



Working Together

The Newsletter of the Young Christian Workers Movement

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Special points of interest:

- YCW Research Project gets underway
- Tri-lateral exchange. Ireland-England-Malta
- IMPACT! News

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Just a Thought!
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that can.” Margaret Meade.

Work, Faith, Life—YCW Research Project gets underway

The YCW Movement recently invited tenders for **research into the role of the Faith Community in the lives of Young Immigrant Workers in the 18-30 age group.** Having received a number of very interesting Tenders we are happy to announce that a successful candidate was found. Markus Hopkins and his Team will undertake the Research on behalf of the YCW Movement.

The Research will take the form of questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and possible focus groups. Data will be collected from young immigrants living in a variety of loca-

tions throughout Ireland, namely Dublin, Meath, Monaghan, Leitrim and Donegal and will focus mainly on the Faith, Work situations and Social/Living conditions of Young Immigrant Workers in the 18-30 age group. The Research Teams two main Researchers have a vast amount of experience in the field of research and have the capacity to conduct interviews in English, German, Spanish, Polish and Russian. We are extremely enthusiastic about this project and feel it will reveal a great deal as to the lived experience of young immigrant workers in Ireland today.

The results of this research will be used to inform the work of the YCW Movement, to influence Government, Church, Trade Unions and State Bodies. We hope to have the Research completed in July and will bring you the findings once the results have been collated and launched.

The YCW Workers Project will act as a sounding board and advisory group for the Project.

If you are interested in this Research or indeed our Workers Project further details can be received from the YCW National Office.

Ireland, England & Malta - Tri-lateral exchange

In our last edition of Working Together we brought you news of the planned tri-lateral exchange between Ireland, England and Malta. The initiative, which was originally planned for June in Malta, has been changed to July and will bring together 21 young people (7 from each movement) to work together, to share their realities and to produce a ground breaking resource for our three IMPACT movements. Working on the issues of social injustice, equality, social participation and social action, in line with the principles and aims of the YCW, the young people will be trained in media skills and given the opportunity to create a DVD (and some printed material) to be utilised in the three partner countries. This material will help other young people, of Impact age, to enquire into the issues of concern, reflect upon them and commit themselves to action to make a difference. It promises to help all three movements refresh our IMPACT programmes and develop modern multi-media resources to help young people in our groups.

Each movement will meet to prepare for Malta, in bringing together 4 relevant issues that can be used for the work shops. The 12 issues will form the basis for the production and media training. Each nationality group will lead the development of 4 issues for the larger group. *(continued on page 3.)*

Making and IMPACT! in Ballyfermot

How young people see themselves...

In School, clubs, fundraising, helpful, enthusiastic, Volunteering, Youth Leaders, Community, Voluntary Work, Sensible, Dependable, Useful!

How the media portray young people...

Immature, on drugs, vandals, sex, teenage pregnancy, ASBO's, Bitchy, Violent, Alco's, Drop Outs, Scangers, Gangs, Guns, Bullies, Robbers, Disrespectful, Suicidal, Rallying Cars

Over the past couple of weeks, YCW along with the transition year students of **Caritas College Ballyfermot** have been extremely busy with the IMPACT! programme looking at **"How Young People are treated through Media"**.

With support from the teaching staff, (Maureen Casey, Tracey Lowry, Paddy Moore, Jennifer Egan & Tony Corbett, Transition Year Co-ordinator) the work got underway scanning magazines, and newspapers to compare positive and negative press on young people and how young people see themselves, The results of their enquiries were remarkable and provide a real insight into how young people feel that there is a lack

of recognition for all the good that they actually do. Just look at the results to the left of this page. There is a real contradiction between how the media portrays young people and how they perceive themselves.

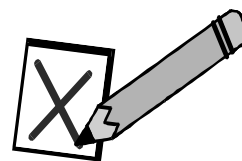
The group worked extremely well and really began to question themselves on the whole area of media. From this they decided to look at how many hours they actually spent watching TV, the results of which even astounded the teachers as they were also asked to submit the amount of hours that they watch television. The class as a whole watched approx of 437 hours 25 mins of television,, that's a weekly average of 16 hours

20mins per person . The most popular programmes watched in the group were Desperate Housewives, Eastenders, Coronation Street, All Music channels, from MTV base to Magic and Kerrang. The next topic the group plan to tackle will be the designing of their own magazine or newspaper which will contain articles of interest to the group, pictures, ads etc, This will be submitted to the teachers who will award a prize to the winning group

We wish them every success!

*How much TV do you watch?
Why not complete The work sheet from the IMPACT! Programme*

GET OUT, USE YOUR VOTE - PARTICIPATE!



Whether it's through your participation in IMPACT! or YCW, in school, work, or in your communities, you have a part to play in building a just Society for all. With an election pending what better way to participate than through the electoral process. Using your vote means that you have a say in who runs our country.
Ireland has the lowest rate of voter

turnout in Europe, young people in particular are, for many reasons, slow to register their vote, if at all.
You may already have had people knocking on your door seeking your vote, next time they call be sure to voice your concerns. Health, housing, employment, education, local facilities, whatever

it is unless you mention it ,what's important to you may never be looked at by any politician. So be sure to voice your concerns when they come looking for your support and remember On Poling day **GET OUT, USE YOUR VOTE!**

Interested in looking at the issue of Participation? Why not take a look at session 3 in YCW's Change Through Action programme!

