

EDITORIAL

At the first one day conference of the Society held in London last September, a large gathering of nearly 100 members were treated to a learned and illuminating address by the Very Revd. Robert Ombres, O.P., on Canon Law as it is understood and applied in the Roman Catholic Church. (Fr. Ombres's paper is printed in full at page 33).

It soon became clear that Canon Law is used by Roman Catholics to interpret faith and doctrine in relation to everyday living as well as in relation to worship and belief. Clear answers are provided in situations where Anglican practice is to leave such matters to an individual's conscience. Maybe we have a duty to be more positive in telling society – and ourselves – what the Church teaches about the difficult moral questions that are arising all the time in modern living with the rapid growth in scientific knowledge.

With this in mind, those intending to be present at the residential conference at Nottingham University from 7-9 April, 1989 will be pleased to read that the address by the Archbishop of York will be on "Ethics and the Rule of Law". It is hoped that this will lead to study and discussion in relation to a number of difficult areas where clear guidance would be welcomed by many.

Other speakers at the Nottingham Conference will be dealing with post-Lambeth issues and their likely effect on the Anglican Communion. It may be that there will be scope for work by the Society in this field too. As numbers who can be accommodated at Nottingham are limited, anyone who wishes to attend but has not already reserved a place, should do so as soon as possible. See page 4 for details.

Members will be interested to read the first report to emanate from the Working Parties, that convened by Judge Bursell (whom we congratulate on his appointment) on Custom in English Canon Law. Incidentally there cannot be many judges in Holy Orders in the Church of England. We hope that any others will make a point of joining the Society if not already members! Membership is now nearly 350.

Finally I should mention that in the section on Working Parties, I have referred to a proposal to set up additional ones on Visitations and Diocesan Boards of Finance. If you are interested, please approach the convenors. We are also considering a Working Party on Church and State.

I do hope that some of the items that have appeared in the Journal so far will stimulate correspondence or that other matters may prompt you to write to the Editor. Exchanges of views in the Journal would be a welcome addition to the established pattern. Please write to me at Parkside, Dulwich Common, London SE21 7EU.

MICHAEL GOODMAN

Editorial Committee: Chancellor Goodman (Chairman), Professor John Baker, Timothy Briden, David Harte, Raymond Hemingray and the Ven. Hughie Jones.