

1.9.73 : 8.25 p.m.

NOTE ON APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION

(Taking p.9 as the document to work on, I propose that p.9 should, after its first sentence, proceed as follows:-)

It is necessary to be assured that this Church is one with its historical origin and with the universal Church. The link with its origin is in part provided by a ministerial succession from the apostles. The First Epistle of Clement probably dates from a period when the latest books of the New Testament had not yet reached their final form. It assumes as facts that none will dispute that: God "sent" Christ; Christ "sent" the Apostles; the Apostles sent their own immediate subordinates and successors; and that by a continuing process it ensures that the "presbyters" of the local churches inherit a mission originally given to Christ by his heavenly Father.

It is further necessary to be assured that the local church is one with the universal Church. Ordination is a sign ...

B. C. B.