

# FIVE PATHS FOR TRANSFORMATION



**Fr Varghese Alengaden**

*For more details kindly mail to [usmindore93@gmail.com](mailto:usmindore93@gmail.com)*

*A gist of 5th path is here. Kindly use this article as the base for your next cell meeting. 3 questions in YCS methodology of See, Judge and Act are given below for the use of cell meetings. There is a common question given at the end of this article. You are requested to comment on it and send your replies to [mail@iycs-jeci.org](mailto:mail@iycs-jeci.org)*

**Fr Charles Menezes, IYCS International Chaplain, Paris**

## 5th Path: RESPECT EARTH and SAVE its RESOURCES

The fifth path of the module of personal transformation is respecting the earth and saving its resources. Developing ecological consciousness and preserving the environment are essential for peace and prosperity of the world. Lack of respect towards earth and violence inflicted to nature will bring disaster.

We consider earth as our mother. If earth is our mother then how can we throw all kinds of dirt on her face? This consciousness will help us to keep our mother earth clean and green.

Human beings take the resources of the earth such as water, trees and other sources for granted. Instead of respecting and preserving these resources we do violence to these precious resources. Trees are cut down for construction, rivers and lakes are polluted by industry waste and air is polluted by factories and vehicles. Water, electricity and other resources are wasted.

Governments and companies neglect and abuse nature in the name of development. When nature is exploited it reacts in the form of natural calamities like earth quakes, draught, sickness, floods, landslides and other disasters.

Instead of waiting for the governments to act each person shall take charge of respecting mother earth and protecting the natural resources. This is very important for peace and harmony in the world. Each person can start the process of transformation right now.

USM practices this path so faithfully. We do not throw plastic cups and waste through the windows of train and buses. We collect them in a separate bag and later throw in a dustbin. We do not throw toffee rappers anywhere. We keep them in our pockets and deposit in dust bin later. We take charge of cleanliness of our rooms and homes ourselves.

**Gen 1:29-31 – ‘I have given you everything.... And it was good’.**

Pope Francis through the Papal encyclical “Laudato Si” has given us a call to save the earth and its resources. Pope has a personal garden and maintains it as a practical example for all of us. COP 21 has

demanded all the universal leaders to commit themselves to reduce the Global Warming by 2°C. IYCS also is a part of this great mission in reducing climate change through your Global Campaign actions. What is your response?

USM has introduced the practice of gifting saplings instead of flower garlands and bouquet to guests as part of promoting ecological concern. It is heartening to see that many organisations are following this practice. Many members have started the practice of planting a sapling on their birthdays. They have become conscious of the use of water and electricity sparingly.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE PRACTICE OF FIVE PATHS

Five paths of practical module for personal transformation may appear very simple and easy to practice. They can be practiced by people of all faith, caste and nationality. The intense desire to transform oneself and the society makes the practice easy. They cannot be taken as a routine unproductive ritual. This module of Five Paths provides a new way of life aimed at creating a civilization of love.

Revolutions have happened in the history by bloodshed and violence. The changes they brought did not bear lasting fruits. The moral revolution, rather the renaissance, which Universal Solidarity Movement envisages is not by bringing large crowds in the streets. It neither endorses violent agitations nor propaganda by shouting slogans. The Movement does not have the practice of enrolling members by filling up any official form or charging fee for membership. A person becomes a member by commitment to practice Five Paths and dismisses oneself by not practicing them. The Movement is a way of life and does not want to institutionalise.

The motto of 'transform the world by self-transformation' is practiced both by the members in their personal life and in the community. The policies, systems and functioning of the USM community are based on the five paths and the core value of pluralistic spirituality. The daily community evaluation which is the life line of the Movement reviews all its activities on the basis of practice of five paths for transformation.

*What is your understanding of conserving earth and its resources?*

*How do you value earth's resources like air, water, light, vegetation which is a free gift of God in your life? What is your understanding of technological innovations at the cost of earth resources?*

*What is your resolution to safeguard the earth and its resources?*

Dear friends, The five paths for transformation of world by self-transformation has been a life changing tool for thousands of students promoted by USM. We can very well adapt these five paths in our movements for effective actions of transformation. For the past 5 months we have tried to enlighten you to be a change agent in the society with simple actions through the article of Fr Varghese Alengaden. We need your positive response now and to do that just answer the question below and send your response to mail@iycs-jeci.org

How would you practice this FIVE PATH spirituality in your YCS cell and in your personal life to transform yourself and Transform the world?