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c/o Pax Romana, Fribourg.
Whit Monday, 1957.

My dear María de Lourdes,

At long last I have done something for the Feminine Commission and also settled down to write you a short note. You may well ask where the time has flown since we saw you off from the Stazione Termini in Rome six weeks ago - Fugit Tempus Permanent Opera - only there seem to be no opera! I hope your few days in Paris lived up to your expectations. Certainly Marie-Ange and I spent two wonderful days in Assisi and then I went on to Florence till the end of the week. Assisi breathes the spirit of St. Francis and the people speak of him as though he were still walking the streets. The town is medieval, on a hill overlooking the plain for miles and miles around. From which ever side you enter the town, you pass under 14th Century towers and find yourself in a tiered garden of steep stone steps and wondering if you will ever get back to the point from which you started; such a street is two flights up; another is 1/2; still another is down, then up and round like a maze! The churches are each more beautiful than the other. The Basilica of St. Francis, three churches super-imposed, is nothing but frescoes by Giotto. Then there is the church of St. Clare and the convent where she lived and of which much is intact. The little cloister with flowers and a fountain in the middle is a haven of peace. Perhaps you have been to Assisi already. But if you haven't, do try and go there soon. You feel as though you had locked away the non-stop roar of the 20th century and were human and normal at long last!

You know that Pat left for the States on the Vigil of the Ascension. Thom will doubtless have explained about the field-office etc. We heard on Saturday that the money for her office was guaranteed - which surely means that the rest of the project has been approved. Also there was a telegram urging us to send the invitations to the Polish students - so thank God, things seem to be fairly bright. However, Pat's departure means more work divided out among all of us - Tadée is an expert in the lay-out of the Journal and he is training Olivier; myself lives in sheets of translations and mountains of dictionaries (I shall shortly be taking the Oxford English Dictionary to bed!); no need to say that Thomas lives his usual 16 hour schedule. The minutes, dear María, are in draft form, and I told Thom you would like to see them. So I hope he sends them; he seemed to think there would not be time, as I only handed in the draft four or five days ago.

And how are you, María? Do try and make the most of your good Portuguese weather. How we envy you! Today is fine, but so far we have been deluged in persistent rain since the beginning of May. Cold winds, and even snow quite near Fribourg. You will be relieved to hear that the temperature in San Salvador in July-August ranges between 25 and 30°C, and that it would be wise to come prepared for rain. 30°C maximum is easily tolerable.

You will have heard about the negotiations with Urbi et Orbi, the Dutch printing firm. If the deal comes off, it should prove a blessing, though *perhaps* a mixed one where I am concerned! Having consulted Ramón etc. Thomas has asked me if I would be responsible for the Journal, provided the Dutch deal is clinched. You know Thom and his tactics. He begins the softening-up process on his Pax victim about a month before he launches the out-and-out attack; I smelt a rat (do you know this English expression which is convenable - it means "I had suspicions") but had no idea of the enormity of the proposition. I've been fighting back on the grounds that I am not qualified for such work and that it would mean staying till January '60 - which is a long time away. Can you think of no one, María, who knows Pax better than me (which isn't difficult), who speaks either French or English as his mother tongue, and reads one or two European languages?

Rest all you can before El Salvador. It will be an exhausting two weeks there with Latin American fire and energy to make the debates even more heated than usual.

Love and God Bless,

Bridaine.

Bridaine.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro