

COLLECTED WRITINGS ATTRIBUTED TO  
THE SERVANT OF GOD  
FATHER SOLANUS CASEY, O.F.M.Cap

VOLUME II

Letters to various Individuals

Brief Messages on Cards

Spiritual Notes on Vocation,  
Atheism, Religion and others

All are listed in Chronological  
sequence but all letters to one  
person are kept together.

VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
Letters to Mrs. Alice Plunkett.....	1937, May 3...:.....1
	c. 1945.....2
(S.M.A. card).....	1945, October 20.....3
	1945, August 30.....4
	1946, November 1.....5
	c. 1947.....6
	c. 1947, January 19.....7
	1947, April 18.....8
Letters to Winifred Goodwillie (O'Donnell).....	1939, August 5.....9
	1940, August 1.....10
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell.....	1943, December 4.....11
	1945, August 7.....12
	1945, December 13.....13
	1945, December 17.....14
	1946, January 30.....15
	1946, March 2.....16
	1946, March 23.....17
	1946, April 26.....19
	1946, May 16.....20
	1946, August 14.....21
	1946, September 14.....23
	1946, October 9.....24
	1946, October 25.....26
	1946, November 20.....28
	1947, January 10.....29
	1947, February 5.....31
(to M. C. Costello - a copy).....	1947, February 27.....32
	1947, March 12.....33
	1947, March 28.....34
	1947, May 29.....35
	1947, May 30.....36
	1947, August 24.....37
	1947, August 28.....38
	1947, December 3.....39
	1948, January 29.....40
	1948, February 22.....41
	1948, March 27.....42
	1948, April 10.....43
	1948, September 23.....44
	1949, April 8.....46
	1949, July 14.....47
	1949, August 3.....48
	1949, November 6.....49
	1949, December.....50
	1950, July 8.....51
	1951, January 21.....52
	1951, March 14.....53
	1951, May 9.....54
	1952, January 1.....55
	1951, February 29.....56

VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. Peter Doyle.....c.1948, February 11.....	57
	1951, September 13.....58
Letter to Rabbi Rosenwasser.....c.1940.....	59
Letter to Mrs. Stumm.....	1940, February--October..60
Letters to Panyards - George.....	1941, February 4.....61
Grace.....	1944, March 8.....62
Doris.....c.1945.....	63
Grace.....	1945, May 12.....64
Grace.....	1945, September 23.....65
Mrs. Panyard.....	1945, November 15.....66
Doris.....	1945, December.....67
Doris.....	1946, June 18.....68
Doris.....	1947, May 6.....69
Doris.....	1947, November 28.....70
Grace.....	1947, December 18.....71
Grace.....	1948, August 3.....72
Grace.....	1950, May 19.....73
Grace.....	1951, May 2.....74
Mrs. George Sr.....	1952, April 12.....75
Doris.....	1954, March 18.....76
Doris.....	1955, April 7.....77
Thomas.....	1955, April 8.....78
Grace.....	1955, July 25.....79
Grace.....c.1956.....	80
Letter to Mae H. Whelan.....	1942, September.....81
Letter to Charles Bracken.....	1943, January 3.....84
Letter to Raymon Bowers.....	1943, November 25.....87
Letters to Muriel Krausman.....	1943, January 8.....89
	1943, September 22.....90
	1945, August 18.....91
	1945, September 15.....92
	1945, October 2.....93
	1945, November 2.....94
	1946, January 20.....95
	1946, February 2.....96
	1946, June 9.....97
	1946, September 17.....98
	1947, April 24.....99
	1947, August 4.....100
	1947, November 1.....101
	c.1948, January 23.....102
	1948, July 3.....103
	c.1949.....104
	c.1949.....105
	1949, August 30.....106
	c.1950, July 28.....107
	1950, August 10.....108

## VOLUME II

## CONTENTS

Pages

Letters to Muriel Krausman.....	c. 1953.....	109
	1953, February 18.....	110
	1953, September 21.....	111
	1954, February 2.....	112
	1955, January 15.....	113
Letters to Beatrice Lamb.....	1943, September-December	114
	1946, November 26.....	115
	1949, September 17.....	116
	c. 1949, December 20.....	117
Letters to Brother Leo Wollenweber.....	1943, January 29.....	118
	1943, February 28.....	119
	1945, July 30.....	121
	1945, August 2.....	123
	1945, September 2.....	124
	1945, September 6.....	125
	1945, September 7.....	126
	1945, December 5.....	127
	1946, May 23.....	128
	1946, October 22.....	129
	1946, October 31.....	130
	1949, August 9.....	131
	1951, August 11.....	132
	1952, July 30.....	133
Notes and Recipe for Baked Beans.....	c. 1944.....	135
	c. 1944.....	136
Letter to Simon Houlihan.....	1944, July 25.....	137
Letter to Daughters of Isabella.....	1945, February 11.....	138
Letter to Frater Sebastian (Schuler).....	1945, April 28.....	140
Letter to Sister Mary Joseph.....	1945, May 21.....	141
Notes about 1945 trip.....	1945, June 15.....	143
Letter to Father Marion (Roessler).....	1945, July 9.....	144
Letter to Mrs. Mary Kenny.....	1945, August 28.....	146
Letter to Sister Mary Belita.....	1945, September 15.....	147
Letter to Helen Skonieczny.....	1945, October 1.....	148
Letter to Ray Garland.....	1945, October 22.....	149
Letter to Mrs. D. E. Wolf .....	1945, October 25.....	150
Letters to Mrs. Helen Winke.....	1945, October 24.....	151
	c. 1947.....	152

VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
Letter to Mr. Winke.....	1948, September 4.....153
Letter to Edward P. Wollenweber.....	1945, December.....154
Notes on Photo.....	c.1945.....155
Notes on Card.....	c.1945.....156
Letter to Mrs. M. E. Barden.....	1946, January 8.....157
Letter to Mrs. Verna O'Neill.....	1946, January 12.....158
Letter to Mrs. Ruth Dotson.....	1946, January 28.....159
Letter to Mrs. Edward Wiethoff.....	1946, January 31.....161
Letter to Mildred Maneal.....	c.1946.....162
Notes - A. Vocation.....	c.1946.....164
Notes - On Atheism.....	c.1946.....165
Notes - added to Message of P. Pio.....	c.1946.....166
to Mr. & Mrs. John Beaman (S.M.A.card)....	1946, March 7.....167
Letters to Dr. William Koch.....	1946, March 12.....168
	1946, March 17.....171
	1946, April 5.....173
to Mrs. Cather Ravine (S.M.A. card).....	1946, May 20.....174
Letter to Belle Lyke.....	1946, May 22.....175
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Geraci.....	1946, June 21.....177
	c.1947.....178
	c.1947.....179
Letter to Officer Walter McClellan.....	1946, July 1.....180
to Mrs. Marion Stone (S.M.A. card).....	1946, August 8.....182
Letters to Bernice M. Schumacher.....	1946, August 16.....183
	1946, September 23.....184
Letter to Mrs. Geraldine Bieke.....	1946, September 19.....185
Letters to Alice O'Brien.....	1946, November 1.....186
	1947, February 11.....187
Letter to William Holdsworth.....	1946, November 14.....188
Letter to Mrs. Bridget Ronan.....	1946, November 24.....189

VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
Letters to Henry S. Morgan.....	1946, December 14.....191
	1947, February.....193
Letter to Mrs. Abraham Trabulay.....	1946, December 14.....195
Letters to Dr. J.P. Young.....	1946, December 17.....197
	1947, May 25.....199
	1947, October 4.....203
Notes for Golden Jubilee.....	1946, January 14.....207
	1947, January.....208
Letter to Father Simon(Hesse).....c.	1947.....209
Recording of talk at O'Donnells.....c.	1947.....210
Letter to Dear Friend.....c.	1947.....211
Letter to Miss Larmee.....c.	1947.....212
to Catherine (S.M.A. card).....c.	1947.....213
to Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Barnum (S.M.A. card)...	1947, July 20.....213
Letter to Raymond T. Taylor.....	1947, February 8.....214
Letter to Mrs. Irene O'donnell.....	1947, February 13.....217
Letter to Margaret Doyle.....	1947, February 13.....219
	1949, March 6.....220
Letter to M. Marie Baxter.....	1947, February 11.....222
Letter to Mrs. Raymond Gabriella Smith.....	1947, February 24.....224
Letter to Charles M. Turrell, M. ....	1947, March 1.....226
Letter to Sister Matthew.....	1947, March 5.....227
Letter to Mrs. Maxine Cavanaugh.....	1947, March 5.....228
Letter to Mr. C. W. Seery.....	1947, May 10.....230
Letter to Merrick O'Loughlin.....	1947, June 20.....232
Note about Eagen Case.....	1947, August 6.....234
Letter to Miss Medora Louisell.....	1947, September 10.....235
Letter to Mrs. Mauer.....	1947, October 24.....236



VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
To Mr and Mrs. Harold Sherman (S.M.A. card).....	1949, July 18:.....279
Letter to Mrs. E. Netty.....	1949, July 18.....280
Letter to Granma Kauffman.....	1949, August 9.....281
Letter to Miss Margaret Shavey.....	1949, October 3.....282
Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Holtz.....	1949, October 23.....283
Letter to Miss Beatrice Cahill.....	1949, October 29.....285
Notes - Dogma of Assumption Divinely Opportune.c.	1949, December.....286
-Dogma of Assumption Divinely Opportune (II).c.	1949, December.....287
Notes on Seraphic Mass Association.....	c.1950.....288
Letters to Sister M. Constance.....	1950, February 11.....290
	1950, March 15.....293
	1951, April 8.....295
Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Gearardo.....	1950, February 11.....296
Letter to Mrs. E. L. Eichhorn.....	1950, March 4.....297
Letter to John Martin - Frater Don Bosco.....	1950, August 18.....299
Letter to Unknown.....	1950, August 24.....301
Letter to Mrs. Farmer.....	1950, Setpember 23.....302
Letters to Michael Cefai.....	1950, October 7.....303
	1951, February 11.....304
	c.1951, April 11.....305
to Mrs. Philomena Discenna (S.M.A.card)..	1950, November 11.....306
Letter to Mrs. Raymond Schick.....	1951, January 29.....307
to Ven. Sister Mary Leoncia (S.M.A.card)..	1951, April 22.....308
Letters to Miss Loretto Gibson.....	1951, May 13.....309
	1951, September 8.....311
	1956, April 1.....313
Letters to Mr. & Mrs. H. Ricard.....	1951, May 30.....314
	1951, October 11.....315



VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter to Rev. Mother Mary Hilda.....	1951, July 13.....316
	1951, July 26.....317
Notes - Priviledged Sacrifices.....c.	1951, September.....319
Notes -Blessed be God in all His Designs.....	1952, January 17.....320
to Marty O'Hara (on Holy Card).....	1952, March 23.....321
Letter to Miss Margaret Belain.....	1952, May 6.....322
Letters to Frank B. Stabile.....	1952, July.....323
	1952, July 28.....324
Letters to Philip M. O'Brien.....	1952, August 14.....325
	1952, August 20.....326
Letter to Fred Thomas.....	1952, September 3.....327
Letter to Rev. Thomas G. Brennan.....c.	1952, November 24.....328
Letter to Rt. Rev. Edward J. Hickey.....c.	1953, May.....329
Letter to Mr. Wallace V.E. Bedolfe.....	1953, August 6.....332
Letter to Mrs. Fred Birkhill.....	1953, August 29.....333
Letter to Mrs. Mary Polack.....	1953, September 17.....334
Letter to Frank M. Foran.....	1953, September 24.....335
Letter to Joseph Watt.....	1953, October 31.....336
Letter to Mrs. J. Czuboj.....	1953, November 7.....337
Letter to Patrick Gainer.....	1953, November 25.....338
Letters to Miss Majorie Franklin.....	1953, November 25.....339
	1956, August 15.....340
Letter to Ambrose (DeGroot).....	1954, January 12.....341
Notes on Photos.....c.	1954.....342
Prayer for Peace.....c.	1954.....343

VOLUME II

CONTENTS

	Pages
Letter to Ven. Sister Mary Dianne.....c.1954.....	344
Letter to Philip Leslie.....1954, May 4.....	345
to Philip L'Esperance (S.M.A.card).....1954, September 4.....	346
Note to Father Venantius (Buessing).....c.1954, September 9.....	347
Letter to James A. Carrico.....1954, December 28.....	348
Notes on 1954 Jubilee cards.....c.1954.....	350
Letters to Ven. Sister Mary Bernice.....1955, January 30.....	351
to Jack Bickel (S.M.A.card).....1955, March 20.....	353
to Mr. Hoffa (S.M.A.card).....1957, March 17.....	353
Poem and notes on Photo.....c.1956.....	354
Letter to Betty Kopplin.....c.1956, March 22.....	355
Letter to Brother Gabriel (Badalment).....1956, October 6.....	356
Notes about Egan (Eagen) Case.....1956, November 9.....	357
Notes on envelope from Mrs. John Fellrath.....1957, March 17.....	358
The Corcoran Publishing Co.....1957, April 6.....	359
Letter to Winifred and Edward Brand.....1957, April 11.....	360

1937, May 3

The following is a faithful transcription of a copy of a poem by Mamie Casey McCluskey, typed with handwritten notations by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

(Sent to Mrs. Plunkett)

May 3, 1937

Dear Mrs. Plunkett: - Congratulations!

Written - To the notes of "Believe Me if All" -  
(By Mamie G. Casey McCluskey in 1913)

"Daddy and Mother Machree"

With festival gladness we gather today,  
Dear old Daddy and Mother Machree,  
And with hearts overflowing sing homage to you  
On your Golden Jubilee.  
For fifty long years life's pathway adown,  
In devotion together you've trod  
With a tear and a smile in your eyes all the while,  
True as any to the "Dear Ould Sod!"

In the May-time of Life, with our daily tasks o'er,  
We'd unite at the close of the day,  
Round you, then you taught us to kneel by your side,  
In love and thanksgiving to pray.  
In the world's field of battle, with hearts  
strong and brave,  
You marched, comrades faithful and true,  
Oh! may we, dear parents, wherever we rove-  
Be as loyal and steadfast as you.

And may the sweet lessons of Faith, Hope and Love,  
That we learned, parents dear, at your knee,  
Be as beacons to guide us to Heaven above,  
While we sail over life's stormy sea.  
And now in the calmness of life's sunset glow,  
We are gathered once more round your knee,  
Fore'er in our hearts will burn homage and love,  
For you, Daddy and Mother Machree.

(Added at end by Fr. Solanus)

I am sure with a little practice this sung as above ... will edify  
its hearers.

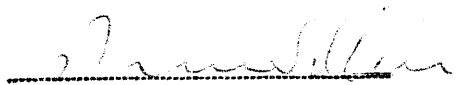
Fr. Solanus Casey, OM Cap.  
St. Bonaventure Monastery  
1740 Mt. Elliott Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

Pl. Pardon Haste

P.S. Please Mrs Plunkett: This will be more than would be my going thither.  
Congratulations.

Fr. Solanus

Original in possession of: Mildred M. Morrin  
5983 Greenwoode Road, Apt. 4210  
Pontiac, Michigan 48054

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

c.1945

/POST CARD/

St. Michaels Monastery  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn, 7, N.Y.

Mrs. Alice Plunkett  
Apt. 215  
11 Moss Ave.  
Highland Park Michigan

God bless you Mrs. Plunkett - you and yours,

You've been on my mind frequently these days.  
I wanted to write you but getting acquainted in a  
new place keeps one on edge pretty much.

I inscribed the names you sent me recently thru  
Rae Garland and I am surely pleased to know your able  
to keep up the good work. Thanks be to God. The  
above Monastery is where I made my annual retreat  
last week. It is across the Hudson from Lady Cliff  
convent and West Point Military College - the latter  
about a mile and a half up. Thank God it is quite  
an ideal place for quiet reflection and study. About  
75 priests, Clerics and lay brothers, ...

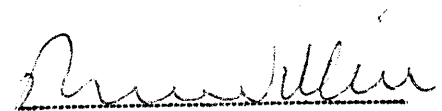
God bless you again and keep well...

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

---

Note: Above postcard was of Mary Immaculate Friary,  
Garrison, N.Y.

