

L. W. 2501

16.12.80
8.15 pm.

ARCIC 235/Infallibility
Continuation/1.

Para.7.

Anglicans and Roman Catholics agree that the faithfulness of God protects the Church from irrevocable commitment to error in essential matters of faith. In order ^{to} [proclaim the Gospel and] ^{formulate} ~~define~~ its teaching ^{in defence} the Church developed authoritative organs. [We agree in identifying these organs as the episcopal college, ^{such as} ecumenical councils and primatial sees. In the past, misunderstandings arose from the impression that preservation from fundamental error belongs exclusively to a particular ^{office} ~~organ~~ rather than to the whole Church. Other misunderstandings have derived from the false assumption that ^{authoritative institution} ~~such organs~~ must have the effect of stifling the freedom of the Spirit to inspire other agencies and individuals. It is clear, however, that the effective fulfilment of their responsibilities by these organs is impaired by divisions among Christians. Moreover the Church can fully discharge its teaching office only when a genuine balance is struck between conciliar and primatial authority. ^{Although the authority of the definition does not come from its reception by the people of God,} The assent of the faithful is the final sign that the Church's authoritative decisions in matters of faith have been truly preserved from error by the Holy Spirit.