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O U R L A D Y O F G E T H S E M A N I
T R A P P I S T, K E N T U C K Y

April 18, 1958

Dear Victor:

Ordinarily, all the authorities on liturgy (in the sense of rubrics) insist that the altar cross must have on it an image of the crucified turned towards the celebrating priest. It should rest on the altar, or be suspended above it. There may be some now who are advocating the use of a croix mue, but here in America where everything is very conservative in these matters I have never yet heard of it.*

As I have never seen the inside of the Kolbsheim chapel I cannot venture an opinion on your Crucifix, in relation to the rest of the work, and certainly I do not think I would be in the least qualified to do so. But it seems that certainly since the whole thing is more or less your conception, you would be expected to know what would suitably crown the whole work, and as far as I can see your crucifix fits in with the sculpture on the facade very well. I am sure this is a very painful situation and I feel for you very strongly in it. I do hope it will be worked out satisfactorily. Meanwhile, the idea of the American chapel is a new one and I look forward to talking with you about it. It is a fine thought.

I am returning the letter, and the latest proof of Prometheus. I hope to return a few books to the library in a day or so. We are very busy in this lovely weather. And our wrens are nesting in their wren houses, while I plant many seedlings for a future (I hope) pine grove).

Bless you both, and let us hear from you again soon. I am sure the project will come out very well in the end, don't worry about it. These things are all fruitful and good in the life of an artist and of a Christian.

As ever, in Our Lord

Jm Louis

* PS. I do remember seeing pictures of a croix mue in one of our monasteries which is regarded as a bit radical, so there must be things like that in France.