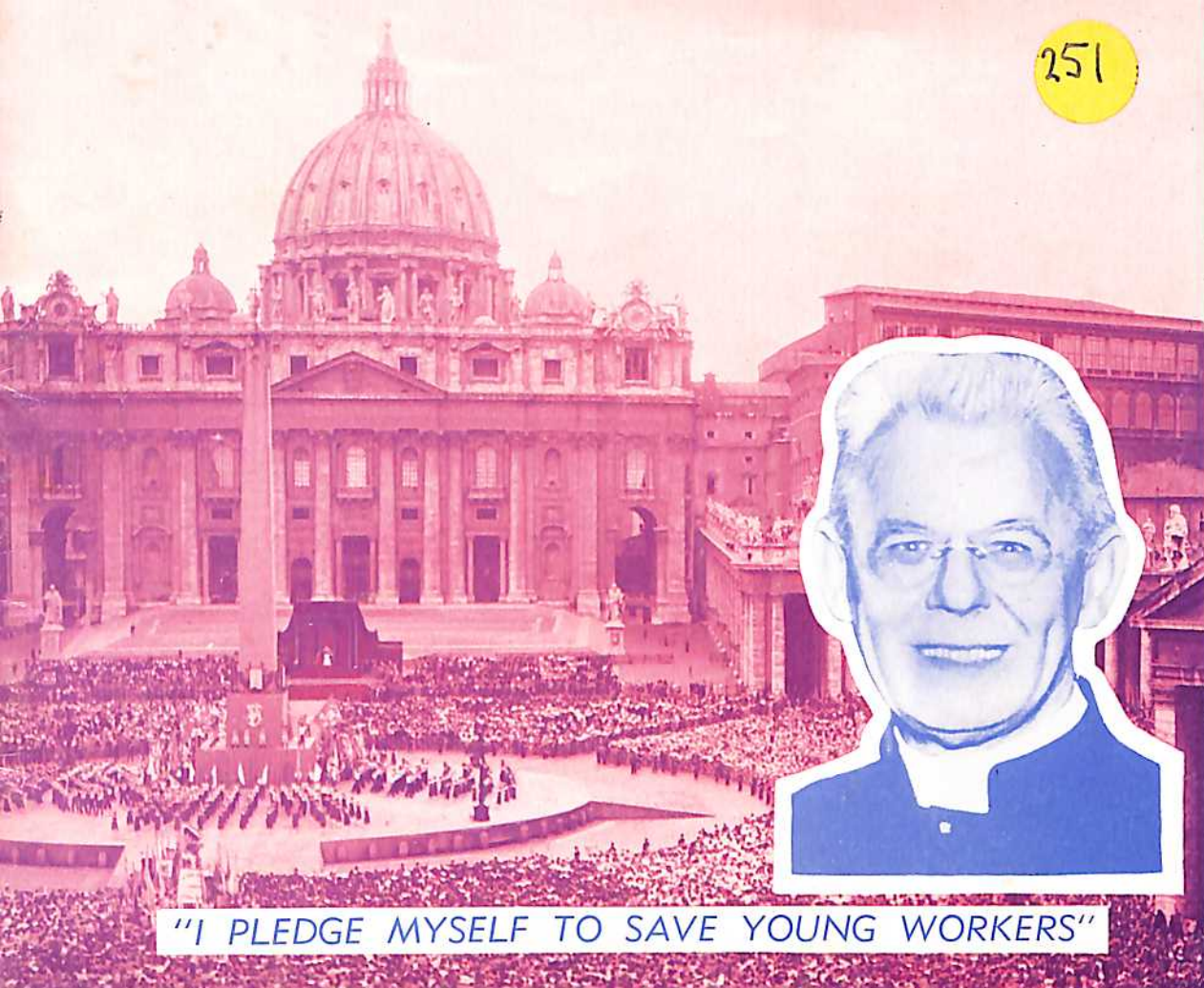


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"I PLEDGE MYSELF TO SAVE YOUNG WORKERS"

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"Beloved sons and daughters, may you on your return home continue, each in the field of the apostolate assigned to him, an even more decided and vigorous action, since you will have understood better the incalculable value of the cause you defend. Now, as in the past, We count upon you, and We expect great things of you."

