



Working Together

The Newsletter of the Young Christian Workers Movement

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Special points of interest:

- YCW Research Project Young Workers & Faith
- Web Master for YCW
- Looking Back - Danny Lennon shares his experience of YCW
- NYCI celebrates 40 Years

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Just a thought...

“Be the Change you want to see in the World.” Mahatma Gandhi.

Young Workers & Faith—YCW Research Project

YCW’s research with migrant workers living in Ireland is well underway, questionnaires, face to face interviews and focus group meetings have taken place in Dublin, Leitrim, Monaghan & Donegal.

Initial resistance to engagement in the project from many migrant workers has been overcome through the use of focus groups facilitated in the native language of participants, and by encouraging people to complete questionnaires in their own language rather than in English or Irish. Questionnaires are currently available in English, Polish & Russian.

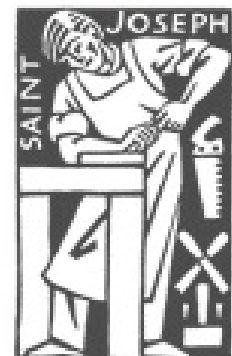
Initial analysis shows a striking nationality difference in the importance of religion in the lives of migrant workers, with the majority of Polish and African migrants saying that religion is very important to them, both groups adding renewed confidence and vitality to both Catholic & Protestant churches

throughout Ireland, whilst the majority of young migrants coming from countries that were once a part of the USSR saying that religion is almost an irrelevance to them.

On the social and economic side, a high percentage of young EU migrant workers fail to realise that Social Welfare benefits may be available to them after they’ve lived in Ireland for more than two years. Many participants in the research are also suggesting that Irish workers are being paid more for doing exactly the same work, although this data is very much anecdotal.

Although the majority would recommend Ireland as a place to live and work, most migrant workers are saying that they intend to return to their home country within the next five years.

YCW’s migrant worker research is being carried out by



St. Joseph The Worker

Dr. Marcus Hopkins and Natalia Wizimirska.

To find out more about the research, or to ensure that your own voice is heard, email marcushopkins@o2.ie Emails welcome in any recognised EU language.

“A young worker is worth more than all the gold in the World”, Joseph Cardijn, YCW founder.

New Webmaster for YCW

YCW is delighted to welcome a new addition to its team! In May 2007 Mélanie Gutman joined the YCW team as Webmaster, and is responsible for the maintenance and development of our web site. Originally from France, Mélanie has been living in Ireland since 2002 and has held positions in the area of web development, both in the private and not-for-profit sector. A joint-employee with YCW, Eco-Unesco and the National Association of Travellers’ Centres, Mélanie works three days a week from the offices of YCW on Talbot Street, maintaining and developing the web sites of the three organisations. Mélanie has already started working on a new design and content for the YCW web site, and we are hoping to launch our brand-new internet site in the coming months. If you have suggestions for our new web site, please email melanie.gutman@ycw.ie with your feedback and comments.

Looking Back - YCW through the ages.

In the second instalment of "Looking back" Danny Lennon, Belfast, recalls his experience of YCW from 1940-1952. During his time in the Movement Danny was a member of the St. Teresa's YCW Section, Belfast, was Section Secretary, Belfast Regional Secretary and Organiser and also worked with YCW in Melbourne, Australia. Danny is currently living in Belfast and is a member of the Cardijn Association.

To understand the impact of the YCW on the lives of us young workers of the thirties it is important to consider the conditions we lived in. Most of us left school at 14 and went out hunting a job, any job! Many like myself, at 13, worked every holiday, Christmas and Easter. There was poverty and not many parents had the money to send their children to secondary school, so it was out to earn a few bob. (for you young one's a bob was a shilling in old money: 5p). The work was hard, the wages low and the conditions were often very bad. Along came the YCW, can you imagine the impact it had on such a background?

The YCW made me! The vacuum that was there was filled. There after I ate, slept and drank YCW. Work was only a means to an end. Life took on a whole different meaning. A thought comes to mind, was there a like *after* work? For my fathers generation there wasn't. If you think we had it bad they had it even worse. Everything was relative I suppose but we had to survive and with the help of the YCW we did, perhaps even better than most. God was good. (I say that in all sincerity, I'm still here!)

Problems

One of the problems of the early YCW here was recruiting enough of the ordinary worker types. Office workers, shop workers and civil servants, that type of worker was easy enough but mill workers, labourers etc. were much more difficult to contact as many YCW's were not in direct contact with this kind of worker. Another problem for us at that time was "Clerical Opposition", some thought we were too militant, imagine!

YCW was a Godsend, it was the making of us!

Danny Lennon.

