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ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI TRAPPIST KENTUCKY 40073

July 11, 1967

Dear Carolyn:

After my note of yesterday had been mailed I received this morning the message from Lexington and also a note from Bob Shepherd. Somehow it is just hard for me to believe that someone like Victor could possibly have left us. It is incredible, and will take an awful lot of getting used to. The fact that he does not now have to suffer and wait for the inevitable is something we can accept: but it does not help much with our own sense of loss. We will just have to get along with that as people do, and as we have tried to learn how to do in other bereavements. Yet this one is somehow different, because there was no one like Victor. Just no one. And for such a loss there are no compensations: except in our hope that he is where he should be, with God. A life like his, devoted to honesty and truth and good work, could not travel any other way but to God. I think it was most significant somehow that his last painting was of the "resurrection. And his last book, his best and his gift to you, will keep him present with us.

Today I offered Mass for the repose of his soul. He was also commemorated in the High Mass of the Community. I spoke to Bro Giles about the news and he too has been praying in a special way.

You have had a hard time of it, and I hope now you will be able to have a little rest and recuperation. And I hope in due course we will be able to get together again, here or there, and talk a little. I will write more later. For now, peace and God bless you.

Cordially as ever,

Tom.