



CHAPLANCY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

After a few years, we're giving signs of life again. The new organization of ICYCW by regions, with its regional commissions and its regional chaplains/companions, allows us to present the service we offer to young working people.



Here you have information from the ICYCW Chaplaincy Commission and the Regional Chaplains/Companions. We had a training week last November 2018. You can see the objectives of this formation and the summary of one of the contributions that were made: "The relevance of YCW in the Church and Society today".

You will also be able to reflect thanks to the testimony of two regional chaplains/companions who took an active

role in missions carried out by ICYCW, one in the Indian Ocean Islands and one in East Africa. Take advantage of them!

You can also read some notes on the concluding document of the 2018 Synod of Bishops: "Young people, faith, and vocational discernment". Meanwhile, the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation "Christus vivit" has been published (March 25, 2019). I would like to underline two points of the Exhortation. (1) Pay full attention to chapter 1 (What does the Word of God say about young people?). It is clear that all of us, with our faith, have to grow up and mature. But Pope Francis retains a large number of biblical characters, all young. Therefore, while one is young, one can live perfectly the fullness of faith. This makes more sense by looking at chapter 2 (Jesus Christ always young). Jesus is young for his resurrected condition; He is young for being truly incarnated in a young people life. (2) Pope Francis dedicates some numbers of his Exhortation to the world of work of young people (n. 268-273) in Chapter 8 (Vocation). This way of placing young workers suggests that the mission of the YCW is vocational, it means that being a militant is to live/respond to a vocation, with its twofold nature: social and evangelizing at the same time.

Berhanu Sinamo (ICYCW International President) offers us challenges that ICYCW has faced last months and those that it will face in the coming months.

Big hug to everyone!

By Fr. Joan R. Marín (International Chaplain)

CHAPLAINCY COMMISSION



The ICYCW Chaplaincy Commission (composed of Father John of England, Father Simon of Côte d'Ivoire, Father Bernard of France, and the international chaplain, Father Joan Ramon Maron, from Spain) organized last November in Addis Ababa a first TRAINING MEETING FOR REGIONAL CHAPLAINS/COMPANIONS. The title of the project was "A path to leadership for Young People" (a formation program for Chaplains and Adult Companion for the

development of responsibility and leadership among and by young people in eight targeted regions around the world). The goal of the training session was to find out and implement new ways to support, train, and recruit national and diocesan chaplains. There is a "reference chaplain" for all of you. Here you can see the list of participants in the meeting:

-for Central Africa: Wellars Uwamungu (from Rwanda)

uwawelpa@yahoo.fr

-for East Africa: Christopher Sichinga (from Malawi)

chris.sichinga@gmail.com

-for West Africa: Simon-Pierre Koussi (from Ivory Coast)

sp.yapo@yahoo.fr

-for Latin America and Caribbean: Crucito Ovalles (from Dominican Republic)

ovalles73@hotmail.com

Who took part in the training meeting instead was: Camilo (from Ecuador)

camilo_coronel_ec@hotmail.com

-for Asia: Christophe Berard (from South Korea)

berard.christophe@gmail.com

-for Europe: Joan R. Marín (from Spain)

joantorner@gmail.com

-for Ocean Indian Islands: Marie Prisca Labour-Casimir (from Rodrigues)

pklabcasimir@gmail.com

-for the Middle East: Marwan Dides (from Israel)

framarwan@gmail.com

Who took part in the training meeting instead was: Elías Mario Badie (from Israel)

Badieofm@hotmail.com

During that session, each and every one received useful documents for training as chaplains. Everyone was also able to set priorities for their region... So, feel free to get in touch with your "reference chaplain" using the modern means of communication available to you. The "reference chaplains" are waiting for your news as well!

By Fr. Bernard Robert

CHALLENGE: « THE RELEVANCE OF YCW IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY TODAY »

The YCW was born because Fr Joseph Cardijn (founder of the YCW) became acutely aware of the separation between the daily life and the Sunday practice



of young workers; between their working life and their expression of faith. The norm was that the Church, the clergy and the regular faithful, waited for people to come to the parish. In Belgium in 1925 people found it difficult to get to Church to receive the Sacraments. Cardijn on the other hand went out to meet them on the streets coming out of the factories. He enquired about their working life, their families, their interests; he felt the need for faith to enter into the whole of their life.

Pope Pius IX received Cardijn on his visit to Rome in 1925 and told him: "The greatest work is to restore in the Church a place for the workers (now lost)". The Church had lost touch with the working class. Cardijn saw the YCW as a response this situation and proposed "Three Truths" as a way to understand its mission and method among young workers.