IF you would like to share your experience of the YCW Movement we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us at the YCW Office 01-8780291 or email: info@ycw.ie

*Danny Lennon Right
with Willie Roberts,
Wexford.
1940*



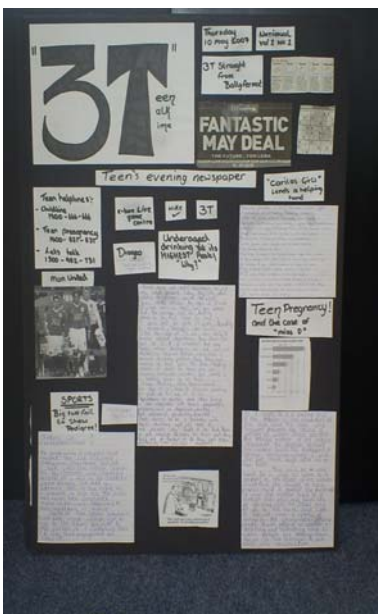
Young People and the Media - IMPACT!



In our last edition of Working Together we brought you news of our Impact programme in Caritas College, Ballyfermot and the Transition Year students project on Young People & Media. The students suggested that they would like to create their own Magazines/broadsheets in which they included articles, pictures and quotes. Each group created their own sense of style regarding their project. Every member of the group was involved in all stages of the project from the planning, writing, editing, and the mounting. The projects had various names from Ballya News, Dublin Times, 3T; Celebs on the Scene, T.Y

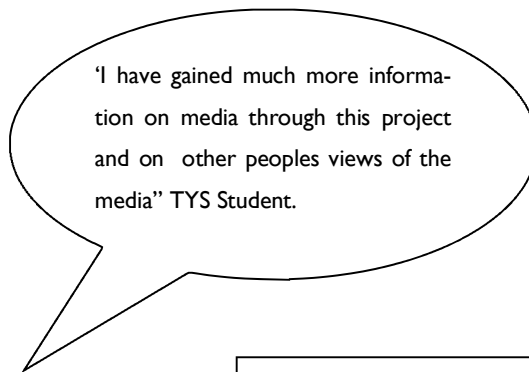
Times, Hush, and all varied, from where to get a great pair of shoes to who bought Padraig Pearse Letters. The final projects were submitted to the teachers who after lots of deliberations had the hard task of picking a winner. The winning project was entitled 3T which stood for Teen Talk Time and included articles on alcohol dependency, schools projects, they also provided helpline details for various organisations. The winning members of the group were Ashley, Helena, Natalie, Shannon, and Ciara who put a lot of effort researching the articles which showed in the end result.

After 12 weeks working on the project we were all proud of all the great work that had been done regarding the Impact Programme and also the media projects. A certificate of participation was presented to each participant.



The winning Project
3T Times

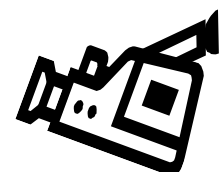
During this project the students were visited by a member of the TTV Team in RTE to hear their views on Young People & the Media.



'I have gained much more information on media through this project and on other peoples views of the media' TY Student.

"we saw how the media views teenagers'
TY Student

I learned a lot through the media's perception of youth" TY Student





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YCW Team

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



Young Christian Workers
Saothraithe Óga Criostaí

IMPACT!

"Change Through Action"

is an exciting programme developed specifically for young people (16-18 years) in Parish or School groups, based on the *See, Judge, Act* method of YCW.

IMPACT! programme material contains information and discussion plans on many issues relating to the lives of young people. Issue sheets are informative and user friendly and have been written in consultation with young people.

For further information on how your students could benefit from the **IMPACT!** experience, contact the YCW National Office, 11 Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Tel: (01) 878 0291 Email: info@ycw.ie



Congratulations to the National Youth Council of Ireland as it celebrates it's 40th Anniversary this year.

NYCI, the representative body for voluntary youth organizations in Ireland will celebrate this milestone with a Gala dinner in Dublin Castle on Friday 29th June with a special awards ceremony to celebrate and honor the effort and contributions that individual volunteers have made to the organisation over four decades.

As a member organisation of NYCI, YCW would like to take this opportunity to wish Congratulations and Best wishes to the Council. Enjoy the celebrations! Here's to another 40 years!

Coming Soon.....
The YCW is currently working on a new Programme dealing with the issue of Young people and the media which we hope to have available in the coming months. This programme will not only work in conjunction with the **IMPACT!** Change Through Action Programme but will work equally well as a stand alone programme for helping young adults 16-18 years look at the issue of media in an interesting, fun and informative manner.
Further details available from Jenny
Jenny.casey@ycw.ie

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