

Cardijn's Legacy - Brings Faith to Life *by Tom Caluori*

Joseph Cardijn bequeathed to millions of people like me, all over the world a mission, an apostolate, a sense of personal worth and value as sons and daughters of God.

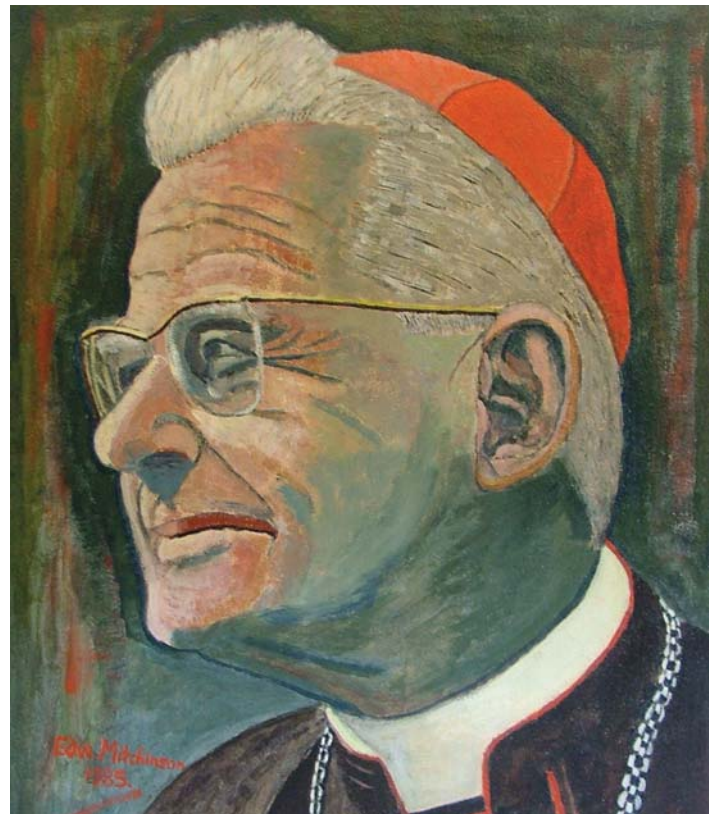
Cardijn was a prophet speaking on behalf of God for marginalised, exploited young people who thought little of themselves and were powerless. Sound familiar? This was God's providence for our times and the legacy to the Church is inestimable. Young people found themselves empowered and equipped for action to transform their surroundings and in so doing they (we) were transformed. The Church is reminded that the Gospel is for living out in the ordinary, everyday circumstances of life. There is no distinction between the Faith and Life. We live, as an ancient teaching states, as "resident aliens" and, on our journey "Home", we help advance the City of God.

His method of See-Judge-Act, now enshrined in the documents of the second Vatican Council (Decree on the Lay Apostolate, Para 29), is a tool for transformation and contains a theology of engagement and mission. We live our faith in the world more than parish structures and the only hope of the Church evangelising – which is why the Church exists – is through the laity. The task of the clergy, in the words of Pat Keegan the first international General Secretary of the YCW, and the first lay person to speak at the Second Vatican Council, is to call, animate and sustain the laity in the mission of the Church. Some have forgotten this and many are not aware of it.

Canon Ted Mitchinson was certainly aware of it. Mitch, as he was fondly referred to, was National Chaplain to the YCW from 1942-1958. Later he was invited by the South African YCW to help them in their struggle in opposing apartheid. He gladly went.

I had the privilege of working alongside Mitch not only while a YCW leader but later as we served together on the Southwark YCW Management Committee.

Understand my joy and amazement when, following a presentation on Youth Ministry to the Bromley deanery – a presentation which naturally included a goodly dollop of YCW (can you have really effective youth ministry without it?) I was approached by a woman who introduced herself as Mitch's niece who informed me that he had left over £25,000 to the Movement. She had not known much about the YCW and so the money had remained untouched. Well, of course I



*This painting of Cardijn was painted by Canon Mitchinson.
It now hangs in the YCW House in East London.*

gladly put her on the right track. I reckon Mitch was up there waiting for the right moment!

Mitch left so much of benefit as a legacy to the Church and society through his work and ministry in the YCW. Countless young people, such as myself, benefited from his work and the mature understanding of the YCW method we have now is largely a result of Mitch passing it on to leaders and chaplains of the Movement.

I owe so much to the Movement and to the legacy of Cardijn and Mitch among many others. It was through the Movement that I was awakened to my mission and apostolate and my calling as an RE teacher and school chaplain. Through the movement I met my wife to whom I've now been married for nearly 40 years, with 5 children. I left school at 15 with no formal qualifications and no hope. In 2003 I completed an MA in Pastoral Studies at Heythrop College. For the past 5 years, up to my recent retirement I've worked as Youth Ministry Coordinator in Croydon. Now retired, I am part-

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Now for the next 25 years please Jo!



In November we marked 25 years since Jo O'Brien started working with the YCW. Over the years she has seen many members, chaplains and development workers come and go. Jo has always remained dedicated to the mission of the Movement and has been key in helping YCW grow, as she will continue to be for many years to come! Here Fr John Marsland, former national and international chaplain, offers his words of thanks for 25 years ... and still counting!