Original in Possession of: Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 2  
Notarius

1945, October 20

1947. January 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

---

ON A SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION PLAQUE, THE FOLLOWING IS  
HANDWRITTEN BY FR. SOLANUS:

Mrs. Alice Plunkett  
for God's Holy Guidance -

October 20<sup>th</sup> 1945

God bless you Mrs. Plunkett,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.  
Delegate

Thanks be to God Grandma! You've wethered another storm...  
Congratulations! Pray for all the rest of us, that we learn  
to love God's holy will.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

---

ON A GOLDEN JUBILEE REMEMBRANCE CARD, THE FOLLOWING IS  
HANDWRITTEN BY FR. SOLANUS:

Jan. 14

God bless you Mrs. Plunkett

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C

---


ON A SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION CARD, THE FOLLOWING IS  
HANDWRITTEN BY FR. SOLANUS:

God bless Grandma Plunkett  
and all her helpers and friends.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1945, August 30

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

August 30<sup>th</sup> 1945

Mrs. Alice Plunkett  
Detroit, Michigan

God bless you Mrs. Plunkett - Grandma Plunkett, -  
you and your crowd.

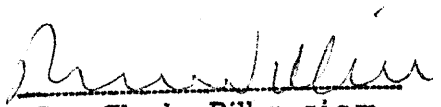
Please say a prayer that I may catch up with  
the correspondence.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. Many thanks for favor just noted.

Original in possession of: Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 4  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, Nov. 1

POST CARD

"O all ye works of the Lord! Bless the Lord. ...."

November 1st All Saints 1946.

God bless you Mrs. Alice - Grandma Plunkett --  
yourself and all the Plunkett Family and Clan.

I surely thank you for your practical way of remembering me on my 76<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope the dear Lord may be pleased to leave yourself with us till you round out the 100. After all that cant be much more than a dozen years. So take courage and stay till your ripe enough for Heaven to take a "no stop-passage." .... God's blessing and graces to yourself and to all our dear friends in Detroit.


Sincerely yours in Christ.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Original in possession of: Mildred M. Morrin  
5983 Greenwoode Road, Apt. 4210  
Pontiac, Michigan 48054

Received: March 25, 1977

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

c. 1947

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Dear Mrs. Plunkett,

Thank you for your kind favor of July 19,  
received and duly recorded. May the good Lord  
always give you true interior joy.

God bless you,

Yes God bless you Grandma Plunkett.  
Keep young in heart and pray for us  
youngsters -- clear down to youngest  
great-grandchild.


Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

---

Note: Above note typewritten by Fr. Solanus' secretary.  
Added by Fr. Solanus in hand, "Yes God bless you  
...yours in Christ" preceding his handwritten  
signature.

Original in Possession of: Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



c. 1947, January 19

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Praised be God in all His  
designs! January 19<sup>th</sup>

God bless you Mrs. Plunkett - with all and each of  
your dear ones.

Many thanks again for your cooperation in the privileged  
work of the poor missions.

Thanks be to God, though my shins are stiff and  
a little swollen, they are improving and I hope in a  
short time to get at my regular schedule.

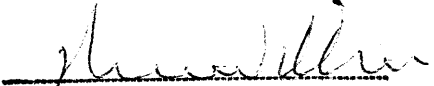
I hope nothing serious be found with Esther and  
that she be back soon in good shape.

I just received a letter from Fr. Maurice in  
Gracevill Minn. You remember he was six years in  
Mt. Hope San. Baltimore. Thank God he seems to coming  
along ok. He was installed out there as Chaplin last  
May. Msgr. Edw'd still working in St. Paul - till his  
Most Rev. Bishop call him back to the Islands - lecturing,  
giving missions, retreats, etc. ....God bless you one and  
all again.

Praised be Jesus and Mary!

...Fr. Solanus, OFMC

Original in Possession of: Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, April 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

(POST CARD)

Mrs. Alice Plunkett  
11 Moss Ave.  
Highland Park 3, Michigan

Blessed be God in all His works!

April 18th 1947.

God bless you Grandma Plunkett--yourself and  
your many friends.

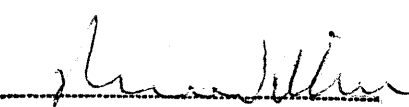
- Many thanks for your charitable favor of several week  
past duely received and noted. Please pardon my so long  
delayed acknowledgement. Keep well and pray for the conversion  
of the rest of us--poor sinners as we all are.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Miss Esther Plunkett  
20505 Charleston  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1939, August 5

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Aug 5 1939

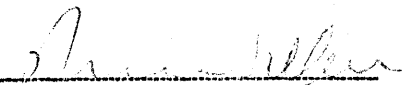
Miss Winifred Goodwillie  
416 Barry Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

St. Bonaventure Monastery  
1740 Mt. Elliott Ave  
Detroit, Mich

Dear Miss Goodwillie: - God bless you and yours.

I just received your air favor and have inscribed you in the Seraphic  
Mass Association for your special Intent. Please God I hope things  
may brighten soon in regards to that same. However, and by all means  
shake off that anxiety of yours. Last year it was about something  
that now you smile about. To-day its about some thing that will not  
be serious if you raise your heart to God every time it comes to your  
mind and thank Him for whatever is to come.....

Very Sincerely yours in Christ.  
Fr. Solanus, O.M.Cap

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1940, August 1

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Capuchin Monastery  
Glenclyffe  
Garrison, N.Y.

August 1st 1940.

Miss Winifred Goodwillie  
228 N. LaSalle St.  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss Goodwillie:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your kind favor of July 17th.  
I am sure Fr. Lambert acknowledged same befor.

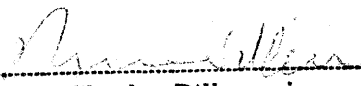
Leaving for a trip to see an invalid brother of mine in Baltimore. I  
took your letter along hoping to answer it as it deserves to be answered;  
but I find myself almost as busy on my "vacation as in the office in  
Detroit.

However, before I leave here as expected right after dinner, I want to  
assure you of my appreciation and that I shall surely include Joseph  
O'Donnell in my poor prayers as well as yourself.

Now it's time and for the present I'll say Goodbye and again

God bless you.

Fr. Solanus Casey  
O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, December 4

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

(First part is a printed card of acknowledgement:)

In acknowledgement of your charitable gifts of

Five Dollars

for which we are extremely grateful, and for your civic minded interest in the welfare of God's poor.

REV. Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(to the above Fr. Solanus added the following written message:)

God bless you Winifred O'Donnell and Joseph too.

Pl. pardon delay in acknowledgement. Hope by this time things have adjusted themselves brigher and better than before.

(on other side of card)

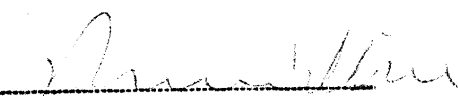
December 4th, 1943

P. S. God bless you Mrs. O'Donnell again. Having written the acknowledgement over several weeks ago without mailing it at once, I just found it snowed under other work.

I hope things have adjusted themselves brighter before this. Brs. Francis and Leo and all send Best Regards. Now that the season for it is fast approaching we wish you all the blessings that go to make a really blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely in the Sacred Heart.

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. C.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, August 7th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

August 7th, 1945

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell - Joe and Winey  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago.

Dear Friends:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for kind favor of June 29th. I hope that you are back from your trip to the S.West. that you found things favorable and may you profit in many ways. More when I get settled in this new location. Many thanks for your prayers. Please keep them up.

Sincerely Yours in KTO. Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C

1945, September 26th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

Sept. 26th 1945.


Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Friends:

God bless you and yours. Having noted your kind request several weeks ago (Aug. 29) I hoped to find leisure for a few details. I've put it off again and again and its the same thing. My letters accumulate more and more. At all events I thank you (if I havent done it before anyhow).

I hope those annoying problems in the S.West have adjusted by this time. We'll continue our prayers that things improve. God bless you again.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, December 13

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten message on a Christmas card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

(to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell)

after the Printed Christmas Greeting Fr. Solanus wrote:

In short a joyful Blessed Christmas and success spiritually and temporarily the following year -- years.

Fraternally in Christo

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

P. S. The fruit is excellent -- really worth while  
--- Two big bushels

God bless all.


(following written on another card which had a St. Christopher medal attached:)

Feast of Purification '45

God bless and protect all who follow the inclosed St. Christopher---just blessed.

God bless all the O'Donnells -----

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. C.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, December 17

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

December 17th 1945.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Ill.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

My Dear Friends: God bless you and yours. Many thanks indeed for your charitable favor noted yesterday. I came just in nice time - especially the smaller cheque - to enroll quite a number of my friends in the Ser Mass Assoc'n for a Christmas gifte. - a double, tripple charity.

