



TELUGU CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT
TCBC COMMISSION FOR YOUTH



YUVA JWALA



MARCH 2026

REGIONAL
JUBILEE OF YOUTH
CELEBRATIONS

67 TH REGIONAL
YOUTH
ELECTIONS

Youth Fest
JWALA
2025

TELUGU CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT TRI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE



His Excellency

MOST REV DR. RAYARALA VIJAYA KUMAR PIME

*Chairman, TCBC Commission for Youth
Bishop of Srikakulam*

VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD

“Return to Me with All Your Heart” – Book of Joel 2:12

Dear Youth of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh,

You belong to a remarkable generation. From the fast-growing technology corridors of Hyderabad to the vibrant campuses and coastal cities of Andhra Pradesh, you are stepping into careers, innovation, leadership, and global opportunities that previous generations could only imagine. You carry ambition, talent, intelligence, and influence. Yet in the midst of this progress and pressure, the timeless voice of God still speaks with clarity and compassion: “Return to Me with all your heart.”

This is not a call away from education, excellence, or professional success. It is a call to anchor them in something deeper. Achievement without spiritual foundation often leaves the heart restless. Recognition without righteousness cannot satisfy the soul. In a world that constantly measures worth by performance, God measures the heart. He invites you not merely to believe, but to belong fully to Him. To return with all your heart means allowing faith to shape your identity before career defines it. It means choosing integrity when compromise seems easier. It means remembering God in moments of success and trusting Him in seasons of uncertainty. It means living with conviction in a culture that often celebrates convenience over character. The message of Joel was given during a time of crisis, yet it carried hope. God’s call to return was rooted in His grace. He is compassionate, patient, and rich in love. He does not call you back to condemn you, but to restore you. No distance is too far. No mistake is too great. No distraction is too powerful for His grace to overcome.

Youth of the Telugu States, you are not only the leaders of tomorrow; you are the moral and spiritual influencers of today. Let your generation be known not only for technological advancement and professional excellence, but also for spiritual depth, integrity, and courage. Let your success reflect your faith. Let your leadership reflect God’s heart. In the noise of modern life, may you hear His gentle yet urgent call. In the pursuit of greatness, may you never lose the presence of the One who gives true purpose. And in every stage of your journey, may your response be sincere and complete:

“Lord, I return to You with all my heart.”

✱

With Love

Most. Rev. Dr. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar PIME





VOICE OF THE DIRECTOR

REV. FR. MEDI SLEEVARAJ SDB

*Regional Secretary,
TCBC Commission for Youth
Regional Youth Director, IGYM*

Dear Youth of the Tèlugu States,

Warm greetings to each one of you.

You are the strength, hope, and future of our society. The energy, creativity, and determination you carry within you have the power to shape not only your own lives but also the destiny of our communities. In a rapidly changing world, your values, discipline, and commitment to excellence matter more than ever.

As young people, you stand at a crucial stage of life where choices define direction. Choose integrity over shortcuts, compassion over indifference, and hard work over comfort. Equip yourselves with knowledge, nurture your talents, and remain grounded in moral and spiritual principles. Success is not measured only by achievements, but by character, humility, and service to others.

Remember the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the Tèlugu land. Let it inspire you to dream boldly while staying rooted in respect, responsibility, and unity. Support one another, uplift those who are struggling, and contribute positively to your families, institutions, and society at large.

May you grow into leaders who act with wisdom, serve with compassion, and live with purpose. The future belongs to you—embrace it with confidence, faith, and determination.

With best wishes and encouragement.

*With Prayerful Wishes,
Rev Fr. Medi Sleevaraj SDB*



Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026



“LISTENING AND FASTING: LENT AS A TIME OF CONVERSION”:

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through listening. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry” (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”



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– Pope



Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor. With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.”^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.” As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.” In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3). Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one’s conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

*“Sports for power,
culture for grace!”*

Sriakakulam



The Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC) Youth Commission organized “JWALA” Sports and Cultural Competitions on 13-12-2025 at Mariyagiri, Sriakakulam for Telugu Catholic youth.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Most Rev. Rayarala Vijay Kumar, PIME, Chairman of TCBC Youth Commission and Bishop of Sriakakulam Diocese, and Fr. Sleevea Raj, SDB, Regional Youth Director. Youth from all dioceses participated actively in various sports and cultural events.

