



BELLARMINE COLLEGE

2000 NORRIS PLACE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40205

June 19, 1965.

Dear Tom,

Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> would be good for us. We'll leave here about 11:30, after my morning class, & bring <sup>copies</sup> a few things.

The Rome trip still awaits confirmation of an audience. A letter from Father Morlion on Wednesday was discouraging - said the best that could be done for the 5 people ready to go was 2-5 minutes with the Pope after a more general audience. Since then, however, we've joined with another group of 12-15 prominent clergymen who are going to Saigon in early July but have agreed to stopover <sup>first</sup> in Rome at the prospect of an audience. Fr Morlion had said that it would be necessary to have broader support & added representatives. We have that now, so waiting for a cable response to the tripled group.

The Pope is definitely coming to the U. N. this fall. I was asked to phone Norman Cousins to get word from U Thant as to the desirability of the trip after the initial response. Cousins phoned back yesterday morning that Thant said go. Cousins also said, though, that the White House had advised him to advise us that the President was giving a major speech on the 26<sup>th</sup> (tonight's paper says it will be at the U. N.), and that the Saigon group should hold everything until after that. I don't know how the speech could cancel the trip unless the war is about to be called off, or unless they think a rhetorical flourish will produce that impression (over the stepped-up troop movements, bombings etc. In Peter Biza got a letter from Cardinal Bea saying that Pope Paul had personally asked him to thank Fr Biza for identifying with the clergymen's

Committee on Vietnam (same group that's going to Saigon). Pope Paul seems to have been asked to go to Saigon. The Saigon group is going to be a group of 13 people.

the other five would return from Rome