

jhs



ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

Jan 5, 1962

Dear Victor:

It was good to get your letter and I am happy to hear of the painting in progress. It is a good subject and I liked your previous treatment of it. What will it be now? I am very interested.

The dust has settled a little after the Christmas festivities which even here are more of an upheaval than necessary. January is still going to be rather taken up with things which exclude a visit, however, as we have the annual retreat from the 18th on, and I have a couple of ministers to see at the end of the month.

Let us plan on one of the Saturdays in February: I give you the choice of the 9th, 16th or 23rd. Let me know which one you think will be best for you, tentatively. It is a pity we cannot tell this far in advance what the weather is likely to be, but in any event if I have a choice I would rather you came sooner, and thus we might hope that the 9th would be a fairly sunny day? I hope so, but you may have other things determining your choice.

I continue to have small motives for twinges of conscience for having spoken out in favor of Congdon's (abstract expressionist) "paintings". It is true that I appreciate his motives, but after all it is silly to praise a man just because he means well and because he has a taste for this or that color. Perhaps after all I have no need to be modern at all, I have just continued to be so out of habit. But why do anything just out of habit?

The monk who translated the Cassiodorus is Father Augustine Wulf. My bits from the desert fathers were practically all translations, with a little editing here and there to make the story shorter and more succinct, but they can be called translations and are not re-tellings.

All best New Year wishes to you. Did I ever send the Chartres letters? Here is a copy.

All blessings, as ever,
Cordially in Christ,

Tom.