



BELLARMINI COLLEGE

2000 NORRIS PLACE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40205

Oct 3, 1965.

Dear Tom,

Just a hurried note to let you know that the meetings in Rome went remarkably well. I had individual meetings with about 20 bishops. I prepared statements at the request of Flahiff (on the deterrent) & Taylor of Stockholm, Sweden (on conscientious objection). Delargey of New Zealand was in complete agreement and said he would use my material for a written intervention on the "balance of terror" and conscientious objection. Wheeler of England had gotten to work, unknown to me, in mid-August immediately after receiving my letter (with your Open Letter & other enclosures) and succeeded via correspondence & meetings in Rome in gaining the support of Abbot Butler of Downside and Archbishop Beck (who last year defended the deterrent on the Council floor!) for a strong intervention on the same two above points, with the emphasis on conscientious objection. ~~also Bishop Drant of England~~

But the big hope continues to be Cardinal Ritter. I met with him for an hour, and an additional two hours, at his request with his theologian. The Cardinal was gracious, open, and seriously considering a speech that would recommend a flat condemnation of the nuclear deterrent. But he had his doubts, many provoked by the theologian, and seemed to feel extremely lonely among the American hierarchy. Several of the other bishops I saw, including Cardinal König, agreed to encourage Ritter to make the speech. Whether or not he finally does we should know within the week.

It was a tremendously encouraging trip. Without exception the bishops were open to giving serious and careful thought to the issue.

Also in Rome Dorothy Day, being wired & dined by the hierarchy (everything has become possible), Gordon Zahn, Jean & Hildegard Boss (who will probably stay with us on her way to see you).
Glad to see the "Open Letter" in Worldview. Peace, Jim