

Aug. 27, 1964

Dear Tom:

Enclosed is my semi-annual grab bag, sent to you without rhyme nor reason as things which I somehow ripped out when I was thinking about you.

Of greatest interest to me is a report I have completed just this evening, after weeks of day and night research, typing & retyping, on Vietnam. I think this succeeds in answering all the fundamental question and making a few of the more obvious answers or proposals. Whether or not the Catholic Worker will use it, I do not know. It isn't religious (" ") in the sense that a saint is popping in out and out every two or three paragraphs. This is precisely the things which religious persons label a-religious humanistic thinking. On the other hand, I hope the observations at the end do not look or feel just tacked on. I want to avoid, however, writing things in such a way that the ghetto walls can be sensed between the lines. It seems to me that on the plane of social action, secular and Christian conscience lock hands: that this is the meaning of Pacem in Terris, the priest workers, etc etc.

If the Catholic Worker chooses not to use this article, and you are of the opinion it should be published, I would much appreciate any suggestions you might have as to other editors who should look at it. The problem will be in moving quickly: this sort of thing becomes a little less relevant with each passing day. Also, the hour is late late late in South Vietnam. This should have been written no later than a year ago. We should have all been on the housetops then, not now. But here we are, fighting a fire blindfolded, and better now than not at all.

So let me know whom you suggest, if anyone, so that I may be ready if the need arises.

I haven't asked you, but hope you are well, out of bed--if not x swinging an axe, then at least well enough to walk in the woods. Gethsemane is indeed a lovely place. I remember the words of my dear Italian friend, Alex Marcin, who visited Gethsemani with hs several years ago. He stood on your little porch, looking out over that magnificent valley, saying something like "If I could look at this every morning, I too, I could believe in a God." I don't mean that unkindly.

I thought Barbara Deming's article in the current Liberation to be outstanding. She is one of the most remarkable writers of our day, I believe, or has been to me, though she is not prolific and writes in personal agony, battling and suffering every inch of the way, with every key on the typewriter. I wonder, by the way, if you ever did receive that packet of things of hers I mailed to you about a year ago. I don't know even if you still have them, but Barbara might want them back if you do. I believe they were her only copies. She is a great admirer of your writings, was very thrilled to read Cold War Letters.

Much love to you,

Jim

*most corrections - but not all - are
fitted in on carbon.*