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THE RIGHT REVEREND BARRY VALENTINE  
BISHOP

TELEPHONE  
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October 26, 1977.

The Right Reverend John Howe,  
Secretary General,  
Anglican Consultative Council,  
32 Eccleston Street,  
London SW1W 9PY.

Dear Bishop Howe:

Thank you for your letter of October 19th concerning "an Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation concerning the Ordination of Women". Needless to say--because it represents a considerable honour--your request came as a great surprise and something of a dismay. I really have doubts about my competence to speak for the Anglican Communion in such company and on a matter of potentially crucial significance. I have spoken to Archbishop Scott about it and he seems to feel that it is essential for the Canadian Church to be a part of such a consultation; he feels also that I have done perhaps more work in this field than many Canadians and that I have some experience in the official conversations between Canadian Bishops of the two churches.

The end of it all is that the doubts remain but that I am willing to go. I note that the proposed dates are February 27th - March 2nd, 1978, in Rome for an initial meeting; I have cleared that time in my calendar. I shall be glad to receive any papers for preliminary reading, together with instructions about meeting place and the possibility of any prior sharing between the Anglican delegation. Archbishop Scott seemed to indicate that he would be willing to contribute to costs if it would be helpful to you and the Anglican Consultative Council.

I do hope that the Lambeth Conference is not proving to be too demanding of your time and energy; it must be an affair of frightening complexity. I have accumulated an excellent bibliography on "Women and Ministry", and am now trying to pare it down to useful proportions; it should arrive within a few days of this.

Please accept my best wishes in your work-load; we remember you regularly in the Prayers, and I look forward very much to seeing you before too long.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Valentine