



Participants of the Adult Companions formation in YCW England and Wales



The late Fr Fridolin of YCW Cameroon with the former ICYCW International Chaplain, Fr Josep Maria Romaguera



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The ICYCW is a non-profit International Youth Organisation for the evangelisation and education of young people of the world of work recognised by the Holy See through the Pontifical Council for the Laity as a private international association of the faithful. It is as an organisation of the Church focused specifically on young people entering or experiencing the world of work/unemployment who are often oppressed, voiceless and at risk.



CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

"A young worker is worth more than all the gold in the world, for he is a child of God" (Joseph Cardijn). A prophetic Word.

Ten years, fifty years, eighty years later, this "bold" word of the founder of YCW is still valid, for it continues to win the hearts of many young people and adults who join this Movement of action, "always in motion", that is to say, in search of this "gold" of the world that is becoming increasingly rare to find in our society: the world of work.

Knowing that the young age is a "crossing from one state of life" to another with all its uncertainty and challenges, the YCW has taken up this wonderful task of helping young people to make the change towards a more responsible world which gives them their dignity; that is, work.

The young people experiment this "crossing" with confidence that makes them grow. It is a school that requires the support of adults; Chaplains and lay adult companions who engage themselves by being present among the young people in the working class; to support their human and spiritual formation and accompany their actions in taking up responsibility.

This message for us priests, religious men and women, lay adults who are still serving the young working people today is to offer them our love and our support: to accompany them.

We all do the same thing, but not in the same way or at the same place. This publication provides an

opportunity for sharing information in order to get closer to each other in our mission worldwide.

The articles of this publication are the fruits of the contributions of some activities realized by different Movements and some working visits which have been made to support and to give formation to the leaders, chaplains and to those who have been accompanying the members of International Secretariat lately.

Our proximity to the movements makes us to reiterate with conviction that YCW exists and we believe in it. It exists because it is the WORK of Jesus, the Worker who supports us through this Word, let us listen to him: "but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Lk 22: 32).

Happy reading!

Fr. Sébastien ALABI

MESSAGE OF COMPLIMENTS

Living in Time! A year goes, another year comes!
PRAISED ARE YOU, GOD OF ETERNAL GLORY!

Dear Collaborators in YCW,

Hoping that this traditional message of exchanging compliments of the season finds you in good health, I suggest that you look at the fathers of the Vatican Council II. They left us "A LIVING TESTAMENT" as a sign of solidarity.

Based on the question of the Pharisees to Jesus about the coming of the KINGDOM OF GOD (Lk 17:20), Jesus' response was quick: it is an affirmative response! "There it is! For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." (Lk 17:21)

That's why the fathers of the Vatican Council II present the Kingdom of God among us in Jesus, the "WORD MADE FLESH", for meditation.

"For God's WORD, through Whom all things were made, was Himself made FLESH and dwelt on the earth of men. Thus He entered the world's history as a perfect man, taking that history up into Himself and summarizing it. He Himself revealed to us that 'God is love' (1 Jn 4:8) and at the same time taught us that the new command of love was the basic law of human perfection and hence of the world's transformation. To those, therefore, who believe in divine love, He gives assurance that the way of love lies open to men and that the effort to establish a universal brotherhood is not a hopeless one. He cautions them at the same time that this charity is not something to be reserved for important matters, but must be pursued chiefly in the ordinary circumstances of life" (GS III § 38).

Indeed, the Birth of Christ among us is the establishment of God's Kingdom among us! At Christmas, before the Child Jesus, we reiterate to God with faith: "MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME".

What does 2013 take with it as it goes?

Our troubles, our failures! But also and especially, our joys, our efforts and our friendship!

What do we expect from 2014?

Peace, joy, love, progress at all levels!

Those are my wishes to each and every one of you. In COMMUNION for a new start.

ACTION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The ICYCW encourages the sharing and meetings among the young people of different Countries and Continents while providing formation for young leaders and chaplains. The following were achieved in 2013;

YCW France

In February 2013, the International Chaplain spent three weeks with the YCW France and with the Former ICYCW International Chaplain, Fr Jose Bourau, in order to strengthen the capacity of accompaniment in general and at international level. The working session provided more insights on the life and mission of the young people and formators at all levels. The sessions with the permanent members provided tools for improving knowledge about the movement as well as accompaniment.

Participation in meetings of Adult companions at Caen, Vieux and Angers created good opportunity to discover the realities on

the ground. Some teams comprised of members who were emigrants from different political, cultural, religious, socio-economic backgrounds, but who accepted the YCW as their "family", thanks to the quality of the accompaniment.

The program facilitated two retreats animated by the young people accompanied by chaplains in Paris and Lyon.

A meeting with the National chaplains (General Chaplain, a priest; a permanent deacon and three lay people) who meet monthly to review their mission, share the joys and sorrows, identify the needs of the regions that they accompany and plan the future perspectives, provided an avenue for sharing experiences which made the stay with YCW France 'a useful school'

The stay with YCW France was considered as a "new sending into mission", arising from the "renewed energy"

Program established by Emile Godezenne and helped by Marie Luce (National Chaplaincy)

YCW Malta

The mission in Malta was conducted for experience and information sharing on the International dimension of ICYCW, identification and strategies for addressing the needs of Chaplaincy, and utilization of local resources for training in order to strengthen the capacity of the young leaders.

