

Convention News

AT a meeting on March 30th, the members of the Liturgy Working Group continued to exchange views on the Introduction to their draft document. Three points especially came up for discussion: the distinction between liturgy and rubrics; the statement that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man; the position of our Lady as mediatrix. A motion to delete the first two pages of the Introduction was defeated; a counter-proposal to re-write these pages, bringing out clearly the difference between liturgy and rubrics was, however, carried. When the Convener asked for suggestions as to how the Introduction should be re-written, a delegate proposed an outline containing the following points: a) the aim of the document; b) the distinction between liturgy and rubrics; c) certain necessary definitions; d) the theology of the liturgy. After some discussion this scheme was adopted by a large majority.

Group 5 (Priestly Life) at its third meeting discussed pars. 4 and 5 of the draft. The scriptural quotation in par. 4 ("God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son . . .") did not seem very apropos to some delegates, since it does not throw much light on the central point of the par., namely Jesus Christ the Priest. By a large majority it was decided to replace this quotation with others taken from Hebr. 5, 1-10 and from Rom. 15, 16, while at the same time retaining as much as possible the present contents of the paragraph. A delegate suggested that reference should be made to the duties Christ had towards His Father in addition to His being a mediator between God and man. This proposal was accepted.

The appropriateness of par. 5 dealing with the common priesthood of the faithful was questioned by some delegates. It was felt that to treat of this matter would only cause confusion. However, much of the opposition evaporated when it was explained that there exists first a common priesthood of the baptized people of God, and from this priesthood a few choose to join the ministerial priesthood.

Social Dimension of the Church or Social Apostolate? Group 7 began its latest meeting with a protracted discussion on the relative merits of these two titles. When asked from the floor what the difference between the two was, a member of the original drafting commission stated that the term 'social dimension' was of wider application than 'social apostolate'; the document in fact includes much that could hardly be regarded as falling under the latter term. In the end it was agreed to wait until the entire contents of the document had been seen before coming to a firm decision regarding its title. The Convener made two proposals: first, when the minutes of the previous meeting are sent to the members beforehand, objections to them should be handed in (in writing) to the secretaries before the meeting starts; if no objections are submitted, the

minutes will be automatically taken as read and approved. Second, if delegates wish certain points to be discussed, they should set down their proposals in writing; if these appear to have sufficient support from among the Group, they will be included on the agenda at a subsequent meeting.

The agenda listed four ideas taken from the draft document for discussion. There was time for only the first one, the problem of lack of identity in Hong Kong. At the outset a misunderstanding had to be cleared up. The Chinese translation of the term gave the impression that lack of nationality was the point under discussion, whereas what the authors of the draft intended was the sociological notion of the lack of a sense of belonging, of being a recognizable group in a determined place.

In the course of the discussion criticism was expressed of a number of statements in the paragraph dealing with this question, which seemed to some to be too sweeping and unnuanced. A motion however to delete the whole paragraph (n. 5) was defeated: a young man claiming to speak for a lot of other young people, maintained that the problem of a lack of identity is a very real one, felt by many of the younger generation of Hong Kong: "it is a problem that we who have the greater part of our life ahead of us have to face." A motion to re-write the paragraph completely was passed by a large majority.

At its last meeting, Group 9 (Ecumenism) elected its re-drafting committee. After some clarification of the precise role of this body, each member of the Working Group stood up and introduced himself, saying a few words on his interest in and experience of ecumenism. There followed some discussion on the question of how many should form this committee, whether members of the original drafting commission should be chosen. Some felt this latter would not be wise, since members of the drafting commission might not feel sufficiently detached to make drastic changes if such were judged necessary. On the other hand it was urged that to choose a member of the original body would be a great help in explaining the exact meaning that lay behind one or other phrase used in the draft or why this or that point was omitted or included in the document. In the end it was decided to elect three persons not members of the original commission and leave them free to co-opt other members as they consider necessary. As a result of a secret ballot, the following were elected: Sister Elizabeth Britz, Mother Fatima Ling and Miss Loretta Tsang.

Correction: Our attention has been drawn to an omission from the draft document on Education. The name of Mr. D. D. Waters, Principal, Morrison Hill Technical Institute, should have been included in the list of those who prepared the report on Technical Education (of page 40). Moreover, the entry against the name of Mr. J. Scholz should read: Co-ordinator, Caritas Vocational and Special Education Service. These errors are regretted.

Programme of meetings for the coming week:

Religious Life	: Monday, April 20
Social Dimension of the Church	: Tuesday, April 21
Communications Media	: Wednesday, April 22
Ecumenism	: Thursday, April 23
Government of the Diocese	: Friday, April 24
Evangelization	: Saturday, April 25

Place: Caritas Centre, 134 Boundary St. (7/F), Kowloon.
Time: 8 p.m.-10 p.m.