longer be a fellow at Oxford. In his book *Meditations and Devotions*, he describes this stage as a profound moment that moved him to depend entirely on God.

A year later, he was sent to Rome for further studies and, on 30 May 1847, was ordained a Catholic priest. He also discovered the model of community life established by St Philip Neri, the Oratorians. Feeling drawn to Neri and the community he, with the approval of Pope Pius IX, established the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Birmingham in 1848.

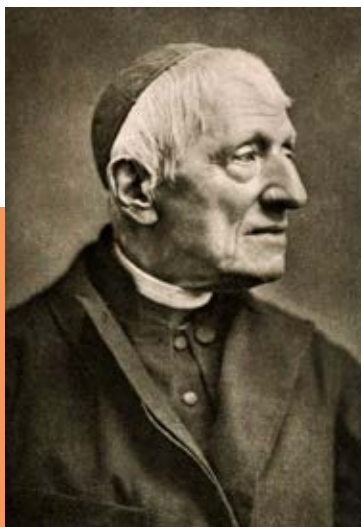
In 1854, Newman became Rector of the newly founded Catholic University of Ireland (now University College Dublin), following his influential lectures on education and served as rector for four years. During his tenure, he directed

projects such as building the campus and publishing academic works. However, he found the role challenging, feeling overwhelmed by frequent travel back to his community in Birmingham and experiencing a lack of support from the Irish bishops in various ways. Concerned also for his Birmingham Oratory, Newman resigned in 1858 and returned to England to resume his community life there.

It wasn't an easy path for John Henry Newman as a Catholic priest. Some clergy and bishops misunderstood him because of his stance on consulting the laity in defining dogmas. The clergymen thought he was critical of Pope Pius IX, which was seen as a threat and a potential source of schism. In his autobiographical writings, he made his feelings clear as he states this: 'as a Protestant, I felt my religion dreary, but not my life, but, as a Catholic, my life dreary, not my religion.'

A personal controversy led Newman to write his spiritual autobiography, *Apologia pro Vita Sua* (A Defence of My Life), in 1864. Some Anglican clergy accused him of never having been a sincere Anglican, Newman opted to reply not with argument but by narrating his complete life story. Over seven weeks, often working sixteen hours a day, he wrote 500 pages recounting his entire life. Through this work, he sought to reveal his true character and motives, dispelling misconceptions and presenting himself as an honest man rather than a misunderstood figure. His critics commended him for his integrity, and his reputation was restored among the clergy. Newman published further works in philosophy, which became renowned, and soon after, as the First Vatican Council was convened in 1868, many bishops in England requested Newman to contribute to the council and serve as their adviser on the topic of papal infallibility. He humbly turned down these invitations in order to focus on his writings, which he was working on including *The Grammar of Assent*.

In 1874, when Prime Minister William Gladstone claimed that Catholics could not be loyal to both the Pope and the Queen, Newman responded with characteristic clarity and courage. In his Letter to the Duke of Norfolk, he explained that the Pope's authority



He sought truth wherever it led him, even when that path demanded sacrifice and misunderstanding. Yet, through his perseverance, he became a guiding light for generations, showing that faith and reason, heart and intellect, can work together in harmony.

concerned only matters of faith and morals, not civil allegiance, and that true Catholics could be both faithful to God and loyal citizens. Newman's response not only defended the integrity of Catholic belief but also exemplified the courage to speak truth with reason and charity. Not long after this exchange, Newman would find himself in a position of greater authority because of his religious orthodoxy, and he was named a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879. He explicitly asked not to be consecrated as a bishop, since it was customary for someone being elevated to the cardinalate to come from the bishopric. He also

requested to be allowed to remain in Birmingham at the Oratory. Both requests were granted, and he continued writing at the Birmingham Oratory as a cardinal. In his final years, he guided many with spiritual advice and continued writing letters in response to those who asked about faith. On the 11th of August 1890, he died aged 89. Tens of thousands of people filled the streets of Birmingham to pay tribute to an exceptional man of his era. He was declared Venerable in 1991, and as his devotion increased, he was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the UK in 2010. He was canonised on 13 October 2019, by Pope Francis. On 1 November 2025, at the beginning of Mass for the solemnity of All Saints, Pope Leo XIV declared St John Henry Newman the 38th Doctor of the Church.

Doctor of the Church is the highest honour for a saint and a theologian whose writings have universal importance and long-lasting influence not only in their own contemporaries but also illuminates, instructs, and inspires today.

Newman's life is a powerful reminder that the journey to truth often requires courage, patience, and fidelity to conscience. He sought truth wherever it led him, even when that path demanded sacrifice and misunderstanding. Yet, through his perseverance, he became a guiding light for generations, showing that faith and reason, heart and intellect, can work together in harmony. His cardinal's motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur* (translated 'heart speaks to heart') captures the essence of his mission: to bring minds and hearts closer to God through sincerity, wisdom, and love. The Church in England is joyfully preparing for this historic moment, cherishing his wisdom not only in his theological and philosophical works but also in his poetry, hymns, and fiction. His works continue to inspire readers to think deeply, live faithfully, and seek truth courageously. ■

Chris Colaco is a seminarian from the United Kingdom, studying for the Jesus Youth priesthood and the Diocese of Northampton. He is in his final year of seminary formation at St Mary's College, Oscott. He has been involved in Jesus Youth since 2009, was a full-timer in Uganda in 2016 and entered priestly formation in 2018.

EXPERIENCE

THE LORD ANSWERED A CHILD'S PRAYER

After witnessing three different road accidents on the way for morning Mass, **Prince Francis** of the Santwana Community writes of how his son, **Jeremy** was moved to pray for that stretch of road.



Some weeks ago, as we were going for early morning Mass (our parish Mass begins at 5.45 am), we witnessed a serious accident right before our eyes on the opposite side of the highway near the church.

After dropping my wife Jiliya and our children at church, I hurried back to the accident site to help. It was a horrible crash – a speeding truck had collided with a tractor that made a sudden turn across the lane without giving an indicator. The impact was severe, the truck driver was trapped – his legs jammed tightly between the seat, the steering wheel, and the deformed front cabin.

Several of us joined together to help. We called another tractor, tied a steel cable between it and the truck's crushed front portion, and carefully pulled to create some space. I also cut through the seat cushion to free the truck driver. After great effort, we managed to pull the driver out, though his right leg was fractured.

Without delay, I got him into our

vehicle and rushed him to a hospital 50 kms away. We got him admitted, and I stayed there until noon when his surgery began before returning home.

This was not the first time we have witnessed such an accident. In fact, it was the third time – and all three times, it happened when we were on our way for morning Mass. After dropping my wife and children at the church, I went back alone to help in the rescue. And each time, I ended up taking the injured to the hospital myself.

Seeing this pattern, my 10-year-old son, Jeremy, was deeply moved. He said to me, 'Appa, maybe we need to pray for that area.' The next day, he took a sheet of paper, opened Google Maps, drew the area of the highway where the accidents were happening, and began to pray – all on his own. He prayed earnestly, asking the Lord to protect that stretch of road and to stop the accidents there.

And the Lord was quick to respond. Just this morning, as I was returning from

church, I saw that the police had installed barricades and speed-control dividers in that very area. Now, vehicles can no longer speed through – they must slow down and turn carefully.

I couldn't help but see this as the Lord's immediate answer to Jeremy's prayer.

Through this, I was reminded how powerfully God listens to the simple, sincere prayers of children. What we may see as coincidence is often God's mercy in action – a divine response to faith that is pure and trusting.

All glory and thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, who not only saves lives but also stirs the hearts of our children to intercede for others.



Prince Francis is a full-time missionary of the Santwana Community. He is married to Jiliya and they have seven children. They currently serve as a missionary family in Gwalior, India.



Hope on the Way

Natalie Guajardo's walk of the Camino de Santiago did not pan out as planned. Amidst the physical pain and personal upheavals, she kept walking, praying and trusting.

Everyone likes things to go their way. That was certainly the case when I planned my first trip to walk 100 km of the Camino de Santiago. Since the 8th century, pilgrims have followed this famous route of St James the Greater through Northern Spain to visit his relics at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. I expected my journey to be the highlight of my year, reaching exceptional physical and spiritual heights. From the beginning of my pilgrimage, however, it was clear there would be some bumps in the road.

Our initial direct flight was cancelled last-minute. Flights the next day got us stranded in Amsterdam and London. Finally, after third and fourth flights, we were stuck in the Madrid airport for hours waiting for everyone to arrive and hunt for lost luggage. By the time we were all finally in Spain, we were two days delayed, hungry, and exhausted. I started to understand the Israelites leaving Egypt. As they encountered trouble in

the wilderness – hunger, frustration, getting lost – they were quick to grumble and think about turning back. Many on our trip considered going home early. Thankfully, we all stayed and got to experience the pilgrimage.

By the end of my first day walking the Camino, I had strained a muscle at my shin. The next several days of the pilgrimage were full of severe pain. It just seemed things wouldn't go right. It wasn't just the pilgrimage that was hard. Several things in my life back at home were challenging too. As I limped and prayed to God, I asked the same question over and over. 'God, I'm trying to do good things to serve and honour you with my life, but I just keep finding a lot of difficulty and pain. What is up with that?'

I could imagine St James having similar questions. Travelling from Jerusalem to the ends of the known Western world, St James must have encountered uncertainty, fear, pain, and ridicule all because he loved Jesus.

To honour God, St James obeyed Jesus' commission to spread the Gospel *to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8). Much of his evangelism initially felt like a failure as many natives in Spain rejected him and the gospel. They were stubborn and superstitious and refused to believe in Jesus. Despite this, St James believed so much in Christ that he was even willing to die for his faith as the first martyred apostle. Ironically, St James' struggles were what encouraged me to trust God.

Many things didn't go as St James may have hoped, but that alone is the key. Hope keeps us going. Walking along in pain on the Camino, I had to hope that God still had my good in mind. He is the Good Shepherd who leads his flock on good paths. I spent my walks seeking all of the little joys God prepared. A sweet smelling pink flower, red earth of charmingly simple farmland, practicing my Spanish with a patient Spaniard, rich cream of a delicious pastry, or a laugh with a friend were all things that inspired

Left: Starting the Camino in Portomarin

Below: Reaching the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela

Bottom: City marker entering Santiago de Compostela



gratitude in a day. When I wasn't sure I could endure to the end of long hours walking, I could focus on gifts like these that the Lord provided.

Above all, what got me through the hardest times was prayer. Every morning, I started my day with a Rosary asking Jesus and Mary to walk with me. Short respites throughout the day in small, historic churches provided moments of peace and quiet with the Holy Spirit. Counting the challenges and blessings of the day as I prepared for bed helped me see what God did. Ultimately, prayer made the Camino seem possible.

During the long hours walking, it was easy to think I might never reach the stunning Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The pain in my leg only increased throughout the day and spread down into my ankle and foot over the course of the trip. I was determined to make it and asked Jesus, Mary, and the saints and angels to help me walk all of the way. Thankfully, God also blessed me with lovely travel companions. My friends were always there to offer an encouraging word, a pain cream or medicine, or a trekking pole when I needed it. I was truly humbled by how many people, sometimes even strangers, made sure I had what I needed. What I thought was going to be a journey of proving my strength really showed me how good it is to depend on others' help.