The competitions fostered team spirit, leadership, and cultural values among the youth.

“JWALA” truly ignited the flame of faith, unity, and enthusiasm in young hearts.



Youth Fest
JWALA
2025
SPORTS





Youth Fest JWALA 2025

JUBILEE OF YOUTH CELEBRATIONS

The Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC) Youth Commission successfully organized "JWALA 2025" Sports and Cultural Competitions at Mariyagiri, Srikakulam. Catholic youth from all the dioceses of the Telugu region participated with great enthusiasm, promoting unity, leadership, sportsmanship, and cultural values.

The program was conducted under the guidance of Most Rev. Rayarala Vijay Kumar, PIME, Chairman of the TCBC Youth Commission and Bishop of Srikakulam, along with Rev. Fr. Sleevea Raj, SDB, Regional Youth Director. Most Rev. Pilli Anthony Das also encouraged the youth with his presence.

The event brought together young people through sports, cultural activities, prayer, and fellowship, igniting a strong spirit of faith, unity, and enthusiasm among the Telugu Catholic youth.



Communio participated actively through Sr. Margarita Dias SCB, Associate Director of Communio, along with volunteers Vijay, Amala, and Sumit. A highlight of the fest was the Communio youth animation session conducted by Sr. Margarita on 13 December, focusing on the 5Gs that help youth grow as spiritually strong and mission-oriented disciples. The session encouraged a personal encounter with Christ and introduced the vision and mission of Communio and the CCBI.

JWALA 2025 offered a holistic experience through prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, cultural programmes, sports, and fellowship. Sincere appreciation is extended to Bishop Rayaral Vijaya Kumar, Fr. Sleevevraj SDB, Fr. Gupta SDB, Sr. Pameela FMA, the organising team, and all who contributed to making the fest a meaningful and grace-filled event.





I feel truly blessed and grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to work in Communio. Through my mission training program, I have learned many valuable lessons that are helping me grow not only in knowledge but also in faith and service. This journey has taught me the importance of love, unity, and serving others with a sincere heart. I feel it is a great privilege to be part of Communio and to walk this path of mission and learning. I thank God for choosing me and guiding me through this experience. May He continue to use me as an instrument of His love and peace. I am thankful for every person who has supported and guided me in this mission.

Vijay Raju , Vishakapatnam



I am deeply thankful to God for blessing me with the opportunity to be part of Communio. Being a part of the Mission Training Program has helped me learn many meaningful lessons that are shaping both my faith and my understanding of service. Throughout this journey, I have discovered how important love, unity, and compassion are in serving others. It is truly an honor to walk this path of mission, learning, and personal growth with Communio. I am grateful to God for guiding my steps and for choosing me to be part of this mission. I sincerely thank everyone who has encouraged, supported, and mentored me along the way. I also feel blessed to receive the opportunity to travel to Malaysia as part of this mission experience. I pray that God continues to guide me and use me as a channel of His love and peace in the lives of others.

Amala , Vishakapatnam



This journey has taught me the importance of love, unity, and serving others with a sincere heart. It is a great privilege to be part of Communio and to walk this path of mission and learning. I also feel thankful for the beautiful opportunity to meet and work with people from different states, coming together as one team with a spirit of service and love. It has been a wonderful experience to learn from each other and grow together in faith. I thank God for choosing me and guiding me through this experience. May He continue to use me as an instrument of His love and peace. I am grateful to everyone who has supported and guided me in this mission.

Sumith , Hyderabad



“LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH IS A CALL TO SERVE WITH LOVE.”

The **67th Regional Youth Elections** were prayerfully held on 14th December 2025 at the Mariagiri Shrine, Srikakulam, in an atmosphere of faith and responsibility. The elections were conducted under the gracious presence and guidance of **His Excellency Most Rev. Vijay Kumar Rayarala**, PIME, Chairman of the TCBC Youth Commission and Bishop of Srikakulam, along with **Rev. Fr. Sleeva Raj**, SDB, Regional Youth Director, Youth Directors from various dioceses, and the REXCO team.

Youth representatives participated with enthusiasm and a strong spirit of service. The election process was smooth and transparent, and after one hour and twenty-five minutes of prayerful anticipation, the new REXCO team was democratically elected.

