

# American PAX Association

*An association of Catholics and others who seek to promote peace and to encourage the practical application of Christian principles to the question of war.*

BOX 139, MURRAY HILL

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

March 31, 1968

Dear Father Louis:

We now have a new Chairman of PAX, Gordon Zahn, and a new editor of PEACE quarterly, Ed Rice. We have been working on the matter of conscientious objection during the past year, trying to move our bishops into making a statement - and building up sentiment for a change in the draft law. If the consciences of those trained in the just war tradition are respected, a great door would be opened for Catholics and large bodies of Protestants to refuse the works of war and choose the works of peace.

We wrote to all the bishops last year and were quite dejected when none replied. We sent you, I believe, the two memoranda we sent them prior to the meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Finally, Archbishop Hallinan made a strong statement. We have incorporated it into the text of the PAX Rights of Conscience Campaign, text of which I enclose. We will print this up as a leaflet. Would you be willing to sign this statement?

Ed Rice, who is shortly leaving for Cuba and Central America, asked me to write you with a request. Would you have any poems, even very short ones, that could be used in the issue of PEACE that must go to press in about a month. The lead article will be "Mercy and Revolution" by Walter Stein of the University of Leeds.

Need I say how grateful we are for your constant pricking of the conscience of Christians, especially American Christians. PAX has been working quietly in order to inch the bishops forward - if at all possible. Under separate cover, we are sending a PAX paperback that was sent to all bishops just before Christmas. It is entitled "The War That is Forbidden" and contains the statements of nine of the world's bishops on the immorality of the deterrent. We would appreciate your prayers for more resources so that we can print more copies of this booklet. We are holding the type in hope of further funds.

Peace, in Our Lord,

*Eileen Egan*

Eileen Egan Vice-Chairman

*Bishop James Shannon is also signing the Rights of Conscience Campaign.*