



*To My Dear Brother
Cardinal Jozef De Kesel
Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels*

I was pleased to read the letter of 30 November last that you and Dr Rowan Williams sent to me on the hundredth anniversary of the first session of the Malines Conversations, together with a study entitled *Sorores in spe*, the fruit of the “Malines Conversations Group” established in 2013.

I thank you for informing me of the work of the Group, its research on the judgment made by my predecessor Pope Leo XIII regarding the validity of Anglican orders and its contribution to ecumenical dialogue both nationally and internationally. It is my hope that ongoing theological scholarship and discussion can provide further constructive insights on questions that still stand in the way of full unity between the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. In this way, all of Christ’s disciples can respond with ever greater commitment to the call of the Holy Spirit to walk together on the path of reconciliation and shared witness to the Gospel.

Mindful of the Lord’s will “that they may all be one” (*Jn 17:21*), I warmly encourage all to persevere with patience, faith and charity on the ecumenical journey. Invoking upon you and those associated with the “Malines Conversations Group” the wisdom and light of the Holy Spirit, I assure you of a fraternal remembrance in prayer.

Rome, from Saint John Lateran, 20 January 2022

Francis