

April 25, 1968

Dear Eileen:

Thanks for your letter-- already nearly a month old-- and for the excellent booklet on "The War that is Forbidden". I am glad to hear Ed Rice will edit PEACE. I haven't sent a poem because I just don't have anything appropriate at the moment. I am working on a long involved poetic project, much of which is very obscure, and none of it, as yet, is relevant to a clearly defined particular cause. Though I think as a whole it will speak about many causes. I hope so. But it will be a long time.

The loss of Archbishop Hallinan is great: with so few articulate Bishops, we cannot lose even one like him. As for Pax, I think we can all be very grateful for your "quiet" work aimed especially at the official Catholic mind here. Much as I sympathize with the more radical and dramatic gestures, I often doubt whether they really communicate: are they perhaps first of all a moral luxury for individuals and groups? I don't begrudge anyone a moral luxury or two seeing that I myself, as hermit, am definitely in the moral privileged class, a moral coupon clipper so to speak. But still there is the everyday business of persuading ordinary people and American society as it is.

I certainly feel indebted to you, and owe you my prayers. I look forward to the good things announced in Peace, under Ed's direction. And will perhaps be able to send something later. Now it's just impossible.

Warm regards always,
in Christ,