



LE ROY, MINNESOTA

Feast of St. Joseph Calasactius

Dear Denny;

I really am sorry that I haven't written. The biggest reason I didn't, I guess, was that I preferred writing myself to dictating a letter. And somehow, things at the house just stacked up, and I never got to that private letterwriting.

I'm sorry that I shan't be at F.H. while you are there too. It would be grand if we could have a good talk or two, and it is so much easier to get things clarified by talking. You asked, I know, in a letter sometime ago, about The B. I didn't know at the time what to say. I know there has been much talk, and the O'Brien's of Kansas City were very disappointed. I rather expected that they might be. And probably there is quite a bit to be said on both sides.

The Baroness is a woman with a touch of greatness, I feel. Yet she has so many glaring faults, as do all humans. She has an ability to inspire people to action, and I feel she is very sincere. Sometimes however, working with her is not easy, and often in her actions she seems very inconsistent. Part of that is true of every person who is a leader. Probably you have realized in this past year, how easy one can be misunderstood, and how above reproach you must be when you hit on a problem like the interracial one, and you have to point a finger at wrong when it is there. With the B however, being the strong personality that she is, there are either strong likes or dislikes. She dominates a situation, which is a thing which made beginning an F.H. possible. For young people that is good, and the only way of working often. With older people, it presents many problems.

For all of us working under Catherine, there have been moments when we were irked. For many there have been moments of doubt. But I think we all recognize the ingenuity of the F.H. technique, which was basically hers, and we take it from there, with love, affection and great appreciation. From there on in, however, you realize that a movement or a group of people working are as successfully really as they are living the fullness of the dedication they have set before themselves. Things seem to succeed when they aren't at all, and they seem to fail when they are succeeding, lots of times. It is all pretty hard to judge. The only criterion one has is a personal examination of conscience, and attempt when you are in authority, to keep the first things first, in every respect.

I hope you aren't too disappointed about the SSCA. It is too bad that it worked out as it did. I wouldn't take the blame seriously, however if I were you. I think there is more to it, than that--even though I do realize how dangerous it is to bring up even just criticisms when



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you aren't in a position to change things, by bringing them up.

Margaret has sent your letter to me, so I haven't seen anything from Ramona yet. We'll probably wait on it, until we do. Right now, we have about as many people as we can carry at F.H. Chicago for the fall. I'd hate to look providence in the face and say "No"--but I can also see the problems that can result from having too large a new group, and not enough of a staff to work them in. I had decided that we'd accept no one until next March. However, we shall see.

This particular issue brings up another problem. Mildred H. talked to me about joining the staff, and I convinced her that she wasn't ready, for she really wasn't at all sure. I understand there were some difficulties between she and Ramona at Omaha. That will probably have to be looked into also.

I'm just presenting these things, in confidence, to let you know why we will probably go into the matter of taking another staffer or so quite thoroughly, before we do anything.

We got your letter from DePorress Center. You are having problems, I can see, but no doubt they're good. I wish that we were in position to send you some of that help you want. Your letter made me want to.

I hope you have a good stay in Chicago--and forgive me for the long delay in writing. It shan't happen again.

In the charity of Christ,

Betty
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