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OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI  
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

March 20, 1958

Dear Dr Thompson:

Many thanks for your letter of the other day, and for the books which Mrs Hammer has sent me. I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the chance to borrow such useful books from your library. I am sending three of them back today, and will soon be applying for more! The new Arciniegas book on Latin America is particularly good. I understand you have a particular interest in that field. I am studying it from various angles. Do you know that the complete poems of Neruda have been published recently in Buenos Aires? I hope to get the volume from New Directions as I will try, if time permits, to do a study of Neruda and perhaps translate some of his verse. That is all very tentative. Another particular interest of mine is Jorge de Lima, the Brazilian poet who, I think, is very fine.

I notice your volume Let us Praise Famous Men (in many ways remarkable,) is marked "Browsing room" I am making special efforts to finish it quickly and get it back.

You may have had difficulty identifying the galley proofs I sent in the pile of material with Mrs Hammer. They are proofs of my new book, Thoughts in Solitude. I am completing the gift with the proofs of the front matter, which I enclose.

I am very happy about the printing job-- Prometheus. I look forward to seeing how it comes out. Soon also I hope to be able to send you a limited hand-printed edition of the Tower of Babel printed in Germany with woodcuts by Gerhardt Marcks. I am assuming the publisher will send me an extra copy!

Remember you are always welcome here. Just tell the Brother at the gate that I am expecting you, if you drop by. Father Abbot has long since given his permission-- or perhaps sometime you would like to come over with the Hammers. I will be sending along some other foreign editions soon.

With very best regards to all of you,

Sincerely yours in Christ

*J. Louis Martin*