

**LIBERIA**

Exc.MI P. D. IOANNIS COLLINS

*Internuntii Ap. in Liberia, Vicarii Ap. Monroviensis* (Monrovia)

April 25, 1960

*Eminence,*

I have the honour to recommend the following suggestions for consideration at the forthcoming Oecumenical Council:

1. That Seminaries manned by the most highly qualified teaching staffs and saintly priests be immediately provided for the training of priests in the New (and Old) African States, so that all future African priests may have the finest Philosophical, Theological and Moral training. Every effort should be made to create opportunities whereby the African Priest may also have the chance to study for secular academic Degrees and as many as possible of them should be called to study in Rome. All this with the purpose of creating a holy, highly educated, cultured, dedicated clergy strongly attached to Rome.

2. Bishops and Pastors should be instructed to work more zealously and more intelligently for the defence of the Catholic Family—through Organizations, study courses, lectures, films, family retreats, sermons etc.

3. More and more Convents should be established throughout the Missions the ideal being that every Parish and Quasi-Parish should have a Convent of even a few Sisters.

4. The present state of the Church indicates that it is strong and vigorous in the Countries where it is supported by the charity of the faithful. National Hierarchys should be directed to find ways and means of becoming self-supporting and entirely independent financially of the State. Should the African Church become dependent on the State—in any way—Anti-Clericalism, now unknown on the Continent, is sure to develop over the years.

5. An educated laity is the strength and buttress of the Church. Every effort must be made and every expense incurred to provide more and more, better and better, higher and higher catholic education for catholic youth. The African has an insatiable and all consuming desire for education, if the Church does not strain her resources to satisfy this desire

others will and the African intellectual will be lost to the Church as is the European working man.

With these suggestions go my fervent prayers, my fondest hopes and my sincerest good wishes for the complete and unqualified success of the approaching Oecumenical Council.

With sentiments of profound respect and esteem, I have the honour to be, Your Eminence,

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ

✠ J. COLLINS

*Apostolic Internuncio in Liberia*

*Vicar Apostolic of Monrovia*