Dependence became a theme of my prayer. A pilgrimage is meant to remind us of our whole life's journey to heaven. At first, I was angry with God that so many things weren't going my way on the Camino and at home. I believe God allowed my physical pain on the Camino to connect me to some of the other pains in my life. He knew I needed a clear reminder every day to bring them all to Him in prayer. How I needed to get help from others and really be totally dependent on God to see me through a day showed me just how desperate we all are for God. We need Him every step of the way. In fact, Jesus *is* the way.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus describes Himself as the vine to whom we are connected. If we ever try to live apart from Him, there is no way for us to receive life, and He wants to give us abundant life.

That is hard to believe when the perfect life we imagine doesn't match up with the life Jesus has in mind for us. Often, when we are seeking life on our own, we turn away from God's law and we sin. We pursue what we want in ways we know we shouldn't. We stray from a righteous path. That's why it is so important for us to ask God to teach us His ways, for the Holy Spirit to fill us with wisdom of what is right and the courage to pick up our crosses and follow Jesus. His way and the Blessed Mother's were riddled with much suffering.

The most obvious examples of the world's fall from grace are pain and suffering. It makes sense when we are troubled by these things. When we desire righteousness, it pains us to see things not right. But Jesus tells us to not be troubled because He has overcome the world and we can trust in Him. Like believing I could make it all the way to the cathedral at the end of the Camino, we can have hope that we will see heaven. At union with our Lord, we will see Christ wipe away every tear, take away every pain, and make all things new.

When we finally reached the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the presiding priest of the Pilgrim Mass drove this point home. He shared the important difference between a vagabond and a pilgrim. A vagabond wanders around aimlessly with no clear goal in mind. His journey is uncertain and potentially pointless. In contrast, a pilgrim knows where she is going. A pilgrim has hope because of this. As followers of Christ, we are pilgrims. We know where we are headed and who leads us there.

So even when things don't go our way – when the road is full of challenges – we can always have hope. We have a good guide on this pilgrimage whose desire is always for our greatest good. What He brings about and permits, He can always use as a way to bring us to Himself, where there is no better place to be. ■

Natalie Guajardo ministers to college students in Maryland with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, USA. In her free time, you can find her reading, writing, running or preparing a lesson for kids in the religious education class at her beloved Dominican parish.

IN FOCUS

Felicitations For



On the fortieth anniversary of Jesus Youth 85, the conference that eventually led to the birth of Jesus Youth, bishops and eminent Catholic leaders from around the world, who have walked with the movement, send their hopes and wishes.

A New Culture of Love, Respect, Solidarity and Humble Listening

When we meet Jesus in history, we see a young man working among a group of youthful followers who go on to create a great change across the world. Every person who welcomes the Holy Spirit receives a share of this divine youthfulness in their own life.

From that moment when a small group of people in Kerala gathered to pray to the Holy Spirit, it ushered in a new dawn. From a small city was born the Jesus Youth movement whose light now shines globally, carrying the Good News to every corner of the earth, bringing the love of Jesus to the suffering, transforming youth, and revealing the face of the living Christ on countless campuses worldwide.

Every generation faces challenges that lead youth astray, and attempts to resolve these often result in clashing ideologies. The Jesus Youth movement, however, demonstrated a powerful and effective path forward: tackling these

problems through an intimate relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In an age when campuses are riddled with drugs, alcohol, and moral decrepitude, this movement has successfully forged a different path through people who've encountered Jesus, transforming countless lives, and drawing society toward God's love. Through Spirit-filled disciples, it has cultivated a new culture of love, mutual respect, solidarity, and humble listening.

One of the movement's most profound gifts to the Church is the abundant vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It also offers young people the courage and wisdom to anchor their lives close to Jesus. The movement has also raised awareness of the sanctity of



marriage as a call from God. It has shown young families how beautifully a husband and wife can walk together with Jesus, embracing family life, choosing to welcome more children, and raising them in faith, thereby rendering immense

service to the Church. In a world of broken families, the Jesus Youth movement stands as a powerful witness to the beauty of Christian families growing together from the wellspring of Jesus's love.

My every prayer and blessing go with the Jesus Youth movement for a fruit-filled, Spirit-led journey ahead.

His Beatitude Moran Mar Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos

Major Archbishop-Catholicos of the Syro-Malankara Church; International Patron, Jesus Youth

A Discipleship that is Contemplative, Missionary, Ecclesial

I am delighted to greet the Jesus Youth movement on the joyful occasion of the Ruby Jubilee of its ecclesial journey, and to convey my prayerful blessings to the *Kairos Global* magazine as it prepares a special commemorative edition. In my service as the International Ecclesiastical Advisor to the movement, I have witnessed the beautiful ways in which this missionary stream of grace has touched lives and fostered a culture of personal encounter with Christ.

Over the past four decades, the Lord has guided this movement 'step by step,' forming it into a vibrant missionary presence in the Church through prayer, fellowship, and courageous witness. Jesus Youth emerged from the deep yearning of young people who longed to encounter Christ personally and make Him known in the world. Through simple

yet Spirit-filled initiatives – Eucharistic adoration, sharing of the Word, missionary outreach, and the accompaniment of fellow young people – it has shown how evangelisation becomes most fruitful when it springs from a living and joyful friendship with the Lord.

During the Jubilee encounter with young people in Rome, Pope Leo XIV reminded the Church that 'youth is not merely a season of preparation but a sacred time of witness, when Christ is heard most clearly in generous hearts ready for mission.' These words capture with remarkable precision the very path Jesus Youth has walked over the past forty years: a discipleship that is contemplative in its source, missionary in its expression,



and ecclesial in its communion.

As the movement enters its 40th year, may it continue to remain faithful to its original charism: to be missionary disciples who

radiate the joy of the Gospel in everyday life. I encourage every member of the Jesus Youth family to remain rooted in prayer, docility to the Holy Spirit, and communion with the Church. May this jubilee celebration lead to a deeper commitment to Christ and His mission!

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church & Metropolitan Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, India; Ecclesiastical Advisor, Jesus Youth International

Ruby Fire in Jesus Youth

Rooted in Christ, Radiant in Mission, Close to the Poor

For forty years, the Jesus Youth movement has stood as a living testimony to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. Born in the vibrant atmosphere of Catholic renewal and evangelisation in the early 1980s, Jesus Youth began as small prayer fellowship groups among young people in some of the Catholic colleges in and around Cochin, Kerala, India, by youth who desired to live their faith more deeply, with courage and joy, in the midst of a rapidly changing and secularised world.

After my ordination, as a young priest at the Assisi Cathedral in the Archdiocese of Verapoly, and later, as the Vicar General of the same Archdiocese, during the period when Jesus Youth was finalising its statutes for approval, and now, in recent years, as the National Ecclesiastical Advisor, I have had the joy of watching and cherishing the growth of the Jesus Youth movement: at times from a distance, and at other times from close quarters. More than my contribution to it, the vibrant life of prayer, fellowship, and commitment of the members of Jesus Youth, has deeply inspired and nourished my priestly journey. Through the joyful witness of young people aflame with love for Christ, I have experienced how the Holy Spirit continues to renew the Church from within, rekindling in me the desire to live my vocation with deeper faith, simplicity, and zeal.

From those humble beginnings, the Spirit of God has guided this movement step by step, forming it into a global missionary community now present in over 30 countries. Like the early Church, Jesus Youth grew not through plans or programmes, but through prayer, personal conversion, and the fire of missionary zeal. It is truly *the work of the Holy Spirit*, a sign of how God continues to renew His Church from within.

Jesus Youth has touched countless

lives, especially those of young people, helping them to encounter Jesus personally, to grow in faith through Word, sacrament, and fellowship, and to live as joyful witnesses in their daily lives. Many have found in this movement a path of discipleship, learning to integrate faith and life amidst the pressures of modern society.

What makes Jesus Youth unique is its call to radical commitment. Many members, young men and women, single and married, have left behind promising careers, income, and social positions to serve as missionaries in remote villages, campuses, and parishes. They embody the words of Jesus: *Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it* (Matthew 16:25).

Their life and witness remind the Church that faith is not a comfort zone but a mission field, and that Christian vocation is not merely to 'believe' but to *go forth* in love and service.

Looking back over these four decades, the Ruby Jubilee, one can clearly trace the hand of God leading the movement through moments of inspiration, challenge, and growth. From its beginnings in youth prayer groups and campus ministries to its recognition as an international private association of the faithful, Jesus Youth has remained faithful to the Church and to its six pillars of spirituality: Daily prayer; Word of God; Sacraments; Fellowship; Evangelisation; Option for the poor.

Each of these pillars reflects the life of the early Christian community (Acts 2:42-47) and continues to nourish the missionary dynamism of Jesus Youth.

A Movement with a Heart for the Poor

As Jesus Youth celebrates its Ruby Jubilee, it is a moment of deep gratitude



and renewed zeal, a call to live the faith with greater social commitment and compassion, especially toward the poor and the marginalised. The Holy Spirit invites the movement to reflect anew on its sixth pillar: the social dimension of the Gospel – the option for the poor.

Reading the signs of the times, Pope Leo XIV, in his first encyclical *Dilexi Te*, reminds us: *On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ Himself* (no. 9). This invites us to respond to poverty not only with personal charity but also through structural and systemic transformation.

Pope Francis of venerable memory had already pointed the way in *Evangelii Gaudium* (no. 88): *The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others... with the poor, with those in need.*

In this spirit, Jesus Youth offers an antidote to indifference – a culture of joy, community, and mission. Through its vibrant presence in music, media, education, healthcare, and pastoral ministry, its members continue to be the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14), bearing witness that Christ is alive, and that faith remains profoundly relevant and life-giving today.

May Jesus Youth, aflame with the love of Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit, continue to be a radiant sign of hope in the Church and in the world.

His Excellency Alex Vadakumthala

Bishop of Kannur

Ecclesiastical Advisor, Jesus Youth India

A Fellow Jesus Youth Since 2004

Dear Friends in Christ,
Praise be to God and congratulations on Jesus Youth's Ruby Jubilee in 2025.

For 40 years now you have responded so wonderfully to the Lord's prophetic word when He prophesied to you in the early days, 'I will lead you step by step.' You have been faithful to this leadership of the Holy Spirit ever since.

Of the 40 years, I have been walking with you as a fellow Jesus Youth since 2004 beginning in Melbourne, Australia.

Over the years we have met together internationally in different places in the world including India, Rome, Dubai and many gatherings in Australia.

I have met some wonderful Spirit filled leaders which include Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara, Manoj and Beena Sunny, Raiju Varghese, Shoy Thomas and many others. But most importantly I have met so many youth who have served the six pillars of Jesus Youth so wonderfully in humility and service of the Lord.

Jesus Youth has truly been a wonderful missionary movement of service to the Universal Church.

In this Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope,



we continue to pilgrimage into the future with a sure hope that the Holy Spirit who has led us will continue to lead us as He indeed leads the entire People of God.

Be assured of my prayers and my continuing to walk

with you as one of the International Patrons of Jesus Youth since 2018.

Let us praise the Lord together!

His Grace Christopher Prowse

Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn, Australia
International Patron, Jesus Youth

May Jesus Youth Raise Many More Fervent and Heroic Saints

Dear Jesus Youth Family,
With heartfelt praise to God and deep gratitude, I extend my warm congratulations as you celebrate your Ruby Jubilee in 2025. This is a moment of grace and joy, and I join you in prayerful thanksgiving and rejoicing.

