

Fribourg, 12th April 1960.



My dear Maria,

I am taking a few minutes off office time to write a more personal note - otherwise you will have to wait "till the cows come home", an expression which is equivalent to "la semaine des quatre jeudis".

As you probably know, I am definitely leaving Pax Romana at the end of August (after the Toumliline meeting), and so that I cannot change my mind, I have actually booked a passage home for September 10th. Certainly the Journal has improved, but I know I am not the person to put it on the heights where it should be. I have visions of a marvellous era for the publications department! Ideally - two publications: one of general interest and the other, a top-notch intellectual review. Ça viendra, n'est-ce pas? Eh bien, last November, I wrote to Mary Louise Tully, expressing a wish to work with one of the Grail teams as a lay-missionary. However, various factors made me hesitate and wonder if that was "my way". I talked a lot with Père Emonet (appointed chaplain after Père Louis, but now, to our great chagrin, obliged to give up the PR task due to other commitments) and see him from time to time. I feel utterly spoiled at having such a spiritual director: he is a Dominican who, about two years ago, tried a vocation at the Valsainte, the Chartreux Monastery near Fribourg, but who returned to St. Hyacinthe later on. (St. Hyacinthe = one of the Dominican houses in Fribourg). Père Emonet says things are not clear for me yet; that I must pray and wait. Meanwhile, Thom has a plan and has asked if I would be willing to carry it out - provided he can get the money for it. Briefly: it seems there is confusion and over-lapping because no one knows exactly what ~~are~~ the main lay-missionary movements are doing, needs they supply, source of requests etc. He feels it would be invaluable if a person could visit the main movements for at least two weeks or even a month, work at their headquarters, attend a training session where possible, get the "feel" of the movement...and at the end of nine or ten months, write a very extensive report describing one's findings in detail. It would involve travel in Europe, and North America. The idea is still in the embryonic stage, so that I should be glad if you ~~didn't~~ <sup>don't</sup> talk about it to others. Qu'en penses-tu? Thom says such a report would be useful for Pax Romana (because Thom would like to be able to direct PR members more and more into lay missionary work at least into work undertaken abroad in an apostolic spirit) but also for the Church.



My possible successor in the office is Mara Pompe, widow of Kees Pompe. Mara will come for a trial period at the beginning of May. She will only work half-day in order to give her time for her little daughter, Cathy, aged 6. During the trial period, she will see for herself if she can do the work in half the time - only Journal and News Service. It's a big assignment, especially since she has to look after Cathy: being at home when the child returns from school, giving Cathy the care she requires and not skimping due to office obligations, etc.

Having talked about myself, let me ask after you. Presumably you are still working professionally and with the same company. Has your health improved? Are you able to devote time to the Grail - specific work? You once mentioned an enquiry into the status of woman in Portugal. Has this materialized? Any chance of your coming to Toumliline?...MIEC will descend on Lisbon. Several ~~Assem~~ days of the Assembly will be devoted to studying meaning of Pax Romana, history, aims, ideals and the way they translate themselves into reality. I hope and pray it works out well. Before Manila, I insisted on the need to communicate an ideal of Pax Romana, "une mystique du Mouvement", tremper les participants dans les sources spirituelles de notre travail, leur donner une vision grandiose du rôle de Pax Romana et de chacun de nous dans l'extension du règne du Christ. Beaucoup, beaucoup plus, surtout du côté MIEC, aurait pu être fait. L'idée de Lisbon, qui est, dans une très grande mesure, celle de Peter, est peut-être un pas définitif dans cette direction.

### Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

As regards the meeting for women students in Berlin, we are ~~surious~~ <sup>annoyed</sup> about the whole thing. We heard nothing for months. Then one day, the posters and programmes arrived. We should certainly not have chosen such a theme. One reason why the Germans chose it, is the financial assistance from the German Government for all youth meetings held in Berlin. It seems that there will be many Dutch girls present.

Alas and alack, it is utterly impossible to go to Tiltenberg for ~~Easter~~ Holy Week. Oddly enough, I had such a sweet letter from Mary Louise inviting me to go. But the office functions even on Good Friday (till noon, in keeping with Fribourg custom), and we are all behind with our work. We shall, of course, follow the ceremonies in town, but it is never the same as going away and especially to such a wonderful place as Tiltenberg.

Much love, dear Maria. I hope your heart will be full of the joy of the Resurrection,

Bridaine.

about the time your letter arrived.

