

REPORT ON ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONS AND NATIONAL
 ANGLICAN/ROMAN CATHOLIC DIALOGUES, 1974-5

by the Revd. Christopher Hill

AUSTRALIA

There have been two meetings of six representatives of both Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops, together with a number of theologian consultants, to discuss the Canterbury Statement. The first meeting took place in Sydney during September 1974, the second in Melbourne during June 1975. Papers were read on either side commenting upon the document. Archbishop Arnott gave a paper at the conference in June, giving the background of the document and commenting on reports and reviews on it from all over the world. In the end the Statement was received with full approval, apart from some questions on a few minor details. The Archbishop of Sydney was unable to be present at the second meeting, but Dr. Leon Morris ably represented the evangelical point of view.

1975 is being observed in most Anglican Dioceses in Australia with a campaign known as "Encounter Christ in 1975" and in many dioceses, including Brisbane, there has been very close co-operation between the Anglicans and Roman Catholics in study groups and a great campaign of outreach where over a quarter of a million copies of St. Luke's Gospel were personally distributed to homes by trained visitors.

On Palm Sunday night there was a joint Procession of Witness of some 7,000 people through the streets of Brisbane, followed by an open-air service in which Archbishop Rush (Roman Catholic) and Archbishop Arnott took part whilst the minister of the leading City Presbyterian Church gave the address.

There continues to be good co-operation between the Churches in the Universities, Theological Faculties and hospital and industrial chaplaincies.

A number of local and unofficial groups in parishes and rural deaneries have been formed where Anglicans and Roman Catholics have been studying the Canterbury Statement. On the whole it has been widely accepted - unlike the Windsor Statement which still offends some of the more conservative Roman Catholics.

BELGIUM

The Anglican/Roman Catholic Working Group has been meeting regularly and has concentrated on the question of authority. The Steering Committee has heard and discussed two papers on this topic during the last twelve months.

As well as this the General Assembly has met twice and the meetings have included several 'mixed marriage' couples. This has added a significant pastoral dimension to the discussions.

Discussion has also taken place on the question of the 50th Anniversary of Cardinal Mercier's death. It is planned that there will be an ecumenical celebration in Malines in July 1976. Belgian ARC has been liaising with French ARC on the similar Portal celebrations in Paris during June 1976.

The ordination of women has also been jointly discussed and what possible Anglican action on this will entail vis à vis Anglican/Roman Catholic relationships.

EAST AFRICA

The Masasi section of East African ARC has arranged a seminar at Dar-es-Salaam University on Anglican/Roman Catholic relations for September this year. The Ministry Statement has been translated into Swahili and published in a Christian newspaper. Work progresses on the project for a Common Lord's Prayer, Creed and Gloria and is now near completion. This has some significance as Swahili is the lingua franca in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and Zaire. A joint religious education syllabus has been produced and contacts made with other ARC groups.

ENGLAND

In November Bishop Clark spoke to the General Synod on the theme "Method in New Credal Forms" commending the Ministry Statement. The Synod very warmly welcomed Bishop Clark and commended the work of ARCIC for study at all levels. The Ministry Statement was also received well by the Convocations of Canterbury and York at their separate meetings in October 1974.

English ARC has published a further study pamphlet on the Windsor Statement (a companion to its Canterbury Statement pamphlet). In addition to this a pamphlet on Mixed Marriages has also been issued, published jointly by the Catholic Information Office and the Church Information Office: "Marriages between Anglicans and Roman Catholics". The paper is "for information, discussion and pastoral use".

In April there was a conference of Anglican Evangelicals and Roman Catholics at Oxford under the auspices of the Church Society. The Revd. Julian Charley was one of the speakers at this gathering which reflected the growing mutual understanding between the Churches. There were however still some serious hesitations over the Windsor Statement.

The contemporary problems of evangelism were raised by Professor Scarisbrick and Bishop Butler had spoken on the goal of ecumenism. The question of communication between National ARCs had also been raised.