The Truth of Faith reveals God’s plan for each young worker through: CREATION: we are created in the image of God. Each young worker is worth more than all the gold in the world BECAUSE THEY ARE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD!

INC ARNATION: Not only did God become a human being but he became a young worker thus giving special dignity to all young workers.

REDEMPTION: God gives himself so that each young worker will receive life in abundance (Jn 10.10). We participate in the mission of liberation of the Lord for a new humanity.

The Truth of Reality

In 1900, lots of workers did not know the reality of their dignity. On the other hand, the conditions of life and their actions were often in contradiction with that dignity. Today society has changed. A society “without God” increases with the evolution of society (corruption, unemployment, mental health, migration, political instability, human trafficking, climate change etc.) The problems are more complex.

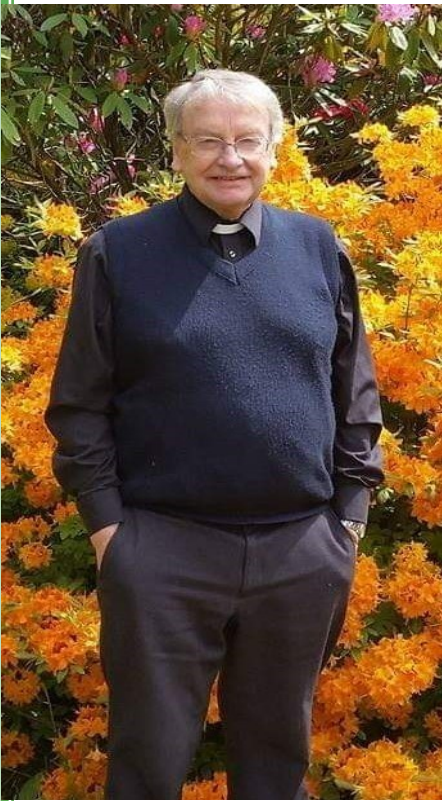
Cardijn emphasised the need to begin with reality, to understand it and where necessary to work for change on a personal and social level. For this ORGANISATION is needed with a PROCESS of reflection leading to action. He proposed three stages: SEE – JUDGE – ACT, the Review of Life (ROL).

The Truth of Action/Method

Action decided by the young workers themselves bridges the contradiction between the Truth of Faith and the Truth of Reality. The whole process forms young leaders who can make their faith a living force in everyday life reaching out to their peers and families.

This requires the ongoing training of YCW’s and their chaplains/adult companions so that the YCW takes its place in the Mission of the Church.

The challenges for today:



External challenges: people want a quick answer to their problems without taking time to reflect, without going to the root of the problem. Young people look for instantaneous effects eg. a religious atmosphere created by songs, celebrations. Many Movements exist in the Church which reach out to young people. They are a richness for the Church but also risk closing in on themselves seeking to increase their numbers, imposing themselves in order to gain publicity, to compete with others.

Internal challenges: there is a risk of abandoning certain important characteristics of YCW (for example: the review of life, taking notes, regular meetings, the action campaign, the friendship circle etc.) These elements give the YCW its specific nature which we must not lose. It

is important also to have a knowledge of our history in order to preserve this specificity. We must avoid the YCW being just a social Movement or just a spiritual Movement. We need witnesses who have the spirit of “martyrdom”, who give of themselves.

By Fr. John Marsland

WITNESS OF CHAPLAINS/COMPANIONS (1)

My Presentation. I, Mrs. LABOUR-CASIMIR Marie Prisca, aged 34, married with three children. Am from Rodrigues, the smallest island of the Mascareignes found in the Indian Ocean and is an autonomous dependency of the Republic of Mauritius.

Since my young aged, I heard about YCW as my parents and grandparents were also members of the movement before. In 2001, I integrated the base group of my locality, in 2004, I joined the national team and in 2005 I received a proposal from the national movement to become “Permanent”.

Since this time from permanent to lay adult companion in 2008 I work for the YCW in Rodrigues and am happy in this mission. As a Lay adult Companion, I have some national, regional and international experiences.



National: Rodrigues. My work is to help in the creation of new groups. I visit and accompany existing specialized groups and base groups. I work with the national team and help in their training. In collaboration with the chaplain J.B Alain HAREL who is also the bishop of Rodrigues, I help in the appointment of new young leaders in the responsibility of “Permanent” and am also responsible for their training. And in my mission of lay adult companion, my spiritu-

al guide is the bishop Alain HAREL himself.

Regional. Visiting Reunion Island. 2013, was my first collaboration with the international Secretariat to visit a movement in the Indian Ocean more precisely in Reunion. I got the opportunity to accompany Miss Amelie PEY-RARD (the then president of the ICYCW) on a one week's mission.