It has been my privilege to witness the growth and vitality of the Jesus Youth movement over the decades, especially your fervent missionary spirit and youthful enthusiasm in the Archdiocese of Trichur. I am proud to note that my own diocese stands among the most vibrant centres of Jesus Youth activity worldwide. That this Catholic missionary movement, born in the soil of Kerala, has now taken root and flourished across continents is a source of immense joy

and pride for the Church in India.

I have often spoken of your missionary zeal and love for the Church in international forums and ecclesial gatherings.

In our times, Jesus Youth stands as one of the significant contributions of the Indian Church to the Universal Church. As I continue to witness the fruits of this movement in diverse vocations and states of life around the world, I give thanks and praise to our Almighty Father for His abundant grace. *He is your praise; He is your God, who has done for you those great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.* (Deuteronomy 10:21)



May the land that gave the Church St Alphonsa, St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, St Mariam Thresia, St Euphrasia, and St Devasahayam Pillai, now through the Jesus Youth

movement, raise up many more fervent and heroic saints for the glory of God and the good of His Church.

Be assured of my continued prayers and blessings for each member of the movement.

Yours in Christ,

His Grace Andrews Thazhath

Archbishop of Trichur
President, CBCI

A Vibrant Sign of Faith Alive in Action

Dear Beloved Members of the Jesus Youth movement,

St Thomas Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago has appreciated and valued the work done by the Jesus Youth movement in this Eparchy from its inception. As the Eparchy is going through the 25th anniversary I extend warm regards and heartfelt gratitude for your service rendered to the formation and running of this Eparchy in America. It is with great joy and hope that I greet each one

of you who strive to live a Christ centred life amid today's troubled world. The Jesus Youth movement is a vibrant sign of faith alive in action. The movement has proved that faith is not a theory but a living relationship with Jesus. In your prayers, fellowship, service and mission you reveal that holiness is possible even in a busy, digital and distracted world. You carry the light of Christ into campuses, work places and parishes where the Gospel of Christ must

be lived more than spoken.

May you continue to remain rooted in the Word of God and be nourished by the Holy Eucharist. Remember, the Church looks to you not merely as the future, but as the living present of faith. It is my prayer that you may be able to 'walk by faith, not by sight'. May the Blessed Mother, the first disciple and missionary intercede for you. May your lives proclaim, 'I live, not I; but Jesus Christ lives in me.'

With warm regards and bestowing special blessings.

His Excellency Mar Joy Alappat

Bishop of St Thomas Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago

Living, Joyful Witnesses

As the Chair of the ACBCEW Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship, and a diocesan bishop here in Northampton, UK, I give thanks to our merciful Lord for the gift of Jesus Youth to the Church. The commitment to forming Spirit-filled disciples of our Risen Saviour, and the enthusiastic mission-focused ministry of these disciples, is an encouragement to us in England and Wales, as we labour in a vineyard that is often apathetic and indifferent to the Gospel. During the last forty years, Jesus Youth has sent its members to many parts of the Church. They are living witnesses to the vision of recent popes, that by virtue of our sacramental baptism, we are called to be co-heirs of the gifts of the Kingdom of heaven, and must share these gifts with those we encounter in our daily lives.

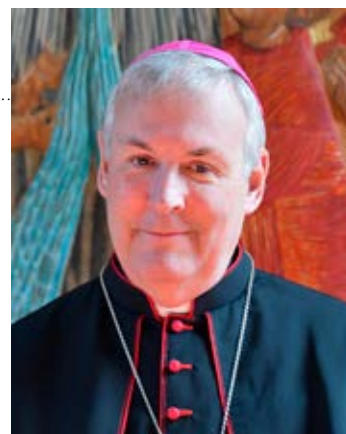
I have witnessed first-hand the family life of Jesus Youth members. They are happy and joyful witnesses to an authentic Christian marriage and family life – beacons of light within our prism communities. Jesus Youth is Kerala's gift to the whole Church, and it is encouraging to see her members taking up the Gospel's great mandate to make disciples of all the nations.

Thank you Lord for all the graces you have poured out upon your Mystical Body, the Church, through these inspiring missionary disciples in our midst.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

His Excellency Dr David J Oakley

Bishop of Northampton, UK



I have witnessed first-hand the family life of Jesus Youth members. They are happy and joyful witnesses to an authentic Christian marriage and family life

Lights in a World where Shadow and Darkness Try to Prevail

Dear Members of Jesus Youth, When you were born 40 years ago in India, I was living in a Capuchin friary of mountainous Switzerland and never thought that one day I would pass a new chapter of my life in Arabia. I learnt about Jesus Youth only when I was appointed bishop and followed Bishop Bernardo Gremoli in 2005 as Apostolic Vicar of Arabia. For twenty years I enjoyed the fervour and the loyalty of Jesus Youth.

Your commitment was and still is a refreshing element in the life of the Church in Arabia. I always appreciated the dialogue with you not only when you reported to me your achievements, but also when I felt it necessary to remind

you of overcoming the exclusivity of your origin in Kerala and to become more Catholic. As a movement that has now spread worldwide, you must now learn to speak and pray in different languages like the disciples of Jesus on Pentecost morning.

You are celebrating the Ruby Jubilee. I am happy to congratulate you on your 40th birthday and to invoke upon you and those you are taking care of the blessings of God our Father. He has sent His Son to lavish the Holy Spirit on all who become



His adopted sons and daughters and live as witnesses of God's love in places where priests do not have easy access.

Thank you for being lights in a world where too often shadow and darkness try to prevail. As believers in Jesus Christ,

we all are called to be beacons of hope.

His Excellency Paul Hinder OFM Cap

Vicar Apostolic Emeritus, Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia

A 'Great Thing' God Has Done

A wonderful synthesis of the whole New Testament that applies perfectly to Jesus Youth International is this:

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God; not because of works, lest any person should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).

After all, Christianity is not so much about what we must do for God but first of all (and most importantly) what God has done for us! Mary's Magnificat is the best and most characteristic prayer that every Christian (and every JY) should constantly be making: *My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is his name! (Luke 1:47, 49).*

JYI is indeed one of the 'great things' God has done for the Church and society in these last 40 years. And all these wonderful things are not only



God's workmanship, but what God 'prepared beforehand' that we (JY leaders and members) should 'walk in them.' It is a **partnership** that the Trinity likes, a divine-human partnership, so that God's Kingdom on earth may spread to more and more people, until God is all in all, and the kingdom of darkness is definitively destroyed. So, congrats and best

wishes and blessings to the individuals and couples, lay, religious, and clergy... like (wiser for me to name no names?)!

To conclude, let me record my great joy and privilege at being a part of JYI! I have never refused an invitation to minister to JY and always came away with new zeal and enthusiasm to be counted as a 'worker in the Lord's vineyard.' So keep on, JYI, towards 50, and 100, and more!

Dr Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ, DMin

Former Chairman of NCCRS, India & Emeritus Chairman/Director of the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai

Missionary Disciples who live Holiness in the Ordinary

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,
As the Jesus Youth movement celebrates forty years of grace, I join you in offering heartfelt thanksgiving to the Lord who has worked so powerfully through your witness. From humble beginnings among a few young people filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Youth has grown into a vibrant, missionary family that now embraces nations, languages, and cultures across the world.

This Ruby Jubilee is not only a moment to look back with gratitude, but also to look ahead with renewed hope. The number forty in Scripture often marks a time of transformation – a journey through which God prepares His people for deeper faith and mission. These forty years have been just that: a journey of discovering how young people, when rooted in prayer and community, can become true disciples and missionaries of Christ in every sphere of life.

The passionate desire of Jesus Youth to form ‘missionary disciples’ who live holiness in the ordinary is to be encouraged.



May all of you continue walking closely with the Church, especially in the field of youth accompaniment. The world needs witnesses who live their faith with joy, simplicity, and courage.

Let the spirit of Don Bosco sustain the dream of Jesus Youth: to lead young hearts to Christ through friendship, creativity, and joyful service. As you celebrate these forty years, may you rediscover

the freshness of your first love for the Lord and the zeal that sent you forth to the ends of the earth. Like Don Bosco, may you continue to be creative dreamers – anchored in prayer, courageous in mission, and joyful in service.

May Mary, the Star of the New Evangelisation, guide you always. And may every Jesus Youth continue to be a living ‘Kairos’ – a timely sign of God’s love for today’s world.

With affection and blessing,

Fr Fabio Attard SDB

Rector Major, Salesians of Don Bosco

Service, Excellence and a Deep Love for Jesus



Jesus Youth is an extraordinary gift to the Church, and it has been a particular blessing to me personally and to Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). I first encountered Jesus Youth at World Youth Day in Rome in 2000, and over the past 25

years our two movements have had the privilege of growing together in leadership and mission. My earliest experiences with Jesus Youth came through collaboration on international projects and conferences for evangelisation, where I also developed a deep and lasting friendship with Manoj Sunny. Through our friendship and shared work, I have witnessed the profound impact of Jesus Youth in advancing the mission of evangelisation in the Church and in the world.

I hold in high regard the many qualities of the Jesus Youth movement. In particular, I am continually inspired by the courage and generosity of its members. They give of themselves with extraordinary selflessness, bringing the Gospel to places and situations where others might hesitate. They serve with joy, strive for excellence, and above all, radiate a deep love for Jesus and a passion for sharing Him with others. Their ministries are many and varied, but at their heart, they exist to serve the Church and to bring Christ to those most in need – whether in material poverty or in the poverty of spirit that comes from not knowing Jesus.

As Jesus Youth celebrates forty years of faithful witness, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to its leaders and members. I remain grateful for the friendship and collaboration we have shared, and I look forward with hope to our continued partnership in the mission of the Church.

Jeff M Lockert

President: Catholic Christian Outreach, Canada

Dream Great Dreams for the Lord

My Dear Friends,
It is my great joy to wish you every blessing of God as you keep the Ruby Jubilee of Jesus Youth. I remember with pride my earliest association with the first animators and members of the movement. As a young bishop when I was in charge of education for the CBCI, I had several opportunities to meet young people in diverse contexts. I remember inviting Br Roger of Taizé and his brothers to Loyola College, Madras (now Chennai), for a national prayer gathering. That was the beginning of Br Ghislain and other brothers helping to animate our young people in India.

The birth of Jesus Youth gave an exceptional stimulus to the Catholic youth apostolate, helping it to develop new dimensions in an incredible manner. I consider it a privilege to have been associated with the early animators and leaders of the movement like Edward Edezthath, Manoj Sunny and others. I must humbly admit that at the early stages of its growth I could never foresee the manner in which it would grow and the diverse dimensions it would develop. I sought to keep close to the movement, not so much to help them in any significant manner as to learn from their commitment, adaptability, creativity and spiritual seriousness.

The only message I have for Jesus Youth would be that they preserve the values that led them so far, and reach out further; that they study the changing youth situation in diverse parts of the world where they are present; address the new problems that are arising in society; and make full use of the opportunities for doing good that are emerging. Dream great dreams for the Lord and translate them into reality. And trust in Him who promised to be with us till the end of time.

His Grace Thomas Menampampil
Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, India



A Multigenerational Movement Faithful to the Church

I extend heartfelt congratulations to all your members on your Ruby anniversary. Well done, good and faithful servants. It has been a great joy to see the movement mature and thrive becoming a key mission movement at the heart of the Church. Indeed, what began from a small group in India, has truly flourished and spread, bearing fruit throughout the world.

