

# the catholic peace fellowship

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

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March 8, 1967

Thomas Merton  
Abbey of Gethsemani  
Trappist, Ky.

Dear Tom:

Things have been so rushed here since A. J.'s death that I hardly know what the state of our correspondence is, what I have already told you, what Jim has told you, etc. etc.

Dorothy told me that she had sent you a note thanking you for the article on Camus, and I wanted you to know that it is making quite an impact. Several hundred people have written in and asked for subscriptions on the basis of the article. As you may know Jim and I have been working on a Catholic Worker anthology for the Macmillan Company. I think that the Camus article would anchor the book very nicely. May we use it? Is there any copyright restriction on it, or any plan for its use in any other compilation? The book looks very good right now. It is not quite complete, but we can see its final form taking shape. We are not going to be able to meet our deadline, however, and publication date will have to be February, 1968.

Of course everyone knew that A. J. could go at any moment. A. J. himself was completely aware of it and quite prepared. But it was still quite a shock, and although everyone kept on telling everyone else that we should be glad of the triumph of A. J.'s life and the triumph of his death, and that we should rejoice that he was given so many years to do so much good work, still the real grief was very present. We have a Quaker type Memorial service at the Friends Meeting House on 15th Street with about 7 or 800 people. There had been a private family service earlier, and there will be a tribute meeting on the 12th of March which ought to be very large. We have secured a moving picture theater for it. Some of my happiest memories of A. J. are of the time we all went down to Gethsemani. A. J.'s vision had just been restored by an operation removing his cataracts. He was enjoying life with a particular intensity at that time. I remember also the morning of November 6, 1965, when we burned our cards. Fr. Dan said Mass for us in my family apartment, and A. J. came to share with us the sacraments that morning. The World Peace Council people want me to write a short obit for A. J., for their publication, Prospectives. This

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is the Soviet oriented group. I have almost no enthusiasm for this assignment, but I suppose I will have to do it. Dorothy is writing for Commonweal.

How is your health? I things are improving. Say a pray every now and then for all.

Fraternally,

Tom

Tom

TC:d

Dictated the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>.