

**1963 DIOCESAN  
COUNCIL & CONFERENCE**



**12th and 13th OCTOBER  
ST. PAT'S HALL BALLARAT**



BALLARAT Y.C.W. DIOCESAN REPORT

1962- 63

It is my pleasure and privilege to present this report to the Ballarat Y.C.W. Diocesan Council. The period covered by this report is from 1st September 1962 to September 30th 1963.

INTRODUCTION

An attempt has been made in this report to take a realistic look at the present situation of the Diocesan Movement so that together we can plan to overcome our weaknesses and deficiencies.

It is hoped that not only those of us who occupy responsible positions in the Movement will take notice of the matters raised, but also every leader.

The report is presented under the following headings:-

The Diocesan Y.C.W.

Campaigns

The Leaders' Groups

Teams

General Meetings

Central Leaders' Group

Subscriptions

Services

Fatima House

Visitation

The Y.C.W. and Other Organizations

Regions

THE DIOCESAN Y.C.W.

The Diocesan Y.C.W. is made up of some 34 branches, comprising some 190 leaders. The branches presently existing are Ararat, Balmoral, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Bungaree, Beaufort, Camperdown, Cobden, Coleraine, Coragulac, Charlton, Creswick, Crossley, Dennington, Hamilton, Horsham, Inglewood, Kerait, Learmonth, Macarthur, Mildura, Portland, Redan, Redcliffs, Robinvale, Waubra, St. Patrick's, Sth.Purumbete, Swan Hill, Terang, Warracknabeal, Warrnambool, Wendouree and the Central Leaders' Group. Since last year nine new branches have been started or re-started.



Since last year only two groups have ceased to function, these are Maryborough and St. Arnaud.

In no way can the strength of the Y.C.W. be gauged on its numerical strength. The true strength of the Y.C.W. can only be gauged on the action of its leaders.

The life of the Y.C.W. is centred around the small core of leaders who have shown themselves to be dedicated and convinced of the ideals of the Movement. These leaders have preserved the Movement in the Diocese. Christ himself will reward them for their generosity to Him and to the young workers.

Although the rest of the leaders have been motivated to continue in the Movement through simple friendship and their own good will, it is none the less something to be grateful for that they have continued at all.

However, to take a realistic view of the strength of the Diocesan Y.C.W. in the light of its actions, we find that the Movement is, in fact, very delicate. The action which the Movement has carried out revolves mostly around the changing of attitudes of young workers to matters of morality, savings, etc.

In no way can this be classed as futile action because, after all, in bringing about the restoration of all things in Christ the formation of minds must play a very important role. What we should ask ourselves in the light of this is how effective has this action been, has it had a lasting effect? Is it winning and uplifting the masses of young workers in the Diocese?

In looking at the future of the Diocesan Y.C.W. the time has now come when the building of the Movement numerically should become a secondary consideration to the primary aim which must be the deepening and developing of action amongst the young workers.

A deepening and developing of a ction can only come <sup>from</sup> ~~to~~ one section of the Y.C.W. technique - and that is the Social Enquiry.

### CAMPAIGNS.

Throughout the past year the Diocesan Y.C.W. has carried out 3 Campaigns. They are - "The Needs of our Neighbour", "Accepting Leadership" - both National Campaigns, and the local Diocesan Campaign. It would true to say as a result of these campaigns there has been no real action of a social nature.

In no way can any leaders group be criticised for a lack of action as a result of these campaigns.



The main reason why action has not resulted from these Campaigns has been -

- (1) The true social problem was not presented to each group.
- (2) Leaders could not fully see the contradiction.
- (3) When seen, the contradiction was not acted upon.
- (4) The nature of the Enquiry varied each week, thereby not allowing any real following up of action.
- (5) Action was not sufficiently planned within the groups.

From a reflection of last year's Social Campaign it is evident that a new approach to the Social Enquiry is necessary if the Movement is going to develop and deepen its action.

This new approach to the Social Enquiry will lead to - )

- (1) A Campaign which will be of a true social nature and arise out of the lives of the young workers.
- (2) A deeper penetration of the Truth of Faith.
- (3) A deeper penetration of the lives of the young workers.
- (4) The contradiction will be acted upon immediately it is discovered in life.
- (5) Action will be planned and carried out each week.

Over a period of time some factor operating in the lives of the young workers will reveal itself as dominant or at least worthy of great concern - concern of a whole group in a united effort . However, care must be taken that it is clearly a social problem, a problem which is the concern of society as such.

Upon discovery of such a problem the group will penetrate the Truth of Faith through Doctrine.

The groups will penetrate the lives of the young workers, using concrete facts, i.e. Action taken by young Christian Workers on the problem.

These facts will be examined in the light of the Truth of Faith and lead to a fuller understanding of the contradiction.

The contradiction will then be acted upon immediately in life when it is discovered by the Young Christian Worker.



After having acted in life upon the contradiction the group will come together to reflect upon their action, plan and re-plan action thereby deepening their penetration of the Truth of Faith, Experience and Method.

THE WORK CAMPAIGN.

Next year the National Movement has asked the Diocese throughout Australia to act on the problem of Work. The Ballarat Y.C.W. will conduct its own Campaign. The nature of this Campaign will be as be as laid out on the previous page.

For successful implementation of the campaign it is necessary -

- (1) That facts carried out by young workers are reported to the Diocesan Headquarters.
- (2) Three or four leaders in each region be conversant with the application of the technique and be prepared to assist the groups with their implementation of their campaign.

THE LEADER'S GROUPS.

The very life of the Diocesan Y.C.W. exists in the Diocesan Leader's Groups, so that it is these groupings of young workers who should be permeating the mass of young workers, seeking out their problems, and together with their fellow leaders and the young workers, be working towards the solution of these problems.

There is very little real life in the majority of the leaders groups, this evident by the attitude of so many leaders towards their leaders meetings. To many, the leader's meetings are little more than a weekly functional gathering where each leader reports on his gospel, his items and facts and the number of contacts for the Social Enquiry and plans the General Meeting. The result of all this is, that the very heart of the Movement, the heart from which the life of the Movement should spring, is dormant.

The concept and work of these leaders groups must be transformed. Every leaders group must become more of a community of life and friendship.

Such a community should result from the aforesaid methods of the application of the Social Enquiry technique. From such an application truth will be shared through the doctrinal section of the meeting and the ideals will be more evident because the leaders will clearly see the motives for their actions. Action will be the keynote of every meeting at which it will be reported and planned. Each leader's life, apart from the meeting, will be given a meaning. It may be necessary to say that there must be much more group activity in the Gospel Meditation. There must be a group discovery of Christ at the Meeting itself by discussion on the Gospel text.



Once these communities of friendship have been built, then we can say that there are true apostles ready to permeate the masses of young workers.

### TEAMS.

Presently there are only 20 teams operating in the Diocese. Throughout the year many attempts have been made by various leaders to train and form young workers through teams, but for one reason or the other they have ceased to function.

This possibly has added to the despondency which is evident amongst so many leaders.

There are several reasons why leaders have not attempted to form teams --

- (1) Having once formed a team and seen it fail, have lost confidence in the young workers and the method of team formation.
- (2) Having seen other leaders fail they have lost hope and are afraid to try themselves.
- (3) Availability of time.
- (4) Availability of suitable young workers.
- (5) Lack of missionary spirit which should be present and instilled in each leaders group.
- (6) A disbelief in the method of team formation which is, in fact, ineffective.

Considering all of this, thought should be given to the method of team formation.

It seems that the present method used by the majority of groups is artificial. The current method is, that each leader is allotted a certain number of young workers whom he is expected to group into a team and then form through the Preliminary Training Programme.

A team must be a natural grouping; and in being a natural grouping each member must share in a common truth.

When over a period of time the leader has discovered a number of young workers who are all sharing in a common truth, he will look at the Truth of Experience with them, that is the problem which is affecting their lives. He will then lead them to a common truth of action. He will then begin to assist them in an understanding of the Truth of Faith. The following meetings of this team will be only to report what action has been carried out and to plan and re-plan further action.



In the end it would be natural for a group to come together to use a truth of method to solve the problem of their lives.

### GENERAL MEETINGS.

Presently there are sixteen Branches holding regular general meetings. In a few Branches of the Diocese it is impossible to form a general Branch because of the lack of numbers in the Parish.

All Branches are having difficulties in regard to the formation of those young workers who are attending their general meetings.

In mentioning general meetings it would be remiss not to mention something about the use of the census in the Diocese.

Most general meetings begin as a result of the use of a census by the members of the leader's group.

The majority of leader's groups have a fairly up-to-date census of young workers in their area. To most groups the use of the census is a real problem. How they should approach the young worker on the census and win him to the Movement?

It is time for us, also, to review the formation work of the general meeting.

A general meeting, like a team, should be a grouping of young workers who have all come together to conquer a problem in their lives. Such a grouping is formed through a young worker awakening another to a truth of experience which exists in both their lives, then, by convincing him that through awakening others who are also experiencing the same problem, they can work towards a solution to it. From this general awakening a general meeting must begin.

The beginning should come from the leader's group which will begin to awaken others to the truth of experience which exists in their lives. In most cases this will result from a campaign.

The census then will be made up of young workers who are all sharing in a common experience. This will mean all young workers, both Catholic and Non-Catholic.

### THE CENTRAL LEADERS GROUP.

The membership of the Central Leaders Group is now seven. This group meets weekly as a leaders group. It carries out the current Campaign and assists in and plans the action of the Diocesan Movement.

With the introduction of the new Enquiry Method in next year's Work campaign a great deal more responsibility and work will be given to the Central Leaders Group.



