

COLLOQUIUM OF ANGLICAN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CANON LAWYERS

Windsor, 31st May–3rd June 2000

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Chancellor of the Diocese of Chichester

The Second Colloquium of Anglican and Roman Catholic Canon Lawyers took place at St George's House, Windsor Castle, from 31st May to 3rd June 2000. The Colloquium was hosted by the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff Law School under the leadership of Professor Norman Doe, whose recent appointment to a personal chair at Cardiff University was a cause of much celebration amongst the participants. The Colloquium was designed to build upon the pioneering work of a similar venture convened last year in Rome by the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas which, together with Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, USA, co-sponsored the event. A report of the first Colloquium appears at (1999) 5 *Ecc LJ* 281.

At the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Second Colloquium addressed the subject of the comparative treatment of clergy discipline. The Anglican delegates were drawn from four Provinces of the Anglican Communion and included representatives from England, Wales, Scotland and the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. The Roman Catholic participants included staff of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas, together with academics and practitioners from America and Rome and the president of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

The work of the Colloquium was intensive and comprised sessions each dealing with a specific aspect of clergy discipline. Subjects covered included a comparative analysis of ecclesiastical offences, of trials and appeals, and of sanctions. In addition sessions were devoted to extra-judicial processes, administrative recourse, and the role of the secular courts. The discussions were wide ranging and included consideration of issues of theology and ecclesiology as well as practical law, both procedural and substantive. At each working session, papers were tabled addressing the theme from, respectively, a Roman Catholic and Anglican perspective. In the discussion and subsequently, an attempt was made to produce a synthesis of the theory and practice of each communion.

The Colloquium was also addressed by Sir John Owen, Dean of the Arches and by the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Wales, and included visits to the library of Windsor Castle and archives of the College of St George. Common worship and prayer helped to deepen the bonds of fraternity amongst participants and to ground their discussions. The Nikaeian Club, on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury, hosted a dinner for those attending the Colloquium at which the Rt Revd Christopher Hill, Bishop of Stafford and Vice-Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Law Society, welcomed the initiative of comparative ecumenical canon law and commended the work of the Colloquium.

The proceedings of the Colloquium are due to be published shortly by the Centre for Law and Religion at Cardiff Law School under the editorship of Chancellor Mark Hill. The publication will include a reflective overview of the two systems of clergy discipline under the joint authorship of Norman Doe and Robert Ombres. Entitled 'Faithful Discipleship', it is a distillation of the work, methodology and conclusions

of the Colloquium which may provide a focus for further scholarship and research. The proceedings will be made available at a concessionary rate to members of the Ecclesiastical Law Society, which generously provided a grant towards the costs of the Colloquium.

Plans are now in place for a Third Colloquium to be held in Rome in 2001 when issues of initiation and membership will be addressed. It is hoped that the continuing bilateral dialogue in comparative canon law which these *colloquia* represent will contribute to the increasing movement, expressed by a joint meeting of Anglican and Roman Catholic Bishops in Toronto in May, towards that unity in truth and holiness which the Lord wills for his Church.