

Roma, December 12, 1977

Prot. No. 3887/77

Revd. Christopher HILL
Palace Court
222 Lambeth Road
LONDON SE1 7LB

Dear Christopher,

Thanks for your letter and enclosure, delivered by the Bishop of Chichester, who will no doubt tell you himself about his experiences here over the past week. My own impression is that it was a most useful trip even in its discouraging feature.

I have now made arrangements for the consultation on the ordination of women to take place at "La Communauté des Diaconesses", 10 Rue Porte du Buc, Versailles. This is a short journey from the Gare de Montparnasse in Paris. They can offer us everything for 55 fr. a day, which is very reasonable by present standards. (My recollection is that John Howe suggested each side should foot its own bill for this meeting).

Jacques Desseaux will make all the arrangements and will undertake to get Congar (with whom I spoke here last week) over to Versailles in his own car. Our membership looks like being

Fr. Congar
Fr. Hotchkin (Secretary of U.S. Bishops' Ecumen. Comm.)
Fr. E. Doyle, O.F.M.
Fr. Duprey
Myself

I spoke to Bishop Torrella as soon as he got back about the idea of ~~an~~ Old Catholic observer. He has some reserves about it, mainly since he fears it might detract from the informal and exploratory character of the discussion. I have outlined his difficulties a little more in detail to Bishop Kemp who will retail them to you.

All good wishes for Christmas and the new year to you, Hilary and the rest. I was pleased to get your Christmas card.

Bill

W. A. Purdy

I will pass on the news about the subcommittee to Duprey as soon as he gets back.

I will write about the matter of your enclosure later.