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PAX ROMANA

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
FRIBOURG (Switzerland)

14, Rue St. Michel

19th January 1960.

Reference

Miss Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo,
Av. Inf. Santo, lote 4 - 50 D-C,
Lisbon,
Portugal.



My dear Maria de Lourdes,

How happy I was to receive your Christmas Day letter towards the end of our meetings. It would take pages to tell you about Manila and I promise truly to write more fully about that and other matters very soon. Briefly, however, we all feel the meetings were successful. As Ramon says, c'était quelque chose de grandiose. Oh, Maria, if you could have seen the quality of those student and graduate leaders. I cannot think of them all without being moved to tears - such generosity, such devotion, such goodness, such idealism. And the chaplains: every single one of them exceptional. I mean, can you imagine about twenty men of the calibre of Père Kaelin? differing from him, of course, but as outstanding. The meetings were a lesson in humility for the non-Asians. The Holy Spirit was with us, and the Divine Child and His Mother helped us in a special way. It is remarkable that the results were so satisfying, because there were difficulties on the Manila-side (ask Teresa to tell you about the social and economic conditions of the country, the structure of SCA, etc.). Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you too for promising to write the articles. My reply doesn't give you much time, but if I have the text by February 1st or 2nd, it will do. Yes, our idea was that your articles would be more theoretical, so that the readers would get their fundamentals straight. As I mentioned in my previous letter, we had hoped you would deal with:

- I. What is a leader?
- II. What is a leader supposed to do and why?
(spiritual motive in Catholic organizations)
- III. How is a leader formed?

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You can treat the subject in two articles or in three, as you prefer. Incidentally, in Manila, in the international workshop, there was divergence of opinion on how to form a leader.

France and Italy: If the federation provides spiritual and intellectual formation, meetings etc. the natural leader will come to the surface very quickly. There is no need for the federation to polish up his natural qualities.

Others (Asia, L.America, Oceania, though Oceania to a lesser extent): Yes, you must give spiritual and intellectual formation, but you must also give technical training, e.g. how to direct a study circle, to chair a meeting etc.

You didn't mention about yourself. Teresa said you were as busy as ever. In the office, everyone fairly well - Miette is somewhat under the weather after Manila, and we all feel tired, perhaps lazy too - because of the cold weather! Thom is still in Manila and will not be back here till mid-February as he will tour the graduate groups. Did you know that his wife is expecting "their son" (it has got to be a son, says Thom) for the end of February or the beginning of March?

Much love. I'll write more personally soon.

Bridaine

Bridaine.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