Pope Pius XII, 25th August, 1957.

MAN OF VISION

Joseph Cardijn, the eldest son of a working-class family, was born on 13th November, 1882, in a small town on the outskirts of Brussels, Belgium.

His parents had worked hard for many years, and, naturally, they expected that he would ease the family budget when he commenced work. When he was 12 years of age, this was so arranged.

But there were other, deeper forces at work within the young lad.

Not until the night before he was to start work was he able to voice to his parents his secret longings to be a priest. Poor as the Cardijn family was, his parents agreed that they would continue to work so that they might have this blessing on their family.

The long road to the priesthood began at the seminary of Malines.

At home, during the holidays, he was shocked and challenged by the change that had taken place in his former school-mates, who had now commenced work.

"I could see how they had given up going to Church after a few months at work. They had entered the factory and were already corrupted, lost. From that moment onwards I was haunted, haunted for life, by the call — 'to save the working class'."

During his final years of philosophy and theology at the seminary he continued to ponder the problems facing young workers in their first years after leaving school. Then tragedy struck . . .

One day in 1903 Joseph received a telegram, and hurrying home he found his father near death. Beside his father's death-bed, Cardijn made the vow which has been his life's guiding star: "Father, you killed yourself for me! I shall kill myself for the working-class of the world!"

On 22nd September, 1906, Joseph Cardijn was ordained priest.



MONSIGNOR JOSEPH CARDIJN

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Then followed a year of further studies, and five years of school teaching. They were not wasted years. Study and teaching prepared his mind. During holidays he travelled in Germany, France and England to study social conditions. In England he saw many early Trade Union leaders, including Tom Mann. He met Baden Powell, who wanted him to become head of the Scouts in Belgium.

In 1912, Father Cardijn got his chance. He was appointed curate in a parish where 90 per cent. of the 15,000 parishioners were ill-paid workers.

He wasted no time. He adopted revolutionary methods of training youth in responsibility, initiative and spirituality.

Essentials of his methods were: Young workers must be the apostles of young workers; material conditions have a profound effect on the spiritual; there is no real solution of the problem apart from Christ.

The movement caught on. It swept through the parish, the city of Brussels, through whole regions of Belgium. Despite setbacks during World War I, during which he was twice imprisoned, by 1924 the Young Christian Workers, as his movement became known, was a national issue.

Some hailed it as a Providential Blessing. Others condemned it as revolutionary, radical, subversive, dangerous to Church and State. Many were uncertain.

Father Cardijn went to Rome, and throwing himself at the feet of the Holy Father: "Most Holy Father, I want to kill myself in order to save the working masses". The reply of Pope Pius XI gave Father Cardijn the approval he needed for the spreading of his new Movement. "At last, here is someone who talks to me of the masses, of saving the masses. Everyone else talks to me of the few — an elite. What is needed is an elite in the masses, the leaven in the paste. The greatest work you can possibly do is to restore to the Church the working masses." "Not only do we bless your Movement, we want it. We make it ours."

This was the turning point. Y.C.W. spread through Belgium, then to France, England and the other European countries; across the waters to North and South America, to Africa, Australia, Asia. Although the second World War disrupted many of the national Movements of Y.C.W. in Europe, the Movement was spread into other continents by Y.C.W. members in the armed forces. Today it is established in 87 countries and territories and has a membership of more than 2½ million.



AUSTRALIAN BEGINNING

In 1941, under the inspiration of a young Melbourne priest, Father Frank Lombard, the Y.C.W. was born in Australia. Father Lombard was similar to Monsignor Cardijn in many respects. Possessing extraordinary energy and enthusiasm, he had an unshakeable confidence in youth, and refused to believe that they could not help themselves.