I have always been encouraged by your desire to grow in holiness and your apostolic zeal. Over the years, you have attracted and formed so many young people and now you have become a truly multigenerational movement. I praise God for your adaptability, creativity and fidelity to the Church. May you continue to be fruitful through your faithful dedication to your charism and mission.

With prayers and blessings,

Michelle Moran

Former President: International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS)



Refreshing to the Church

I am glad to celebrate with you this anniversary and 40 years of grace and blessing. It is a joy for all the Church to celebrate and praise the Lord for the faithfulness of her members and the steadfastness of their dedication.

To be a Jesus Youth is to follow Jesus with a youthful mentality and enthusiasm. Jesus is the reason for our life and the rock of our faith. He is the Son, our Brother, the Master and the Lord. It is through Him alone that we can know God the Father in the Holy Spirit. He is the Way to Heaven and the King of the present Kingdom. We must follow Him who always renews us in His Presence. The newness of the Gospel is forever. It is impossible to close ourselves in the past. Let us walk in His footsteps for the salvation of the world.

I have encountered the Jesus Youth movement in my ministry and have encouraged them to dedicate themselves to mission and evangelisation. The dynamism of the movement is precious. Their enthusiasm is refreshing to the Church.

Please, follow the six pillars of your movement: prayer, Word of God, sacraments, fellowship, evangelisation and option for the poor. Doing so, your life will find meaning and your vocation to filial relation with God will be complete.

I wish you the best for the future. My blessings to you.

His Excellency Aldo Berardi, O.S.S.T.
Apostolic Vicar of Northern Arabia



A Sign of Hope for the Church

As the Jesus Youth movement celebrates its Ruby Jubilee, I join you in thanksgiving for the Lord's faithfulness over these forty years. From its beginnings in Kerala in the early 1980s, Jesus Youth has grown into a vibrant missionary movement touching lives across continents, including here in Pakistan.

The movement first took root in Pakistan in the mid-1990s, when a few young Catholics inspired by the Jesus Youth lifestyle began small prayer gatherings in Karachi. In the beginning, the young people did not have much support, and they often struggled to keep the movement alive. Difficulties were many, yet the youngsters themselves came up with personal initiatives to continue. Some, with the help of the local Church, even went abroad to Thailand for courses and training and returned enriched with new vision and energy. Over the years, they learned a lot and contributed to the Church in

creative ways. By 2002, the movement was formally recognised by the local Church, and over the years, its presence steadily grew through prayer meetings, music ministry, and campus outreach. As we look ahead, I sincerely wish that the movement in Pakistan may become more organised and structured, so that its good fruits may be multiplied for the benefit of the whole Church.

Today, Jesus Youth is present in five dioceses of Pakistan – Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Islamabad-Rawalpindi. Through regular prayer groups, youth retreats, campus ministry, and family cells, the movement has nurtured young Catholics to live their faith with joy and missionary spirit. I have personally witnessed how Jesus Youth in Pakistan has contributed to building stronger parishes, supporting families,



and forming leaders who serve the Church with dedication.

As we mark forty years since Jesus Youth 85, I encourage all members in Pakistan and worldwide to continue living the six pillars of the movement: daily prayer, Word of God,

sacraments, fellowship, evangelisation, and service, with renewed zeal. The journey of the past decades is a testimony to God's fidelity, and the future is a call to greater witness.

May the Blessed Mother accompany Jesus Youth in Pakistan and across the world as you continue to be a sign of hope for the Church.

His Excellency Samson Shukardin OFM

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Hyderabad, Pakistan

President of Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference

Zealous for the Kingdom



It is a joy for me to be asked to say a few words on this anniversary of the foundation of the Jesus Youth.

I came to know the Jesus Youth some 25 years ago when one of their main leaders participated in a forum I was chairing in Manila. This was the beginning of almost a quarter of a century of friendship and relationship with many members of the Jesus Youth

whom I find to be prayerful, zealous for the Kingdom and very enjoyable to be with.

I had the privilege to host hundreds of young people from the Jesus Youth in many of our Youth Arise International activities and of late their leaders at the Global2033 Summits. I am always touched by their openness to God and by their *Ad Gentes*, missionary hearts.

To all the members of the Jesus Youth worldwide, both my wife Sabina and I congratulate you wholeheartedly and tell you: Continue Running the Race.

Henry Cappello

International Director: Global2033 (G33) & President: CIV

Drawing Us into the Youthfulness of God

To the Brothers and Sisters of Jesus Youth

It is a great joy for me to greet all the members of Jesus Youth who stretch out their hands across the globe on this occasion of your Ruby Anniversary.

My experience with members of Jesus Youth is now more than 20 years (a state conference in Victoria, the Rex Band in Brisbane, Jesus Youth Jubilee in UAE as well as meetings and planning sessions with leaders in different parts of the world).

I can honestly say that I have always been inspired by the faith, dynamism and commitment of Jesus Youth which are

clear and obvious manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

I am so grateful for your ministry both in Australia and around the world. As for me, whenever I am with you in any of these different gatherings, I have always found you draw me closer to Jesus and restore

to me the youthfulness of the Holy Spirit. While the members of Jesus Youth may get older, the charism which you share draws us into the youthfulness of God who delights to be among His people. I will always remember the joy of the UAE Jubilee in 2019 where I joined the men in what seemed like unending dancing. My body was sore for a few days but my spirit was flying. I am so grateful to God for the gift of Jesus Youth.

Shayne Bennett

Member, CHARIS International Service of Communion

Focused on Evangelisation and Faith Formation of the Young

Dear Friends,
Prayerful greetings from Miao!

I am delighted to know that Jesus Youth is completing 40 years. I remember the first gathering of 1985. God has led you all a long way, holding you by the hand.

The storms of life and crisis of all kinds never deterred the growth and flourishing of the Jesus Youth movement, because its leadership made sure that the ideals were not diluted or compromised. Evangelisation and faith formation of the young remained the focus and not digressing from it and reaching out to difficult, even forbidden lands ensured God's ever abiding presence. He has blessed you all along the way. May He continue to journey along with every member and each person who comes in contact with Jesus Youth.

As a missionary I want to add a special note on the daring and risky steps the Jesus Youth have taken. Introduction and developing the concept of full-timers contributed a lot to evangelisation, both in India and abroad.

The timely intervention they make in times of disasters and distress, systematically yet silently have been bringing solace to many needy.

I wish God's blessings on every member as you go through the 40th year and prepare for the golden jubilee in 2035. At this moment I want to remind everyone that the great jubilee of 2033 is before 2035. Let us all join hands and hearts together so that the good news may reach everyone; in Rick Warren's words, 'Finish the mission.'

In Jesus the Word made flesh,

His Excellency George Pallipparambil SDB

Bishop of Miao, India

Chairman of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) Office of Evangelization (OE)



I can honestly say that I have always been inspired by the faith, dynamism and commitment of Jesus Youth which are clear and obvious manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Moving Forward Together

When I received the request to share my experience with Jesus Youth, it was the words 'Pilgrimage of trust,' joy of moving forward together with our differences, yes ... trust, fraternity, communion...! The meetings in Madras (Chennai) in 1985 and 1988 were organised by our Taizé community at the invitation of Archbishop Thomas Menampampil. These international meetings had shown us that contact between young people from different continents could nourish their faith and our Taizé community began to invite young people from Asia, Africa, Latin America to spend several months in Taizé.

Archbishop Thomas suggested that we invite Edward Edezhath and thus introduced us to Jesus Youth. This is how began what I called with our vocabulary a 'pilgrimage of trust' and 'joy of moving forward together with our differences.' Moving forward together: on the one hand, Taizé, a monastic community

which welcomes young people but does not want to create a movement around it but wants to send young people back to their local church and on the other hand Jesus Youth which is a charismatic movement.

After Edward, Jesus Youth sent young people to Taizé each year. What I have admired in them is the depth of their faith and the full commitment in the life of the volunteers in Taizé. It is an example for other volunteers. But I and other brothers also came to Kerala to lead prayers, retreats, and small gatherings. Bonds of friendship and communion were created with young families: Edward and Audrey, Beena and Manoj, Anu and Shelton, and Sherry, who supported these gatherings and contemplative prayers.

How was and is this journey shared



possible? As I reflected, it became clear to me that it is Jesus, the Christ, who is at the heart of the Jesus Youth movement, as its name clearly indicates, and that it is Christ who is at the heart of our community, and that it is He, like John the

Baptist, whom we wish to proclaim to the young people who come to us. There is still an important dimension, which has been part of the community's life since its very beginnings: the welcome given to immigrants and refugees, and the presence and solidarity with the poor, as reflected in 'Option for the Poor,' one of the six pillars of Jesus Youth.

For this anniversary of Jesus Youth, what I would like to express is gratitude.

Br Ghislain

Taizé Community, France

Living Symbols of God's Love

My Dear Jesus Youth family, Jesus Youth 85 was truly an anointed moment in the history of our movement – a time filled with uncertainty, yet overflowing with God's providence and grace. We moved forward not by our strength, but by trusting in the Lord who called us.

As the Word reminds us in Ephesians 2:10, we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do the good works He prepared in advance for us; chosen to be holy and blameless in His love. This is our identity and our mission. We are called to live like our Heavenly Father – holy, loving, compassionate, and always available to serve others.

Over the years, I have often told those I supported: 'I have been there for you today; tomorrow, you be there for someone else.' This spirit



of self-giving love must continue in our movement. Each Jesus Youth is called to pass on the grace they have received.

It brings me great joy to see how beautifully the formation in the movement has borne fruit in your lives. Continue to be living symbols of God's love. God desires each of us to grow into the fullness of holiness –

loving deeply, supporting generously, and doing good at every opportunity.

May the Lord bless you abundantly. Remain faithful, remain joyful, and remain rooted in Christ. Let your lives continue to be a testimony of God's love in the world.

Fr Abraham Pallivathukal SJ

Pioneer Jesus Youth

Jesus Youth at 40: A Global Movement with Deep Roots

First of all, congratulations to the Jesus Youth movement on celebrating 40 beautiful years of existence and service to the Church! It is a truly powerful force, and I am incredibly proud of its journey. What began in Kerala has now successfully reached over 40 countries – a truly remarkable

achievement! In many of these nations, the movement has made a profound impact, influencing countless local youth and garnering huge support from numerous bishops worldwide.

A milestone achievement for India, the Jesus Youth movement is also one of only nine ecclesial movements to have Pontifical Recognition from the Vatican. While such associations are common in Europe, America, and Latin America, this is a distinct and significant honour for our country.

I know the lives of so many young people associated with Jesus Youth. Your systematic formation, deep fellowship, and impactful ministries have helped them commit their lives and talents to the Kingdom of God in a powerful and organised way. I especially commend the excellence of your formation, mission focus and full-timers' training. These programmes have inspired many youth to make one-year or longer commitments, serving in remote dioceses and parishes both in India and abroad. This commitment has created a significant impact on the Church globally.

Jesus Youth has become a well-known name internationally. When I travel, I am often asked, 'Are

you associated with Jesus Youth?' The fact that this is a name they recognise from India is a testament to the international impact you have been able to achieve.