The Church invokes God’s abundant blessings upon the newly elected REXCO team. May the Holy Spirit guide their leadership, and may Our Lady of Mariagiri intercede for them as they serve the youth with faith, unity, and commitment.



Telugu Catholic Youth Movement
TCBC COMMISSION FOR YOUTH





His Excellency
MOST REV DR. RAYARALA VIJAYA KUMAR PIME
Chairman, TCBC Commission for Youth
Bishop of Srikakulam



REV FR. MEDI SREEVARAJ SDB
Regional Secretary,
TCBC Commission for Youth

Congratulations
TELUGU REXCO
(2025-27)



Gowtham, Nellore
Regional Youth President



Mary, Srikakulam
Regional Youth Gen. Secretary



Dinesh, Guntur
R Y Vice President Male



Amala, Vizag
R Y Vice President Female



Matthew, Kadapa
R Y Treasurer



Uday, Adilabad
R Y Joint Secretary



Niranjan, Warangal
R Y Cultural Secretary



Varun, Khammam
R Y Sports Secretary



Sumith, Hyd
R Y Rep. Male



Divyavani, Kurnool
R Y Rep. Female



REGIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY BODY 2025-27



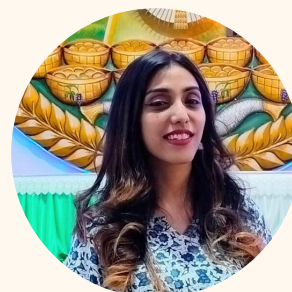
Mr. Challagali Raju,
Regional Youth Advisor
TCBC Commission for Youth



Mr. Harry Joshua,
Regional Youth Advisor
TCBC Commission for Youth

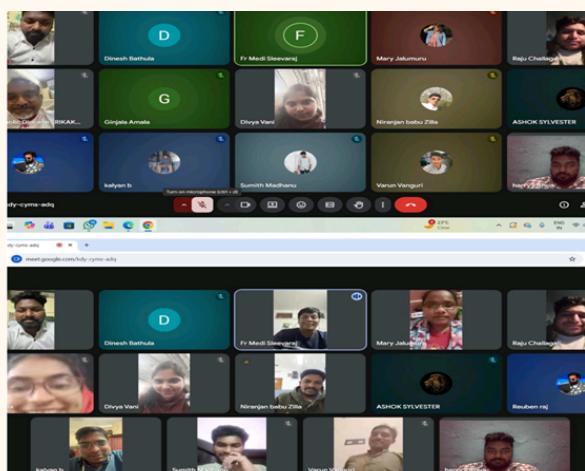


Mr. Kalyan,
Regional Youth Advisor
TCBC Commission for Youth



Ms. Manisha Sharon,
Regional Youth Advisor
TCBC Commission for Youth

ONLINE MEETING 22-12-2025



The REXCO Team Online Meeting was held on 22 December 2025 to introduce the newly elected REXCO members and discuss upcoming activities. The meeting began with a prayer and was opened by Mr. Goutham , Regional Youth President. Rev. Fr. Sleevea Raj SDB welcomed all participants and shared the vision for the next two years, emphasizing teamwork and unity. The previous meeting minutes were presented by Ms. Mary Jalumuru and approved. Discussions focused on the National Youth Elections and the 8th National Council Meeting in Bareilly, with Mr. Raju Challagali explaining the nomination process and requirements. Members also discussed the Live-in Programme, planned for February, to strengthen unity and plan future activities. Guidelines on discipline, communication, and responsibilities were highlighted. The meeting concluded with guidance and blessings from Most. Rev . Rayarala Vijaya Kumar, PIME, encouraging the team to represent the Telugu Region responsibly at the national level.



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20
25



Jesus Youth India





Telugu Region



ECHOES'26 *RAYALASEEMA REGION*

The Youth Ministry Gathering brought together 150 young delegates from across the region to celebrate, reflect, and deepen their understanding of Youth Ministry. The program was organized under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Sleeve Raj SDB, Regional Youth Secretary, and Mr. Raju Challagali, Regional Youth Advisor, who provided spiritual direction and mentorship throughout the event.