All these gave a firm foundation for the development of content for future trainings of chaplains and adult companions in YCW Malta.

YCW Cambodia

The first activities of the YCW in Cambodia after the 2012 International Congress focused on the creation of a newsletter and a training seminar through which the fruits of the 8th International Congress were shared with the militants and other people of good will.

The International Congress provided a rich ground for sharing and this was cascaded through the newsletter which also facilitated circulation of News and planned activities.

A formation seminar on the theme: '**Joseph Cardijn., (Founder); Spirituality of YCW and work awareness**' was held with the participation of 12 young people and 4 adult companions.

The theme for the next campaign would be '**Together for a healthy future**'

(Yann Defond, Adult companion YCW Cambodia)

FORMATION

"They should fly on their own wings" (J. Cardijn). In saying that, the founder "put great faith in the capacity, dedication and generosity of young people and at the same time set out a practical programme for developing their often hidden talents and leadership skills precisely through giving them responsibility and the opportunity to do things themselves". (cf. YCW Manual, p. 43).

In this regard, the Social Doctrine of the Church, taking in account this important aspect of the future of the lay faithful, says: "The Church's social doctrine is an indispensable reference point for a totally integrated Christian formation. The insistence of the Magisterium in proposing this doctrine as a source of inspiration for the apostolate and for social action comes from the conviction that it constitutes an extraordinary resource for formation; 'this is especially true for the lay faithful who have responsibilities in various fields of social and public life. Above all, it is indispensable that they have a more exact knowledge... of the Church's social doctrine'. This doctrinal patrimony is neither taught nor known sufficiently, which is part of the reason for its failure to be suitably reflected in concrete behaviour." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church*, chap. 12, n° 528).

Adult Companions Formation

In YCW England and Wales we are trying to develop the support and training of lay adult companions and a few months ago we held two formation sessions, one in the north and one in the south for this purpose. We tried to combine an opportunity for sharing experiences and discussion with some relevant input. Here is the testimony of one of the participants:

Hello, I'm Anne-Marie Johnson – an adult companion of St. Monica's YCW group in the small town of Flixton, seven miles from Manchester in England.

Earlier this year the National movement gathered together several adult companions from the North of the country. It was a lively meeting and a great opportunity to share with each other the joys and difficulties we face in training and forming young people to be Christian leaders in life. We were also able to welcome two adults from Heywood, North Manchester, who had come to find out more about YCW as they begin the process of starting a group

Phil Callaghan, National President, shared information about the forthcoming National work campaign and gave us tips on how to encourage our young leaders to reach out and involve other young people. As a result, the YCW group that I work alongside, held a live music and comedy night in Summer, involving 90 local young people, during which they interviewed them about the realities of work, unemployment and training.

In the second part of our meeting, Father John Marsland, National Chaplain, led an inspiring reflection about Jesus's life and ministry and pinpointed the very 'ordinary' aspects of his life. I was able to make real connections between Jesus, the carpenter and builder

and the working lives of all the young people in my group: George who trained as an apprentice joiner; Hannah and Jess, the part-time shop assistants; Megan, the part-time call centre worker; John, the unemployed admin worker; Vincent the student. Father John emphasised that all of our young workers have a unique mission. I realised that it is a privilege to accompany them on their journey and help them to become Christian leaders in the ordinary situations of their everyday lives.

This was a very worthwhile and important few hours together with other adult companions!

In memory of Fr Fridolin (YCW Cameroon)

Father Frido as we used to call him was 47 years when he abruptly left this world. We first met him in 2004 when he was nominated as diocesan chaplain in Yaoundé. Since then he was a real father for us. Although it was hard, he was always available in the task entrusted to him by the ecclesiastical authority of our diocese.

He had a very thorough sense of listening. At the beginning, he never knew the YCW, but his simplicity and his poverty of heart led him to quickly learn and quickly understand the movement; and especially the role he had to play in his mission. He liked to say: "I do not know the YCW, but I will learn...., it is possible to build something lasting with the YCW..."

He was so available that, he even used to give some course on Human and Spiritual Formation to the unemployed members without waiting for any facilitation for fuel. It is through this that the Centre (of Unemployed committee of the YCW of Yaounde) still exists till now. When he arrived, the machines in the centre were already old, but he spent hundreds of our CFA francs to update and renovate them.

We used to go everywhere with Father Frido, both uptowns and in slums. The doors of their Formation Houses were always opened for us; we went there whenever we wished. He knew how to calm down the young people when there were tensions. He always encouraged us to be true Servants of Christ through our actions in the Society.

His vehicle was always available for us. Thanks to him we were able to get in touch with a YCW Spain team (Euskadi) and through the collaboration, we had multiform support for the realization of our maize and cassava farming projects. Though he was a Diocesan YCW Chaplain, he was involved also in the movement's activities at the National level.

We have lost a great man, but he lived longer than our Lord who died at the age of 33, but accomplished his mission and that the doors of heaven are widely open for him. Let us unite all our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

May you rest in peace, Father.

(Julie Tchanchou– Vice Secretary YCW Cameroon)