

A Happy and Holy Jocist New Year

"Happy and Holy New Year" is a spontaneous Christian greeting for the first day of the year!

"Happy New Year" is also the enthusiastic greeting of the General Secretariat to all regional YCW federations, local groups and YCW leaders.

May it be "Holy Year" sanctified by joyful work, fervent devotion and a conquering apostolate!

May it be a "Happy New Year", overflowing with the incomparable happiness that brings a peaceful conscience, a sense of fulfilment and a beloved ideal!

May it be a "Holy and Happy Jocist Year" based on the clear and precise vision of the YCW, which is advancing and making progress each day, and which continues to improve its program and perfect its methods of formation and action as well as to constantly acquire greater unity, cohesion and influence as the most magnificent achievement of Catholic Action among young workers bearing within itself the hope, pride and ambition of bringing the whole working class of the future back to Christ and the Church!

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This was the totally sincere clarion call issued by the "Jeunesse Ouvrière" paper on 5 January 1927 to all soldiers of the Jocist army. After summarising the key words for the new year, it concluded with the following appeal: "Won't 1927 be a marvellous Jocist year?" Let us be worthy of this by offering up to God the fruits of the new year by uniting ourselves more than ever in prayer and action as well as discipline and enthusiasm for the success of the Jocist cause."

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Three years of good and fruitful work have proved that God has blessed these wishes and that the YCW has beautifully fulfilled the promise of what one author characterised as "the great beginning of the YCW."

1930 is no longer just a starting point. It is the end of the first stage as well as the beginning of a new one.

The *first* stage concluded with an unforgettable apotheosis that the very representative of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the supreme head of the Church, interpreted as a precursor sign of the imminent return of young workers to Christ and the Church.

The uncertain but indomitable *second stage* will go even further thanks to the irresistible force of a general and victorious offensive until the complete realisation of this promise, namely all young workers with Christ!

To achieve this, we will need three things during this new year:

Leaders! Achievements! Soldiers!

LEADERS

We have 610 sections in Wallonia. We need at least two leaders per section, who will become the pivots and the engines of all local Jocist action, who will be the drivers and coaches of all young workers in the parish and neighbourhood, who will make their *propaganda* and turn their jocist *activity* into a *real vocation*. They will need to be *competent, dedicated* and *influential* leaders, who surround themselves with a college of *activists* in order to study together the needs of young workers in their locality and organize all the *services* necessary for their training and protection.

We have 18 regional federations and 10 sub-federations. For each one we will need a *dozen* leaders who become the *animators* of all propaganda and regional action, who will develop *ongoing contact* between the various sections, promote the *key messages*, inspire the weaker one, establish services, support the company *teams* and groups as well as prepare the *study days* and the *recollections* and pursue the *Jocist transformatoin* of the whole region.

Training leaders is the *main task* that is always urgent and fresh for all regional and local fulltime workers, chaplains and all true Jocist propagandists. This is achieved by developing continuing *personal relationships* by means of a *graduated training* in the various Jocist tasks, including the sale of the newspaper and calendar, enquiries into his or her company and profession, reports to study circles, learning by assisting in various tasks, visits to others sections accompanied by the fulltime worker and other delegates. This is how leaders are gradually formed, renewed and replaced.

This is a matter of life and death for the YCW.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Not just words! Actions and services! Not just in one or a few sections but in every section and every federation throughout the YCW.

A *meeting* of whatever kind it may be - a committee, study circle, general meeting, study day, recollection - is not a goal in itself. It is simply a *means*, a *starting point*, a *preparation* for an activity or a project *beyond the meeting*. The YCW wishes to transform the workplace, the working environment. The YCW aims to reach and transform *all young workers*. This does not happen at meetings, which are always a somewhat *artificial* environment. Instead, it needs to be sought and found within the *natural environment*, i.e. in working-class neighborhood, while travelling or at work.

To achieve this *everywhere*, contact points will need to be set up in workplaces, on public transport and in neighbourhoods in order to scout and attract comrades, neighbours and companions, who will form *teams* in which genuine jocist leaders will provide the tone, impacting on others and influencing the milieu.

To achieve this *everywhere*, sales and *promotion* of the JOC newspaper will be needed. Not just outside churches but throughout the neighbourhood, at work and among comrades and neighbours. People will

need to know how to sell one or the other issue *everywhere*. Where the paper is not sold or where the movement is not developing is a sure sign that people are not concerned.

