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May 23, 1962

Dear Tom,

I have just finished reading over your long Low Sunday letter (on the axe), reading over it for the umpteenth time I am sure, *and* again, want to write some of my impressions of the situation to you.

It was perhaps Providential that, in moving books around from box to box in the new apartment, I should have stopped for a moment to leaf through the memoed theology book you sent me several months ago and read over the section on St. Francis. In it you say something to the effect that the outstanding qualities St. Francis possessed were his perfect openness to the Holy Spirit and his love and obedience to the Church even~~x~~ when, as it most certainly did, his work was undermined by the Church's representatives. I am all too inclined to expect things from the Church that obviously aren't there and haven't been there, and which will only come in time at the rate which we are able through work and prayer to bring. *Renewal can only come as we patiently seek it.*

As I think about the ban from your order on peace writing, and look into some of the possibilities suggested by it I am really not terribly disturbed for it suggests, for one thing, that what you have written is being read and official note has been taken in high places. That in itself is a major accomplishment. And that they should be so moved as to take any kind of action at all on it, no matter which way, is also significant. That they choose to go the way they did - well, if it is an unjust action, as I most certainly think it is, well they know it themselves. Their conscience will not stand silently by and let this memory live in them without protest. And can that protest not be louder and louder inside ~~themselves~~ as they watch the slow and seemingly inevitable movement of mankind toward total destruction? And the loss of your voice - is that a great loss? Only the book would be~~l~~. But even then, if that cannot be printed, who is to prevent the reprinting of articles already written? *No*one. Cannot the long article from the current CW be reprinted by New Directions or someone else? You have written so much

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before the axe falling that it is miraculous that you were able to get as much out as you did.

If the day comes when the ban is lifted (it most certainly may!) perhaps there will be more you will want printed - the letters certainly have had a tremendous effect on many people. It would have been tremendous to reprint the Everyman letter in the current Bulletin and elsewhere - but in the context of the situation a good deal is still accomplished by me either reading the letter to people interested (here at Catholic Relief Services there was a very good reaction to that letter), leaders in the Peace movement who so much need the perspective you have from Gethsemani, etc. ⁷ Sending copies out to friends of the CW in the west, active pacifists, ^{CNVA people, Catholic activists} etc, reaches innumerable people eventually. This is vital work.

I am now working for Catholic Relief Services (NCWC) doing the kind of peace work (though its not usually called that) that is most important in the long run - the giving of vast quantities of food, clothing and other necessities to those in need throughout the world. Though I'm not on the personal delivery end of it (like Dorothy and thousands of others who are actually doing it) this is responsible and essential work - demanding ^{and} most worthwhile. I am very fortunate to get this job and am quite happy about it. And I am much happier working as a volunteer for CNVA then as a paid staff member. As you said it is too easy to loose perspective and to become another kind of mass man: I have seen it happen also to pacifists in this countru and it is obvious it is happening in England too. *The avalanche, please God, is over*

I will be sending you a copy of a book by Vincent McNabb, OP, the English Dominican, now dead, who founded Blackfriar Magazine. Its title is Old P rinciples and the New Order & if you haven't read it I am quite sure you will be interested in it. I will be interested, certainly, in your comments. The book was one of the ones Peter Maurin was always ~~recommen~~ recommending. Witj it I'll send you a copy of Peter's biography.

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They are my only copies and so, when you're finished with them, even if it's 10 years from now it would be good to have them back again.

I am praying for you and your novices and for the superiors of your order.

Always, in Christ,

Jim

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my handwriting is not the best - better type it

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NY 2

P.S. Do you have another copy of the memo'd booklet with which you did to supplement the special printing - the meditation of the Virgin that grew out of the painting? In morning I lost my copy and value it highly - a very moving & beautiful work.

Box team!