

THE CCBI PASTORAL PLAN & YOUTH COMMISSION

(FR. FAUSTINE LOBO)

Today's youth are tomorrow's citizens. They are the leaders for the church in the future. Well-formed youth – spiritually, psychologically, politically, socially, technologically and culturally – are the ones who can be the true witnesses to their faith.

The Church provides a structure called the Youth Commission to assist the youth in this direction. It is the responsibility of the Youth commission to come up with relevant programs that form and reform the youth of today. To this effect, it has to constantly take stock of the situation in the world. The Church is facing different challenges in the world today.

Some such the challenges enlisted in the (CCBI Pastoral Plan) are;

1. The Church has become conscious of the need of engaging in dialogue with people of other religions and members of other Christian Churches.
2. The Church is also aware that her institutionalized way of functioning, at times, undermines her commitment to her evangelizing mission.
3. To ensure transparency, accountability and a participative process of decision making and functioning. Some dioceses do not yet have appropriate participatory structures in administration.
4. Women and youth do experience freedom and empowerment through training programs and services, much more needs to be done to provide them with leadership opportunities in the various bodies of the Church.
5. The Church needs to become more youth friendly, drawing the youth closer to Christ, helping them grow spiritually and challenging them intellectually (by social analysis, by biblical formation and formation in Church teachings, etc.).
6. Organizing youth must take new shape as the youth are not always available at the church and the time of the youth is different than others.
7. Faith formation has to address the deeper 'hungers' of the youth, while at the same time enabling them meet their own 'needs' with career guidance as well as mentoring them to aspire for higher professions (IAS, IPS, IFS, etc.), business, economic and political enterprises.
8. The influence of the consumer society that glorifies personal achievement and prosperity.
9. The phenomenon of Catholics leaving the Church, the gap between the clergy and the laity, the absence of a sense of belonging to the wider community and
10. The drastic decline in family prayer is a great concern.
11. The 'family' concept is fast changing. The values of families are eroding and disintegration of families is on the rise. The contemporary and divergent thinking on sexuality, marriage, divorce, contraception and abortion affect the faith life of our people.

Youth formation is a challenge today because the situation of the youth of today is different than the youth of the old. The youth find

1. The liturgy is insipid to the youth. Youth friendly liturgy is the need of the hour.
2. Liturgy at the time of the youth. They are absent to the society at large
3. Migrant youth for education and jobs – don't belong anywhere.

4. The society of the youth is small – world inside the work place.
5. 'Live-in PGs' create unwanted, unwarranted relationships based on contracts.
6. Lack of friends to the youth – constant transfers.
7. No family life: They are at home when all are out and out when all are at home.
8. Barrage of information and distorted values by the mass media of communication.

We need to find a way out in this kind of hostile situation. Instead of drifting along the current of lose morality, we should be a beacon of light that shows the way to the world. Our effort we shall focus in the direction of forming the youth to be the torch bearers.