

WOMEN'S ORDINATION CONFERENCE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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September 26, 1977

Archbishop Jean Jadot  
Apostolic Delegate  
United States Catholic Conference  
1312 Massachusetts Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

G. S.  
NCCB/USCC

SEP 29 1977

Dear Archbishop Jadot:

We read in the Sept. 23, 1977, issue of the National Catholic Reporter that a proposal has been addressed to Rome which would allow for the entrance into the Roman Catholic Church of a dissident, provisional body calling itself the Anglican Church of North America. We would like to respectfully ask you to communicate to the proper Roman Authorities that we are strongly opposed to such a move. Our reasons are the following:

1. The petition is clearly based on negative attitudes toward the full equality of women in the Church.
2. The petition is based on the false assumption that these negative attitudes toward women will continue to be upheld and sanctioned by Roman Catholicism.
3. The petitioners seek not so much union with the Roman Church as separation from their own faith community, a community which has struggled valiantly to affirm the full participation of women within their Christian tradition. "Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, color, social condition, language, or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent." (Gaudium et Spes, #29)

In developing a pastoral stance toward this difficult question, we are confident that the Roman Catholic Church will exercise compassion towards the suffering of these people, while at the same time respecting the struggle for full equality for women within the Roman Catholic community.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Zanotti*

Deborah A. McCauley  
Claire McGowan  
Barbara Zanotti

Representatives,  
Boston Women's Ordination Conference