ECHOES **RAYALASEEMA REGION** **Inauguration**



10th National Council & Youth Election Bariely, U.P



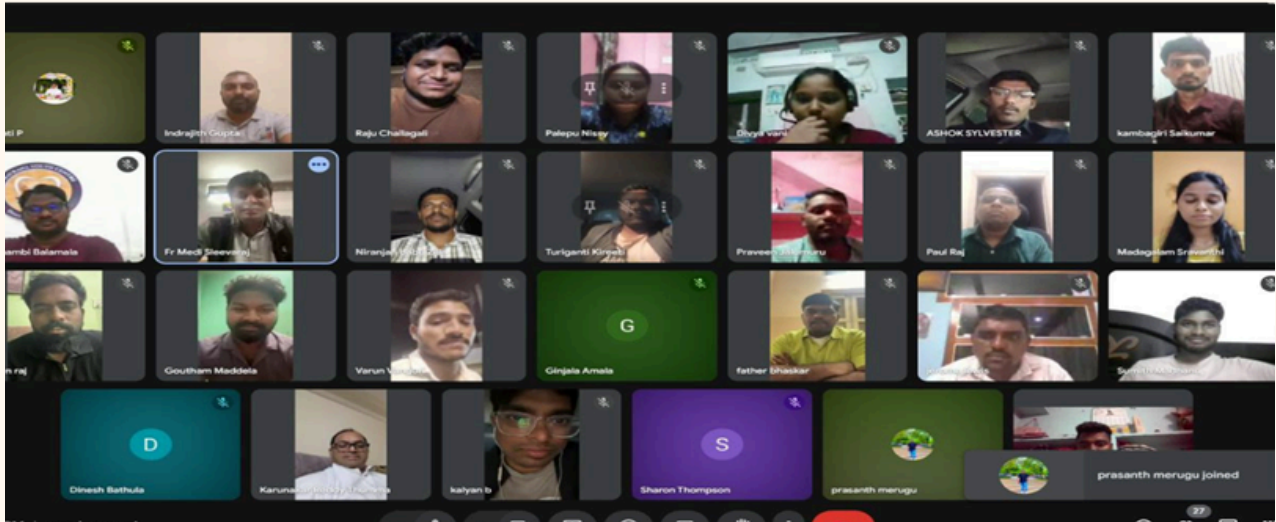
Our Rexco team — Mr. Gowtham (Regional Youth President), Mary (Regional Secretary), Divyavani (Female Representative from our Telugu Region), and Mr. Kalyan G (NEXCO Member) — along with Rev. Fr. Sleevevaraj (Regional Youth Director), actively participated in the National Youth Elections held in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

The team proudly represented our Telugu region at the national level and contributed to the election proceedings with great enthusiasm and responsibility.



ONLINE MEETING 16-01-2026

The Online Regional Youth Meeting was conducted in a prayerful atmosphere. Mr. Goutham, Regional President, welcomed the participants and presented the Regional Youth Report highlighting activities and future plans. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Key discussions focused on forming and strengthening parish youth groups, conducting diocesan youth elections, and appointing Lady Youth Animators in each diocese. Members also discussed preparations for the JWALA-2027 Regional Youth Convention (10-13 January 2027), including registration, accommodation, travel, and fundraising. The meeting also introduced participation in World Youth Day 2027, encouraging youth preparation and involvement. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Divyavani and the Final Blessing by Fr. P. The Online Regional Youth Meeting was conducted in a prayerful atmosphere. Mr. Goutham, Regional President, welcomed the participants and presented the Regional Youth Report highlighting activities and future plans. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.



UNIFEST, HYDERABAD



POSTER LAUNCH OF JWALA'27

@ TCBC ORDINARY MEETING, RAMANTHAPUR



The official poster of Jwala 2027, the Mega Regional Youth Convention of the TCBC Commission for Youth, was launched during the TCBC Ordinary Meeting held on March 5, 2026, at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad.

During the occasion, the organizers also announced the dates of the Mega Regional Convention, which will take place from January 10–14, 2027. The venue for the event will be announced at a later stage.

The gathering marked an important step in preparing for this much-awaited regional youth celebration, which is expected to bring together thousands of young people from across the Telugu region for faith, fellowship, and mission.

