

Class A. 3.

G. Cheever & Co. Chamber  
Cheever & Co. U. C.  
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AL/1924

Dear Madam

I am afraid I do not agree  
with women doing + the official Priesthood.  
I think it would be a disastrous thing  
to do just now.

Priesthood is a vocation - is an absolutely  
arbitrary act of God. only some men are  
called. not all - if it is a hardship for  
women not to be called then it is <sup>an</sup> even  
greater hardship of the men who are not called.  
For women have their own great vocation  
awaiting them -

As a matter of fact - there is no hardship  
about it at all - if people really understood  
what a Priest means + is for.

We are all ordained Priests at our Confirmation  
receiving then the power to offer the sacrifice

of the Body & Blood of Christ - the great central  
act - of Christian worship - Some of us  
must offer it actually - we cannot all do it  
actually - so some one must do it for us -  
so some are chosen to act as official priests  
of the rest of us - who are priests <sup>too</sup>  
~~Some~~ The official priest cannot <sup>offer the sacrifice</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~do~~  
so. we cannot offer the sacrifice without them.  
That is the act which makes the Priest -  
He has got to undertake (whether he does it or not)  
to be ready at all times to offer this sacrifice -  
every day - <sup>And with this work in the other work</sup> ~~if necessary~~ - of administering the other sacraments.  
Now women cannot undertake to do that - because  
of their potential motherhood - therefore I  
think they cannot be official priests - they  
are priests - in their confirmation.  
All the other work that a priest does - teaching  
preaching - giving counsel etc. are not  
essentially only priests' work. & both laymen  
& lay women might do much more of this. I think.  
And of course. I think that outside the official  
priesthood. men & women ought to be exactly the  
same. with the same rights & privileges in all  
the lay Councils etc. - But I do not think that a woman  
can undertake to say that she will be able to offer the  
sacrifice & administer the sacraments whenever required -  
A man may be ill - but not so certainly ill as a woman  
with her motherhood - I should choose to offer a Virgin Priesthood.  
also I think the Church has given wisely & rightly

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Kept them apart in connection with  
the most holy things - because of the  
weakness of human nature (male &  
female) & the appalling scandals that  
might attend -

I think it had to be one sex -  
for the female sex already had  
their great vocation - headed by  
the First Person in the Church after  
God - the Blessed Virgin - I think

it is quite fair that men should have  
the other great ~~profession~~ vocation -  
But outside we are the same. we are  
priests - though not official ones - & we are  
not excluded because we are inferior -  
nor because we have other work to do.

All this must be made clear - but I  
am sure we shall never be Priests.  
Finally - only an Ecumenical Council could  
make such a change - our cause has for  
four hundred years yet. Yours W. L. R. Taylor.