

Dear Maria--

Jeanne Plante passed on to me your notes on a study of woman, and at our National Meetings last week, we discussed with Dolores the possibility of an international study project, culminating in an international meeting in two or three years time, in which to draw together the results of the study. We all agreed that time is ripe, that we need to re-think the ideas on woman in the light of changing social conditions, new scientific studies, etc. A number of women across the country indicated during the preparations for our Grail National Conference that they would like to take part in a study of this kind.

All these indications plus your paper inspired Lydwine and myself to an initial meeting with a group of women here in the Cincinnati area. They are all university women, married, mothers of families, with a good deal of maturity and a real alertness *to intellectual interest.*

I enclose a brief summary of points we discussed and definite projects which emerged out of the discussion. The subject is so vast,-- actually we are dealing with slightly more than half the human race throughout space and time--it seems to me very important to delimit the areas of research and to formulate our questions very sharply. Otherwise I'm afraid we may amass mountains of interesting and curious facts which don't add up to much in the way of insights and integration. I agree completely about the need for objectivity and for a scientific approach, but I find it difficult to arrive at valid methods for proceeding in a study of this kind. For the time being, we limited ourselves to America and to post-war America, to get a few starting points. I don't think we will be able to move quickly, but I hope we can manage to have a meeting before Christmas with this group, to spur them on. Also there are some others who are interested--one in California, one in New Jersey, and we will have to be in touch with them by mail.

Lydwine is most interested in the theology--do you have anything new in this field? And I'm interested in the philosophy and sociology. Your French references are new to me--would you be able to get any of these for me? I can reimburse you, or send you American books if you prefer. I'm especially interested in

your #18: Metzke, Erwin: Anthropologie des sexes from Lumiere et Vie, no. special sur "Conception Chretienne de la femme" Jul-Aout 59, n.43.

your #15: Pierre, Andre: Les Femmes en union Sovietique, 1960, Spes.

your # 16: Nahas, Helene: La femme dans la litterature existentielle, '59.

I'd be most grateful for anything you can do on this.

What would you think about point 3 a of my summary as a four international research: the image of woman as presented



popular culture, e.g. the women's magazines, films, radio and TV? Would Clara and Mary Ruth be able to do anything on this in Singapore? Rachel, Mimi and Akiko in Japan? Your own team in Portugal? We would not need to do the research ourselves, but to find the appropriate people to do it. But if we are to be able to pool our results in a significant way, then we must have some general approach and guide lines to follow. What would you think about this--if we can work out something which is sociologically sound?

Two questions which ^{are} emerging as vital issues among the most apostolically oriented Catholic women in the States:

- (a) the married women with ~~extra~~ professional training continuing in her profession;
- (b) the problems of family limitation among conscientious Catholics where health, finances, peace in the home are strained to the breaking point in the effort to raise 7, 8, 10 or even more children.

I just heard about Guida's mother through Magdalene. What a blow this will be for her, but perhaps it is God's mercy to spare her mother the years of suffering. I've written to Guida and we are all praying much these days for her and for the family.

Our Conference was a great experience--250 women, many from our earliest years at Grailville--meeting, and discussing and praying and planning at a mature level. We were all delighted with the greetings from Portugal and we felt your prayers during the weekend.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

This is just a quick reaction on the woman study. I'd love to hear from you and to do some more exploring of possibilities by letter.

With love and prayers,

In Christ,

Janet

P.S. Would you by any chance know of the book, Mass Culture by Rosenberg and White? They have techniques for analyzing films, magazines, etc. which we might be able to apply for our purposes.

