

jhs



ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI  
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

May 11, 1962

Dear Graham:

Thanks for your good letter and the information about the possibility of using the Dunstan Pruden crucifix for our dormitory cells. The project is getting a little more complex at this end, as the decision now is to get crucifixes for all the new cells in the main dormitories, which means a couple of hundred cells. At that rate the feeling is that this estimate would be a little beyond us, and Bro Giles wants to get something else under way, perhaps asking Peter <sup>Watts</sup> to design a corpus Christi for us. Also I do feel that the general tendency in the Order would be against a silver corpus Christi in the ordinary dormitory cells, though it might be accepted in a Church or chapel.

However, whatever else comes, I would like to have five crucifixes in silver according to the estimate you worked out, that is to say seven and a half dollars each ( 7.55 to be exact)/. As you are interested in the project yourself and will evidently be getting some done, I think we could go along with you for the wooden crosses also, which would raise the price a little.

The only qualification is that Fr Abbot is now away and I must wait to confirm this ~~x~~ and ask his permission when he returns. But I see no reason why he should refuse.

Also perhaps our gatehouse bookstore would want to sell several of these crucifixes. I am certain they would be interested.

You might be interested in the enclosed prayer. I do not know whether it is fitting to bother you with politics, ( certainly it can hardly make sense for a monk to do so, but I do it). H. Stuart Hughes, of Harvard, who is running for the Senate(?) on an independent ticket up there, has written to me. He wanted to know if I could get him any support. His main purpose is to work for peace. I don't know if you are interested, but at least one signature would help his cause. He is in Boylston Hall, Harvard.

Thinking over that last paragraph it strikes me as exceedingly funny: a man hoping to get into the Senate with the help of a contemplative monk and an artist both of whom are strong traditionalists and largely unpolitical animals. Well, the world has certainly come to a strange pass. But this man sounds like a good one nevertheless.

With every best wish and blessing, always

Cordially in Christ,

*Tom Merton*