



Archbishop Sir David Moxon KNZM

*The Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, and
Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome*

Anglican Archbishop sends 1000 'thank yous' to Columban

Archbishop Sir David Moxon KNZM, Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See and Director of Anglican Centre in Rome, in an email 20 January, 2016 thanked Fr Robert McCulloch (Procurator General of the Society of St Columban) for his great and loving initiative and efforts regarding the sharing of the crozier head of Pope St Gregory the great with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primates meeting at Canterbury this January.

Dear Robert,

Grace and peace to you,

I write to place on record for your own files and also the files of your confreres and superiors, the profound gratitude of the Anglican Centre in Rome for your great and loving initiative and efforts regarding the sharing of the crozier head of Pope St Gregory the great with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Primates meeting at Canterbury this January.

This idea of using an ancient relic from Rome which is deeply connected to the evangelisation of the south of England at the end of the 6th century was ingenious and challenging, but your care and your diplomatic efforts bore so much fruit, in such a short time, seemingly against the odds. You gave so much time, effort and care to this possibility and literally and personally saw it through in every detail. Only you could have facilitated this, assisted by Father Marcus Walker from the Centre here and Steve Townsend from the British Embassy to the Holy See. As you know the Archbishop and his family were moved to their core when the relic was handed over at Canterbury and this memory will remain indelibly printed on their hearts and minds for as long as they live.

The presence of such a potent sign of the catholic origins of the Archbishopric of Canterbury at a critical meeting such as the recent primate's one, undoubtedly had an effect on those present. Surely it was a symbol of what catholic unity means from one of the oldest of our stories as Catholics and Anglicans. Indeed this phrase "Catholic unity" ended up in the primate's communique as a sign of what they achieved and what they intend to seek to maintain into the future. And so you have greatly helped the Anglican Communion at a crucial moment of its history, by an act of sheer grace and goodwill.

I thank God for you and for your far seeing discernment of what grace is capable of, reaching across the denominations, across time and between hearts.

Deo Gratias!

++David

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promoting Christian unity in a divided world

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