Time and again he repeated his belief that it was tragic that Catholic youth should be given a Christian education and then, when they left school and started work, be left to battle for themselves against the surging paganism of the world.

Having read with great interest of the Y.C.W. in Europe, Father Lombard and several of his young priest friends set themselves to apply the Y.C.W. principles to Australian life. After many experiments the first branch of the Y.C.W. was officially established in Melbourne in 1941 on the birthday of Our Lady, 8th September. In

1943, it became a National Movement with Father Lombard as its National Chaplain.

About the same time the National Catholic Girls' Movement was also launched in all States as the girls' counterpart of Y.C.W.

Today, thanks to the tireless efforts of Father Lombard and the pioneer lay members of the Y.C.W., who travelled the length and breadth of the Commonwealth, the Australian Y.C.W. is now well established in every State.

The years of ceaseless travel and activity finally took their toll and, in 1955, he was forced, for health reasons, to relinquish his position as National Chaplain.

It has been said, and any member who came into contact with him will agree, that there is no-one in Australia who has done as much for Australian youth as Father Frank Lombard.



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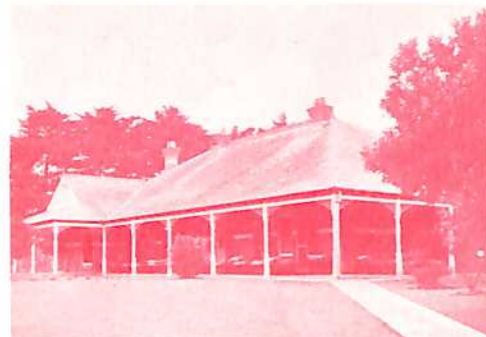
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"The apostles of young workers must be young workers themselves."



"Maiya Wamba" — Boys' Training Centre, Cheltenham.



"Lowanna" — Girls' Training Centre, Brighton.

More than 1,200 leaders attend training courses each year at the Girls' and Boys' Training Centres. Maiya Wamba has been in operation since 1943, and Lowanna since 1952. Basic training is given weekly in parish leaders' groups.

Over 100 former members of the Y.C.W. have been ordained priests, and more than 150 members of the N.C.G.M. have entered the religious life.



SEE

advanced education. How is it possible to do these things. How is it possible to do these things adequately.

JUDGE

If they read books, will that train them?

train them. If they listen to talks and speeches, will that train them? Again, it will help, but alone it will not train them.

What will train them and make them apostles like Christ will be a personal interior transformation which comes only through personal discovery. Monsignor Cardijn realised that when he was a young curate. He realised that young workers needed an education not out of books or out of someone else's lips, BUT AN EDUCATION OUT OF LIFE ITSELF.

The Enquiry Method is the hub of the Y.C.W. Movement and everything revolves around it. Referred to by the Holy Father as "the genius of Cardijn", the Enquiry is the means whereby young workers are educated, formed and trained in the Y.C.W. It is the method of training by which ordinary young workers are taught to SEE — to look around them and find the details of every part of their home, work and leisure life, and the problems influencing them. Having found out the real situation of their life, they then must JUDGE this situation in the light of Christian principles: they measure up the ideal of God and the situation as it really is. This judgment in many cases shows a real contradiction, and to tackle and overcome and solve this contradiction, Y.C.W. leaders are shown the way to ACT. This, then, is the enquiry method — SEE, JUDGE, ACT.

ACT

Young workers, themselves, must solve the problems of young workers. Young workers, themselves, must be the leaders of other young workers. "The apostles of young workers will be young workers themselves," said Pope Pius XI.

But they are young — they are ordinary working lads and girls — many without the benefits of advanced education. How is it possible that they do these things for them to be trained

many books, will that help; but it will not

**C
SERVES
EDUCATES
REPRESENTS
INTERNATIONAL**



A SERVICE FOR EVERY NEED

From the individual service of the members towards the work-mate or neighbour up to the regional and diocesan services, Y.C.W. and N.C.G.M. work to serve all young workers in every aspect of their life — at home — at work — and at leisure. Services are the means the Youth Movements use to incarnate Charity in their members, and to educate all young workers in their spiritual, intellectual, physical, cultural, social, and economic needs.



