

INTERNATIONAL, INTERDISCIPLINARY, ECUMENICAL COLLOQUIUM ON
COOPERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

+ Program
+ Tina's remarks

30 Experts from 9 countries (Holland, France, Belgium, Germany, England, Switzerland, Portugal, United States, Mexico) gathered for a four-day meeting - september 9-12 - at "De Tiltenberg", Grail International Conference Center, Vogelenzang, Holland.

In working sessions the participants, all of whom have published on some aspect of the topic, presented materials drawn from their studies in sociology, anthropology, psychology, law, history and theology on the changing situation of women and the possibilities of fuller development for both men and women in the future.

In the course of a lively exchange, certain points of consensus emerged:

- that widespread and sometimes subtle forms of discrimination, exist, in developed as well as developing countries; in all sectors of society, economic, political, religious; in those churches which ordain women as well as those which do not.
- that the basic question is not the advancement of women, but rather the full development of the human being; there is no "woman question" which is not also a "man question".
- that the question of self-image of both men and women is crucial in bringing about changes: women often accept a limited and limiting self-image; the man's self-image may include an unconscious assumption of superiority.

Looking towards the future, the participants stressed

- . the need for a serious study of sexuality and its meaning in human life, utilizing as fully as possible the data from modern biology and psychology, in a perspective which recognizes the human capacity to define one's identity, to change social structures, and to utilize technical means in the service of human values.
- . the need for new models of man/woman relationships both in the couple and in economic, political and social life; e.g. concrete realizations of partnership in marriage, new possibilities of relation in student

groups, etc.; also the need for new strategies for action.

- . that women can only find their place in the church in the measure that there is a renewed ecclesiology, particularly as regards the relation church/world; and that, at the same time, the entry of women into all all aspects of church life - ministry, theology, etc. - will contribute to the renewal.

The conference was sponsored by the Working group on Cooperation of men and women in the Church, a department of the Dutch lay group: St. Willibrord Association, and the Grail: an international women's movement, and was organized by Drs. Tine Govaart-Halkes of the working group and Miss Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo of the Grail.

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Fundação Cuidar o Futuro