



# BELLARMINE COLLEGE

2000 NORRIS PLACE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40205

Dec 7, 1965.

Dear Tom,

Thanks so much for your letter and for the good statement to the CPF, which I'm returning. I think that will likely settle the matter. But the atmosphere itself seems a good deal calmer than it was a month ago. I feel that your action raised the right questions in a quiet way and has put us on firmer ground.

This report on the Council is discouraging, coming in these last days. It is confirmed by a letter yesterday from Gordon Zahn, who writes of a similar report in the Manchester Guardian. Gordon notes that the anti-deterrence statement seems to have been substantially softened & what is worse, the conscientious objection provisions changed to drop the reference to possible religious motivations. But apparently the strong condemnation of total war remains, there is no justification of the deterrent, and the "presumptio juris" reference on conscientious may have been removed. So as Gordon writes, a set-back, but probably still a more advanced document than we had in September.

Gordon puts it well: "So it is not for us to be too disappointed or discouraged. After all, we never did expect the Council to do the whole job for us, did we. Now we have a good fund of statements and actions taken in Council upon which we can base any continuing efforts to get the Church moving even further in the direction outlined. In fact, the set-back (assuming there has been one) will serve to keep us from resting on our oars in the false assumption that the biggest part of the job has been finished."



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That is beautiful counsel from a man who has worked so long and so hard as he has on the problem, and for the best possible Council statement.

I've asked several bishops if they could please send me immediately an English text of the final Schema. If any do so, I'll send a copy your way at once.

Reflections on the latest Berrigan Affair continue. It will all be for the good in the end, purging us of some of the dishonesty and power techniques which continue in the Church. And perhaps deepening commitment and reflection everywhere.

An AFSC man called from Scarsdale this morning about a plan for a "Truce of God" in Vietnam during Christmas week. We are going to try for Bishop Wright's & Cardinal Ritter's support for an appeal to the President, and if possible, get the Pope's support as well. Norman Cousins may help with the latter.

Please keep our family in your prayers. We are going through a hard time, and I don't understand yet what is demanded. Division and pain seem unavoidable.

Thanks. Peace,  
Jim