

Brussels, August 7, 1961

Reverend Monsignor A. Glorieux,
Secretary of the Commission for the Apostolate of the Laity,
Palazzo della Cancelleria,
Rome

Dear Monsignor,

I received your good letter of July 28 as well as all the reports and proposals from our last session, which arrived the following day.

Prior to receiving your letter, I had written the attached short note on Proposals 50 and 51, on the subject of the family. The secretariat will decide whether it should still be taken into account. The Ri 55 note seems to address my concerns about the plight of domestic workers, especially younger ones. We should perhaps add the social and economic defence of these young employees. An organisation which brings together and helps young domestic workers, in which they themselves are trained to train and support each other, seems to me very advisable. The JOCF in Chile and Brazil have taken the initiative to launch such an organisation, within the JOC movement itself, with the best results.

At the point the work of the Commission has arrived at, would it not be useful to provide its members a copy of all the proposals adopted so far? This would help us to gain an overview of these Proposals in order to be able to evaluate and add to them.

Personally, I am very concerned with the apostolate of the laity - individual, but above all organised - in their lay life, in their lay environment, at the heart of the problems and institutions that influence them; I am referring to the proper and irreplaceable apostolate that the laity must exercise personally or through their organisations with respect to secular problems. Can we not highlight even more the importance and the necessity of this and underline the formation which the laity need, as well as the indispensable collaboration with the Hierarchy, as much for their formation as for their action?

The problem seems so important to me for the years to come! Catholics and non-Catholics alike expect a clear and definite declaration from the Council on such a fundamental point. This statement needs to make an impact, both inside and outside the Church.

I apologise for returning to this point so often. I hope that after the International Council of the YCW in Rio (November 1 to 23), I will find more time to put on paper a few more concrete observations concerning the distinctions to be made regarding the direct and indirect apostolate as well as, apostolic, social and charitable action, collaboration between chaplain and lay leader, relations between the Hierarchy and the laity.

I will be in Rome from 23 to 28 October and will leave from there directly to Rio de Janeiro. Do not forget us in your prayers!

Be assured, dear Monsignor, of my faithful attachment, in Christo.

Joseph Cardijn
General Chaplain of the JOC

PS The death of H. Em. Cardinal Tardini caused great emotion in Belgium. And obviously also, since yesterday, the death of H. Em. Cardinal Van Roey.