

“Every marriage is fundamentally a marriage between a sponge and a rock”

Female gender roles in Catholic middle-class youth (Belgium, sixties)

Camille Banse

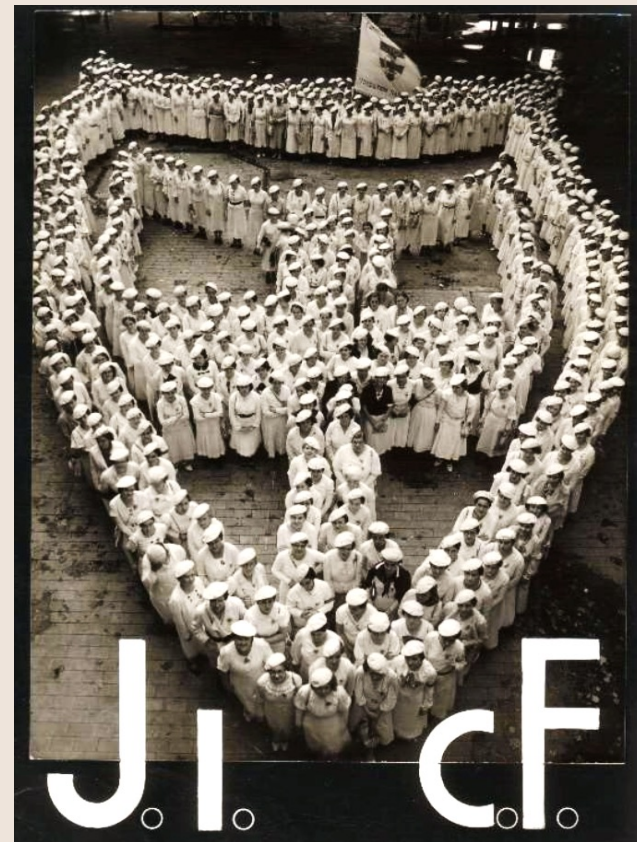
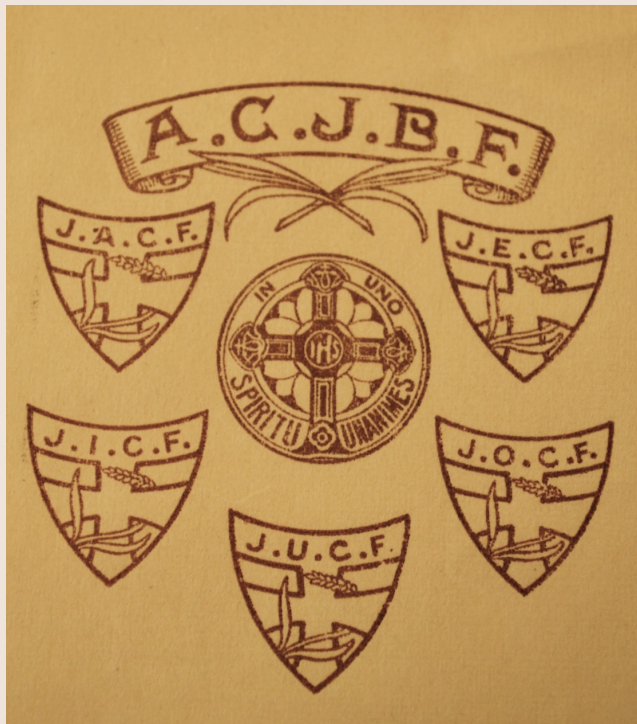




1. See Introduction : a female Catholic middle- class youth



- Methodology and historiography
- The 'independents': a category that targets middle-class youth





2. Judge

Educate to gender and sexual roles: in the context of "marriage preparation".



- Affective and sexual education
- Define the young girls' behaviour

« Psychologie masculine et féminine », 1960

2. CARACTERISTIQUES GENERALES.

HOMME

Un homme doit en devenir un dans toute la force du terme.

Il est fait pour être **chef** : responsabilité dont trop peu prennent conscience.

Il a une tendance égocentrique (égoïsme) ; l'homme n'est pas supérieur à la femme, mais différent d'elle.

FEMME

La femme doit rester jeune malgré les soucis.

Elle est faite pour être **mère**.

Elle est faite pour le don de soi. Elle est altéro-centrique mais souvent aime mal ; veut guider les siens selon sa ligne à elle.

« Male and female psychology », 1960

2. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

MAN

A man must become one in the full sense of the term.

He is made to be a **leader** : a responsibility of which too few are aware.

He has an egocentric tendency (selfishness) ; man is not superior to woman but different from her.

WOMAN

The woman must remain young despite worries.

She is made to be a **mother**.

She is made for self-sacrifice. She is alter-centric but often loves poorly ; wants to guide her people along her own line.

« Male and female psychology », 1960

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A cartoon illustration of a woman in a white dress and apron, washing dishes in a sink. She has a surprised or concerned expression. The background shows a simple kitchen setting with a mirror and a cabinet.

3. Act

How to perform gender- and sexual roles after WWII ?



- What about sexuality ?
- Virginal purity





Conclusions

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**Is Catholic gender and sexual
education specific ?**

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