At Stevenage, Hertfordshire, the first shared church has been built by Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists. It is also the first parish church to be built within a Local Authority community centre. The whole community centre/church complex comprises a 300 seater hall, four meeting rooms, coffee lounge, foyer, offices, and the church. The parish has been declared one of almost 50 "Areas of Ecumenical Experiment", where Christians of different traditions can learn to work and worship together. Each Sunday a total of 800-1000 will attend services in the shared church, both of their own denomination and of shared worship on Sunday evening. Once a month the Anglicans and Methodists celebrate a joint Communion service, and on major festivals the Anglicans and Roman Catholics share a Eucharist, although with separate Thanksgiving prayers and communion.

FRANCE

The French 'Groupe Mixte' has contributed the material towards the summer 1975 edition of "Unité des Chrétiens" which includes a French version of "Where Anglicans Stand" and the two Agreed Statements. An audio visual project on Anglicanism is also under way. During the year plans have been made for the 50th anniversary of the death of the Abbé Portal. A celebration

SOUTH PACIFIC

The South Pacific Anglican Council (excluding New Guinea) and the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific ARC have not met formally since their 1974 meeting but await ARCIC's next Agreed Statement. Its Anglican Chairman, Archbishop John Chisholm, died tragically of cancer in the year. Nevertheless previous agreements and relationships are continuing and developing.

The South Pacific Anglican Council has issued a Statement welcoming the ARCIC Agreed Statement on the Ministry "especially the emphasis given to the total ministry of the Church in its mission to the world and the part which the ordained ministry fulfils in this total ministry as a focus of leadership and unity."

The Statement concludes by saying:

"However, bearing in mind the statement in Section 1 that the development of thinking in our two communions has put the judgement on Anglican Orders by the Roman Catholic Church in *Apostolicae Curae* in a new context, we respectfully ask the Pope to declare that *Apostolicae Curae* does not apply to the present situation. We believe that all our people require a new answer to the old question of the Validity of ANGLICAN Orders before we can move forward to organic unity."

SPAIN

In May the Anglican Church in Spain and the National Ecumenical Commission organised a week-long conference on the Ministry and Eucharist in Madrid. Leading Spanish ecumenists took part in this dialogue including the Bishop of Astorga and the bishop of the Canaries. Reformed and Orthodox papers were presented as well as Anglican and Roman Catholic. It is hoped that a 'Spanish ARC' may eventualise from this beginning.

UGANDA

The first theological response in Uganda to the call to Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogue was by a group of theologians from various institutions around Kampala, which held two meetings to discuss the agreements. The first preparatory meeting, in Makerere University, on October 19th, was the occasion for reactions to the agreed statements from the Catholic side by Fr. Brian Hearne of Gaba Pastoral Institute, and from the Anglican side by the Revd. George Enyagu, of Mukono Theological College. The ensuing discussion brought up the main questions that were relevant to Uganda, and these provided the agenda for the more lengthy meeting that followed, from November 8th to November 10th, at Entebbe.

At this meeting the main points discussed were: the relation of the word of God in the scriptures to the celebration of the eucharist; the difficult question of the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and the meaning of speaking of the Eucharist as a 'sacrifice'; the theology of the Holy Spirit and finally, ministry in the Church.

More important than the theological discussion, and the discovery of so many areas of agreement, was the experience of fraternal unity in Christ. Many practical proposals were made about organizing seminars and courses, about spreading information, about fostering local ecumenical groups, and about including a study of ecumenical theology in all the Institutes.

UGANDA (contd.)

The work of the Uganda Joint Christian Council (Anglican, Roman Catholic and Orthodox) also continues in the field of joint syllabuses for schools, bible distribution, and the amalgamation of separate medical agencies into a Christian Health Council. The Anglican and Roman Catholic episcopate is backing this fully. There is also a plan to co-ordinate planning and development between the Churches in connection with the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund from Geneva. There are also plans for a joint lecturership at Makerere University, Kampala, for joint education work.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Episcopal Diocese of Montana, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena have embarked on official Anglican/Roman Catholic Dialogues in Montana (ARC-MONT). In the effort to give practical expression to their concern for unity and the understanding achieved at the Workshop held in Bozeman during June, 1974, the participants in the Dialogue group are encouraging pulpit exchange between Episcopal and Roman Catholic parishes in Montana.

