

June 22, 1968

Dear Ethel:

After sending my telegram I also planned to write you at least a brief letter. But I know you must have been simply swamped with mail and telegrams, so I have hesitated. However, I do want to send you the enclosed rather touching letter from a total stranger in Brazil. If you don't read Portuguese it would be worth having someone translate it for you.

Really it is hard to say anything that is capable of measuring the shock and sorry of Bobby's tragic immolation. Nowadays we tend to expect almost anything. But there was something particularly awful and traumatic about this, just because Bobby represented a very real hope for the whole country and for the world. He was the only one with a real chance who might also have done something very definite for peace. And now it looks as if we will be faced with a completely illusory choice at the polls-- so much so that I wonder if I'll vote at all. At least for the presidency.

It has been a shock for everyone and I think you must have felt that the dimensions of your personal sorrow were multiplied in all directions. But that does not make it any easier to have to go through all that you and the family have suffered. I am glad Dom James was able to represent our community at the funeral. He brought me messages from you and Rose Kennedy. I do hope that things are settling down and that God is bringing peace in the middle of all the wretched agony of this.

Naturally I have said masses for Bobby and I remember all of you at the altar. More and more we are forced to realize that God is our only real hope in the stark mystery of what we are all up against. Certainly we know that all will be well, but the ways in which He makes it well are apt to be difficult for us. Courage and peace be with you. My love to all the family, and God bless you,

It's a little hard to keep track of Dan these days, but I know he too is continually praying for you.