Objectives of the visit: Visit and meet the national team, the national lay Adult Companion (Annie Claude LOUDOISKA), the Bishop AUBRY as well as the two existing base groups. It was also an opportunity to train the leaders and met a group of 5 adults who wanted to become lay adult companion at that time for an exchange.

Moreover, five years later i.e. in 2018, I got a second opportunity to accompany Idy BALBERAN in Reunion. Unfortunately, all adults and young people in 2013 are untraceable... Luckily, they have a new group of about fifteen young people who share the same passion i.e. music. A group of ten motivated adults who want to accompany the movement but the only problem is that they are not trained and don’t really know how to work with a group of young Christian workers.

During our visit to Reunion, we were pleased to meet bishop AUBRY. The young people who accompanied us explained the situation of YCW in Reunion..., so, he gave his blessing to the new team and show interest for extension of YCW in Reunion. Noé NATIVEL an unemployed young adult who is also an ancient YCW member and has participated in the regional meeting in Madagascar last year accompanied with a young leader Anne Sophie THOM-AS. According to me, Noe can be a good help for the consolidation of the existing group and in the extension of the movement in Reunion. However, he will need support from all of us.

Madagascar. The objective of the mission: To discover the reality of Madagascar and look at how the region, as well as the secretariat, can help in the extension of the movement.

With Idy we experienced the road from Antananarivo to Diego Suarez in a van and we travelled 26 hours, this situation makes us understand how far it is for young people to travel from one place to another for a meeting. We understand well the difficulties that Malagasy leaders meet regularly. According to the base groups, young people often meet in their area. I also observed that in some groups they have young married people and their sharing is more or less based on marital issues.

However, Father Jean Louis TOTOZAFY contributes a lot for YCW in Madagascar but his only problem is that his bishop doesn’t authorize him to be the national chaplain. However, in Diego where he lives, he accompanies the existing groups and during his pastoral visit he talks about YCW in order to have more groups in other areas. Another good point is that we have a group of adults which is composed of Sister Alexis, some lay adults and some priests who want to give help to YCW, these people need also some training to be more efficient in the accompaniment of the YCW. A national Chaplain in the name of Fr. Fidèle RAZAFIMANDIMBY has also been appointed by his bishop last year and after the regional meeting, a new group of the national team was elected.

By some exchange via messenger with the new national president Mundel ADELIN, he has great hope in YCW and believes that the region, as well as the secretariat, can help them in term of project or job creation to eradicate poverty in Madagascar.

Mauritius. After Madagascar, we were for one week in Mauritius. The mission was to meet the Cardinal PIAT, the National team and be aware of the situation of YCW in Mauritius. First of all, we had a meeting with General Curate Jean Maurice LABOUR and the chaplain of Rodrigues Bishop Alain HAREL who was visiting Mauritius. Secondly, meeting with cardinal Piat and the national team and finally an ancient YCW member whose name is Guyano JOSEPHINE. This person wants to help in accompaniment in Mauritius. We were also happy to meet two base groups. And since last year YCW of Mauritius has a new national Chaplain in the name of Father Michel DURONNE appointed by the Cardinal after our visit Idy and I in Mauritius. The new president in the name of Jeremy LABONNE and a national team which help in the extension of the movement. However, there is a lack of training for YCW members as well as the national team. According to a phone conversation with Fr Duronne concerning accompaniment, he wants to recruit more lay adults for this mission as he is alone.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for all these people who care about the future of YCW in the Indian Ocean Island as well as worldwide. I pray you please give all of us the strength to continue the mission of Joseph CARDJIN. Please cover us with your spirit for better judgment and help all of us especially the young people to discover the importance of YCW in their life. Amen.

By Marie Prisca Labour-Casimir

WITNESS OF CHAPLAINS/COMPANIONS (2)

THE JOY OF BEING THE REGIONAL CHAPLAIN



Hi to everybody who reads through these lines. I am Fr. Christopher Sichinga, the East Africa regional commission chaplain for the Young Christian Workers. I am from the Catholic diocese of Mangochi-Malawi.

In my joy of being a committed regional chaplain, I accompany young people in the region through the support and good coordination of the national and diocesan youth chaplains. East Africa region comprises of the following national movements: Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. We are also in contact with Zambia and South Sudan.

I love doing these mission activities. I do all these activities in coordination and with full support and guidance from the International Secretariat of young Christian workers. My motivation is to help the young Christian workers to bridge the gap between faith and reality through action.

I face several challenges to fulfil this mission like very limited resources, slow response by national movements within the region to respond to some urgent issues, language, unstable leadership, and little support from other conferences. My personal biggest challenge is multitasking with other diocesan offices that keep me busy.