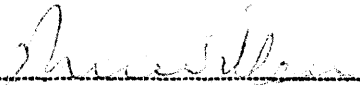
Thinking you were down in Texas for the Winter I addressed a letter to you only last week - to Palmer Hotel Mc Allen Texas - the address as - indicated on the baskets of fine fruit that came to us in your name - and for which I want to thank you again - for the twofine baskets of delicious fruit.

You will very likely receive the letter forwarded with the relics of V.Mother Mary of Jesus, of Agreda, which had inclosed.

Again thanking you for your many favors I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in the Divine Infant Jesus.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1946, January 30

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

January 30 1946.

Mr. and Mrs Joseph O'Donnell.  
Casa de Palmas  
McAllen Texas.

Mass Association  
Capuchin Fathers  
225 Jerome St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

My Dear Friends: God bless you and yours

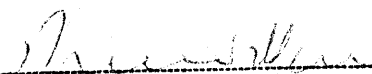
Just uncovering Win's letter of Jan. 18 I determined without further delay write you at least a few lines. - Better waiting for time to write a letter.

First I've been wanting, it seem to me two months, to thank for that second delivery from the "Grove" - if anything an improvement on the 1st. The Brethren surely appreciated them.

Then Many thanks for your mission-activity - and Win's too - in the many enrollments, including the old sinner who has given us here so much conscience trouble, Fr. Solanus - and the other features of your monthly donations - so often (as must seem to you) unappreciated.

I do hope you are both enjoying your vacation in your sunny S.Western sojourn .... Praised be Jesus and Mary.

..... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, March 2nd

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

March 2nd 1946

Mr. J.J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

My Dear Friends Joseph -  
Joseph and Winifred:

God bless you and keep you well. - you and yours. I'd like to write you a real letter but this is just to thank you for crate of fine oranges received here in excellent condition a few days back. They are very good. - in fact I think the best yet. How wonderful is the dear Lord in all His works!

Praised Be The Lord!

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap

1946, March 15th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

March 15th 1946.

Mr. Joseph O'Donnell.  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois.


God bless you Josph O'Donnell - you and yours.

I was in hopes to catch up with my correspondence and then write you, but it seems the letters come faster and faster so that I have to keep right on the job; and the longer I wait the more what's not too urgent gets snowed under.

At all events I want to say at least thank you for the big crate of fine Grape-fruit. Many thanks indeed. You can see for yourself. this is hardly an expert<sup>an</sup> underwood.

God bless and keep us all.

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, March 23rd

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.

March 23rd 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
1120 Lake Shore Drive,  
Chicago, Illinois.

My Dear Friends:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your generous favor of March 19, duly received and noted.

I am surely pleased to know of your privileged trip to the famous Shrine of Guadalupe, and especially of the hoped-for improvement in your health as surely a part consequence. I surely congratulate you and Mrs. O'Donnell on such a pleasant and praiseworthy experience.  
Deo Gr.

Now in regard to the laudable proposition you dream about, viz, the education of a candidate for the Holy Priesthood: I would consider such a proposition as always more or less of a supernatural inspiration. There is so much call for such activity - real Catholic Action - that, as I believe, there are comparatively few outside the Bishops and Superiors of the different Orders who realize its crying necessity.

Personally and just at present, however, I would be reluctant to advise in such a proposition, when I know of others, in consequence of their office or position who would be pleased and better able to guide you than I might.

Hence I am referring your laudable proposition/our Father Provincial, the very Rev. Father Clement, O.F.M.Cap. who's address is  
1740 Mt.Elliott Ave.Detroit 7, Mich.

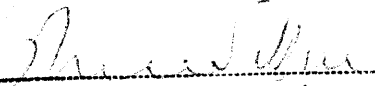
He, perhaps better than anyone in the Province of Saint Joseph, would know best how to advise in such matters. I do know that the education of poor students and candidates has always been quite a problem in our educational institutions. Often some of the brightest and most promising students come from poor families and I am quite sure we have never as yet "turned down" on account of financial shortage. However, it is none the less quite a problem for the Province of St. Joseph - your own dear Patron.

So I am sure that whatever you may see able and disposed to do for the Province/ would be gratefully appreciated.

Again wishing you God' blessing, I beg to remain

Very Sincerely Your in Christ.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, March 23

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
Page 2

P.S. Dear Joseph: I shall inform Father Provincial of your proposition and will probably hear from him before long. He naturally must feel a relief whenever he finds anyone able and willing to help in such a financial difficulty.  
Fr. Sol.

1946, June 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Peace of the Lord

June 18th, 1946

God bless you, Mr. and Mrs.  
Joseph and Mrs. O'Donnell.

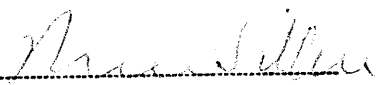
Many thanks for your recent favors - duly received and noted.

We are preparing for the glorious Feast of Corpus Christi this Thursday and next Sunday - with procession and Benediction at the Monastery - garden Shrine, at 2:30 the latter date. It would be an edifying treat - the only time in the year that the Garden is open to Cath. public.

. . . Furthermore, since our Father Provincial was called to Rome to be Most Rev. General; we are to have a provincial Chapter, July 11 - 14th. Please help us storm Heaven for guidance. . . . Praised be Jesus!

Sincerely in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, April 26th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Saint Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana.  
Route 8

April 26th 1946.  
Praise the Lord all ye works of the Lord.


Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell  
Chicago, Illinois

My Dear Friends:

God bless you and yours.

Many thanks for your recent favor - duly received and noted. Rev.  
Fr. Provincial - Fr. Clement evidently appreciated your generous  
offer to help educate clerics, etc. for the Holy Priesthood. He  
was unexpectedly called to Rome about the time. An appreciative  
letter seemed to be about all he could send me in this regard.  
He hoped at his conclusion to get in touch with you later on. I  
was surprised - not unpleasantly - at my transfer hither to St.  
Felix. Only about 90 miles from Chicago. So I'll be expecting to see  
you some of these fine coming May days.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, a.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, May 16th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed and handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois.

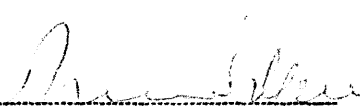
May 16th, 1946.

God bless you Mrs. O'Donnell, you and yours. Many thanks for the favor just received. Please God I'll have the holy Mass soon as requested.

Thank you also for the copy of the "Breeze ...". I had been figuring on getting a copy to send to our recently appointed General in Rome. .... Indeed I quite enjoyed our mutual visits and entertainment a week ago. How quickly the time flies! I almost said "last Sunday." Well, please God I'll be better acquainted the next time myself, and hope to do better.

I am surely pleased to know of the remarkable change in the condition and attitude of poor, dear old Mrs. O'Donnell. Thanks be to God again and our Blessed Mother Mary. I have no doubt that her cure is just another of the blessings in simple consequence of your active interest in our Bl. Mother - THE MYSTICAL CITY OF GOD. I am quite sure both Ray Garland and Louis Bernicken would say the same thing if they knew about.... We are so weak in setting limits to God's power and goodness.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, August 14th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Saint Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana.  
Route 8

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

August 14th, 1946

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. O'Donnell - Joe. and Win. Chicago, Ill.

God bless you and keep you well - you and yours. I am glad to know you enjoyed your southern - S-Western trip and especially that you are returned safe and sound. Thanks be to God for all his wonderful, merciful designs.

Many thanks to you also for your kind favor just noted.

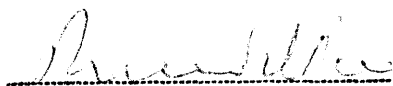
As to the Groves and the young trees; well we'll hope the enrollments and prayers otherwise may work something in their favor. We had quite an example here this past Spring and Summer. On the third of May (I believe that was the date), we had quite a heavy frost just when the apple-trees and grape-vines were nicely in bloom. We were rather anticipating what came; so that, in hopes the frost might be thwarted some way, one of the fathers went through the whole, plot or plots, with stole and ritual and holy-water blessing everything. Alas! Next morning, you can imagine our dismay. Notwithstanding the blessing the frost had come and seemingly frozen many of the apples and about 95% of the grapes.

It surely looked hopeless, especially in the vineyard. Father Guardian, now over 76 who had done so much pruning, etc. last Fall and during the Winter, felt worse, seemingly than anyone else. Only yesterday, in a talk he gave us, he acknowledged that he could have cried.

Nevertheless inside of ten days other shoots came out and blossomed and now the younger, to everyone's surprise, seem bigger and more promising than the first. Deo Gratias

August 15th.

