

27 November 1962

Dear Maria,

I have the feeling that you are all over your ears in work -- now don't go getting yourselves all worn out! Bénédicte is coming back finally today. We will be glad to see her and I think she will have much to tell us. She is supposed to have talked over the "Europe-plan" with Alberta yesterday. Now doubt you'll be hearing from one or the other of us again soon. I have not been able to get further with it, except to ascertain that Irmengard will not be free until after Jan. 1, because of their Christmas retreat. Also Elly is eager to leave for USA as soon after Christmas as possible. But I will talk it all over with Bénédicte and see what can be arranged.

Finally I am sending what has been accomplished so far on the syllabus. I do not think any of it is worked out enough yet to be able to give it out beyond our little circle of six. But I am sending it anyway (to the six) to get reactions and suggestions for how to go on. I cannot get further with it myself.

Elly, Irmengard and I had very good conversations in Muelheim, but did not come to a real synthesis. We each wrote down some things, which I put in here, but while we are all groping towards the same things, we have not come to any real unity in formulation yet.

What I do think might be possible to draw up a sort of rough draft for local groups of training leaders to work on would be: (1) whatever parts of this make sense; (2) some of our summaries from the international meetings (Audrey's remarks on liturgy and prayer; the papers on community and the concrete historical situation; woman; personal maturity in formation and perhaps some others). Some "points de repère" for future discussion might also be taken from the charter, from those formulations with which we all feel satisfied.

Please, any and all reactions are welcome. I am eager to get this a step further, but at the present moment I really need the advice of all of you. I think it is not possible for one person to synthesize it all yet.

I await your reactions on the "woman" outline. In the meantime, may I send it to Paula Larsen for suggestions on "physiology-psychology" bibliography, and to Marianne Dijkhuis for the "sociology" section? I am really eager to get it out as a Documentation Bulletin -- will write once more to Jeanne and Janet Kalven to see how their women's groups are getting on. Mrs. Govaert-Halkes is really speaking up here about woman's place in the Church -- seems very interesting. Wilhelmine Folmer is also very concerned; is going to meet with Mrs. G.-H.

Must stop for now. Hope to hear from you. What about Brazil's suggestion for a Grail Review in Portuguese?

Much love, Eleanor