I must say that I am still lucky to have visited all the national movements except South Sudan. I have listened to the young people in the region, national and diocesan chaplains, I have interacted with bishops and other relevant partners. One thing that I have realized is that the mission of young Christian workers in our region is bigger than we think.

The mission of accompanying the young Christian workers in the region demands a lot of sacrifice and prayer. I, therefore, invite all to support and pray for us as we continue to radiate the light of Christ to our young people in the region which is suffering from the effects of high levels of unemployment, civil wars, ethnic rivalry, violence and corruption.

I personally congratulate the international president Mr Berhanu Sinamo for the effort, tireless sacrifice and commitment he demonstrated during our mission to Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda (from 20th Sept -13th Oct 2017). The mission gave us a chance to establish the reality of national movements, make a follow up of the resolutions from the last international council (S. Korea 2016), and to conduct training and exchange.

Dear young Christian workers; never get tired of bridging the gap between faith and reality through action. We can change the world!

Prayer: God our father, I present to you our young people who are very much in need of your light. Guide them and bless them to see you present in their troubles. Enlighten them and strengthen their faith, build their hope and awaken they are conscious to continue to work for your son amidst the challenges they face. May they find a good company in the work of their adult companions. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

By Fr. Christopher Sichinga

CHURCH, YOUNG WORKERS

Presentation of the summary of the final document of the Synod on Young People.



Theme: "Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment"

The Church, in view of the reality of today's world and of young people in particular, wanted to devote a space to question how to accompany today. Only questioning the reality of young people, the Church risks answering her own questions and offering young people something already made, ready to consume. Instead, the Church will take the path of humility and dialogue, that is, to ask

young people themselves to talk about their problems, to propose how they would like to be accompanied so that they are more and more capable to announce the Good News.

The Church recognizes that young people have many capabilities and potentials, such as: to wonder, to dare an adventure, to give themselves without asking anything in return, etc. Among these resources, there is also the accompaniment towards the authentic freedom and maturation of their consciousness. They therefore need resource persons who are by their side without replacing them but as guides and counselors who walk with them to help them to develop their potential for greater maturity and responsibility in the Church and in Society.

It must be noted that this place that young people demand, neither society nor the Church are able to give it to them. We have here a justification for the abandonment of our churches, movements and for antisocial behaviors that we observe. But this work is not only reserved for clerics or consecrated persons, but any committed baptizer can help the Church to face the challenge. The experience of the YCW is very eloquent here. One could say that Cardijn had a strong intuition that today joins that of the Synod Fathers especially Pope Francis. For by the presence of the chaplains, religious, adult companions alongside the young workers YCW tries to answer to their expectations and needs of being listened to, followed, advised to better express their faith in connection with the reality of their working or studying life and to assume there a responsible leadership.

This is a very encouraging work we can keep carrying it on or even developing it further as its need is still felt in some parts of the world.

By Fr. Simon Mbete

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION

Good News for ICYCW Chaplaincy Development.



After the 9th International Congress of the ICYCW which was held in 2016, the new Chaplaincy Commission was established and the International Secretariat members duly appointed the Chaplaincy Commission and eight Regional Chaplains. The issue of International Chaplain was an urgent priority since no candidate had become available since 2014. According to this priority, the International Secretariat in collaboration with the Chaplaincy Commission took up the process of the appointment of an International Chaplain. As a result, Fr. Joan Ramon Marin, was appointed as International Chaplain for ICYCW in August 2018. He is a Prado priest of the Diocese of Sant Feliu de Llobregat. After the resignation of Fr Sébastien, former International Chaplain in 2014 the International Secretariat of ICYCW has been without the accompaniment of a chaplain (Ecclesiastical Assistant) for the past four years, despite strenuous efforts to identify and secure the availability of a suitable candidate.

After the appointment of eight regional chaplains (Europe, East Africa, West Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Indian Ocean Islands, Central Africa, Asia and Middle East) in order to ensure the effective accompaniment of the members and leaders at all levels the International Secretariat in collaboration with YCW Ethiopia organized an International Chaplaincy training event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12-17th November 2018. ICYCW Chaplaincy Commission Meetings are held regularly through Skype and then meet face to face once a year. The composition of the commission includes Fr Joan Ramon Marin (International Chaplain), Fr John Marsland (England and Wales), Fr Bernard Robert (France) and Fr Simon Mbete (Congo Kinshasa) and Berhanu Sinamo Deboch. The chaplaincy commission efforts have had a major impact on helping the International Secretariat members to change the realities of young workers. On behalf of the young workers around the world, we want to thank you for helping us make a positive difference. Your support encourages our continued commitment to reaching our goal.

By Berhanu Sinamo DEBOCH
ICYCW International President