The apple-trees and others, especially the pears and some of the peaches look very promising this morning, if only now the dear Lord sends us a good rain; for we have had it quite dry for the last six or seven weeks. We are praying that during the octave of our Bl. Mother's Assumption at least we may have the favor from Heaven of a good rain.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, August 14th

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell

Page 2

I am surely pleased to know that the Garland Family is doing so well and that Rae and Mrs. - Sr. - enjoyed their privileged pilgrimage to the famous shrines of St. Joseph and good St. Ann. May they live long and have many such happy experiences.

Thanks be to God for everything.

Sincerely Yours in Christ

August 20th 1946.

P.S.-like.

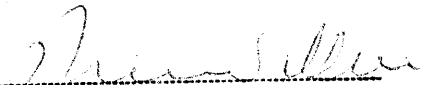
Thanks be to God and our Blessed Mother - The Mystical City of God - the good rain has come! Everyone a person meets seems to appreciate the great good it has done. Praised be His Holy Name ! .....

Yes I would be glad to see you again some of these beautiful days. However, just incidently, the third Sunday of the month is visiting day for the novices and that is more or less a pritty busy day, especially for the laybrothe and the novices themselves. Another day, therefore, might be preferable.

Please pardon brevity.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1946, September 14th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

September 14th 1946

Mr. Joseph O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell, Chicago -

O all ye works of the Lord! Bless the Lord.

Sept. 14th 1946 - getting late P.M.

God bless you Joseph and Winnie.

Just a few words this time to catch you before going S.W. - in  
case you desid it necessary.

An enrolling "Emergent-Manager and Employees of O'Donnell's Texas  
Fruit Farm." I hope things smoothe off without any serious difficulty-  
and that the trouble prove "just a little ripple on the surface.....  
Many thanks for your kind favor of Sept. 6. I had my two Rev. Brothers  
Msgr Ed and Fr. M. E. Joachim last week. The latter left yesterday.  
Expect former back from Boston in week or so.....Again many thanks  
and God love and keep you both.... Just say the Our Father sloly and  
devoutly for above trouble.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

Praised be Jesus and Mary our dear Blessed Mother! Fr. Sol.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 9th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

October 9th 1946.

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
Casa de Palmas Hotel  
McAllen, Texas.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Ind.


My Dear Friend Joseph:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your kind favor - rather from Win-  
Chicago via Texas reenforce by Joe., just noted. I do hope that things  
brighten up before the week is over and that you return to the temperat  
zone relieved and at least content if not satisfied with the outcome of  
your, more or less force visitation. It almost seems too bad that it was not  
a couple months later, so that you might escape some of the probably cold  
months we are likely to be in for before the ripening of the next oranges,  
etc.

At all events try and shake of as much as you can of that over-due worry,  
so common to Chinese, etc business-men - like the O'Donnells and Kcs,  
O'Caseys and Mulligans, etc.

We are having quite ideal days here in the vicinity of the Wabash and  
Maumee "water-shed the one heading for the S-West to the great Gulf, the  
other North-east to the Great lakes and the shrines of Mont Reall, Qubec  
and across the briney Atlantic, etc. I sometimes imagine I'd like to  
follow them - as when a small child, when I was wont to coach little bark  
"boats" down the rills of melting snows to bigger ravines and deeper waters,-  
- forgetting all about soaked shoes and torn trouser and often thinking of  
my soul's journey to eternity. What happy days those! Why? I suppose  
because we knew nothing of sin and worry, and everything waiving to the  
wupernatural. Still, as dear Mother remarked on the occasion of her golden  
wedding when talking about events and places familiar fort and more and  
less back some one remarked: "Wouldnt it be nice if we could go back to  
those days?", Mother answered as half to herself: "Thanks be to God, I'm  
glad its over." I thought afterwards, infact it there was something in  
her voice that seemed to reinvision the trials of those pioneer days in  
West Siconsin - happy as it was for the youngsters - as days of trials  
and struggles outweighing the pleasures, save that she was doing God's holy  
will, doing something for God and humanity and in hopes of brighter days as  
the years ripened for her promising family that she was then coaching on the  
one great pilgrimage to eternity.

The peace that still still hovers on her brow - photo on that occasion of  
her golden wedding - bespeaks ~~the~~ something of joy in her soul at the  
rememberence of those day of trials for her as well as something of the  
confidence that filled her heart - confidence - that she had tried at least  
not in vain, to come up to ideal of raising a family for God and His Church.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 9th

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell

Incidentally, I am not sure if I ever showed that photo. In case of neglect on my part heretofore, please remind me when you come the next time and I shall be pleased, as I am sure you will be.


Please pardon if this is getting too drawn-out. I'll try and catch you before you leave for the North.

God bless you again and I want you to bring me something about the conversion of that manager of yours down there - or of one nearer the ideal.

Sincerely Your in Christ,  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus and Our Blessed Mother Mary

Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 25th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

October 25th 1946

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. - Joe and Win O'Donnell

Yes, just starting my 77th anniversary as your wrie held me up at my above,  
first period after the date, - just starting to answer your charitable  
letter received this am. Many thanks for your generosity as well as for  
so kind a remeberence on this ocasion.


I had some friends down from Detroit yesterday to remind me of and to  
congratulate on my 76thB-day.

I was on retreat last week and on Sunday went to Detroit and in the evening  
to Windsor, Ontario, Can. to the "Send-off celebration" given to Fr.  
Julius O.F.M.Cap. by his old friends in the parish of his childhood -  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor. He was supposed to leave for Guam Missions in  
November. It was Monday evening when we returned and I felt I must get  
at my work and catch up, etc. Well, Deo gratia for every thing! Thanks  
be to Go. ....

As to your German candidate farm-manager's system of religion - lutheran:  
well, it might be better and would certainly be more promising if he were  
known to be a practical Catholic; but if he give evidence of honesty and  
the fear of God and thrift as best he can - with experience bhind him, I  
would be ~~very~~ inclined to him rather than to a fresh graduate from most/  
of our universities who have had little or no practical farm experien.

After all the lutherans, as a rule, know more of Christianity than most  
any of the other non-catholic Christian denominations. Besides, these day  
protestantism as a whole seems to be rapidly crumbling. The whole trouble  
with honest protestants - and thank God there a lot of such - is that thy  
simply do not know the real relationship between their own denomination and  
the Mother-church. Otherwise equal, I would take a conscientious lutheran  
ten times in preference to just a nominal Catholic. I know from childhood  
how to appreciate German lutherans. If the change of clamate benot too  
radical and this man's wife and daughter can aide, etc, I would be inclined  
in his favor.

In the mean time, however, let us pray for divine grudance - especially  
turning to St. Josep and the Poor Souls. How about inviting the latter to  
- especially our own relatives amongst them - to take an interest with us  
and become missionaries with a promise to enroll them, e.g., for a certain  
% of the proffits. That I always call a double charity; to our neighbor,  
viz, to our fellow members of the militent Church, the missionaries and  
their work and then to the Church-suffering, the poor, holy souls.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 25th

Mr. and Mrs. - Joe and Win O'Donnell

Several years ago and frequently later on, I was assured that one of the great factors in the financial success of "old-man Rockefeller" was often attributed to his having kept a promise to spend something like 10% of his profits to one or other charitable work. I am quite inclined to take stock in such a report. I have seen the like work out in other cases.

Please pardon my prolongation of this conclusion. I meant to close in just a line or two here.

With best wishes and God's blessing to all our friends in Chicago, I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

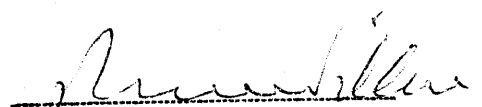
November 8th.

Just another case of: "The more hurry the less speed".

God help us. I was just looking for something else - a copy of that letter I was writing to the big policeman, McClellan of Detr't and that I wanted to "point up a little" - and I find two of the above and both marked "copy". So I must conclude that you never received either.

I need no further excuse for tardiness this time - and perhaps more to be regretted of something less or more regrettable?!?!? Thank the dear Lord for mistakes too. And thank Him that it's not ten-times worse. Possibly the delay may, to have been a salutary one. Please God it may not be other.

God bless you each and all again  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, November 20th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Nov. 20th 1946

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois.

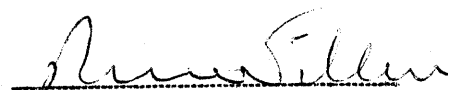
St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Thanks and praise be to the Lord for all His designs.