Furthermore, Jesus Youth is well-regarded in the Vatican, since a number of your members hold key positions right from the Episcopal Conferences, the Asian FABC, and even in the UK. These are not small accomplishments; they signify that your formation, training, fellowship, and commitment have been formally recognised by the Church and the worldwide Renewal movement.

As you celebrate this 40th anniversary, it is a crucial time to thank the Lord for the abundant blessings He has showered upon the members of Jesus Youth, the Church, and the entire Renewal. And as we celebrate the Jubilee this year, let me also congratulate you and wish you a fruitful time because as you know very well, Jubilee is a time of restoration, according to the Book of Leviticus.

As the Book of Revelation speaks of 'first love' (Chapter 2, verses 1-5), I encourage every member to use this Jubilee to introspect where you have fallen, repent for any lost zeal or commitment, and begin again with greater fire! Let this be a time to restore any zeal, any fire, or any commitment that may have been lost.

I wish you all a new Pentecost and a very fruitful celebration of the Jubilee. God bless you!

Chevalier Cyril John

Member, CHARIS International Service of Communion



A milestone achievement for India, the Jesus Youth movement is also one of only nine ecclesial movements to have Pontifical Recognition from the Vatican.

Remembering Jesus Youth 85

Attendees of JY 85 conference share their memories of the path-breaking event that changed the face of Catholic spirituality in Kerala.

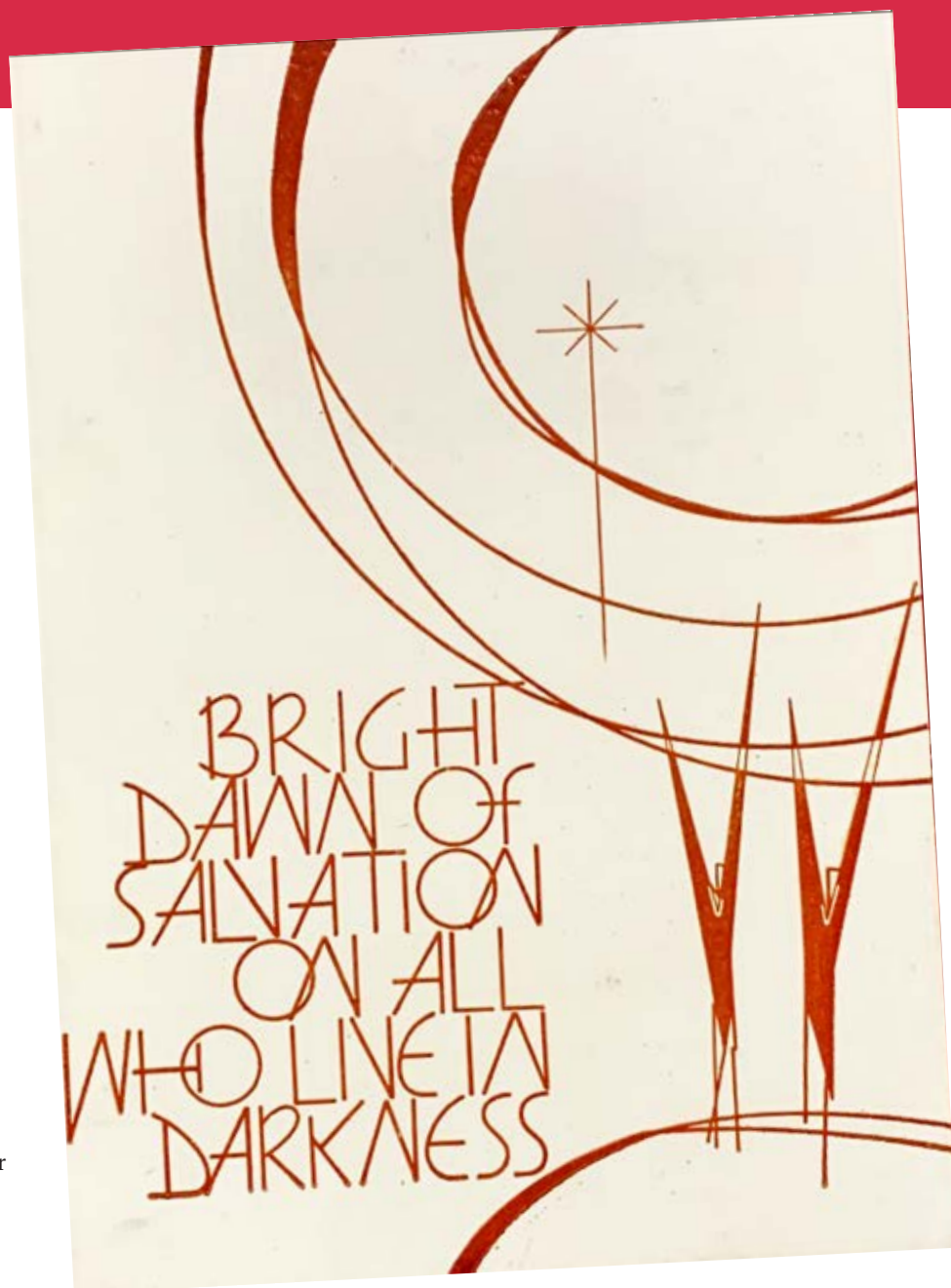
Journeys from Jesus Youth 85

By the grace of God, my life was transformed by an experience of the Charismatic Renewal in 1980, which immediately opened the door to youth ministry. We started with regular fellowship gatherings at the zonal level. Soon, I was called to be part of a regional group that became known as 'The First Line.'

Building 'The First Line'

The commitment and faithfulness of the members were remarkable. In no time, we grew into a strong, closely-knit entity. Our gatherings were defined by frank and open sharing, which quickly began to bear significant fruit.

Our commitment deepened when Kochi, Kerala, hosted the Fifth National Charismatic Convention in 1982–83, the first time it was held in the state. Every member of The First Line received a well-



Christmas card designed by Josy

ജീസസ് യൂത്ത് 85
രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഫോം

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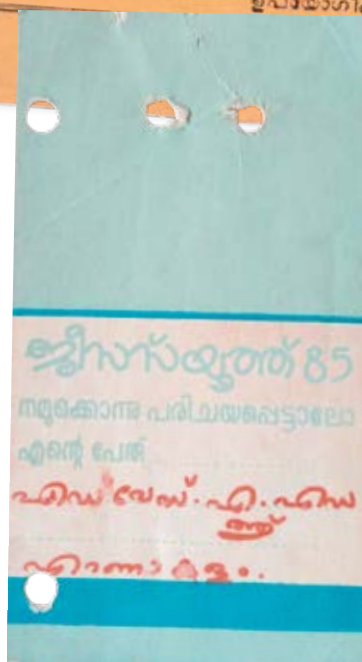
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Registration form for Jesus Youth 85



Name tag

defined role and responsibility. I was even asked to take a leave of absence from my State Government service to dedicate my time to the Renewal.

The Birth of Jesus Youth 85

As The First Line met regularly, the idea for a major regional gathering gained momentum, especially since 1985 was the International Year of the Youth. With the blessing and instruction of the Kerala Service Team (KST), we fixed the dates and venue.

Reverend Father Jos Palatty CMI named the conference 'Jesus Youth 85,' and we immediately got to work. It was custom to have a logo for every convention, and after the naming, a logo was conceptualised and drawn in black and white — intended solely for that conference. Praise to the Almighty; His works are marvellous! That logo I designed is now the logo of the Jesus Youth movement!

In the months that led to the conference, Eddy (Dr Edward Edezath) and I spent countless days drafting,

writing, discussing, and travelling. We prepared, printed, and distributed several leaflets as preparation materials. Newsletters informing, instructing, and guiding the participants were published throughout September, October, and December. Simultaneously, we designed and printed registration forms and name badges.

Let us remember with gratitude Josey Gloria for designing the beautiful Christmas card, which helped spread the message and lighten the financial burden, and Reverend Father Jose Nedunilath for the glowing words.

Mobilisation and Ministry

The youth involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal became the backbone of this ministry. Numerous youth groups were formed, gathering regularly for fellowship, worship, and studying the Word of God. Many groups also actively reached out in service and evangelisation. These groups enthusiastically ventured out to mobilise and prepare the youth for the conference.

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ഡിസംബർ		പ്രാർത്ഥന 7.00	
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9.15 — 9.45	സ്വാഗതം-ഗാനം-ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളിൽ		
10.00 — 11.30	അഭിപ്രായം	കാഴ്ച 9.45	
		സമാപനസന്ദേശം: ബിഷപ്പ് ജോസഫ് കർത്താ	
12.00	ഭക്ഷണം	ഫാ. ജോസ് പാലാട്ടി സി. ഐ. ഐ.	
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Programme Itinerary

For the smooth conduct of the event, various ministries and teams were formed at zonal and regional levels, including: Registration, Programme, Publicity, Music, Intercession, Volunteers, Food, Literature, and Finance.

A Promise Fulfilled

Those two months of preparation filled me with joy and hope. Every morning, I would travel from Kottayam to Ernakulam by train and return in the evening. My wife, Mini, was pregnant at the time, and we were expecting our baby by the end of December. Due to this, neither of us was able to attend the actual conference.

Still, I ensured all conference materials were ready, printed, and sent to the venue. We later heard that a special prayer was said for us during the conference. And on January 2nd, we welcomed our baby girl!

In 1982, the Lord had given the members of The First Line a message: that He would raise us up step-by-step. Yet, during the hectic preparation period and even after the conference, I did not fully grasp the weight of this promise.

Now, as this movement has journeyed 40 long years, I realise the grandeur of the Lord's promise. It was to this long and blessed journey that those faithful preparations truly led.

Jose Padannamackal, In-charge of publicity and printing for JY 85

Move of the Spirit

When I think of JY 85 the first thought that comes to my mind is the First Line group of which I was a member. JY 85 and the Jesus Youth movement evolved from the discussions and thoughts of that group.

When the word movement is used, a statement made by Fr Gino Henriques comes to mind. This is not movement, but a move of the Holy Spirit.

I was given the charge of the music ministry for JY 85 conference. The memories of the related activities are alive even in my old age and that makes me proud. I had the special privilege of composing the theme song for the conference: *Yesuvin yuvakkal naam...* Though many people were approached, nobody could fulfil the need for a suitable or proper one. So I ventured out. I am thankful to our Lord God for using me to scribble the lines. Sunny Stephen composed the music for it. Even after 40 years, wherever Jesus Youth meets, this is being sung with youthful vigour and vitality. My eyes well with tears of joy and gratitude. Praise the Lord!

Johny Mamoottil, Coordinator of the music ministry for JY 85

Miracles from the Widow's Mite

When I became involved in preparing for the conference, it opened a new chapter in my spiritual growth. At the time, I served as the coordinator of the Ernakulam zone. This period offered me a golden opportunity to become totally dependent on the Lord.

Beyond my duties to my family and my work, I dedicated all my remaining time to serving the youth. I even left the recreation club where I had been an active member. My friends were quick to call my decision 'foolish,' urging me to reconsider. But while they offered worldly advice, my Lord's counsel was to seek His Kingdom. I made a firm decision to move forward into the fields of divine love.

I am proud to say, by the grace of God, that I remain a Jesus Youth even at the age of 70.

My commitment began simply, like the widow's mite in the Gospel. But just as Jesus's command to 'cast the net deep' brought about miracles, those miracles continue even today.

