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October 1st

letter one

Your Lordship,

Your Letter arrived today from New Zealand and as time is short I am replying straight away.

I am still waiting to hear back from Jim Gill - he has been on the road since coming back from Rome on Sept 12th. In fact I am hoping he will call today - or if not I'll be calling him later today. When he got back from Rome, the priest he wanted to line up for me was visiting back here in the States. Jim said he would track him down for me and let me know whats up. In the meantime he said go ahead and plan things about getting to Rome which I have done. Actually I feel somewhat left up in the air, but have proceeded along the lines that something will work out by the time I'm due there. I have been using this month as a time of preparation - with background reading/reflection and so on. Until today I have felt it worthwhile - I have'nt been anywhere, catching up with folks etc, as I thought it more important to undergo this preparation as a priority. It has'nt been particularly easy, but I know THAT before anything else or any other process I need to be able to call upon a more faithful sense of prayer and conscience examination as a basis. I know I will really find this somewhat difficult at least initially - but I feel quietly confident. I think what Jim said about using the location of Rome - the stational churches etc - will help. I will have the time to do this properly, and not succumb to doing the tourist thing. After speaking to Buck Davey after his visit there I hope to go up to Assisi for some days of prayer. I have been using the prayers of St Francis as one of my resources.

The time over the last month or so has gone both slowly and fast - slow in not knowing exactly how plans will be set up - fast in that time goes that way! I have had the time to go over things over the years plus look at my life, the church and so on. In all the detritus of carelessness, distraction, rationalization, etc, I know I cant escape facing myself as I have in the past. At this particular moment - as I write - I feel so alone and helpless - which is perhaps not such a bad thing if I can realize God wont abandon me

I interrupted this letter to write no.two accompanying this. As I wrote it I just felt so alone - but then that's my problem. What I thought ^{may} help, was if you wished to speak to Ron Pickering - if nothing else he might have some ideas/contact how to quash my involvement in the impending case. I will send him a copy of your letter and this when I post this.

I leave for Rome next Tuesday (8th). Kevin Dunn booked me into the English College, but when I called to confirm this, He said they only take visitors for a week - so I will have to find some where else. Peter Colley got the Christian Bros address for me, and Tony Geraci suggested I try the 'Casa del Clero Internazionale' which you probably know. I would suggest you write me care of Kevin Dunn, and I will check with him periodically for mail. THE 'Casa' sounds good as it is near everything - including the spiritual director so I hope it does'nt cost much. I have'nt earned more than basic keep here, as fulltime supply would not have allowed me preparation/lead in time. As it is I feel that everything has unravelled?