God bless you Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell - you and yours.

Many thanks for your generous favors - fruits excellent - and checks,  
prayers, etc. I have been with this on my mind for weeks .....

21st Only late last nigh did I get to read your very interesting letter  
of the 16th. Thanks be to God! How wonderful was His delicate "hold-  
up" of that letter I had marked "Copy.".....! I sure congratulate you on  
seemingly providential guidance on your late trip But after all, what  
might we not expect if we would trust in God and leave things more and  
more in His divine hands. Simplicity and confidence in God was the real  
secret of Young Tobias' success in the Old Testament - and Jacob's too. ....  
I will try and send the certificates - and write to Mrs. Goodwillie soon  
..... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap. Sinner.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, January 10th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

January 10th, 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Drive  
Chicago, Ill.

Capuchin Franciscan Fathers  
Saint Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana.

My Dear Friends: God bless you and yours, - for brighter days and a  
more peaceful and successful new year, God willing.

I just received your letter of yesterday and am hoping to see you Monday  
night. Do not worry about coming late. It is very seldom I get on the  
mattress till after 10 'clock.

Only last evening I wrote my Niece, Mrs. Dean Conley, of (I just have not  
the number) N. Riordan Road, that you were coming and asking them to get  
word to you I expected you. I invited them too. I want you to meet them.  
I think you would enjoy each other's company.

As for the Farm: Well, of course such temporalities are always more or  
less a cause of worry whatever way one takes them. As you say: the times  
are so very upset and abnormal that it is no simple problem to carry on  
successfully at or with most any business. One hardly knows what to  
turn to or to invest in. I hoped from your letter a month or so ago - and  
I am sure you felt that way - that your visit to the S. West was providentially  
in your favor. I am inclined to confidence anyhow in Mr. Costello. Perhaps  
we ought to pray more for him and wait gently, viz, that he become a little  
more unselfish, etc. However, I was talking with Father Coughlin during  
that threatening Coal-strike about the general outlook and he was telling us  
that the financial-Jews seemed to be expecting a serious depression, from  
the fact that at that time they were selling everything they could.  
Therefore, he concluded as did others, that they were figuring on something  
worse than came at least from that strike so far. I suppose that we can  
hardly do better than just pray on, doing the best we know from day today  
and trust in divine Providence without too much anxiety. May the God God  
guide us all!

I was just speaking to Father Guardian - our local Superior about inviting  
you and the Conleys and he too will be expecting you. He said: ".We  
can accommodate seven guests nicely and if necessary some of the men could  
be otherwise accommodated.

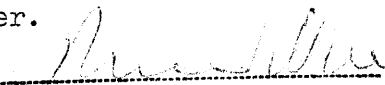
The Conleys have two little boys, the younger must be a little over two years  
old. If you don't mind you could call them up to that effect.

Incidentally, the old violin just arrived this p.m. and is in good condition.  
Thanks be to God for all His  
unsearchable designs.

Sincerely Yours in the Sacred Heart,

I ought to say in the blessed Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap Sinner.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, January 10th

Page 2

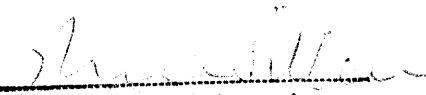
(a P.S. to the previous page.)

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell

In the mean time do not forget to say little prayer now and then that I make a little faster progress in conversion the coming fifty years than during the past. Ofcourse the next will probably shorter than the past twenty-five.

Praised by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Fr. Sol.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1947, February 5

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

February 5th, 1947

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
1120 Lake Shore Drive.  
Chicago, Illinois.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints!

Feb. 5th - 10:30 pm - Before ... postponements

How wonderful is the Lord in all His ways!


How can we ever appreciate - be grateful !!!

I enjoyed your letter....

Not that this or that person was directly concerned, but it would be a happy theme if one had time a ability to go into details of such a privilege and such a manifestation of God's mercy and generous condescension to any - to us - poor sinners. Thanks be to God for all His hidden designs - as well as for those we praise as manifestations.

.....  
Fr. Guardian just came across the corridor (almost expected a reminder to retire) to tell me we would have the High Mass on Friday for you and your intentions - the first of five for your Int. - besides Enrollments....

Praised be Jesus! ...  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 27

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

(A carbon copy mailed to Mr. & Mrs. J. J. O'Donnell)

COPY

February 27th 1947.

Mr. M.C. Costello.  
Hargill, Texas.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Ind.

My Dear Mr. Costello: God bless you and yours. The O'Donnells told me several weeks ago that you were writing me -- having told me quite allittle about you for several past months. Only just now did I come across your interesting letter of February 26th -- somehow mislaid -- that I've been looking for. So I am not keeping you in any possible suspence as to my identity, interest, etc.

You ask about Appleton, Wisconsin. It was in St. Joseph's Church in that neat little city where I had my first Holy Mass, July 31st 1904. God be blessed. Deo Gr. No. I can not say that I am exactly from St. Paul, Minn; though many a pleasant day I spent in that thrifty city - with relatives and friends and in the Seminary, as guest.

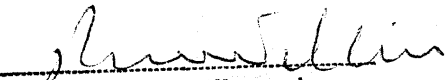
Coming two years in June, on my way to Seattle, I visited an old friend of mine Mike Costello who had been moldest brother's bare-foot-boy friend on our farms sixty-five years before and about forty miles down the River on the Wisconsin side. Later, when I was about 17, I did a term in the Stillwater Penetentiary (less thantwo months), and I found Mike there ahead of me and we became bed-fellows - he a boiler-maker and his partner just "a roustabout". However, we had our sleeping-quarters outside the wall.

Some years after ~~that~~ the one became a lieutenant in the Saint Paul police-department; the other a poor Capuchin and a priest. Mike was in his 80s and was almost hblind when we went to see hm on said trip - seemingly rejuvenated at our visit. I had spoken to him on the phone a number of times but for over thirty years had not seen him. So that, when our O'Donnell Friends seemed disapointed several weeks back I felt there must be a mistake or a misunderstanding "in the woodpile" somewhere. Thanks be to God for all interested it turned out to be so, - just another blessing in disguise I trust. For I feel that as you learn to know these friends, as I have known them for several years, you will come to feel that you are rather working with them than just for them. Indeed I hope such feeling of confidence may become generously mutual between you.  
..... God bless you all again.

Sincerely Yours in Christ, Fr. Solanus, O F.M. Cap.

Best regards to the Conley group.  
Pl pardon brevity.

Praised be Jesus Christ.  
Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, March 12

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

March 12th '47.

Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois.

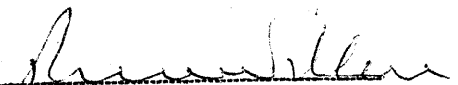
St. Felix Capuchin Monastery,  
Huntington, Ind.-2

Thanks be to God for Everything.

God bless you J.J. and Win. I'd write at length..but I just want to thank  
you for favor of the 8th. Thank God for M.C's change!! He could not have  
received my letter befor Monday. - sent Friday on 3d. It only heightens  
my hopes in God's designs .... How wonderful! .... Brother Pat. has  
snapped out of dange..Deo Gr.

God love you all.

Sincerely yours in +o  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, March 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

March 28th 1947.

Mr. J. J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Ills.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all His disigns!

Mr. J.J. O'Donnell  
Margill Texas.


God bless you Mr. O'Donnell-

You and yours.

Many thanks from myself and our whole community for your generous donation of fruit received in perfect condition, - two fine big gratis shiped March 17<sup>th</sup> (Irish holy-day!), and four fine baskets March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

May our dear Lord bless yourself - as also everyone who in any way has been interested. .... What a privilege to do a favor for God in doing for our neighbor! The same too can be said of being appreciative and grateful for such favor - Communion of saints.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, May 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

May 29th 1947.

Mr. Michael C. Costello.  
2125 No. Harvey Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

My Dear Mr. Costello: God bless you and yours.

Many thanks for your kinly generous favor receive and noted yesterday.

I am glad to know that you are well and that the outlook is bright for your  
Daughter Adelaide. I hope she may have best success June 5th is most  
important and - , seccess that day or no srccess - that she strive by  
every means that our holy Mother the Church offers us, to keep close and  
dear to the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I was rather disapointed, as I quite surmised it reght along, that yourself  
and Mr. O'Donnell failed to understand eachother. However, as you write  
I hope it was best that you parted. One thing about it I am more than pleased  
with, viz, that you both seem decidedly charitable toward oneanother. I do  
hope to know that you keep up that really edifying and friendly feeling.  
All this even with a touch of "ire" on either side. I am glad too that  
while it was quite out of the question for him to leave Chicago the last  
several weeks you were with him, his Wife Winifred was able to go down  
and prepare things for the meeting and procuring of a new care-taker.