KK Joseph, In-charge of volunteers at JY 85

My Way as a Missionary

It was in 1976 that I attended my first Charismatic retreat, while earnestly searching ways to become a missionary. All through my life I was actively involved in church activities like Marian Sodality, Cherupushpam Mission League, Catechism, and during and after my college studies, in the AICUF. The Charismatic experience was a great arrival for me! I wanted everyone – my students, friends, family members and relatives – to come to this wonderful experience, and I started praying and working for the same. My membership in the regional and national Charismatic leaders' teams, and the various programmes I attended provided me with many good friends at different levels, helping me to develop and realise my dreams.

It was Fr Fio Mascarenhas SJ, the first national Chairman of the Charismatic Team, who suggested bringing together the youth in the renewal on a regional level. The KST appointed a team with Edward Edezhath as the convenor, and we had our first regional gathering by the end of December 1978, with more than 800 participants! Following that, we had regular annual regional gatherings, and many other programmes at local and zonal levels.

1985, being the International Year of the Youth, we wanted the regional conference to be a great event. The KST met together to plan the details. The theme for the three days were: situation of the (then) present day youth, Jesus as a youth, and the Jesus youth today. Then we had to decide upon a name for the conference. I had had the opportunity to interact with some Charismatic groups in the United States, after attending the International Charismatic leaders' conference at the Vatican in 1981, representing Kerala. Remembering the visit, I shared with the KST that the Americans had named their annual conferences, JESUS '78, JESUS '79, etc. It was Fr Jose Palatty CMI who came out with the suggestion, why don't we name our conference 'JESUS YOUTH 85', and it was unanimously accepted! Praise God!

The three days' classes and sharings gave the participants the conviction and

commitment that their mission was to be a Jesus Youth in all of life's situations. When the conference ended, we all left the venue declaring 'I am a Jesus Youth!' I remember the words of Cardinal Antony Padiyara during his inaugural speech for the conference, 'He who is on fire cannot sit on a chair.' With the fire of the Holy Spirit enkindled at the conference, various ministries such as Campus, Parish, Outreach, Teaching, Intercession, etc., emerged and leadership teams were formed. Many programmes for the various groups began, and several new initiatives came up. Jesus Youth 85 proved to be the beginning of innumerable ministries, various activities, missionary training programmes and mission out-reaches.

With its small beginning in Kerala in the 70s, JY has grown and developed,

and has now reached the ends of the earth. Wherever they are, they reach out, forming groups, ministries and projects and build networks. Jesus Youth – a missionary movement at the service of the Church with pontifical recognition and approval, has not only many youth, but all categories of people like bishops, priests, religious sisters, couples, families, single men and women actively involved, through different ways in the mission of the Church – world evangelisation. Jesus Youth is a source of many initiatives responding to the different needs, situations, and categories of people all over the world. To me Jesus Youth is a constant surprise!

Glory to God in the Highest! Amen.

Prof CC Alicekutty, Pioneer Jesus Youth



Mobilisation Material

Global Significance of the Jesus Youth Movement



Manoj Sunny, the first National and International Coordinator of the Jesus Youth movement, shares his insights on the future of JY within the global Catholic Church.

Meeting Pope Leo XIV at the
Jubilee of Movements

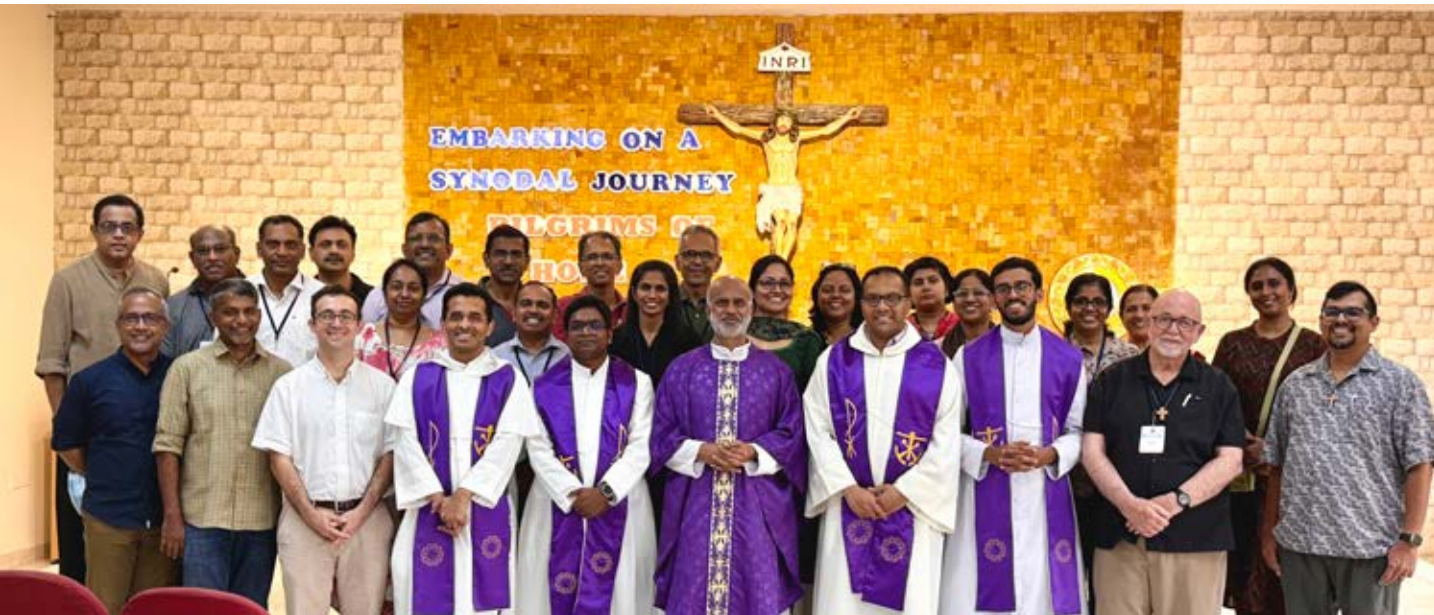
Below: With attendees of Jesus Youth Spiritual Direction Course
Bottom: Manoj and Beena with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

The past few years have brought encouraging signs of growth, maturity, and renewed influence for the Jesus Youth movement. Currently, we are witnessing four key developments that point to a very bright future: the emergence of a vibrant new generation of leaders, a significant increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life, a dramatic rise in the non-Indian presence internationally, and a synodal movement in mission.

The energy and quality of this new 'troop' fill us with immense hope. It signifies a movement within the movement – a powerful outpouring of the Spirit actively manifesting in our programmes. This influx of fresh, dedicated faces is one of the most exciting trends we have seen.

II. The Rising Tide of Vocations

Across the world, our young people take their vocation more seriously than ever before. None of them consider



I. A New Generation of Quality Leadership

We see the emergence of a bright, genuine, and high-potential generation of younger leaders. This is evident worldwide in the movement – young leaders who live the culture and speak the language of the land they were raised in. This includes the children of Jesus Youth parents as well. It's such a joy to meet the children I once carried as babies, now taking up leadership in the movement. Years ago, while travelling in another country, I had the privilege of being the first to visit the newborn child of a Jesus Youth couple in the hospital shortly after the delivery. That child is now a full-timer in our movement. Truly, we witness what the psalmist proclaims: *His mercy endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

married life a trivial vocation. We are also witnessing a new movement of the Spirit spreading across our community, inspiring young hearts to turn toward priesthood and religious life – particularly toward priesthood.

Although thousands of vocations have been inspired and ignited through the movement in the past, the current flow exceeds our understanding. Many undergo deep discernment after establishing secure careers, leaving behind worldly fortunes to embark on a new journey toward the priesthood. Each year, hundreds of young people who have held specific roles in the movement enter seminaries and religious formation houses.

This unprecedented phenomenon on such a scale is a clear sign of our movement's maturity and lasting fruit.

We are carefully observing and supporting this next phase of impact.

III. A Decisive International Presence

Another crucial development is the growing non-Indian presence within Jesus Youth.

Historically, our continental conferences with the theme 'Love Beyond Borders,' held between 2006 and 2008 in Thailand, India, Australia, Israel, the UK, and the USA, recorded 10–50%

The Jesus Youth movement is in a renewed phase of vibrant young leadership, rising priestly vocations, deeper local participation globally, and a synodal spirit of listening and mission. These trends reflect its growing maturity, fruitfulness, and Spirit-led missionary dynamism in the Church.



At the Australia JY National Leaders' Training Programme

non-Indian participation, reflecting the very spirit of the theme. While our focus shifted for a period due to external reasons, the recent strategy has been powerfully intentional:

New Missions: Over the last 10–15 years, nearly all our new missions have been established with indigenous, local, non-Indian groups. In fact, many recent missions began with no Indian presence at all, focusing solely on engaging the local populace.

Intentional Focus: Even in developed countries, we are intentionally starting groups focused exclusively on non-Indians, yielding profound results. Powerful stories are emerging of people, including non-Christians, receiving baptism. This is truly a blessing and an active move of the Spirit. The relevance of

our work is being recognised globally. As one group of Italian young adults recently said, they see the need for a movement like ours in Italy, highlighting the strong global demand for our way of life.

IV. A Synodal Movement in Mission

Our efforts over the past two years to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to our movement – especially through the voices of each member in the Listening to the Movement process – are helping us enter more deeply into the dimensions of Participation, Communion, and Mission. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, 'All of us are called to serve. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate.' We long to become ever more missionary in all we do. In the words of the Holy Father, we are called to be a movement that 'bends down to wash the feet of humanity that does not judge as the Pharisee judges the tax

collector, but becomes a welcoming home for all.' Though we come from different cultures, speak different languages, and vary in appearance, our hearts remain united as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Trusting the Lord's Providence

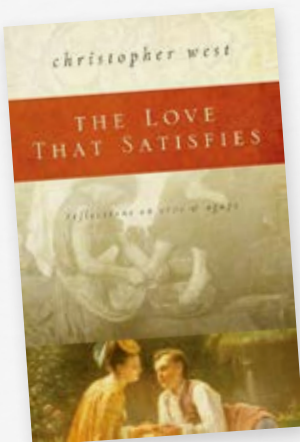
As we move into the next phase, we trust deeply in the Lord's promise to lead us step by step. His clear and deliberate providence continues to guide our movement, shaping it into an ever more influential and decisive presence within the life of the Catholic Church. ■■

Manoj Sunny is the present International Director of Formation of the Jesus Youth movement.

ON MY MIND

I recently read a book by Dr Christopher West called *The Love that Satisfies* where he explains a document from Pope Benedict XVI on the relationship between 'Eros' and 'Agape'. Eros is that ancient Greek word used to describe the inner seeking and desire of each one of us for the 'true, good, and beautiful'. Agape is the kind of divine love that is sacrificial and is benevolent, the love that truly wills what is good for the other.

In this book Christopher looks at the relationship of these two loves and shows how they are actually meant to be integrated and taken up in the love between man and woman. Eros, apart from Agape, is not true love. This is what often happens in our culture, where people think what is erotic, without Agape, is love. Eros that is not informed and guided and transformed by God's love is not true love, but rather a form of 'self-seeking' or selfishness.