General Convention in 1973 asked dioceses "to encourage the development of covenant relationships between Episcopal and Roman Catholic parishes". There are now about 120 covenanted parishes, mostly in New York, New England and Wisconsin. At Pentecost this year a covenant was signed between the two Cathedral parishes in Kansas City. The text of the Covenant was signed by Bishop Arthur Vogel, a member of ARCIC and Bishop of West Missouri and Bishop Charles Helmsing, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kansas City.

In November American ARC met in Cincinnati. Authority within the Church was extensively discussed. There was discussion about and preparation made for the next meeting and papers commissioned on the questions of Primacy and Collegiality, and Indefectibility and Infallibility. Celibacy of the clergy and the ordination of women were also discussed and the role of Munus and Potestas in defining the Papal Office.

The Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops in Tennessee have issued a joint pastoral letter suggesting the Agreed Statements as a basis for local dialogue and a handbook has been issued for use in parishes suggesting the pairing of parishes.

In October 1974 the House of Bishop received and endorsed the Agreed Statement on the Ministry and enthusiastically commended it to the Church at large for study and evaluation, and to the next Convention for such evaluation and action as the Convention may care to make. The Bishops said "We see our faith and the faith of our Church in the Statement."

WALES

The Church in Wales/Roman Catholic Joint Working Group published its Interim Report during March 1975. (cf., Report on Dialogues 1973-74).

The Standing Committee of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales called upon its Doctrinal Commission to comment upon

WALES (contd.)

the Agreed Statements. The Doctrinal Commission warmly welcomed and endorsed the Windsor Statement whilst making some criticism of an "occasional imprecision of language". On the Canterbury Statement the Commission again welcomed and endorsed it in general terms whilst asking for an expansion of "another realm of the gifts of the Spirit". It is anticipated that the Governing Body will accept the Commission's recommendations.

WEST EUROPE

The Anglican/Roman Catholic West European Working Group met for the fifth time at Clervaux in Luxembourg during November. Papers were presented on the Eucharist and Ministry Statements and there was much discussion on the pastoral problems of isolated Anglicans in Continental Europe. Resolutions were passed commending the Agreed Statements, urging common counsel on the matter of the ordination of women, and urging the abrogation of the necessity of special dispensation for a 'mixed marriage'.

WEST GERMANY

The Conference of Bishops in the Federal Republic has appointed one of its number to be in charge of matters relating to Anglicans (Mgr. Alfred Kleiner-Meilert). His residence is in Trier and he will work in conjunction with the Ecumenical Centre at the Abbey of St. Matthias.

SOUTH AMERICA

The visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Ramsey) to four Latin American countries last August and September was a high point in Roman Catholic-Anglican relations in this continent. The Archbishop was everywhere received as head of a Church and officially greeted by representatives of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The culminating point of this trip may well have been the solemn ceremony in Buenos Aires Cathedral on 26th September 1974, where, in the presence of a huge crowd of the faithful of both Churches, there was a prayer celebration presided over by the Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires and his Coadjutor, in which the Archbishop of Canterbury preached to the congregation in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish. The real communion existing between the Churches was seen and felt on that day and it surely grew considerably in this part of the world. Newspapers and other media gave extensive publicity.

The Mixed Group CELAM-CALA has still not met this year, in spite of several letters to CALA's President and Secretary. The reason for this delay is not known but it seems to be a setback. CELAM is convinced that this organic meeting group is necessary not only to foster contact and relations between two sister Churches, especially after the visit of the Archbishop, but also to sort out some problems cropping up here and there. It is to be hoped that this stalemate can be overcome in the near future.

Constant collaboration between both Churches has continued in Argentina in what is called PAMPAL (Proyecto-Anglicano-Metodista para América Latina), in which Roman Catholics have taken part from the beginning. The project is now being reassessed, but it is **thought that** there is no question of abandoning it. It provides a good point of meeting for the grass roots of the three Churches involved. There are other forms of local collaboration too, **elsewhere in Latin America**, bilateral and multilateral, especially in the Caribbean.