SERVICES

Spiritual

General Communion and Breakfasts
Days of Recollection
Annual Retreats
Youth Weeks and Sundays
Daily Mass Rosters
Preparation for Marriage Courses

Cultural

Debating, Public Speaking, Libraries
First-Aid Classes, Dramatics, Choirs, Bands

Social

Visitation of Sick Youth
Excursions and Holidays for Underprivileged Children
Employment and Accommodation Services
Vocational Guidance

Physical

Football, Cricket, Tennis, Basketball, Swimming
Athletics, Softball, Baseball, Indoor Sports
Boxing, Gymnastics

Social Entertainments

Learn to Dance Classes, Dancing, Hikes, Socials
Picnics

Economic

Savings Schemes, Co-operative Housing Societies
Trading and Insurance Societies
Hostel Services, Hobby Classes, Camping



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You can well imagine with what joy we learnt, when the war was over, that a new star had risen in the Y.C.W. firmament — that the foundations of a young, vigorous movement had been well and truly laid in the great Commonwealth of Australia.

Truly we can see the hand of Divine Providence in the rise of the Australian Y.C.W.

Young Christian Workers of Australia, I'm proud of you. Long live the Australian Y.C.W.

— Monsignor Cardijn, 8th September, 1951.

Those of us who are engaged in the Apostolate in Europe, look to Australia as a land of unrivalled apostolic opportunity. We see Australia as a nation which has been given the great chance of establishing its institutions and its public life on Christian principles untrammelled by the relics of back-wash of the barbarism that accompanied the rise of industrialism in Europe.

A Christian Australia is vital for the whole free world and in particular for the whole Pacific area in which your country, by its geographical setting, is called to stand out as a Christian witness to Christian values.

— Pat Keegan, Y.C.W. International President,

8th September, 1951.

Y.C.W. — A MASS MOVEMENT

Groups, organises and trains the mass of young workers. Speaks on their behalf to Employers, Trade Unions, Local, State, and Federal Governments. Has consultative status on U.N.E.S.C.O., I.L.O. and other international bodies.

Y.C.W. REPRESENTS ALL YOUNG WORKERS

MASS

Members represent their contacts and all young workers in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Teach them their participation in the redemptive sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of the whole world.

HOUSING

Many representations to Government to reduce interest rates on home-building finance and to make more money available for home building.

LITERATURE

Action in all States to lessen the degrading influences of indecent literature, which is damaging the moral fibre of young Australian workers.



WORK

Continual efforts by Y.C.W. to better the conditions of young workers at their places of work. Encourages all young workers to be active members of their Trade Union or Association.

FASHIONS

Annual Fashion Festivals in all States by N.C.G.M. to prove that girls can dress fashionably and yet modestly.

APPRENTICESHIP

Work to assist all apprentices to receive day-time schooling. Efforts to have apprentice's rates set as percentage of the tradesman's.

APPEAL OF THE Y.C.W.

TO ALL THE YOUNG WORKERS OF THE WORLD

We have a magnificent mission. Millions of young people in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australasia count on us to help them to have confidence in the future. Millions need our devotion, our generosity, our love.

We must form a new youth to build together a new world. A world no longer built on exploitation, ignorance, violence, war, but a world founded on respect for the person, the family, society and the world community of men. A world built on faith in the dignity and purpose of the poorest and the humblest.

In the Y.C.W., we will be asked to make great sacrifices, perform great tasks, offer a pure and selfless devotion. In return we will receive a purpose in life, an answer to our doubts, a hope for our fears.

United together, we will change the face of the earth.

87 COUNTRIES — 2½ MILLION MEMBERS



AUSTRALIAN YOUTH MUST HELP ASIAN YOUNG WORKERS . . .

