

May 15th, 1962
56 Ludlow Street, Apt. 16
NYC 2

Dear Tom,

Hot weather, moving, painting, work - all things working together have kept me from answering you. Also, the necessity of finding time for quietness. But now at least I can write you a brief note and tell you, for one thing, how moved we all were by your letter on the Everyman. Yes, it is an exciting project with great meaning - "to put a man under the bomb" in a way we all can see. Perhaps it is only by illustrating the fundamental problems in such a vivid way that we will ever glimpse what issues are truly involved in such actions. In reality all humanity stands beneath the bomb.

I enclose a photograph that appeared in most of New York City's newspapers today. She is a 19 year old girl who, when the photo was taken had had only water to live on ~~in~~ 6 days. She is in the "no-man's land" between Communist China and Hong Kong - which has recently decided to turn away all refugees seeking safety in their tiny area. Canada, Paraguay, Taiwan and several others have offered a home to those refugees if they can be brought to them. But Hong Kong refuses to pay the "shipment" tab and keeps them out with armed guard, telling them to go home. 300,000 are waiting to come in. They are not being allowed any food - Red China doesn't have it and Hong Kong is not allowing any. And so they sit and wait. As you read this letter it is probable they will be sitting there, like this girl. They, and we who should be helping them, deserve your prayers.

I was very saddened by the news that you can no longer write for publication. This is indeed a loss. Believe me, though the voices in the Church are growing in ~~number~~ number, any losses are a defeat - but at least in a rather brief period of time you delivered a lot that will be stimulating Catholics and many others for a long time to come. In the mean time I will privately circulate your letters to people prominent in the peace movement. They badly need your perspective, a perspective much better than the ours in many ways simply because it is not involved directly. I am sending copies of your Everyman letter to the Everyman crew, A J Muste, and read it to those in this office. I also gave a copy to one of the pacifists with NCWC (in the Catholic Relief Services) who influenced me, in a talk at the CW on the works of mercy (& how they are the exact opposite of war), to become a CO in the Navy. Though this limits your writings influence considerably it is still good that we have these contacts - but it saddens not only me but all of us that we cannot print what you write in the Bulletin. Is there any possibility (though it still would be a minor defeat) to write under another name?

I will write in more detail soon. Next week I should begin working in a more permanent job, at last, with the Catholic Relief Services. I am happy to say that my up & coming boss, Bishop Swanstrom, was out there in Hong Kong, with these refugees and is exerting all his pressure to get food and help to these people.

Prayers for Frater Sabastian and all your novices - and you.

In Christ, King of Peace,

Jm