For this integration of Eros and Agape to happen it takes 'opening up' our desires to God. This can happen in and through prayer. Going to God and telling Him our desires but asking Him to transform them according to His will. It is only in having a love that integrates Agape into it that we will find peace and joy in our relationships. 'God loved us first.' Therefore we must first receive this love, in order to give it to others. We can't give what we do not have. But once we have tasted and experienced the love of God, we can do nothing else but share it with those around us.

Nicholas Koeppel ► Krakow, Poland

*Be who God meant you
to be and you will set the
world on fire*
(St Catherine of Siena)

DR ANNILYN PURAYIDOM, TEXAS, USA

This is what it means to be striving for holiness, to be continually answering God's invitation to grasp the moments of our lives and allow God to use them to transform us into all he has created us to be. In each and every moment of our lives God's transforming love is inviting us to choose to live holy lives.

(Rediscovering Catholicism by Matthew Kelly)



Tania Rose Josun,
Kottayam, India



**Everyone in the world
needs Christ. But to come
to that realisation, we need
to work; we need a Jesus
encounter like the Apostles
did. To wish for and obtain
it, one needs to understand
the possibilities and graces
of a Jesus encounter.**
(JY Reflection)

JEEVAN BENANS, UAE



'DO NOT LET THE ALGORITHM WRITE YOUR STORY'

As we approach the final phase of the Jubilee year, celebrations are in full swing. October saw a host of celebrations and path-breaking events here in the Vatican. Life in Rome has found its old swagger again, with the city's schools and workplaces humming back to life. Tourists are still pouring in from all parts of the world. I really thought that by October this would change but it hasn't. The milder climate in Rome has helped as well. And all indications are that December will see another flurry of pilgrims eager for that last bite from the Jubilee plate!

The first weekend of October saw two concurrent Jubilees, the **Jubilee of the Missionary World** and the **Jubilee of Migrants**. The former was dedicated especially to all lay and religious missionaries, pastoral workers on mission, *fidei donum*, and various organisations connected to mission. There were Masses celebrated in various languages and the day concluded with a solemn international missionary Rosary in St Peter's Square. The next day saw the Jubilee of migrants with more than 10,000 participants. It all concluded with the 'Festival of Peoples,' an afternoon of music, testimonies, and performances featuring migrants, missionaries, and artists from around the world.

The next major event was the **Jubilee of Consecrated Life** on 8 and 9



October. As imagined the entire Vatican was flooded with priests and nuns, monks and contemplatives, members of secular institutes, members of the *Ordo virginum*, hermits, and the like. Pope Leo XIV praised the centuries of service that consecrated people have offered the Church, and thanked them for their hidden daily gestures to sustain the Church worldwide. He specially invited them to be 'truly poor, meek, hungry for holiness, merciful, pure of heart; those through whom the world will know the

peace of God.'

After the Pope's exhortation to pray for world peace during October, the month of the Rosary, a major attraction was the **Jubilee of Marian Spirituality** held on the 11th and 12th in the presence of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This statue was made in 1920 upon the people's request to have an image of the Marian apparition. (A special detail of the crown is that it contains inside it the bullet that was fired at Pope John Paul II on 13 May 1981.) The crowd



to see the statue was massive and they remained for the evening vigil as well. During the vigil, the Holy Father offered his first Golden Rose to Our Lady of Fatima, specially crafted by the company Diego Serpone of Naples.

The final week of October witnessed the **Jubilee of the World of Education**, from 27 October to 1 November. Beginning with a Mass presided over by the Holy Father, the Jubilee was celebrated throughout the week. With Rome hosting a great number of prestigious Catholic universities, the student crowd was vast for every programme. On 30th October, the Pope met with the university students. He urged them to not be satisfied 'with appearances or fads' and rather than being fixated on smartphones, to look to the sky, to the heights. 'You live in [digital education] and that's not a bad thing; there are enormous opportunities for study and communication. **But don't let the algorithm write your story!** Be the authors: use technology wisely, but don't let technology use you,' he urged. On 31 October, the Holy Father met with educators and trainers (teachers). He added that Catholic educators can learn four fundamental values from St Augustine's teachings: interiority, unity, love and joy. During the Mass on the Solemnity of All Saints, also the culmination of the Jubilee of the World of Education on 1st November, the Pope declared St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church and co-patron of the educational mission together with St Thomas Aquinas.

Another interesting thing was the swearing in of 27 new Swiss guards, the



Vatican army sworn to protect the Pope. In order to become a Swiss guard, one must be: male, between 19-30 years old, practising Roman Catholic, a Swiss citizen, unmarried, trained by the Swiss military, and at least 1.75 metres in height. Their uniform comprises 154 pieces, tailor-made for each guard and is destroyed after their term. This was the first time that a Pope attended the ceremony after Pope Paul VI.

A Polish breeder gifted a purebred Arabian horse to Pope Leo XIV ahead of the weekly General Audience in October, saying he was inspired by the photo of the Augustinian Pope on horseback in Peru. Other donors have already gifted the Pope a white motorcycle and an electric car.

History was made in the Sistine Chapel on 23rd October as Pope Leo XIV and King Charles III prayed side by side, marking the first time since the Protestant Reformation that a reigning British monarch and a Pope have prayed together. As part of the state visit, Pope

Leo approved the conferral of a new title on the monarch: 'Royal Confrater' of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls and the honour of Knight Grand Cross with the Collar of the Vatican Order of Pope Pius IX. In return, Pope Leo XIV was offered the title of 'Papal Confrater' of St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle and the honour of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Bath, an invitation Pope Leo accepted.

As we enter the final two months of the Jubilee, the ambience and sacred celebratory mood is still riding very high with a large number of pilgrims turning up for each event. Let's hope that this will continue till the finale at the end of the year! **KK**

Fr Justin Panachickal MSFS is currently doing his licentiate in social communications at the Pontifical University of Santa Croce, and will share with us throughout the Jubilee year ground reports from Rome.



Breath of the Almighty

Taking a look at what makes Jesus Youth the Spirit-filled movement that it is, **Anil Israel** asks whether our lives reflect the lifestyle of the early Christians.

Sixty years ago, the Second Vatican Council concluded on 8th December 1965, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, under the leadership of Pope Paul VI. The council began on 11th October 1962 under Pope John XXIII and was convened to address the role of the Church in the modern world and to promote dialogue with other religions and Christians. The council is remembered for the usage of the phrase *open the windows of the Church*, to usher in a new springtime, of renewing the Church and presenting the faith in a way that resonated with the men and women of our time. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the vernacular language made liturgy more accessible and understandable. The role of the laity shifted from a passive to an active one, with a greater emphasis on the *universal call to holiness* for all baptised people.

The Charismatic Renewal was born in February 1967 at a student retreat at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. The *stirring of the*

Spirit gave birth to several movements, communities and associations to continue the mission of the Church. When someone asks, who is the founder of the Jesus Youth movement, we aptly attribute it to the working of the Holy Spirit. Over the past forty years, the Jesus Youth movement is witnessing the spread of its fragrance in over forty countries. Undeniably, it is the supreme manifestation of the *churning of the Divine Spirit* in the hearts of the faithful.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42). It is this lifestyle of the early Christians that we are emphasising as the pillars of the movement. This is not a new finding. This is simply an acknowledgement of what ought to have been promoted and practised as an essential ingredient for every believer and *follower of the Way* (Acts 24:14).

Young people are strongly convinced of *not giving up meeting together* (Hebrews 10:25). Several weekly prayer gatherings in campuses or parishes have become an oasis for refreshing one's faith life. The bonding, warmth and encouragement experienced during grace-filled moments of praise and worship and heart-filled sharings, provide a deep sense of the divine presence – a sweet taste of heaven on earth. A friendly reminder of the next prayer meeting, a sincere follow-up when one misses showing up, a personal prayer request being genuinely prayed over, all contribute to building up a bond of heavenly connection among people on earth. Fellowship has become the irresistible paradise that one longs to return to, week after week to re-fuel one's spiritual tank.

An exquisite emphasis on exclusive time with God during personal prayer, has elevated one's spiritual life to immeasurable depths. A conscious

decision to take one's prayer life seriously, by prioritising the turning of one's soul to God, has become an indispensable trait for those willing to grow in divine intimacy. A personal discipline of beginning each day with prayer, is widely being embraced as an irreplaceable ingredient for an active Christian life. An irrefutable dependence on the supernatural *power from on high* (Luke 24:49) through renewing one's personal relationship with God has become the hallmark of a missionary disciple.

Frequent reception of the sacraments of Holy Communion and confession has added vigour and flavour to the lifestyle of one willing to be a FOOL (Focussed Only On the Lord) for Christ. Prioritising the day so as not to miss daily Mass is a proof of radical reorientation of one's life around the Eucharist – *the source and summit of Christian life* (CCC 1324).

Falling in love with the Bible – the eternal living word is a sign of a life devoted to eternal life. Daily reading and meditating on the Holy Scripture provide nourishment to one's soul. A newfound interest to study the divine word helps one encounter God in the written Word.

The tagline of the movement – *A missionary movement at the service of the Church* – echoes the call of every baptised Christian to respond to the great commission. Youngsters are willing to set apart a year for voluntary service in the Lord's vineyard. Different formation initiatives help equip people to grow in their pursuit of personal holiness and contribute their unique share towards the mission of the Church. Every heartbeat tends to whisper: *I no longer live, but Christ lives in me* (Galatians 2:20).

Where am I in my journey as a baptised Christian? Do I embrace the itinerary of holiness – the lifestyle of the early Christians – echoed as six pillars? How faithful am I in my adherence to

I NO LONGER LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME › GALATIANS 2:20



The tagline of the movement - A missionary movement at the service of the Church - echoes the call of every baptised Christian to respond to the great commission. Youngsters are willing to set apart a year for voluntary service in the Lord's vineyard. Different formation initiatives help equip people to grow in their pursuit of personal holiness and contribute their unique share towards the mission of the Church.

the practice of this joyful spirituality? Is my spiritual tank empty? Or is it being refilled with the daily dose of vertical pillars – personal prayer, Word of God and sacramental life? Am I connected to my local fellowship circle on a regular basis? Am I setting apart myself to be available as an instrument in the Lord's vineyard? Am I putting my God-gifted talents and abilities to good use – to build up His kingdom?

Do I believe that the Christian life is purely activated by divine power? Do I put myself on the receiving end of grace? Do I cooperate with heavenly inspirations and promptings of the Holy Spirit? Do I invoke the assistance of the divine? Am I willing to abandon myself to be *led by the Spirit* (Romans 8:14)? What are my *five loaves and two fish* (Matthew 14:17) towards the great commission?

May we learn to acknowledge that *the capacity we have comes from God* (1Corinthians 3:5). May our faithfulness to personal prayer and Word of God, be the *two small coins* (Mark 12:42) we offer. May our desire for daily Mass be the *one loaf of bread* (Mark 8:14) we hunger for. May the *living sacrifice* (Romans 12:1) of our time, talents and treasure be the *pure emanation* (Wisdom 7:25) of the *breath of the Almighty* (Job 33:4) in our lives. ■

Anil Israel lives in Mannheim, Germany, with his wife Sunitha and their 6 children.

