

Open Library beta

**Laity and Ministry in Yves M.-J. Congar, O.P.:
*Evolution, Evaluation and Ecumenical Perspectives***

by

Richard J. Beauchesne - Published in 1976



Author, Richard J. Beauchesne,

and

Père (Cardinal) Congar, OP

Couvent Saint-Jacques

Paris, May 1975

Read the thesis at:

<http://www.richardjbeauchesne.com/phdthesiscongar.htm>

Genre:

PhD Thesis

Subjects:

Congar, Yves, — 1904-1994

Laity — Ecclesiology — Ecumenism

Pastoral theology — Catholic Church.



PREFACES

(English & French)

Preface written by Yves Congar
translated into English.



COUVENT SAINT-JACQUES

13.12.74

Very dear Father Beauchesne,

You ask me to write a word of introduction to your thesis. It is not the first that is written and that I read on your topic [***Laity and Ministry in Yves M-J. Congar: Evolution, Evaluation and Ecumenical Perspectives***].

However, in reading your exposé, which is so precise and so well documented, two sentiments came upon me. The first was one of confusion. I was reminded of these verses of Paul Claudel:

*All this paper that I have
accumulated behind me,
There is something to cry about
and something to laugh about.
And what a face I would make
were I condemned to re-read it.*

Yet, I was admiring the fact that you have found -- in all that, which covers over thirty years of work -- such a coherence. This

coherence is that of life. I am very little a "reflexive person." I have little, perhaps too little, asked myself questions of method. My publications respond to calls that I have felt and that were linked to occurrences. I have attempted to serve theologically the people of God, "this Church that I love," in its historical life. For sure, life itself is coherent. This is why, although I have utilize often successive categories of analysis and of exposition, in relation to the theme that I was studying -- without taking the time, and perhaps without having the strength to construct a synthesis by itself -- there exists in my work, which is successive and multiple, a

coherence, a progressive development.

But, it is you, who have been able to retrieve them, thanks to a study, which is extremely diligent, and to an interesting method of analysis of models. In doing so, you have revealed to me a meaning of my work of which I, myself, had not been made aware, since I had lived it in a non-reflexive way, by responding to successive calls from [within] the life of the Church. I thank you, therefore, most fraternally.

I know neither to lie nor to hide my feelings. It is, therefore, most sincerely that I tell you: among the good half dozen theses dedicated

to the same topic as yours, and which I have read, your work is the most penetrating and the best. It has taught me something. It has also given me the courage to carry on -- as long as God will give me the strength -- to work at the theological service of the people of God, in the direction that I have been called. I wish you to do the same, and better.

It is with these sentiments that I am very fraternally and devotedly your friend.

Frater Yves M.-J. Congar

Preface
in French written by Yves Congar



COUVENT SAINT-JACQUES

13.12.74

Bien cher Père Beauchesne,

Vous me demandez un mot d'introduction pour votre thèse. Ce n'est pas la première qui est faite et que je lis à votre sujet. Mais en lisant votre exposé si précis et si documenté, deux sentiments s'imposaient à moi. Le premier était de confusion. Je me rappelais ces vers de Paul Claudel:

*Tout ce papier que j'ai accumulé
derrière moi,*

*il y a de quoi pleurer et il y a de
quoi rire.*

*Et la tête que je ferais si l'on me
condamnait à le relire.*

Et pourtant, j'admiraais que vous ayiez trouvé, en tout cela, qui couvre plus de trent ans de travail, une telle cohérence. Cette cohérence est celle de la vie. Je suis très peu "réflexe". Je me suis peu, trop peu, posé des questions de méthode. Mes publications répondent à des appels que j'ai ressentis et qui étaient liés à la conjoncture. J'ai essayé de servir théologiquement le peuple de Dieu, "cette Église que j'aime", en sa vie historique. Certes, la vie elle-même est cohérente. C'est

pourquoi, bien que souvent j'aie utilisé des catégories successives d'analyse et d'exposé, en rapport avec le thème que j'étudiais -- sans prendre le temps, et peut-être sans avoir la force de construire une synthèse par elle-même --, il existe dans mon oeuvre successive et multiple, une cohérence, un développement progressif.

Mais c'est vous qui avez su les dégager, grâce à une étude extrêmement appliquée et à une intéressante méthode d'analyse des modèles. En sorte que vous m'avez révélé un sens de mon travail dont je ne m'étais pas rendu compte moi-même, l'ayant

vécu de façon non-réflexe, en répondant aux appels successifs de la vie de l'Église. Je vous remercie donc très fraternellement.

Je ne sais ni mentir, ni cacher mes sentiments. C'est donc très sincèrement que je vous dis: parmi la bonne demi-douzaine de thèses consacrées au même sujet que le vôtre, et que j'ai lues, votre travail est le plus pénétrant et le meilleur. Il m'a appris quelque chose à moi-même. Il m'a aussi rendu courage pour continuer, tant que Dieu m'en donnera la force, à travailler au service théologique du peuple de Dieu, dans la ligne où j'ai été appelé. Je

vous souhaitez de faire de même,
et mieux.

C'est dans ces sentiments que
je vous suis bien fraternellement
ami et dévoué,

Frater Yves M.-
J. Congar



BOSTON UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

***LAITY AND MINISTRY IN
YVES M.-J. CONGAR, O.P:
EVOLUTION, EVALUATION***

*AND ECUMENICAL
PERSPECTIVES*

© Ph.D. Dissertation Richard J.
Beauchesne



TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL

DEDICATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT*

DEFINITION OF THE
PROBLEM IV

METHODOLOGY OF THE
DISSERTATION

EVALUATION AND
CONCLUSIONS

PREFACES

PREFACE WRITTEN BY YVES
CONGAR TRANSLATED INTO
ENGLISH

PREFACE IN FRENCH
WRITTEN BY YVES CONGAR

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS
LIST OF TRANSLATED
WORKS REFERRED TO

INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION OF THE
PROBLEM
SOURCES OF STUDY STATUS
OF RESEARCH
METHODOLOGY OF THE
DISSERTATION
CONGAR AND THE 1930'S
ECCLESIASTICAL SITUATION

CHAPTER I

CONGAR PRIOR TO 1941

An Ecclesiological Foundation for a Theology of the Laity and Ministry

Ecclesiology

Theology of the Laity and Ministry

Evaluation and Orientation

Ecclesiology

Theology of the Laity and Ministry

CHAPTER II

CONGAR FROM 1941 TO 1960

A More Specific Ecclesiology

*A More Specific Theology of the
Laity and Ministry Ecclesiology
Theology of the Laity and Ministry*

Evaluation and Orientation

Ecclesiology

Theology of the Laity and. Ministry

CHAPTER III

CHRISTIAN CULT

**Heart of Congar's Theology of
the Laity and Ministry**

The Nature of the Christian Cult

*The Relationship Between
Christian Cult and Correlative
Terms such as Priesthood,
Sacrifice and Mission*

Evaluation and Orientation

CHAPTER IV

CONGAR IN THE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S

Ecclesiology and Ministries

**Evaluation and Ecumenical
Perspectives**

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

**What the Dissertation Has
Accomplished**

Evaluative Conclusions



**APPENDIX — ENGLISH
TRANSLATION**

LEGEND

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- WORKS BY YVES CONGAR

Books & Periodicals

- WORKS BY OTHER
AUTHORS

Books & Periodicals

COPYRIGHT



*Thesis' Abstract: [Click here](#)

Open Library beta

[About Us](#) | [Index](#) | [IA](#) | [OCA](#) | [CC](#) |
[WMF](#) | [Contact Us](#)