

E.:

AL/1943

3⁵ Werstan's,
Malvern.

Mar: 15. '14.

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter as to the proposed conference about admitting women to the priesthood, I would urge very strongly that the conference should be confined to Church-people. Nonconformists do not accept our view of the priesthood & therefore anything that they may have to say on the subject would have to be discounted.

I am inclined to think that it would be better to exclude men from the first meeting, but that is a matter of comparatively small importance to my mind.

I should like to comment on one of the answers you have received - No. 3 in Class A.

Granted that Priesthood is a vocation it yet remains that no man can exercise it until he has received the Sacrament of Ordination.

Obviously all that the boldest of us can be asking for is that this Sacrament should not be withheld from a woman with a vocation.

Who is to say that there have not been women in the past with such a vocation - that there are not women now who are debarred from exercising their vocation for lack of admission to the Sacrament of Ordination?

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As to the argument of the same writer that "priests must be men because they must be ready to celebrate Holy Communion at any moment" & that "women cannot because of their potential motherhood," in the first place even men are not exempt from the ill that flesh is heir to which might temporarily debar them from the duties of their office, & in the second place it is easy enough to make celibacy a condition of admitting women to the priesthood.

Will you kindly note that I have left Edgworthstown & that the above address will always find me.

Yrs sincerely,
M. B. Alder.