NewsWatch

Church's Seven New Saints Inspire Faith and Perseverance

On 19 October the global Catholic community celebrated with joy as Pope Leo XIV canonised seven new saints during World Mission Sunday. The solemn Mass drew pilgrims from around the world, who described the event as a profound reminder of faith, hope, and resilience. Their stories of holiness continue to inspire countless believers to live with courage and compassion in everyday life. Among those honoured was St Vincenza Maria Poloni, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy of Verona. Her congregation expressed overwhelming gratitude for her recognition, describing her as a woman who lived holiness through humble service. 'Mother Vincenza served the sick, the poor, and the marginalised with pure joy,' said Sr Christina, one of her spiritual daughters. Another sister, Sr Hongera Adam, reflected, 'She saw the poor as our Lord's, teaching us that holiness exists in simple acts of mercy.'

Lay missionary Esther Madaha from Tanzania shared how St Vincenza's life has become a beacon for her own faith: 'Her compassion and love for the poor remind me to live mercy each day.' For the Sisters of Mercy, the canonisation reaffirmed their mission – to serve Christ in the poor with humility and love, following the example of their foundress.

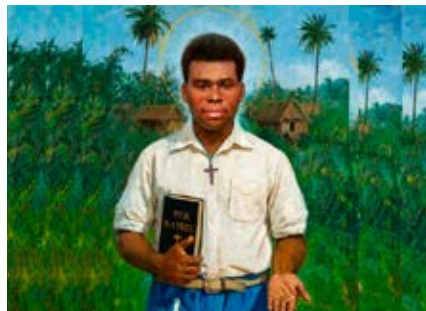
From Venezuela, the canonisation of St Maria del Monte Carmelo Rendiles Martínez – foundress of the Sisters of the Handmaids of Jesus – marked a historic moment as she became the nation's first saint. Despite physical disabilities, she lived a life of deep Eucharistic devotion and service. 'Her holiness blossomed in small, silent acts done with great love,' said Sr Adriana from her congregation. 'She taught us that everyday service, even in silence, can become extraordinary when done for God.' The Salesian Sister St Maria Troncatti is remembered for her tireless work among the poor and the sick.



Known for her humility and compassion, she died in a plane crash in 1969, but reports of miraculous healings through her intercession soon followed. Sr Gisele Masha of the Salesian Sisters said, 'Her canonisation renews our mission – she reminds us that holiness begins with love and service to the least of our brothers and sisters.'

From Papua New Guinea, pilgrims celebrated the canonisation of St Peter To Rot, a lay catechist and martyr who upheld the sanctity of marriage during persecution. 'His steadfastness strengthens our faith,' said Samantha, one of the pilgrims. Another, Cathy from Lae Diocese, added, 'He shows us that holiness isn't only for priests – it's lived daily through fidelity, discipline, and love for Christ.' Sisters from the Solomon Islands also expressed renewed commitment to their vocation, inspired by St To Rot's courage and faith.

From Africa to Latin America to Oceania, the lives of these saints proclaim that holiness knows no borders. Their examples – whether through mercy, mission, silent service, or martyrdom – reveal that sanctity grows wherever love for Christ and neighbour flourishes. As one pilgrim reflected, 'These saints remind us that faith lived with courage and compassion can transform the world.'



By Sam Biju

King's Visit Deepens Catholic-Anglican Friendship

The recent encounter between Pope Leo XIV and King Charles III marked a milestone in the long journey of dialogue and friendship between the Catholic and Anglican Churches. On Thursday, 23 October the Pope and the British monarch shared a day rich with history and symbolism, filled with moments of prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment to unity and care for creation. The day began with a private audience in the Apostolic Palace, followed by an ecumenical prayer in the Sistine Chapel – the first time in centuries that an English king prayed alongside a Pope. The events concluded with a service at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, where King Charles was officially welcomed as a Royal Confrater of Saint Paul, a title steeped in pre-Reformation tradition. Father Martin Browne, an Irish Benedictine and a member of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, reflected on the day's significance in an interview with Vatican News. He noted that the shared prayer between the two leaders was unprecedented in modern times. 'No English monarch has prayed with a Pope since before the Reformation,' he said. 'This is a powerful sign of the growing warmth and understanding between our Churches.'

During the ceremony at Saint Paul's, King Charles was seated in a specially designed chair adorned with his royal coat of arms and the Latin phrase *Ut unum sint* – 'That they may be one.' Father Browne explained that, historically, English monarchs were considered patrons of the basilica, and symbols of the British Order of the Garter still appear in the abbey's insignia. This renewed link, he said, 'represents a fresh chapter in the relationship between the English crown and the ancient basilica.'

As Supreme Governor of the Church

of England, King Charles wanted his visit to have a spiritual character as well as a diplomatic one. According to Father Browne, the King's participation in prayer and worship 'made visible the closeness he believes already exists between the Catholic and Anglican communities.'

Both Popes Francis and Leo XIV supported the initiative, which highlights how much the two Churches now share in faith and mission despite theological differences. 'We still have serious divisions,' Father Browne admitted, 'but there is also a deep common heritage – a shared faith and spiritual tradition that binds us.'

Throughout the day's liturgies, St John Henry Newman – a figure deeply respected in both traditions – was remembered as a symbol of unity. Hymns translated or written by him were featured in both the Sistine Chapel and Saint Paul's services. Father Browne recalled that Newman's life bridges both Churches, having served as an Anglican priest before becoming a Catholic cardinal. King Charles, who attended Newman's canonisation in 2019, has long admired his faith and intellect. A shared concern for the environment also united the day's prayers. The visit coincided with the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' *Laudato si*, and both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to protecting creation. Father Browne described this as 'an ecumenism of our common home,' emphasising that Christians of every tradition must work together to care for the planet.

In this historic encounter, the Pope and the King not only honoured centuries of faith but also renewed a promise – to walk together in friendship, prayer, and stewardship of the world they share.

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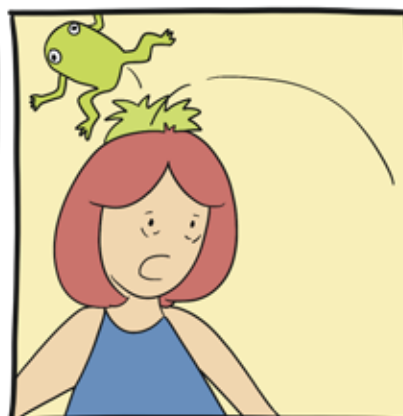
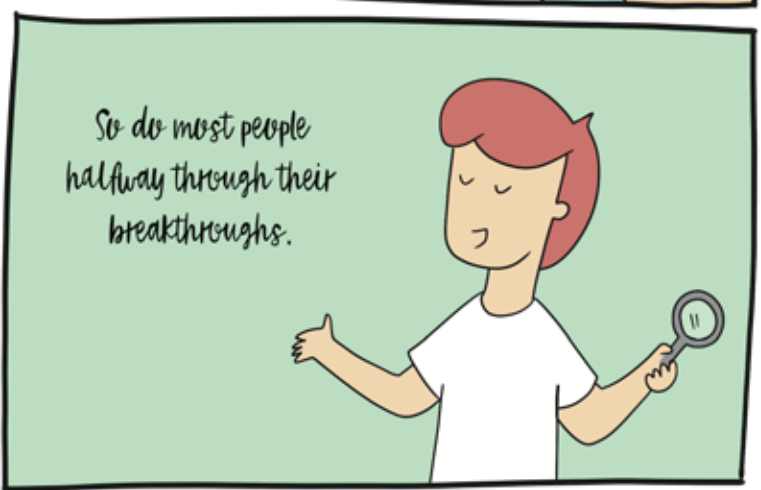
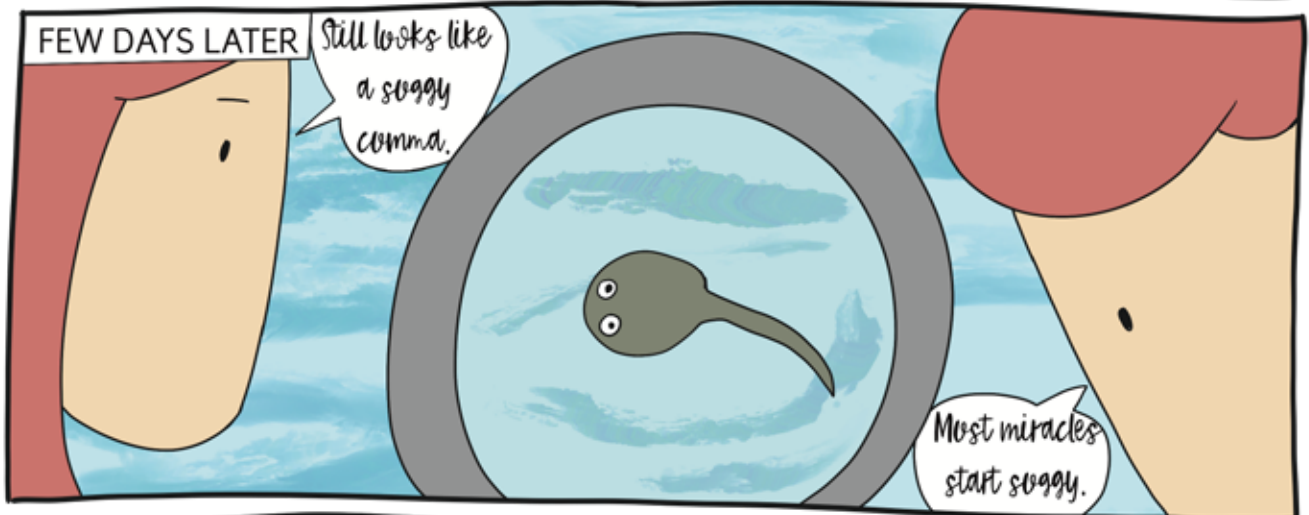
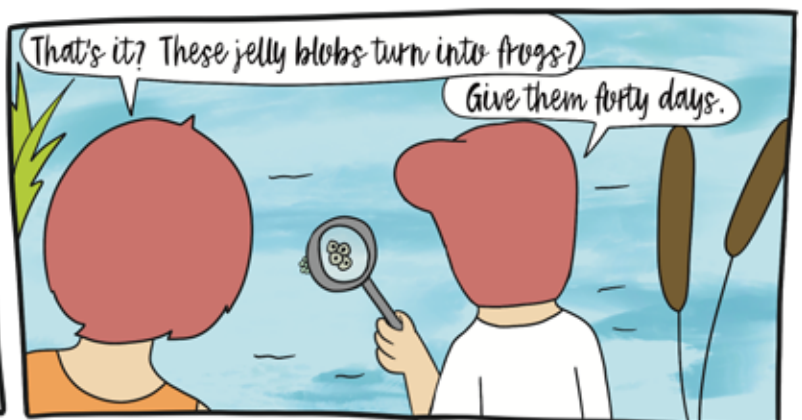
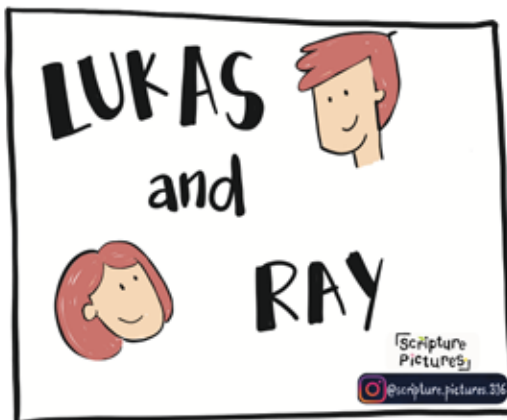
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