

Ceimbra, Feast of St. Andrews 1962



Dear Eleanor,

Thank you very much for your material for the syllabus which I did not study yet. You must be astonished with my silence but I have not been very well the last weeks... Today I feel a bit better and I want to write quickly to you.

I don't think that we can go on planning a meeting for Christmas time. From my side I must confess that I don't feel enough strength to make again this long trip. Anyway, Teresa could go. At the same time, and after these few weeks of quiet reflection, the question-marks about Bagnères have become stronger and stronger. Maybe I don't have enough vision but it is very difficult for me to visualize how it would be there.

About "woman" now... (finally!) I am very happy with the developments and hope that we can get something done in 2 or 3 years. Here, in Ceimbra, we don't have any possibility for a study group; but we are thinking of drawing into it our married members and friends from Lisbon - this would be for them an inconspicuous way to meet regularly, in spite of the situation with the Hierarchy...  
Now let me "dialogue" with you about the points you have raised in your letter.

A.2. You are right: I mixed up a thought belonging to the previous paragraph and a new line of thoughts... Please, delete first sentence.

3. For instance: woman as the "lever", as the one who bears and gives life, as the sign of fruitfulness, her link with the earth, her attitude as protector of life... All these concepts have been traditionally emphasized but have now acquired a scientific foundation.

## II.

- 2) You are right: it is not clear and it is difficult for me to explain what I mean. Some of the following points fall indeed under this heading, but for greater clarification you can delete 1) and 2) and the sentence that introduces them.
3. What I want to say is: the care and concern of the woman for all the vital needs of the person (bodily and spiritual) have found a new scope in the organized forms of activity of the community which have the same aim, and which have acquired a new status being considered as part of public life. Then, when women fight for their participation in public life, they are claiming a right to do something which is in their very approach to life. Service and all the activities which have more the character of service acquire a new value.

4. Just a mistake: it is All-African!!!