In the year of 1983, before computers and spell checks, the main task of the HQ admin secretary was to transform handwritten pages of text produced by the HQ team into beautifully typed letters or documents. After the move from Clapham Rd to Golders Green, despite having nice new offices, we had a series of disastrous typists who laboriously produced badly aligned, misspelled work. Imagine our delight then when a Mrs Jo O'Brien came for interview. She could type like the wind without mistakes while using the photocopier, answering the phone and making a cup of tea; she was bright, smartly dressed with an air of competence and a good sense of humour; she was kind, sensitive and thoughtful. She had the job within minutes.

The amazing thing is that over all these years, despite all the ups and downs of the Movement, she has not lost any of these qualities but simply added to them as the years and YCW workers and chaplains have gone by and by and by: book-keeping, wages, general finance, publications, management of events, correspondence, MCW as well. She took the move to St Joseph's in her stride and then the movement and manoeuvring of national teams, trustees, councils and committees up to the present day. What a great example of cheerful dedication and faithful service to any young worker.

Thanks Jo. You were and are a treasure and so many young people you will never meet would give you a great vote of appreciation if they only knew!

Fr John Marsland

We also received these messages from the Cardinal, and from the MCW:



I would like to express my grateful thanks to Jo for her devoted work and service with the YCW for the past 25 years. I know what a great influence the YCW can have in young people's lives and you have done so much in keeping the movement alive. I know there is a new team now and the YCW is again proving to be a powerful sign of hope to our society. So thank you again for all you have done over the past quarter century.

Yours devotedly,

+Cormac Card. Murphy-O'Connor

Archbishop of Westminster

Movement of Christian Workers

Dear Jo,

Congratulations on surviving 25 years with our great Movements!

Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself!

Thank you for all your work - we could not survive without you.

All the best and here's to many more.

Jo & Jim Dearlove

(on behalf of the Movement of Christian Workers)

Remembrance of Pat Healy

from Tom Lydon

I first met Pat in the late 1940s. He said hello on the top deck of a London bus. Our families knew each other, so he knew me vaguely. But on the bus he actually spoke to me and wanted to know how I was and what I was doing. How typical of Pat, already showing his interest in people. Once he learned that I was now working, he invited me to a meeting. Well, we all know what that led to. At the Camberwell YCW I met Terry Holland and that started a triumvirate of friendship; "The Three Musketeers" as some at Headquarters referred to us. The YCW was very important to Pat, not least because he met his wife Muriel at HQ but also as a vehicle for his compassionate nature. He also claimed it set the pattern for his later life.

Pat spent his National Service in the RAF, serving in Palestine. Back in civvy street he became a lift engineer. His zeal for community service saw him become a local councillor in Southwark and later a qualified social worker, specialising in the reforming of difficult adolescents.

My greatest admiration of Pat was the way he accepted other people's opinions. It wasn't that he didn't have any of his own, but he believed that an open debate was always worthwhile, and I loved the gentle way he listened with interest. My experience of this came with those two glorious taboos: politics and religion. In our discussions of politics, I would hover and dodge about (even voting Lib-Dem once for which he didn't condemn me) but Pat was quietly steadfast in socialism, even though "New" Labour wasn't all to his liking. In religion, I spent a long phase in Charismatic Renewal. Pat would come with me to some services, always approving of the sincerity of the exuberant worship, but never thought it suited him.

Pat always asked about my family as soon as we met, particularly my daughter who has MS. He came to a number of



our family celebrations and because of his great rapport with young people, my children, nephews and nieces all thought of him with affection. His generosity too, will always be remembered: always first to the bar and invariably stumped up for the fish and chips or pie and mash we had for lunches. I recall an occasion on one of our long walks (Thames towpaths, Pennine Way, Southend Pier) our chat came onto family finance. When it emerged that I was experiencing some difficulty, a cheque appeared in the post some days later. It was very welcome, but I did pay it back over time.

Pat's commitment to the YCW continued, in particular through his assistance at HQ, organising the archives. This extensive task, undertaken alongside Kevin Muir and Ted Trevillion, will be a benefit for many generations to come. Indeed, they are being used almost daily by the current National Team.

Pat's health deteriorated about four years ago after a typical act of generosity, helping to carry a television out of a church hall and tripping down a step. This shook him considerably, both physically and mentally. His attendance at group therapy wasn't something he tried to hide. To the end he was honest and open. He was a truly loving and treasured friend.

Rest in peace, mate.

For your prayers

Please keep Angela and Ricky Davies in your prayers, whose daughter, Rachel (18) died in a tragic accident shortly before Christmas. Please also remember their other children, Katie and Joseph.

Please also remember Joseph Hayes (24) who died in a car accident in September. We pray for his parents, Kevin and Jean, brother Matthew and sister Sinead.

Many of our readers will know Don Swan, a long-time supporter of the YCW. He has asked that we remember him in our prayers, as unfortunately his cancer has returned, and is inoperable.

In need of your help

Don has also asked if any our readers have a memory of the YCW Trip to Rome in 1957, and more specifically the crash on the way home.

The following is an extract from *New Life* in December 1957:

"On the way home one of the British trains was derailed and the absence of serious injury was little short of miraculous. The small party from this diocese was on that train and I hope you will join me in thanking God for their safety."

Were you on the train? Can you tell us about your experience? Just write to us at YCW HQ, or email jo@ycwimpact.com



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