



THE CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131

15-January '66

Dear John:

Your last beautiful letter has touched + warmed my heart as no other letter received has ever done.

Of course I not only feel but know my unworthiness of the sentiments expressed + the regard you have for a wretched sinner + unworthy priest. But this constitutes my claim on your friendship whose charity always seeks out, like the charity of Christ, the unfortunate, the sick, the suffering + the abused + mistreated, especially the sinner. Surely you went farther than anyone else has ever gone in showing your love, + proving it, by becoming one of the most horribly mistreated + crucified group of human beings on the American scene. God love + reward you for it, as He surely has + will! I know of only one Person who has surpassed you + all of us + that Person is Christ, our Lord + Savior.

If only more could catch His Spirit of total self-sacrifice for the love of His Heavenly Father dwelling personally, along with His Divine Son + Holy Spirit, in every human being, at least potentially! Trying to do this during my declining years constitutes my present joy + happiness. There is nothing else worth living for, for the very simple

reason that this preempts everything else.

Since leaving the hospital about two weeks ago I have been unable to offer the Holy Sacrifice & have been excused from reciting the Divine Office, all under obedience. So I pass my time in prayer, reading & helping the poor Negroes who seek me out at Creighton, using also the phone & mail for the same purpose. I have just finished a remarkable book, "The Power & the Wisdom," by Fr. John L. McKensie, S.J., dealing with the New Testament & am now working on a companion piece, "The Two Edged Sword," by the same author & treating of the Old Testament. It is wonderful reading.

On Monday, Feb. 7th, I am expecting two of my brothers, James & Francis, to drive through Omaha on their way to St. Louis for a final reunion of what is left of the immediate family. In spite of my handicapped condition I have been granted permission to ride along with them to meet my Jesuit brother, Fr. William, & my only two sisters, Nuns of the Visitation Order, in St. Louis. This will no doubt ~~will~~ be our last family reunion. It falls on the 80th birthday of my oldest sister, Sister Anne Marie, who is far from well.

My letters call for no reply, John. A few "Paters" & "Aves" will more than suffice. I keep you & the Family continually in my prayers & sacrifices, along with the Cause we are both so interested in.

Devotedly in Christ,

Father