Newbridge - a glance back, a leap forward

Over the past few months we have been working closely with the Parish Pastoral Council in Newbridge with a view to establishing IMPACT! And YCW groups.

Two of the members of the PPC were former members of the YCW Movement, here Mark Hall shares his experiences of YCW in the 80's.

I joined YCW in Newbridge around 1980. At that time there were about two, maybe three groups of about ten to twelve in each. There were groups in Dublin (Donnycarney, Ballyfermot, Cabra to name but a few), who would meet regularly for training and social events and each year we all gathered for the national congress.

I remember YCW members from Dublin coming to Newbridge for a 24 hour soccer marathon, we had great craic and developed some

good friendships and some long lasting relationships have also developed through the Movement.

I remember personally giving a presentation on abortion at the national congress, I gave information and facts on this issue and there were also presentations on topics that were relevant at that time.

We used to meet mostly at the priests house or in one of our own homes, which were of a friendly nature along with some good debates, sometimes fiery, on relevant issues. Making new friends within the group and especially meeting other groups was a highlight for me as all those involved were good craic, easy going, friendly and enthusiastic about the YCW and what it had to offer each member and the wider community. During this time the YCW was very active and vibrant but for me it was

mostly about the people in it the sharing of ideas and making connections with other groups round the country and having a sense of camaraderie.

**“Sharing ideas,
making
connections with
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of camaraderie”**

I have very fond memories of the YCW and really enjoyed the few years spent within it. After leaving I helped to establish a youth club in Newbridge and was chairperson for about three or four years.

I reckon the best time to join YCW is at 18 to 27 years as it provides a great outlet for meeting people of similar interests who are willing to share and above all have the craic with each other. It also helps one to think and reflect on issues within our community and on Christ's message and how relevant it is today.

Newbridge will commence YCW training soon. We wish them every success and look forward to more news from them soon.

Tri-lateral Exchange. *Continued from page 1.*

Throughout the project they will produce issue sheets and a DVD developed from the young people's experience and highlight those concerns the group thinks important to learn about in order to create more effective social action.

This project will help the 21 young people grow as key leaders and return to their home countries equipped to raise the awareness of others. Using the resource they have produced they will not only help other young people to identify issues of concerns in their own lives but also to recognise these issues as a European reality.

This project will give the young participants an excellent opportunity to have their say and provide opportunities to put across their views, showing that what they think really does matter and can make a real difference. It will give the young people the confidence to participate in society, continually seeing, judging and acting, growing as key leaders in their own situations.

The Irish YCW has six available places for this event so if you are aged between 16-24 years of age and would like to be part of this exiting venture then contact Jenny at the YCW National Office or email ycwjenny@eircom.net

National Office News — Over the past couple of months we have invested in updating our National Office, changing carpets and updating the conference and meeting rooms. Work is due to commence soon on some structural work in the hallway along with some necessary renovations. We hope the work will be completed soon and invite you to come view the new and improved office upon completion.





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Available now at the
YCW National Office

YCW PENS & PINS

MPACT!
Change Through
Action Programme
(16-18yrs)

YCW Team

Vicky Rattigan
National Co-ordinator

Jenny Casey
Development Worker

Fr. Eoin McCrystal
National Chaplain



Mission Statement

The YCW is an international youth movement, which values the dignity and worth of each young person. It enables its members to challenge social exclusion and take action to bring about change in their home, workplace and society.

The YCW is a movement of young adults who, by reflection and action, attempt to change and improve their lives and society.

YCW is committed to action which promotes the dignity and meaning of young people's lives regardless of their faith, social background or colour.

YCW Web-site

During 2006 the **YCW** along with **ECO-UNESCO** and the **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAVELLERS CENTRES** presented a joint proposal to the Department of Education for funding for a Web-Master to work on the web-sites of the afore mentioned organizations. Having secured funding we have advertised the position and hope to have a web master in place soon.

The Webmaster will work on a part-time basis (3 days per week) and will be based either in Dublin or Athlone and will be responsible for maintaining and developing the web sites of each organisation

In the meantime we have purchased the domain name **www.ycw.ie** and

have a number of new email addresses which should make it easier for you to contact us directly. Our new site will be available at **www.ycw.ie** however you can still find some information on the Movement at our old site **www.iol.ie/~ycw/**

Email Addresses

We can still be contacted at **ycw@iol.ie** but you may also contact us directly at the following email addresses;

vicky.rattigan@ycw.ie

jenny.casey@ycw.ie

eoin.mccrystal@ycw.ie

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We are really excited at the prospects of bringing you a new and exciting website and look forward

to receiving your contributions and feedback. We envisage the new site providing you with all the necessary information on the YCW Movement, along with up coming events and actions from home and abroad. We want the site to be a portal for all things related to youth and be a tool for you to access information on a number of important issues.

In the meantime we hope that you will bear with us while our new site is being created. We will keep you posted on developments.

Wish You were Here?

If you would like to publicise your groups actions and activities, have news of up coming events or would like to express your views on our Newsletter, please send your articles, news and views to the YCW National Office.