"Brotherhood among young workers in all parts of the world will provide a strong foundation for the mutual respect and understanding among races and cultures towards which the world is yearning. Our desire for brotherhood should manifest itself not only in sentiments and words but in deeds. We must open not only our hearts but our purses, sharing our bounty with others in a concrete way.

Peace must begin in the individual human heart. Each of us must root out class or racial prejudices which keep us from loving the peoples of other countries. We must avoid words of hatred or derision against those who do not think like us: we must practice charity and generosity and friendliness towards our co-workers and towards foreigners who may be ignorant of the work and customs of our country. We must be concerned about the problem of peace in the world.

Obviously rich nations carry a heavy burden of responsibility towards countries that are small, poor, or in the progress of development. Peace is both a personal and a collective responsibility.

Peace is possible if we believe that God is the Father of all and that we are all brothers in Christ.

Christ wishes us to be, through the Church and the Y.C.W., the artisans of His Peace—the only true peace—for all the young workers of the world. How can we refuse this appeal?



... OUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE YOUNG WORKERS IN ASIA.

"We must keep constantly in mind that young workers of other races whatever the colour of their skin, are our brothers. Brown or white skin is in no way superior to yellow or black."

Y.C.W. PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

A worker like me,
Help me, and all my fellow workers,
to think like You,
to work with You,
to pray through You,
to live in You,
to give You all my strength and all my time.

May Your Kingdom come
in all our factories,
workshops,
offices,
and in all our homes.

Be everywhere better known,
better loved,
better served.

Deliver us forever from injustice and hatred,
from evil and sin.

May our souls remain in your grace today,
and may the soul of every worker
who died on labour's battlefield
rest in peace. Amen.

ROUSE UP!

(Song of the International Y.C.W.)

Rouse Up! Rouse Up! Young Workers all,
Throughout our land a voice resounds,
'Tis Christ the Worker's trumpet call
To win for Him our youth, our towns.

Chorus:

Stand steadfast comrades for your rights,
Your work, your dignity, your pride,
Come march along, we'll conquer all the world,
Young Workers — side by side.

In this our native land we find
A mighty standard which we greet,
His blood-stained Cross, round which entwined
Behold a Golden ear of wheat.

Chorus:

That symbol of our hope and faith,
Its arms around His Cross entwines;
The sufferings that for us wait,
They, workers, of His love are signs.

Chorus:

Our task to make our comrades men
Who think and speak and act like Christ;
Through Him it can be done again —
The Standard of His Cross, then, hoist!

Chorus:

Each day we build Christ's Kingdom fair,
Where Love and Truth and Justice reign;
And when the workers breathe that air,
They'll learn to praise God's Sacred Name!

Chorus.



“Has anyone bothered to train these young workers for their working lives? Have they been called together during their last year at school so as to be given a moral and special social formation necessary for them in facing the life before them? Has anyone helped them to choose their job and their employer? Who has bothered to get them together the day before they start work to show interest in this new, vitally important stage of their life? Who helps and advises them in the only too frequent cases when it is impossible for them to get out of their troubles alone; who helps in their professional training and apprenticeship, in moral guidance, in ensuring working amenities and hygiene, in cases of accidents, and all those conditions of work which have such an enormous influence on their health, their future, their religious and social life?”

“And when they return from work of an evening or at week-ends, who is interested to afford them normal ways to improve their education, to improve them physically and culturally, of helping them pass the time and amuse themselves? Does anyone help them to save their money, to make them foresee the future, to direct their steps properly and fully towards them founding a true Christian family in the future?”

— Monsignor Joseph Cardijn.



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In August, 1957, 32,000 Young Christian Workers of every race and colour, representing the workers of 87 countries and territories, met in Rome.

The purpose of this Assembly was to make known to the world the needs of all young workers, and to give public testimony of the fundamental vision of life according to which the Y.C.W. envisages the solution of these needs and problems.

All the delegates present solemnly pledged themselves to the service of their fellow workers, in order to achieve together the happiness both temporal and eternal of all the young workers of the world.

