



Austinia Nazareth

August 15, 1979



Dear Maria,

Though I have never had the pleasure of meeting you, I have <sup>now</sup> been bombarded by Grail friends, and members of my family with paper cuttings and journals giving an account of a woman, - and a member of the Grail at that, - who has risen to this high office in Portugal! I am truly proud of you, - and you have

been in my prayers ever since. -  
Please accept my sincere congratulations,  
and a promise of a duty  
in my prayers. -

As you probably know, I joined  
the Grail ("Women of Nazareth") in 1927;  
spent two years in Java, <sup>29-31</sup> (Indonesia)  
where I had hoped to stay for life!  
Came back in 1931 to report on possi-  
bilities, etc, but got caught in London  
on my way back from The Eucharistic  
Congress in Dublin <sup>1932</sup> where 300 Dutch  
Grail members in uniform made a great  
impression on The Archbishop of Westminster  
Cardinal Bourne! When I arrived in London  
I was told by two leading Catholics that if  
I wanted to introduce the Grail to  
UK, I should go <sup>straight</sup> to the top, i.e. the  
Cardinal Archb. of Westminster! So I  
telephoned Brother Maresfield and we  
went to see Cardinal Bourne. We were  
in and out of his presence in less than  
5 minutes!... "You are The Grail?"  
MM: Yes, Your Eminence. Card: "When can you  
start?"





II



Douстинia Nazareth

M.M. "Whenever your Eminence wishes..."

Card: "Now! — ..."

"Can you stay?" pointing to M. Margaret

M.M. "I am afraid I can't. I am the Mother General of a new religious community."

Card: (pointing to me) "Can she stay?"

M.M. "If your Eminence wishes."

Card: "I wish it."

and that was that!! There went all my hopes and plans for Java; of, all, mainly, a prayer house in a leprosy centre for women; etc.

So from that moment I stayed in England for 36 years, very happy, pursued plenty of work and encouragement.

(holding 70,000 <sup>pages</sup>)

In 1933 we took the Royal Albert Hall and produced "Esseymen" with 500 members, partly for Holland.

We produced <sup>also</sup> 5 papal encyclicals in ~~the~~ <sup>simple</sup> style; and translated the 150 psalms from the Hebrew, with the help of 2 Cistercian monks, and set to the *Salve* music.

They are all over the world and still much in demand.

In 1968, after 36 years <sup>of</sup> charge of The Guild, I resigned the presidency and was invited by Catherine de Kuesch for a good rest. I went for 6 weeks and stayed 6 months! A year later she offered me a "poustinia" (a kind of hermitage) on an island adjoining Madam House and connected with a little foot bridge. She had just obtained the rest of the island  $\pm$  20 acres, she only owned 3 acres before, and had her large cabin on that bit of





It seems to me that the house is too small for the place. I think it is better than the house in the picture. I have seen many such places and I am sure of myself. Love in X. P. Yvonne



Justinia Nazareth



land. My Justinia is 10 feet from the River Madawaska, and I am surrounded by squirrels, chipmunks, birds; - (an occasional bear - I only saw one once, and he passed my cabin in a slow gallop without looking left or right! -)

The community at Maxwell approved of my accepting the Justinia offer as an experiment; so this Justinia was built. (Generally it is an old log cabin, which is bought locally, pulled down and put together again. My Justinia has a porch in front facing the river; - This one was such a case. It is spacious



very pleasant exit to Canada. It is wonderful thing to a life of active life. It over you come to Canada, but we know



and has windows in all  
I live in this cabin and  
here, but 3 days in the week  
I have lunch & supper with the  
Community and ~~many~~ <sup>often</sup> do some work  
on the farm or in the office, or in the  
handicraft centre. The other 3 days  
I am all day in my cabin, except  
for Mass; have my meals there too  
of course. - It is a wonderful way  
of a life of prayer in the midst  
of a beehive of activity all  
around. The Community consists of  
men, women and priests; and there  
are always "guests" who come from  
one day to a week, to a month, to  
3 months, to a year; some of these  
come back for good and become  
members. There are about 105  
members of the Community, ± 60 here  
at M.H.; the rest all over Canada  
and USA, and in West Indies.

This is just a rough picture, but  
I felt I owe you this explanation