

October 11, 1968

Letter of invitation

Fundação Cuidar do Futuro

+ questionnaire

+ draft program.

OCTOBER. 11.
1968.

The present renewed interest in cooperation between men and women in society is a challenge inviting those who have already been deeply concerned in this question to unite now in making a common effort both in thought and in action. It also offers a special challenge to study in depth the position and role of women from the aspect, now fortunately awakening interest, of cooperation between men and women in the church. This will include the study of the development of christian thinking regarding the meaning of human sexuality.

We are contacting you because we know of the valuable contribution you have made in this field through your publications on the theme of woman. We ourselves are involved in this same subject, both through study and through the groups to which we belong. The experience of working together during the World Congress of the Lay Apostolate in October 1967, brought us to the idea that other people with the same interest might welcome the opportunity of meeting and exchange with one another.

What we have in mind is to arrange an informal gathering of persons who have been engaged in studying and in writing on the subject of women in society. During this meeting preliminary steps could be made in studying trends and in exchanging viewpoints; but we would hope that the discussions might also lead to a future-oriented vision and to the influencing of current Christian thinking in this field.

We should like, tentatively, to invite you to take part in this seminar but would welcome first of all an answer from you, giving your reactions, wishes and suggestions. A questionnaire is enclosed for this purpose. Enclosed also is a draft programme; your comments and suggestions regarding this draft would also be welcome. It has been ascertained that the Tiltenberg (Grail International Centre), Vogelenzang, near Haarlem, the Netherlands, would be able to offer hospitality for the seminar.

We look forward to your response and should appreciate it greatly if you could let us have your comments by November 1st, 1968.

Would you be so kind to send your reply to the following address: Luybenstraat 17, 's Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.

Yours sincerely,

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Drs. Tine Govaart-Halkes, Chairman
of the Work Group 'Cooperation of
Men and Women in the Church' of
the St. Willibrordus Association,
's Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, Dip. Ing.,
Vice-President of the International
Grail Movement, Paris, France.

Enclosures: - Questionnaire
- Draft of the programme
- Task description of the Dutch Work Group on
'Cooperation', established recently.

QUESTIONNAIRE for the Seminar on 'Cooperation of men and women in Church and society'.

1. Are you interested in this Seminar in principle?
2. What dates in the first half of 1969 would be most convenient for you? : the end of January,
Easter holidays - before Easter
- after Easter,
last week of August,
other dates?

What should be the duration of the Seminar?

3. What do you consider should be the focus of our exchange in this Seminar?
 - anthropological questions (understanding of the relation and definition of the sexes);
 - sociological survey (questions concerning the image and role of woman in a changing society, etc.);
 - theological insights (ministry, etc.).
4. What do you consider should be the overall theme of the Seminar?
5. What sort of contribution could you ~~make yourself~~ to the Seminar?
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6. Can you give the names of other persons who should be invited? Please supply addresses and works published. As the purpose of this meeting will be the pooling of studies and reflections, we aim with our invitation at a gathering of those persons who have been studying, writing and publishing on the matter.
7. Is any foundation known to you which might be willing to support this study financially? Would you be able to act as a liaison with this foundation?

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DRAFT PROGRAMME:

Theme: Cooperation of men and women in Church and Society.

Sponsors: Drs. Tine Govaart-Halkes, Chairman of the Work Group 'Cooperation of Men and Women in the Church' of the St. Willibrordus Association.

Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, Dip. Ing., Vice-President of the International Grail Movement.

Type: A Seminar with persons who have studied and written on basic aspects of the theme of women in Church and Society: to study jointly the particular question of cooperation between men and women.

Aim: to facilitate the pooling of current Christian thinking on the theme in order to:

- confront opinions and theses
- define areas of consensus
 - of divergence
 - of research
- build international unity
- create conditions for dialogue with non-Christian thinking.

Content:

First day: a) Introductory lecture on 'The extent and scope of the theme man/woman in our time'

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- . end of romantic era
- . beginning of technological civilisation on a world-wide scale
- . secularized world.

b) Workshops:

- 1) Anthropological questions - the meaning of sexuality
- 2) Sociological survey - the present interaction of the roles of men and women.

Second day: a) Continuation of Workshops 1 and 2
b) Round Table on discussions of Workshops 1 and 2.

Third day: a) Lecture 'Ecclesiological Perspectives - Cooperation of men and women in the mission of the Church'.
b) Workshops on different aspects of this theme.

Fourth day: a) Workshops
b) Round Table on Workshop discussions.

Closing session: Symposium on Prospectives for the cooperation of men and women

- . trends felt
- . thought to be deepened
- . action to be undertaken.

Since all the participants will be experts in one or other aspect of the general theme, it would not seem necessary to go into more detail at this stage.