Youth Commission Report Presentation

The TCBC Commission for Youth presented its annual report during the TCBC Ordinary Meeting held on March 5, 2026, at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad. The report highlighted the major initiatives and pastoral activities carried out for the empowerment and formation of youth across the Telugu region. Key programs such as youth leadership formation, regional gatherings, and collaborative efforts with dioceses were shared with the bishops. The presentation also reflected on the ongoing mission of guiding young people in faith, leadership, and social responsibility. The bishops appreciated the efforts of the Youth Commission and encouraged continued commitment towards strengthening youth ministry and forming young leaders in the Church.



Congratulations

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our His Eminence and His Excellencies on their election as President and Chairmen of various Commissions of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI). This recognition is a matter of great joy and pride for our region and reflects the trust the Church in India has placed in their wisdom, pastoral leadership, and dedicated service.

May the Lord bless them abundantly with wisdom, courage, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they undertake these new responsibilities for the service of the Church and the people of God.



H.E. Cardinal Poola Anthony,
Archbishop of Hyderabad
President of CBCI



Most Rev. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar PIME,
Bishop of Srikakulam
**Chairman of CBCI Social
Communications and NISCORT**



Most Rev. Jayarao Polimera,
Bishop of Eluru
Chairman of CBCI Scheduled Castes/Backward Classes

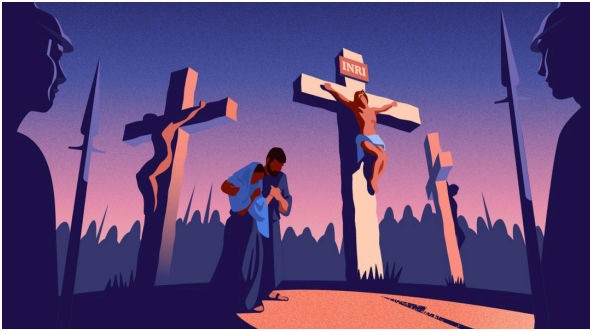


Most Rev. Gorantla Johannes OCD,
Bishop of Kurnool
Chairman of CBCI Clergy & Religious and NVSC

LENT: A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



– Sandeep Kumar
Co - Editor of Yuvajwala,
REXCO Member,
ICYM Telugu Region



The holy season of Lent is not just a tradition in the Church; it is a journey of transformation. For Catholic youth, Lent is an invitation to pause, reflect, and rediscover the true meaning of life through the example of Jesus Christ. In a world filled with distractions, social media, and constant noise, Lent calls young people to silence, prayer, and deeper faith. It is a time to ask ourselves meaningful questions: How can I become a better person? How can I show love to others? How can I follow Jesus more faithfully? Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we learn discipline, compassion, and humility.

Lent challenges youth to move beyond comfort and live with purpose. Giving up something we like is not only about sacrifice; it is about making space for God in our lives. When we choose kindness instead of anger, forgiveness instead of hatred, and service instead of selfishness, we truly live the spirit of Lent. Young people are the strength and hope of the Church. When Catholic youth live the values of Lent courageously, they become witnesses of faith in their schools, families, and society. Their actions can inspire others and bring light where there is darkness. As we journey through these forty days, let us remember that the path of sacrifice leads to the joy of Easter.

May this Lenten season renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and empower every young person to follow Christ with courage, love, and commitment. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." – Romans 12:2



PENTECOST AND YOUNG LEADERS

Pentecost marks the moment when the disciples, once fearful and uncertain, were transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into courageous witnesses of Christ. This event reminds us that true leadership in the Church begins not with authority or personal strength, but with openness to the Spirit who guides, strengthens, and renews. For young people, Pentecost is a call to allow God's Spirit to shape their vision, choices, and mission.

In today's world, young leaders face many challenges—rapid social changes, pressures of success, and questions about faith and identity. Yet the same Spirit who empowered the apostles continues to inspire young hearts today. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom to discern the right path, courage to stand for truth, and compassion to serve others. When young people allow the Spirit to guide their passions and talents, they become instruments of hope and transformation in their communities.

