

Box 35  
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June 16, 1967.

Dear Tom:

I just finished reading your very beautiful article in Fellowship, "Blessed Are the Meek: The Roots of Christian Nonviolence." I think this is the finest statement of the meaning of Christian nonviolence I have ever seen. I hope it will be made widely available. It is a good deal clearer and more concise than Regamey and yet has at least as much metaphysical substance behind it. This is what I miss in most Protestant commentators on non-violence, whose theological traditions seem somehow unable to prepare them for a statement on man which would avoid either a facile optimism or a withdrawal from the arena. Your article avoids both and not only explicates but manifests the power of the "powerless".

Your final comment, on the distinction between the "nature-oriented mind" and "person-oriented thinking," is of immediate help in my study of Paul Ramsey's work. "Person-oriented" thinking would seem to correspond to the methodology of Gandhi while contrasting with nature-oriented just-war thought in an extremely helpful way. Leslie Dewart's essay a few years back in Cross Currents on Pacem in Terris opened up a similar perspective on John's understanding of natural law. All this is rich -- I hope you will explore it further as you indicate.

I'm enclosing two more chapters of my book and would be grateful for any impressions you may have. The piece on the Council is somewhat technical at points for a book on non-violence but I think it important to show the convergence of the two streams of thought, just-war and non-violence, in the Council and the emergence of just one as the authentic Gospel witness in our time. There have also been some serious misinterpretations of the Council statement. I feel that in a further chapter the best just-war people (mainly Ramsey) should be considered carefully, both to "learn from the adversary" and because they invite serious criticism.

May I ask the further favor that you return the two chapters when you're through with them.

We're all well, enjoying some beautiful weather. Hope you're the same.

Peace,

*Jim*