

- 2 MAY 1978



ANGLICAN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

SECRETARY GENERAL:
Bishop John Howe

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28th April, 1978.

The Right Reverend Msgr. Ramon Torrella
Secretariatus ad Christianorum
Unitatem Fovendam,
VATICAN CITY.

Dear Bishop Torrella:

Anglican/Roman Catholic Consultation
on how Churches with and Churches without women
priests can be reconciled in sacramental fellowship

Thank you very much for your letter of 7th April. I am sorry not to have replied before, but, as my secretary let you know, I have been away from London.

I am grateful for the observations from you and from Cardinal Willebrands about the Consultation at Versailles. The Report has also had the attention of the Archbishop of Canterbury and some of us here who are directly involved.

We are in agreement with you in identifying ourselves with the hopeful spirit that runs through the document, and are glad that the Consultation decided it could make its Report after one session, and that it was agreed by the participants.

Like you, we agree with some parts more readily than others, and on either side all views will not be the same. However, the Report carries the advice only of the participants. This was the wish communicated to us and was of course entirely acceptable, and, as you know, was always made clear in our public announcement of the Consultation* and in the invitations which the Archbishop of Canterbury and I made to the Anglican participants.

Your suggestion that the Report by the Consultation might be withheld from publication would be very difficult for us. Any suggestion of secrecy cannot be introduced now, and would not have been acceptable from the first, to you, I believe, as well as to us. There would be no point in holding the Consultation if it were not to report and offer its advice. For us, this will mean distribution to the Churches of the Anglican Communion.

The question is really the manner of publication. The Archbishop of Canterbury agrees that a Report of a Consultation between our Churches, with the members officially appointed, needs to be printed as a simple document together with a brief account of its origin, membership and appointment, and terms of reference, and emphasising that the views expressed are those of the members. The document could be printed by our two Churches separately, or jointly - which we would prefer.

Official copies of the Report will be sent to the Anglican member Churches, and they will of course be made available to members of the Lambeth Conference too.

The Right Reverend Msgr. Ramon Torrella

28th April, 1978.

Time is now getting on since the Consultation met, and from our position it would be convenient to have the printed copies available by the end of May. Would that be suitable to you?

With all good wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

JH.

*e.g. "Anglican Information" No.18 (Nov.1977) page 1767/2, and No.19 (Mar.1978) and "Preparatory Information" for the Lambeth Conference 1978 page 57(d) of which you have copies.

JH/PB