

CJH/AFT

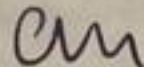
4th February 1977

Note to the Archbishop of Canterbury

You may well have looked at the recent document from the Sacred Congregation of the Faith entitled "Declaration on the Question of the Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood" which the Apostolic delegate was required to deliver to you. I have just received a typescript copy of an official commentary on the Declaration, also produced by the Congregation for the Faith. I attach this. Bishop Alan Clark was wondering whether there would be any objection to the circulation of the document and commentary to our House of Bishops.

My view is that the document is not particularly inspired and there have already been letters in the Times pointing out the inadequacies of the theological argument. Nevertheless as this is now the "official" Roman Catholic position, it might be as well for our bishops to have the text rather than the garbled version which the press are likely to produce. Bishop Clark would not wish to send copies to our bishops without your knowledge and consent. It would not imply your approval of the contents!

I should be grateful to know what you think about this.



CJH

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