

Brussels, June 9, 1959

Miss R.M. Goldie
Permanent Committee for the Congresses of the Lay Apostolate,
16, Piazza S. Calisto,
Rome

Dear Miss,

Among the documents I found on my desk upon my return from the European Conference of the YCW in Innsbrück, I had the pleasure of finding the third volume of the Documents of the 2nd World Congress for the Lay Apostolate. While browsing the volume on the theme: "Forming the Apostles" I could not help but appreciate all the work carried out for the publication of all three volumes, of which you had already kindly sent me the two first a few months ago.

I cannot thank you enough for your attention and congratulate you on the rapid and careful publication of these precious documents. May they be distributed and studied all over the world!

The leaders of the Permanent Committee know how much I am concerned with the formation of lay people for the apostolate; essential formation

- for priests (all priests) who must understand the need for it and be capable of ensuring its realisation in all milieux but particularly in the world of work;

- to the militants and lay leaders themselves, who are directly responsible for ensuring this formation in the life of the masses of these different milieux.

As long as all clergy, like all laity, fail to be imbued with the need for this formation and do not seek to adapt it, especially to the life problems of young adults, I fear that an effective response will not be given. to the predominant needs of the modern world.

I ardently hope that the Permanent Committee will continue and extend its research on the formation of an authentic Christian laity, to the dimension of this world which is expanding in all fields. With respect to this, would it not be the moment to do a special study on the apostolate of the laity and contact with non-Christians, the union of Churches, etc.? I believe that this is an important aspect of the ecumenism issue and for the preparation of the Council.

Once again, I repeat regret at not being able to attend the Montallegro Meeting. I will be particularly happy to receive the report and to learn of the follow-up to it.

Please pass my respectful greetings to Monsignor Glorieux and be assured Mademoiselle, of my reiterated thanks and of my faithful attachment to the work of the Permanent Committee.

Jos. Cardijn,
General Chaplain of the YCW