

the catholic peace fellowship

An educational service conducted by Catholic members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

5 BEEKMAN STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10038

WO 4-8367

January 6, 1966

Dear Tom:

Here it is, the new year has actually arrived. And with it it your long and exciting letter. Thank you. I am glad to see your spirits so high, for you lift ours with them. Thank you especially for saying mass of the CPF's behalf.

Enclosed are copies of the NCWC coverage of the statement. As you may notice, it was their lead story of the day. I expect it has been carried very widely. I haven't yet received RNS's story, but will pass it on to you when I do. I would think many of the Non-Catholic publications would pick it up. Perhaps even the secular journals. I also enclose a copy of The Catholic Messenger's front-page coverage.

I went up to Regina Laudis for three days over the New Year weekend. It was a time for some very fruitful thought. Msgr. Oestereicher (editor of the Bridge and a Council Commission member) was there, and that was good because we spent much time talking -- about the Council, the state of the Church, the needs the CPF is confronted with, its posture, and so. (Also there was an economist from the UN, Father Emmanuel S. de Breuver, S.J., who has functioned with the UN full time for 14 years -- a worker-priest. He was a good friend of Father de Chardin's.) The conversations reinforced your present letter and those that preceded it -- the stress being on what you called our "pastoral" function, its primacy in our work.

I thoroughly agree with you that Schema 13 (I still am calling it a Schema -- I shall have to learn) is our special gift from God and that our energies should focus upon spreading its message far and wide. Even the NCWC translation is exciting reading (America is doing there on translation, apparently as dissatisfied with NC as yourself). I therefore look forward eagerly to the commentary you have done and ask you, yes, to do a leaflet on it -- perhaps something that could quote some of the utterly decisive sections of the shema with you commentary across the page or something. This would be most valuable and could be ~~of value~~ widely distributed for parish racks, high schools and so on.

What we need most at the moment, I mention this to you for your prayers, is money. If we are to do well the job that is crying out for response, it will mean at least one more person on our staff here and a larger office. If you know of anyone who might be moved by a personal appeal from yourself for this precise need, please do write. But in any event, do pray for it for we are at the limits right now, counselling COs, trying to

CO-CHAIRMEN
Fr. Philip Berrigan, S.S.J.
Martin J. Corbin
Thomas C. Cornell
James H. Forest

SPONSORS
Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J.
Ade Bethune
Herbert C. Burke
Graham Carey
Dorothy Day
Leslie Dewart
James W. Douglass
Fr. William H. DuBay
Hermene Evans
Msgr. Paul Hanly Furfey
Edward T. Gargan
Carol Gorgen
John Howard Griffin
Dom Bede Griffiths
Fr. Robert W. Hovda
Fr. John J. Hugo
Edward M. Keating
Fr. David Kirk
Justus George Lawler
Robert Lax
Fr. Robert McDole
Fr. John L. McKenzie
Fr. Thomas Merton
Earl C. Neiman
Ned O'Gorman
Edward Rice
Fr. Peter Riga
Archbishop T. D. Roberts, S.J.
Karl Stern
Anne Taillefer
Marguerite Tjader
Anton Wallich-Clifford
Gordon C. Zahn

[6 Jan. 66]

keep up with the punds of correspondence and so on. To expand will require an additional ten thousand dollars, yet it must be done.

It seems to me that the CW continues to be, in its everyday life, a truly prophetic undertaking. It is a way of life, and it is a Christian one, in poverty, in service. Without it, what we are doing here would not be possible -- for any number of reasons. They broke the soil here. They hatched Tom and me, nurtured us, and sent us into the world with a value system that I think will stick, as it is reinforced by the liturgy and by the aggiornamento etc.

But it is absolutely clear to me that our job is a different one, less dramatic because it is both less encompassing and because its tone must be closer to the blackboard and chalk than to the ~~pick~~ picket line.

I agree with what you say on draft card burning. I could not be of more similar mind on this matter. I thinking both of minds have ~~xx~~ evolved on this. I smile at myself when I think how close I actually came to ~~doing~~ burning my own cards when David Miller was arrested! Yet the thinking that started was fruitful. I see far better where my vocation, and where the CPF ought to be headed, and what it ought to avoid.

Well, again I am most encouraged by your thoughts, and helped by them. It is amazing how a community of thought and aspiration can gather, raise a sail and see that sail filled with wind.

Enclosed for your comment is a ms. we will publish soon on Catholic conscientious objection. As ~~x~~ you will see, it relies heavily on the Council's Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

Pax Christi,

Jim Forest

PS I will be out on the West Coast working for a couple of weeks, leaving ~~that in a car~~ for there about 10 days from now