To achieve this, *services* are needed *everywhere*! Well-organised, well-known, active and regular services. *Savings first of all*. This needs to become the major achievement of this year. There should be no more jocists without savings cards, no sections that is not a saving section. 610 jocist sections: 610 savings sections!

For this, *everywhere*, business, travel, and neighborhood poles, which identify and attract comrades, neighbors, companions, who form everywhere *blocks* where the real jocistes set the tone, train others and influence the environment.

For that *everywhere* the sale and the *propagation* of the YCW. Not only at the doors of churches, but especially in the neighborhood, at workplaces, to other comrades or neighbours. We need to know how to sell every issue *everywhere*. Where we don't sell it, where we don't spread any, it's a sure sign that we don't care.

To achieve that *everywhere*, *services* are needed! Well-organized, well-known, active and regular services. *Savings first of all*. This needs to be the *major achievement of this year*. No more jocists without a savings account, no section without a savings plan. 610 jocist sections: 610 savings plans!

We will not neglect any service that is essential to the jocist program, including *preparation for employment* via the pre-jocist sections, professional orientation, placement, workplace monitoring and jocist mentoring; union and mutual sections; safety and health services; leisure, libraries, sports sections, games and excursions.

Jocist services are the touchstone of the Jocist spirit.

SOLDIERS

The JOC aims to *transform the masses*. A section which hardens and turns in on itself, which stays with its twenty, thirty or forty members lacks the *spirit of transformation*. *How many young workers are there in your parish, in your neighbourhood? How many are not yet jocists? - What are the most flourishing industries in your region? How are they represented in local teams and federations? - How many industrial companies are there in your locality? Which ones are the biggest? In which companies are jocist leaders present? How many in each company?*

This must be the *dominant concern* of our leaders and our chaplains! It needs to become their nightmare. They need to dream about it! The YCW will only be able to reach an industry, a profession, a company, through a worker in this industry, this profession, this company. You need to keep looking until you find this introducer of the YCW in this environment! Look for them everywhere, in the neighborhood, on the street, during journeys. Approach them, talk to them, turn them into comrades, friends, and join with them the means in order to reach their friends and fellow workers and bring them to the YCW.

Ah! we are not ambitious enough. What objections, what fears, what discouragement! If Our Lord did not refuse to be born *in a stable*, then he will not refuse to enter a slum, workshop or factory! But you need a person to introduce it! Ah! when will we finally have a real Christmas, Christ reborn in every family, in every business, in every environment! Come on, let's be bold! Let's close ranks! Let us reach out to *all* the young employees, *all* the young craftsmen, *all* the young workers in the region, those in the small and

those in the big industry. We need young, fresh soldiers for the great crusade. We always need new soldiers, who are well supervised and well led, with all the ammunition of our services and our achievements.

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And these *three key words are inseparable*.

We will only have leaders when we challenge jocist leaders to *investigate*, to have *influence on others*, to take responsibility and dedicate themselves to our *services* and *achievements*.

We will only have real *services* when we *train* and *engage* generous and brave people, who understand the importance of obscure, humble and persevering service for the education of young workers.

We will only have soldiers and we will only successfully be able to educate the masses, when our services and achievements speak louder and more eloquently than our words and speeches, and when the YCW has spokespeople and representatives in every workplace and in every workplace, who will become propagandists and apostles among their fellow workers.

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In addition to these three key words, we need to meet the double condition that the Pope himself insisted on in order to achieve a Jocist transformation, namely *unity and discipline*.

Unity of spirit and unity of organization, through the growing cohesion of local and regional *leaders* who see, meet, support and love each other as well as through an increasingly strong *cohesion* among all YCW sections, which constantly emulate each other in all regional activity.

Internal and external discipline, by means of self-conquest and total gift to the Jocist apostolate, by means of an invincible will to place the YCW program, methods and initiatives above all his personal desires and preferences.

So, yes, the year 1930 will be holy and happy;

Holy and happy for *every jocist leader* whom the Jocist apostolate will help to transform and flourish;

Holy and happy *for the YCW* which will respond even more and more perfectly to the expectations of Christ and the Church;

Holy and happy *for all working class young people* for whose salvation and happiness the YCW is striving.

J. CARDIJN.

SOURCE

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