

Piazza San Calisto, 16 ROMA

8th August, 1965

Dear Dulcie,

Very many thanks for your letter of July 9th., written in the midst of "turmoil". I hope things have been less worrying and dramatic over the past weeks - especially because what you tell me about the protests from your heart, and also the strain the Sydney winter must be. Here we are having Roman August not quite at its hottest, but not too far from it. And, as usual, Rome is emptying out of Romans, and filling up with tourists. I am alone at the office with the typist - which, I am afraid, gets rather boring for her, but is a help for my work, except when visitors turn up unexpectedly, and there is no one to pass them on to! Once last week, we closed up in the afternoon and betook ourselves to the beach - I hope to do the same once or twice within the next week, before the weather changes to August storms, as it may do any time.

At long last, the translation of the Schema on "The Church in the World of Today" is finished. To-morrow it has to be despatched post-haste to Paris, where the drafting committee is centralizing the various versions (English, Italian, Spanish, German - the French is already printed) Then in a few days, I shall be receiving photo copies of the other versions, and the job ends with a 3 days meeting in Paris (August 31, Sept, 1-2) to "synchronize" them all. What amuses me is that all the other translators are Jesuits!! (Which is going to create a practical problem, I expect, for the meeting, if they want to hold it in a Jesuit house - where to house the woman???) . The schema is good, although perfection would not be possible, and I hope it will essentially survive the Council discussion. In case, you have not seen the summaries printed in the Cath. papers, I enclose the general outline, *(from the proofs of the Bulletin we publish)*

Now I have to organize the rest of my work - just quietly - so that things will be ready for the September rush : first two meetings of our own, and from Sept. 14, the Council. The Holy has now definitely given permission for the next World Lay Apostolate Congress in October 1967 - we shall be working out the plans for preparation, regional meetings, etc. at a meeting of our Board just before the Council.

My ecumenical activities are still keeping me busy. In July I was at the Ecumenical Institute near Geneva which depends on the World Council of Churches. There was the annual Course for Laymen (of all denominations - including, nowadays, a few Catholics). The theme was "I believe the Holy Catholic Church", and there had to be three half-days devoted to a talk and discussion on the theme "Living in and with my Church" - respectively by a Catholic (that was me!), a Protestant (an Indian layman) and an Orthodox priest. It was quite a difficult assignment - I had not realized how difficult it is to formulate - and for people of other ~~relig~~ faiths - things you live, rather than define! However, I think it went off well, and for me it was a most interesting experience to live, pray and discuss together, even for a few days, with a group of about 50 people from all over the world and from a wide variety of Christian confessions. I think I told you already about the meeting we are organizing ourselves for September with the World Council of Churches, on the training of the laity. Then, at the end of October, I have to help organizing a small ecumenical meeting of women!! (About 30 altogether, including Catholic nuns and lay women and Protestant and Orthodox women, including deaconesses. Theme "Forms of life and service for women in the Church").

I am glad Tony showed up - in a somewhat different mood and under different circumstances from the previous occasion. I hear from him sporadically, and he does seem to be making a big effort to keep off the drink. *I am glad Pope John arrived safely and was a welcome friend.*