

# the catholic peace fellowship

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

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October 10, 1967

The Rev. Thomas Merton  
Abbey of Gethsemani  
Trappist, Kentucky 40073

Dear Tom:

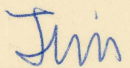
Thanks for the September 24 letter--and, on Linda's behalf, for your encouraging words about her art work. We'll send you some when we get them back from the printer.

I certainly understand the predicaments my suggestions sometimes cause you, and hope you are'n't troubled by the impossibility of turning out yet another article on yet another church crisis. Perhaps Dan Berrigan will--I've written to him about the idea, presuming that Jim O'Gara is more interested in the idea than the name that goes with it.

Actually (I realize this wasn't too clear in my last letter) I'm not thinking so much of a journalist's wrapping together all the stuff I send to you, as getting someone who would be interested in exploring somewhat the theological implications of this kind of complicity. When mercy gets tied to a uniform, is it still mercy? Mike Novak, in the letters column of last week's NCR, did a valuable if superficial exploration of that terrain--but no one has yet really gone into it at length, which I think the subject deserves. If you have any suggestions as to possible authors, would you let me know. Sometimes my mind is a complete blank. The only person I have suggested it to thus far (and I haven't heard from him yet about it) is Dan.

As for a journalistic rehash of the whole thing, using some of the materials I sent down to you, heck, anyone of us on the CPF staff could do that. It's just we are not theologians!

Much love,

  
Jim Forest

JHF:rlc

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