He followed for a "week-end" absence and they seem quite satisfied that they  
struckin with a quite desirable successor. How wonderful the ways of the  
good God when we foster confidence in Him by just leaving at least  
somthing that seems important for Him to take care of! Blessed be His  
Holy Name.

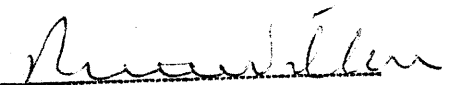
Assuring you that I feel it a privilege to have made your acquaintenance  
even without having actually met you and praying the good God to guide you  
and all your friends, I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap

Praised be Jesus!

Over.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, May 30th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

May 30th 1947.

The following is a Postscript addressed to Mr. & Mrs. O'Donnell and added to the letter addressed to Mr. Michael C. Costello dated May 29, 1947.

Just as a sord of P.S.

Dear Friends "The O'Donnells". "The more hurry the less speed", the old saying could easily be applied to the other side of theis "document". I guess it hardly pays for an apprentice to speed up too much. Any how I thought you'd be pleased to know that I received quite an appreciative letter from M.C.C. ....

I think what "raised his fethers" about my letter before, was my having quoted you as intimating that his heart-attack had possily left him ? not exactly himself.

But really that feature just amused me. Otherwise it was a nice letter and quite indicative of a charitable feeling to the O'Donnells.

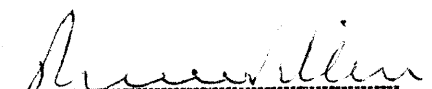
God bless you all again.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

June 5th P.S. Just straightening up for our trip tomorrow P.M. I came across this carbon I thought was off last week am almost ashamed to send it. My nephew Bernard Maurice (Owen's Son) is with me since Monday. He will accompany me on his way to Seattle.

Praised be Jesus.

Fr. Sol.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947 August 24

The following is a faithful transcription of messages written on Seraphic Mass Association cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Seraphic Mass Association -

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Ind.

Prepared by patient suffering and by the Sacraments and prayers of our holy Mother the Church, on August 14th

- Mrs. Catherine O'Donnell -

With joyful countenance received the final call of the divine Lover, Bridegroom of our souls and gently passed to Eternity.

Perpetually - with her whole family deceased and living

August 24th, 1947

Fr. Solanus, OFM Cap

requested - by her son Joseph J. O'Donnell

Praised be Jesus Christ!

- - - - -  
Seraphic Mass Association -

Mr. and Mrs. Michael - Cath. - O'Donnell


with whole Family - on both sides, deceased  
and living, parents, children with brothers  
and sisters of both - as one whole - (enrolled)  
a perpetual membership.

August 24, 1947

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

requested by - Their son Joseph J. O'Donnell.

'God condescends to use our powers if we don't spoil His plans by ours.'  
(by) Monignor E'd F. Casey

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, August 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

August 28, 1947

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago 11, Illinois.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.  
Ser. Mass Assoc'n  
Huntington, Ind.

God made me to know Him. O what a bles'd aim!

To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.

It's Heaven begun for the grateful on earth.

To treasure aright !-?-!

Highest Heaven its worth. - God himself - even here.

August 28 - Feast of St. Augustine - 1947.

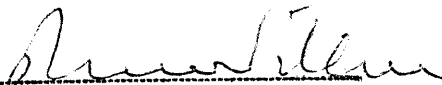
God bless you Joseph J. O'Donnell - you and yours. I hope this finds all  
100% yourselves in the grace of God - smiling after the wonderful rain He  
sent us, like lillies and roses.

I started these cards several days ago but some how or other they are  
later than intended and far from what I wanted. However, the little  
German saying "Nichts..-" consoles me: "Nothing perfect in this world."  
In other words, no one is here on this side of Heaven fully converted.

Thank the good God, He has infinite patience ! - Adored be his Holy Name!

Sincerely in the Sacred Hearts - Jesus - Mary

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1947, December 3rd

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

December 3rd 1947.

Mr. J.J. O'Donnell.  
Hargill,  
Texas.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary,  
Huntington, Ind.


Bles'd be God in all His designs!

December 3rd 1947.

God bless you J & J. from Fr. Guardian and all

Many Thanks for your thoughtful kindness, with six crates of fruit that in perfect condition arrived Today. - about which, later. You are fortunate to be in the sunny South-west these days, - rain and snow in a sort of contention and gale from the N.E. urging them on. May the Lord bless your care-taker Johnson and family. I feel that I sort of know them too. Best regards. We pray for them too.

... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, January 29th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

January 29th, 1948

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary,  
Huntington, Ind.

Bles'd be God in all and each of His designs

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. God bless you Joseph and Winifred

Here are the verses - some of them at least - I referred to Sunday-night.  
Before further neglect I'll put them in and they'll escape being "snowed  
under."

God Bless you again and keep well - tempering down on the cig's.

Fr. Solanus.

Praised be Jesus!

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

C. 1948

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Ind.

Bles'd be God in all and each of His designs.

October 11 - new Feast of "Maternity of Mary Bles'd Virgin."

God bless you Joseph O'Donnell - you and yours


May this find you all in the best of outlooks - with lively, firm and ardent  
faith, hope and charity! - the triune virtue.

I am just enclosing the belated account referred to over long-distance last  
night. I hope you may find it worth while.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Bles'd be God in the Maternity of our Bl. Virgin Mother Mary:

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, February 22nd

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

February 22nd, 1948

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
White Wing Hotel.  
Raymondville  
Texas.

From Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.  
St. Felix Capuchin Monastery  
R.8 Huntington, Ind.

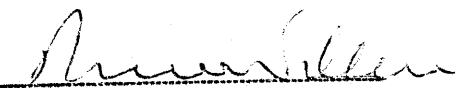
Bles'd be God in His angels and in His saints!

Febr.22nd. My Dear Friends: God bless you one and all. Just a word to meet you down there as friend from up north. I hope it may please the Lord to bring you back in better weather and brighter hopes than saw you start on the trip I'd like to have made with you. Permit me to follow in spirit!

At the same time, seeing your rather undue concern at dropping prices, etc, I thought a word of observation might help a little to steady someone's nerves.

First of all, however, we should re-remember at all events, that success or want of the same is not essential as pertains temporalities. Sooner or later we shall have to drop them - if they don't drop us first. Why, therefore, lose our peace on their account? Then again, God often permits us to make temporal blunders in order to foster humility in our souls so that in the sight of Heaven we may be more amible. Finally this is "Presidential Election year." That means more or less a depression in farm prices at least till after Election-day. Business men will not invest till Election.

.... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, March 27

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

March 27, 1948

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lakeshore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Easter Holy Saturday 10:15.am.

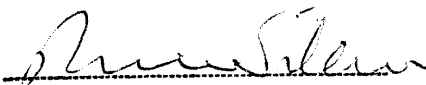
Bles'd be the Crucified Risen!

(March 27) God bless you Joseph J. O'Donnell - with Winnie and all your dear ones.

As surmised when phoning last Sunday, I was set for your high Mass on Wednesday but that morning Fr. Guargian whispered to me a little change in schedule in your favor. "We'll offer the solemn Mass for the O'Donnell intentions next Sunday. Write them to that effect..." I wanted to do so that day - and every day since and now its almost time for the daily "pick up" So I'll add our simple Easter greeting and felicitations with a hearty God's blessing to all repeated for all the Easter Season.

.....Sincerely Yours in Christ, Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, April 10th

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1948.

Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lakeshore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Bles'd be God in all His designs!

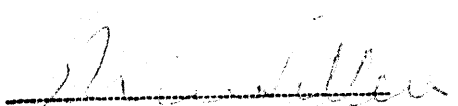
April 10<sup>th</sup> 1948. God bless you Joseph O'Donnell. - you and yours. I hope you are all well. Thanks be to God my strength seems to be coming back in pretty good shape, though rather slowly.

I hope that Fr. O'Donnell is improving by this time and that the good God may give him the needed patience. Shortly after his consecration Bishop Murphy of Saginaw met with a serious accident that put him on his back for about six months in same position. A year afterwards his condition was perfect. Thanks be to God!

