

Date: 24/07/2026

A CALL FOR PRAYERFUL SOLIDARITY WITH THE YOUTH OF OUR NATION

Your Eminence/Grace/Excellency,
Dear Rev. Fathers, Religious, Youth Leaders, and Dear Young People,

Greetings of peace and hope in Christ!

At a time when many of our young people are peacefully raising their voices over concerns affecting their education, opportunities, dignity, and future, we, as the Church, are called to listen to them, accompany them, and stand with them in prayerful solidarity. Our youth are not merely the future of our Church and our nation; they are an integral part of our present. Their hopes, aspirations, and concerns deserve to be heard with respect, understanding, and compassion.

In this spirit, I earnestly appeal to all our dioceses, parishes, religious communities, youth movements, and Catholic educational institutions to observe the coming Sunday (26.07.2026) as a **Day of Prayer and Solidarity with the Youth of Our Nation**. Let us offer special prayers for all young people who are peacefully expressing their concerns and seeking fairness, transparency, justice, and a secure future. May their voices be received with openness and sensitivity, and may all those entrusted with responsibility be guided by wisdom, courage, and compassion.

As a visible expression of our solidarity, I encourage our dioceses and parishes, according to their local circumstances and pastoral prudence, to organise a **Candlelight Prayer Vigil, Candlelight Walk, Eucharistic Adoration**, or a **special Prayer Service**, and to include special intentions for our youth during the Sunday Eucharistic celebrations.

Our solidarity is neither political nor partisan. It is the compassionate and prayerful response of a Church that loves her young people, shares their hopes and anxieties, and walks with them in their journey. At the same time, I encourage our youth to continue expressing themselves peacefully, respectfully, and responsibly, always guided by the Gospel values of truth, justice, compassion, human dignity, and respect for every person.

Let every candle we light become a symbol of hope. Let every prayer we offer reassure our young people that they are not alone. Let our presence remind them that the Church listens to them, walks with them, prays for them, and believes in their dreams and their future.

May this moment become an opportunity for all of us to deepen our commitment to listening to our young people, accompanying them with love, and creating greater spaces for their participation in building a more just, compassionate, peaceful, and hopeful India.

Finally, let us entrust all our young people to the maternal care of **Mary, Mother of Hope**, asking her to accompany, protect, and inspire every young person, and to intercede for our nation, that it may always be guided along the paths of peace, justice, truth, and harmony.

May Christ, the Eternal Youth of the Church, bless and strengthen all our young people with hope, courage, and perseverance.

With prayerful solidarity and every good wish,


† Ignatius D'Souza
Chairman
CCBI Youth Commission




Rev. Fr. John Barman MSFS
Executive Secretary
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