

Ack. 19.8.57.

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DPA

17. VIII. 57. Saturday.

My Lord Bishop.

When you saw me before my Ordination last Trinity, you very kindly said that I might write and tell you what my brother and I were doing about our scheme for founding a Religious Teaching Order.

Since last time we have stayed with Mother Margaret at Whitby and also written a lot of letters to one another. Together we worked out a plan which she thinks, from her own experience in founding a teaching Order for women, would be good. If possible, she thought that I should leave the Parish at the end of my two years and then start by spending a year teaching in a boarding school. I have had some experience of teaching, but not for any consecutive length of time. Also if I taught for a year, I should be able to get some idea of how school life could be fitted into the Religious life, and I should have fairly long holidays in which to do some of the many business affairs which, I understand are attached to the scheme. After this year Mother Margaret thought that together, my brother and I should go to a religious Order for a year, to live in a Community and also to have a year in retreat for prayer and study and working out a preliminary system. She thinks a year is long enough for this, since we are not necessarily

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LAMBETH PALACE

doing our Novitiate then, and if we stayed longer we would too easily be absorbed by the Community, and lose our own separateness and direction. She thought Crowley would be a good place, and I have seen Father Joffe, Salmon, who is willing to have us.

A lot of people have very kindly helped and will do. Father Huddleston and Father Bishop at Mirfield have been very kind and a Priest in Devon has told the Bishop of Exeter about our plans and he wants to see us. I wonder if I might have your permission to see him? The scheme at the moment also hangs on whether you will allow us to leave the Parish in a year. I know this is not usual and I do hope that I am not being very rude in asking, but we feel time to be so precious. I suppose that I would not necessarily need to leave the Diocese with so many schools in Sussex; that is if you wanted us to stay.

There are, of course, lots of other details, and we have done something about arranging for the time after we leave Crowley, which is the crucial period. In this Mother Margaret is going to be a great help, both with a Constitution and with finding and equipping a place.

I hope that if you have already had your holiday, you have had a very good one indeed, and a nice rest down in Dorset. Mr Walter is away on holiday at the moment, in Canterbury; staying in the Bishop of Devon House while he is in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

DPA

LEWIS PALACE

22.11.57