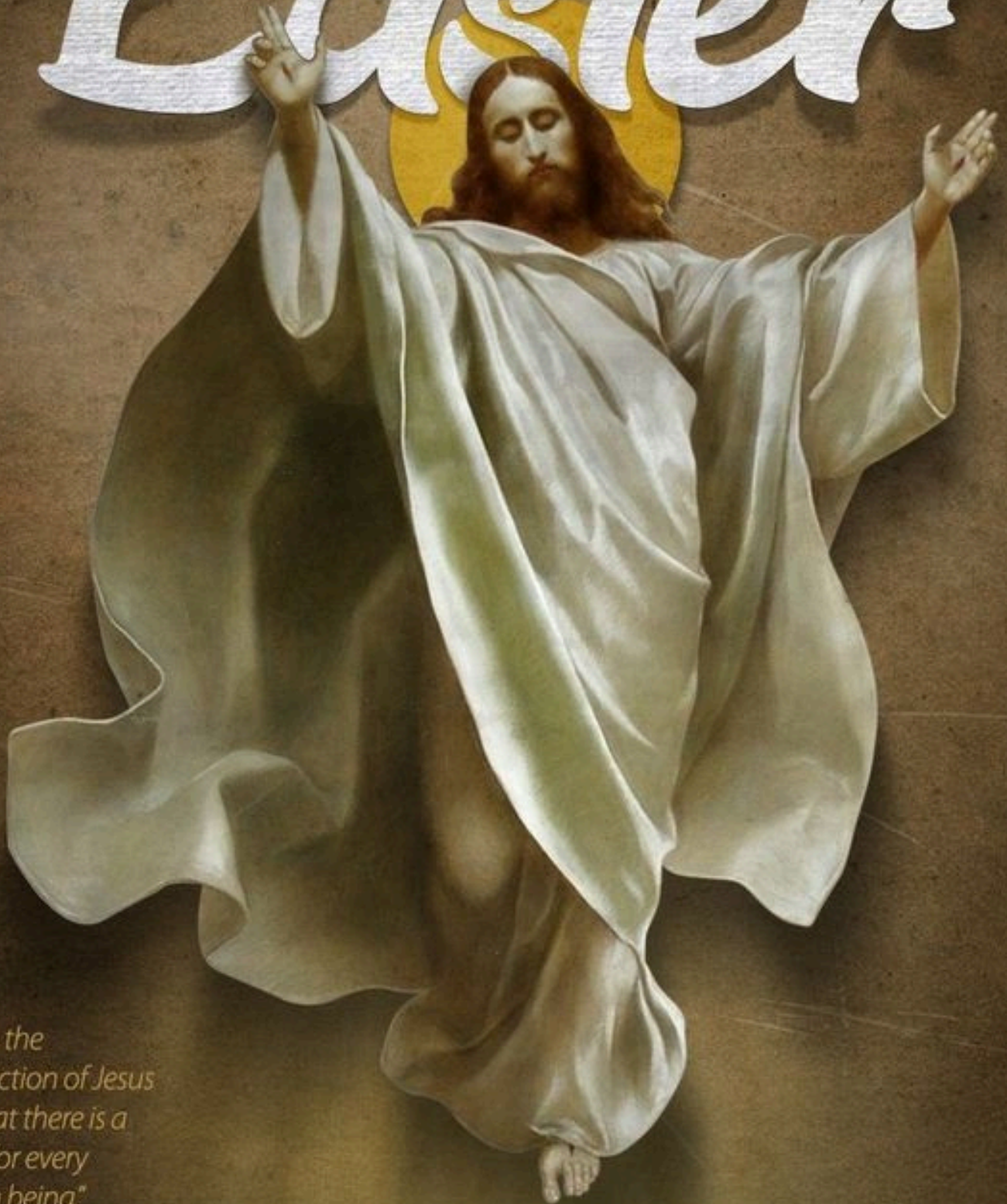
As we celebrate Pentecost, may every young leader rediscover the fire of the Spirit within. Let their leadership be rooted in prayer, nourished by the Word of God, and expressed through service and unity. When young hearts burn with the Spirit's fire, they become living witnesses of Christ, bringing light, faith, and hope to the Church and to the world.

"Come Holy Spirit, Fill the Hearts of Young People"



With Prayers & Encouragement,
Challagali Raju
Editor-in-Chief,
Regional Youth Advisor,
TCBC Commission for Youth

Blessed Easter



*"Faith in the
Resurrection of Jesus
says that there is a
future for every
human being."*

Pope Benedict XVI