In thanking the Branches and the Regional Executives for their co-operation with the Central Leaders Group I would also ask them to extend to us the same co-operation next year.

### REGIONS

Out of the 8 Regions in the Diocese, 6 have operative Regional Executives. It is pleasing to see that a Regional Executive has been formed in the Mid-Murray Region, from this executive some real development in the Northern region should come.

The other two Regions without operative executives are presently in a position whereby it is impossible to set them up, because only one branch exists in each region. These are the North Central and the Wimmera Regions.

These Regional Executives have done much to assist the Branches through visitation and supplementary training over the past year. It is hoped that this work will continue throughout the next year.

All regional executives must play a major role in next year's Work campaign. The success of the campaign will depend upon constantly reviewing the action of the groups, assisting them in their planning, and seeking out associated problems, which will be found as a result of the campaign.

It is necessary that each Regional Organiser be in regular contact with the Central Leaders Group to ensure that all action is co-ordinated.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Only 335 out of 680 members pay weekly subscriptions. It is evident that to many, the idea of the subscription is meaningless.

For the 335 who pay their 1/- a week, there is no real meaning, because of the ridiculously small amount which is asked for each week.

The young worker must see his contribution to the Movement as a means whereby he assists in the uplifting of all young workers.

The Council should give consideration to raising the weekly subscription from 1/- to 3/- per week, so as to give each young worker a realisation of the value of the subscription. Finance is needed if the Diocesan Movement is to grow into a genuine young workers Movement.

### SERVICES.

Throughout the Diocese several branches and three regions have organised services for the young workers of their area. These have been sporting services, pre - cana conferences, learn to dance classes, retreats etc.



Branches must strive to discover the real need of the young workers and provide them with something to fulfill their need.

Up to the present time services have been restricted to Catholics. Council should give consideration to opening services, particularly sporting services to all young workers.

If our leaders are going to permeate the masses of young workers where better can they begin than in a well organised Y.C.W. service?

Such a proposal itself presents a few problems -

- (1) The attitude of Chaplains
- (2) Enough trained leaders to ensure that the Y.C.W. ideals are retained.
- (3) The breaking down of a barrier that Y.C.W. services are only for Catholics.

These are points which the Council should take into consideration.

#### FATIMA HOUSE.

Most branches have already, this year, attended a training weekend at Fatima House. There have been several branches who have booked weekends at Fatima House, and then without legitimate reasons have not come.

We ask for more co-operation in the future from these groups.

The type of training given at Fatima House has varied greatly over the past year.

In the next twelve months supplementary training will differ greatly from that of the past. This will be due to the new Enquiry Method; supplementary training will now revolve around the action and life of the groups.

#### VISITATION.

Over the past year nearly all branches have been visited at least three times by the organisers.

In the next twelve months visitation will be governed by the situation of the Campaign in the various regions.



## THE Y.C.W. AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

The members of the Y.C.W. should not restrict their membership only to the Y.C.W. In the restoration of society, public institutions and bodies play a major role, and apostles are required to be in these organisations to spread the ideals of Christ.

It should be the work of the leaders group to assist and sustain those members who are in such bodies and institutions, and those who are in these organisations should report what action they have carried out and are intending to carry out.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL.

This year's National Council was held at Adelaide. The Ballarat Diocese was represented by two Chaplains and seven lay men. The main topic of discussion at the Council was next year's campaign on "Work".

## NEW YOUTH.

The numbers of New Youth that are being ordered by branches this year has dropped to 927. Of this number, how many of them are being sold to the young workers.

There is very little co-operation given to our Diocesan Associate Editor - David Ross, by the majority of branches.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Firstly on behalf of the Central Leader's Group, I wish to thank Rev. Fr. Molony for his invaluable help and assistance as Diocesan Chaplain and also for his writing of the booklet - "Reflections on the Apostolate", which has shown the Movement a broader vision of the method of application and its' mission.

I wish to thank the Central Leader's Group for the assistance they have given to me as Diocesan Secretary over the past 12 months.

On behalf of Pat Goggin and myself I wish to thank all those kind people who have been so hospitable to us whilst we have been on visitation.

Mr. & Mrs. Walpole have also earned our gratitude for their untiring work as caretakers of Fatima House. We wish them all the best in the future.

In welcoming Mr. & Mrs. O'Loughlin, our new caretakers, we thank them for the care they have taken already, and hope they will be happy at Fatima House.



To Jim Muller, the past Diocesan President, and Peter Long, former Diocesan Secretary, I would like to extend, on behalf of the Movement, thanks for their untiring work for the Movement and wish them God's blessing for the future.

Finally I would like to thank all the **Chaplains**, Regional Presidents, Branch Presidents and Leaders for their work and cooperation throughout the past year,

Yours sincerely in Christ the Worker,

J. CADDY.

Diocesan Secretary.



