

PAX ROMANA

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
Tel. 037 / 2 26 49

FRIBOURG (Switzerland)
14, Rue St. Michel

Reference

June 25, 1958

Concerns: Pax Romana Journal 6, 1958
Symposium on woman's place in the modern world.

Dear Friend,

Will you help us with the Pax Romana Journal, no. 6, 1958? The Journal will be mostly devoted to The Rights of Man because December 10 is the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of Human Rights, but we also want to have a symposium on women's place in the modern world, with representative ideas from twenty-seven people from four continents. Here is a chance to get YOUR ideas over to the other members of Pax Romana the world over. The educated woman has an enormous part to play in the modern world and we want to draw our readers' attention to the subject.

Enclosed you will find a questionnaire to guide your answers. You may answer the questions in any order you like, omit some if you wish. Don't worry about style. That is the editor's headache. If we have left out a question on which you feel strongly, please write about it. Not all the questions are suitable for every continent. Answer in English or French.

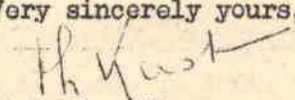
Photos: PLEASE send photos illustrating women's work in your country specially educated women. All photos will be returned safely, by registered mail if requested. Ask your government departments and tourist agencies for good photos.

Dead-line for answers: 15th September 1958 is the dead-line for answers. After that date, we cannot guarantee publication. Some of you are beginning the long vacation and will have time to help us.

As is customary in Pax Romana, you will receive five complimentary copies of the Journal in which the symposium appears.

With best wishes from all of us in the General Secretariat for your studies and your work for Pax Romana,

Very sincerely yours,


Thom Kerstiöns,
General Secretary.

TK/bom

Questionnaire sent to the following:

- AFRICA Florence Dillsworth, Sierra Leone; Josephine Mensah, Andrew Botse-Baidoo, Ghana; John Amlima, Kenya; Lindi Piliso, Margaret Barker, Jo Liefeldt, Elias Chipimo, South Africa.
- ASIA: Agnes Fonseca, India; Thérèse Lai, Viet Nam; Joseph Liang, Kaptin Adisumarta, Carla Theong, Indonesia.
- L.AMERICA: Amelia Labastié, Argentina; Carmen Deli Santana, Porto Rico; Enrique Mas Herrera, Costa Rica, Madame Fracchia, Paraguay.
- N.AMERICA: Denis Durocher, Walter I. Zborowsky, Canada; Allene Guss, Marianne McReynolds, USA.
- EUROPE: Gys Peeters, Netherlands; Flavia Montserrat, Joao Carlos Vaz Serra de Moura, Portugal; Alexina King, Moira Reynolds, Great Britain; Editha Nassen, Germany.

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GENERAL

Note: Unless otherwise stated, the term "women" refers to educated girls and women who have received advanced secondary, post-secondary or university training.

1. So many fields in education, industry, social welfare, local government are open to women today. Do you feel the women in your country are putting their new opportunities to the best advantage? "To the best advantage" of whom? Do women exercise (or should they exercise?) a different kind of influence through their work than men? If so, what kind of influence? Is there something specifically feminine which women should put into their work and thus influence those with whom they come in contact?
2. Is there anything Pax Romana could do to make its women-members aware that they have a contribution to make, as women, to their Catholic society, their University or institute, their job? Are the girls you have met in Pax Romana any better (or worse!) than others? If they were different, in what way?
Had they been affected by active participation in the apostolate?
3. In what fields are women doing the best work? Do you feel these fields suit them particularly? Why? In what fields do you feel they should not be working? To what fields should they direct more attention?
4. Are the women in your country doing many things to the detriment of family life? To what extent do you think the "emancipation" of women contributes to the break-up of the family?

For the girls answering these questions:

5. The basic right of woman is to be truly a woman. What do you understand by this? How can we interpret this in our studies, in our work and participation in society?

We have to be able to choose our own way and not have it imposed from outside. (This ties up with question 10 in the Europe and N.America section). How can girls be helped to choose the right way, to develop their qualities to the full and play an active part in society?

6. What is the attitude of your fellow men students? Are you barely tolerated in your institute? Or are your opinions consulted? Could you bring the girls' influence to bear more effectively on your university or institute?

ASIA:

7. Give a short account of the traditional role of women in general in your country; their place in the family; the education they received; marriage customs; respect due to women. Do you feel that much of your culture in this respect is being destroyed with the "emancipation" of women in your country?

How do you think education can safeguard your traditions while helping the women in general to conform to the exigencies of the technical civilization being imported into your country? Do you think educated women have a special role to play here by keeping the balance between the old and the new?

Illustrate one or two fields in which you feel that educated women are really 'pulling their weight' in the community? What could Pax Romana do to make its members realize their enormous responsibilities as educated women?

AFRICA:

8. Describe briefly some of the major changes in the young girl's and young woman's life in your country in the last twenty or thirty years i.e. changes due to education, to new customs, to a new outlook perhaps. Describe briefly woman's role in a traditional African society? To what extent has this remained unchanged?

What does Christianity mean to the women in your country? Do they feel that Christianity changes ^{their} role in society in any way? How do you think education can safeguard your traditions while helping the women in general to conform to the exigencies of the technical civilization being imported into your country?

Are the girls who do post-secondary studies responsible people who make the most of their training for the good of the community? Do you think Pax Romana can help its members to be unselfish and socially-minded?

What has struck you about European and American women and girls you have met, favourably and unfavourably? Are the girls you have met in Pax Romana (locally, nationally, internationally) exactly the same as the others you know from these continents?

ASIA AND AFRICA: for the girls

9. Supposing Pax Romana could organize meetings for its women students nationally, regionally or during the next African or Asian Seminar, what points would you like to discuss? Is there anything you can DO NOW to answer the sort of questions and difficulties you are meeting, perhaps because you are among the first girls doing advanced secondary or post-secondary or university studies in your country? What points need the joint effort of the most dynamic girls?

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(Europe and America over)

EUROPE and THE AMERICAS:

10. How do you envisage the contribution of the women members to your local Pax Romana group or federation? Are they making that contribution? If not, why not? Could Pax Romana help?

What do you understand by the expression "woman's vocation"?

Do you think it might be good for the women members to organize meetings or study-groups for themselves to think out the spiritual and social implications of their specific vocation?

11. "As Cabinet Ministers, ambassadors, novelists, show-jumpers (1) and models, women have their undoubted uses. As idle objects of delight, they have had their day."

Do you feel that because women can do almost every type of work like men (in the USSR and satellites, women do the same manual work in many cases, e.g. cleaning streets) that they have sacrificed feminine qualities?

Is womanhood affected by socio-economic pressures? A North-American girl who visited the General Secretariat last week said: "A woman who works in North America, generally speaking, cannot retain her femininity, because of competitive spirit, nature of the work etc? Do you feel this is true?

What can be done about it?

12. Add what you like.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

THANK YOU!

(1) For the benefit of our North American collaborators, "show-jumpers" in this quotation taken from a British Sunday paper means women or girls who ride horses in horse-shows!

Note: If you feel a question listed under a continent other than your own applies to your own country or region, please answer it.