

2.9.80
9 a.m.

ARCIC 130/Infallibility/1
Paras.6-7 (revised)

Add at end of para 6.

On the other hand Anglicans do not feel bound to hold that the theology ^{underlying} of the Marian dogmas is inconsistent with the fundamentals of the faith.

Alternative draft for para 7. (page 5)

It is uncharacteristic of Anglicans to think that religious certainty is ^{secured by human authority as necessary of} enhanced by a doctrine of papal infallibility. ~~but this does not mean that~~

Anglican understanding of authority does not refuse the truism that where there is a major controversy in the Church requiring a reliable verdict, it may well be the universal primate's voice which articulates the decision. It ~~freely recognizes~~ how often in the course of Church history verdicts given through the occupant of "Peter's see" have acted wisely to protect the Church. (Instances of formal pronouncements by popes which have subsequently been censured or refused acceptance by the Church are rare). It denies, however, the guaranteed a priori possession, ~~quite apart from any independent criterion of dogmatic truth (e.g. in scripture or creeds or conciliar definitions),~~ ^{divine assistance necessary to} of a gift of illumination ~~inherent~~ in the Pope's office, by which his judgements can be regarded as wholly secure and final irrespective of their reception by the faithful. The best of popes is human, limited by background, nationality, and culture.

Nevertheless we believe that in a united church, the universal primate, when giving a judgement in the name of his fellow bishops for the sake of the koinonia on a crucial issue, will surely be assisted by the Holy Spirit and protected from leading the church into departing from true faith.

If there remain differences, these will be: (a) that infallibility is an absolute term properly applicable only to God; to use it of man, even in highly restricted circumstances, tends to mislead and to encourage overstatement, (b) that the ascription of ^{infallibility} ~~a unique prerogative to the~~ ^{of some} ~~Cathedra Petri, even above a~~ ~~general council of bishops,~~ unhappily diminishes the standing of all bishops, metropolitans, and synods. The role of synods is easily reduced to that of being advisory or adding éclat to a papal decision or of manifesting solidarity with Peter's see.

It is in this sense that the issue of papal infallibility is unresolved between us.