



The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

MESSAGE ON YOUTH DAY - 2025

Your Excellencies, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi and Rambans, Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Religious and dear children in Jesus,

Every year we celebrate Youth Day on the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the heavenly patron of the Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM). I lovingly Call upon all our Parishes to celebrate this year's youth day on Sunday the 5th October 2025. At the Parish level, programs should be organized that include prayer for the youth and motivational programs. All young people should make their confession and receive Holy Communion as a prelude to participate in the celebrations. The offering on that day is for the youth ministries of the Church. On behalf of our Church, I express gratitude and God's blessings to the priests, the religious and the lay Missionaries who enliven the youth Ministry of our Church.

Youth: Hope and Crisis

Young people are not only the hope of the future of the Church but also the active witnesses of today. The role and leadership of the youth in making the spiritual life of the Church dynamic at the various levels are commendable. The services being rendered by the youth in the worship life of the Parish as well as the various celebrations related to the liturgy cannot be ignored. We must always pay special attention to keep the youth of the Church at all times active and vibrant so that the Church will remain ever youthful.

The present day youth are born and are growing up in a complex world order. The social awareness of the present generation born and raised in nuclear families is different from that of the previous generation. The support from the Church and the society is essential for the youth to acquire mental maturity to face others in times of crisis and experience of failure.

Comprehensive assessments are essential in the issue of youth ministry. We must recognize that the tendency to exclude young people when there is some deficiency or failure is not the correct approach in youth ministry. I lovingly advice everyone to consider it a positive duty to include the youth with hop in all Parish activities.

It is paradoxical that today's young generation while easily master the complex of modern knowledge of technology is becoming slaves to the same technology and modern devices. The verse of Christ "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32) clear clarify the approach that young people should adopt towards technology that hinder the truth and reactionary forces and moments that hinder the truth we need to be specially vigilant.

Today's generation is raised by parents who have gone through hardships in their life and thought that their children should grow up without experience in any hardships. So they have provided everything for them therefore they fail to recognize the importance and value of hard work and human relationships in life. The importance of waiting or the virtue of patience does not even reflect in their imagination. Similarly we must examine honestly whether we consider passing on the values, virtues, ideas and tradition of faith that our ancestors have passed on to us to the younger generation today.

Instead of addressing and overcoming problems the tendency to cut of personal relationships and retreat to convenient places is increasing among young people. The psychological challenge about future security is great among young people and unrealistic concepts of life are becoming a signature of the youth. It is but natural that migratory trends both within and outside the country are increasing among the youth who seek shortcuts in life.

An "instant culture" has influenced the youth in every aspects of their life. Long visions are becoming alien to the youth. A journey from today to tomorrow is understood only as the darkness of a night and has no courage to wait for the morning; they end their lives in the despair of the night, cutting of personal relationships. Similarly we should not fail to recognize the challenge that the young generation who are running away from the responsibilities of the social order possess to the future of society and the family and different attitude of "I don't care" is growing in this situation in important vision of life to the young people.

Families where youth Blossom

Children who grow up in a good family background are more likely to become mature adults. The warmth of family relationships is not only socially but also emotionally and mentally beneficial in the comprehensive growth, a favorable environment for the holistic development of the young people. We must strive to reduce the emotional distance between generations in

families, family prayers held by parents and children together, work together in the family household, eating together, participating in active conversations and celebrating family functions together etc., are family realities that transmit life experiences as well as Faith in God from parents to their children.

We should ensure special attention to fostering a sense of collective responsibility among the young. We should not wait until a generation is lost.

The Parish: A Second Home

Parish communities should play a crucial role in the emotional and spiritual development of young people. We must make a conscious effort to transform parishes to ‘second homes’ for young people and thus make it youth-friendly community. In this regard, the negative attitude and indifference, shown by pastors towards young people, are equally harmful. Let us set aside our prejudices and at the same time recognize and accept the characteristics of youth, be it good or bad gracefully. It is essential that parish community show tolerance towards the young and patiently allow them to make changes in their lives.

Healthy dialogue among people of different age groups in parishes is essential for the faith formation of young people. The vicar, together with the religious and the laity in parish ministry, should strive to transform any conflict in the Parish into an opportunity for dialogue.

The activities of the MCYM which are generally organized by the church to train the youth of that age and ensure their holistic growth should be activated at the Parish level. Directors and animators in youth ministry should find time to accompany the youth and provide them encouragement and corrections at personal level. We should try to promote and increase platforms for youth at various levels and where ever possible ensure adult participation in such events.

As a great example for the youth of the modern era Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis who were blessed with Heaven in their youth were canonized by the Catholic Church on 17th September 2025.

Saint Frassati dedicated all the possibilities of his youth to the uplift of the poor and the marginalized is showing the great “possibility of life” to young people. The life of the 16 year old Saint Carlo Acutis who fell in love with the “path to Heaven,” the Eucharist, amidst all the possibilities of youth including computers and the internet is a challenge to the young people.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that, “to everyone especially, to the youth, Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are giving an invitation to lead their lives to the Heights and to make

them excellent creations without wasting time.” Dear young people, I pray that you will all be able to live your life meaningfully not just going through it, but in your relationship with God and your brothers and sisters!!

Church - level Youth Day celebrations

The Youth Day celebrations of this year of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church HESED 2025 will be held on 18th and 19th October 2025 at the Mariyagiri Malankara Catholic college hosted by the eparchy of Marthandam. Programs such as an international youth quiz competition, cultural evening, Holy mass, study class and a public meeting has been organized as part of the Church level day celebration. All the youth of our Church are cordially invited to HESED 2025.

Wishing everyone goodness and God’s blessings!

+Mathews Mar Polycarpus,
Chairman, Synodal Commission for Youth.

25.09.2025

Catholicate Centre,
Pattom, Trivandrum