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AND A TEMPORARY ORTHODOX REPRESENTATIVE.

1st September, 1965.

Miss Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo,
22 Rue du Docteur Geimaia Sée,
PARIS, 16^E, FRANCE.



Dear Miss Pintasilgo,

Thank you very much for your letter. I have just heard from Fr. Corbishley, S.J., that he would love to contribute to the book if I could give him two months. He is a charming and able person of whom I am seeing quite a lot, and I feel sure I can rely on what he says.

You say in your letter that the meeting at Rome is from 22nd to 25th October, but you do not say what year. If it is 1965 I am afraid the book will not be published! If it is 1966 perhaps we may manage to get it out by then. Do let me know if this meeting is this year.

Can I perhaps draw your attention to the fact that Dr. Georg Gunter Blum's chapter is published under the title of "Das Amt der Frau in Neuen Testament", in volume VII, 2 of "Novum Testamentum" published by E.J. Brill Ltd.,

I have only one copy of most of the other chapters, but if there were any which you thought particularly important for your purpose I could perhaps get these copied for you. I much hope, however, that it is next year, not this, that the meeting will be held. I am indeed delighted that you have been asked to take part in it.

The major problem I am sure is that many Protestants (some Catholics ?) have approached this question from the wrong end, asking what are the theological reasons against women priests, instead of asking whether there are in fact

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any arguments in favour. This entirely ignores the "scandal of particularity" in God's dealing with man. There is no argument against our having roast beef, rather than bread, for the Holy Eucharist other than the fact that it was bread that Our Lord chose. Our friends are apt to answer this by saying that so to argue is to belittle the dignity of women, but this is no more the case than the fact that Our Lord chose bread, not roast beef, for the Holy Eucharist is an argument in favour of vegetarianism.

The tragedy of the situation is that agitation for priestesses is used as an excuse on the other side for lack of a thorough investigation of the true place of women in the Church. This in turn leads to an enormous theological gap in our thinking about the true relation of mankind as a whole to God, for the creation of mankind in two sexes is clearly part of the divine plan and to ignore the differences between them, which the Creator has built into our nature, not merely leads to our getting the position of women wrong but to a distortion of the whole relation of our corporate humanity to the Creator.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Michael Bruce



P.S. I shall discuss the title when the Publisher is fixed. "The Dignity of Women" with "The History of Feminism" as a sub title, was the best idea. A colourless title might sell better - or it might not sell at all. The publisher who is risking his money is probably a pretty shrewd judge!