We'll include Fr. O'D. in our prayers.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, September 23rd

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

September 23rd 1948.

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell.  
1120 Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois.


Saint Felix Friary.  
Hunting, Ind.

My Dear Friend Joseph: God bless you and yours, especially Mrs;  
ofcourse. Just a short word Tonight to tell you a little about Rev.  
Father Guardian's transition, as we all hopeto his better place in  
God's providence beyond the grave. First, however, I want to  
thank you for your kind favor of last week, duly received and noted  
as requested, which I forgot to acknowledge over the phone the  
night-before-last.

About a year ago Father Guardian - Mtthias - took a very threatening  
turn and for several months, till early March, was not really able  
to come down to the refectory or to choir-services. During that  
period he was able to sleep very little and that only in the chair.  
However, it would seem he'd been reading the life of one of our  
great modern missionaries, the late most Rev. Bishop Hartman of  
India, and made a noveina to his honor and in petition that he  
do something for him, to be able at least to fulfil the principal  
duties of his office. At the end of the novena, thanks be to  
God and the great missionary, Father Guardian came to Choir and  
refectory and also to recreation up to the very last. Even Sunday  
night, just a few hours before his final sleep, he seemed even more  
than usually entertaining; so that one would almost think he  
wouldn't mind conversing all night. He was always a great reader  
and though apparently cared little about showing his ability, the  
advantage of his reading and study was often manifest.

What was better, he was a man of lively faith with an unusually  
wide experience and with trials and hardships from early childhood  
that were hardly ever wanting to tame and to mellow and soften  
his naturally fiery nature.

Perhaps the bitterest disappointment of his whole life was that regarding  
his, from-early-childhood vocation to be a priest in the Capuchin-  
Franciscan Order; - a disappointment which having been suffered in  
resignation, was lifted in God's own merciful way and time; - surely  
an example in confirmation of St. Paul's " "For those who love God,  
all things turn for the best." He had become cigar-maker in early  
boyhood to help raise the big family, of which he was the eldest;  
and then a gardner and musician, etc. etc; when he learned to his  
great joy and hope, afteras was generally thought to be too late  
to study for the holy Priesthood, that in America there was still  
a possibility of becoming a priest and at that, a Capuchin Franciscan.  
His smoldering hopes at once revived and as soon as possible he  
came to America.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, September 23rd

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

September 23rd 1948.

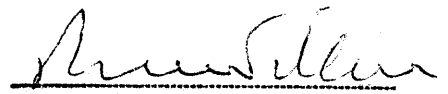
Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
Page 2

He had never an incling of the knocks and disappointments still between him and the realization of his goal. Neverthe less, as his calmness of countenance attested while he waited for the undertaker, in exactly the position he had taken for his last long seep -- with his left foot on the stool, his hand under his head inclined to the same side and his rosary over his sholder. The Father who was to have the last holy Mass that morning tiptoed in and out, to see the special intention, never dreaming but that Father Guardian was just supplying, as usual, something of the sleep so much of which he was wont to miss during the nights.

Surely his desire to "die in the harness", /as he had so often expressed it -- and even about forty hours before, after his solmn Mass in the morning and sermon at Brlther Cook's final profession, -- was happily realized. Thanks be to the merciful God. How wonerful in His all ways!

His long experience as superior and the difficulties metwith during his whole life, by the grace of God, had fitted him to be a really ideal Father Guardian. Much as I was with him - and I assisted him at his first and second holy Masses - I never but once saw him as really "next to upset"; and that was in connection with something that fell to my duty to execute. I was indignant myself at the very appearance of the situation, as I realized at once that it must appear to him. I surely sympathized with him as I saw him just ready to call me down and as I felt he would be fully justified if appearance had not deceived him. Less than ten words fully satisfied his demand without my even hanging up a long-distance call. The first chance he had afterward, he expressed regret at his manifestation of his weakness. May his dear soul rest with the saints!

Sincerely Yours in +o, Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, April 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

April 8, 1949

Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lakeshore Drive.  
Chicago Ill.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

4/8/49.

Blessed be God!

Feast of St. Dominic.

Glory be to God !

Dear Joseph: God bless you and yours.

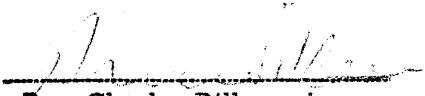
Having finished a card to Mrs. - your winnifred- last night, I want to get this off together with it before I forget and something be "sowedunder.

I started to kinda started to moralize in my short card but it seemed to me after I was through that my effort was rather vague. At all events I'm giving it to the air this Morning and hope it contribute something to her encouragement. For, this side of Heaven who is there living that needs no encouragement now and then, at least. How, beyond all conception of creatures, how marvelously has not our divine Master Jesus provided such encouragement - with consolations against trials and difficulties undertaken, even when only partly and imperfectly for His dear sake, that, if only appreciated properly on our part, lend to our "lot otherwise in this vale of tears", - Ah! colors and hopes that surpass in reality even the joys of humanity before the Fall in Paradise.

O! If humanity could only appreciate, - if in studying appreciation and gratitude in the School of Jesus and Mary - what a taste of Heaven humanity would be given even in this earthly vestibule! Appreciation? Gratitude! Hence the little verse:

God made me to know Him ! O! What a bles'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
It's Heaven-begun, for the grateful ON EARTH.  
To treasure aright ! ? ! Highest Heaven its worth.

God Himself is the principal reward even here for each one of us inasmuch as we learn to appreciate; inasmuch as we put on Christian Gratitude. Glory be to God in the Highest! Bles't and praïsd be the Hearts of Jesus and Mary!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.f.m.  
Notarius



1949, July 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

July 14, 1949

7/14/49

Mrs. Winifred O'Donnell  
Hermanville, Texas

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all and Each of His ways.

Dear Mrs. O'Donnell: God bless you and guide you - always in His grace and holy, happy fear. I hope you keep from worrying over there in that promising land. I tried Saturday and Sunday to reach you and Joseph by "long-distance" but had mislaid Raymondville and consequently tried "Hargill in vain. However, I did get Joe. Monday evening after his arrival home that a.m. He felt "kinda" down that he had to come back alone, but seemingly it must have been about the best thing to do under circumstances.

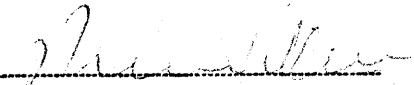
After all, if we only look around us and think of the fearful conditions of society in very many places throughout "civilization", how grateful we ought to be that we have things comparatively so outstandingly fortunate.

The more I study on the "priz-contest" the clearer does this come to me. I sometimes think too: "How fortunate was poor dear Fr. Maurice Joachim, whom we burried in January after more than 81 years of "warfare," crowned by a peaceful, happy transit to eternity.

Glory and thanks be to God. ....When I can thank even now for ptomane -trouble starting in Milwakkee, how much more will we bless God's providence for the disapointments of this vestibule to eternity when we get to Heaven ..... and eternally thereafter! .....

Fr. Solanus.

One badge for Joe.- to cheer him! +

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, August 3

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

August 3, 1949

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Ind.

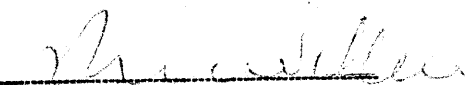
Blessed be God in all and each of His designs!

Aug . 3 '49.

God bless you Mrs. O'Donnell. - away on the range Many thanks for your kind favor from the "fronteer and the the fields of cotton. The dotton-blossom was quite a surprise ..... I'd like to go into some details but this isonly a card. and I have about twenty other Joes I outht to write Today besides your J.J.

So you'll be easy in me for taking only a card and perhaps let me have a prayer for inspiration and guidance rather than a frown. .... Really, I think both you and Joe have an occasion for merit even in this experiencé of manifold-sacrifice. It seems to me just too bad that every one of us hear those words of Jesus: "...He that hath left ... for my sake, etc, will receive a hundred-fold even here in this life ... " - as to some one else ..... and not to every trial and cross What an inspiration these and such promises ought to be toevery one of us! O! If we would only learn to keep an eye on ourselves, viz, onour inordinate and unreasonable inclinations to pamper our own whims and desires, etc instead of like Jesus, catering to and adjusting Himself to the Will,not only of His heavenly Father but to the meanest and lowest of men In other words: "... even to the death of the Cross." St. Terese thinks that the memory of our trials in this exile on earth, will be, as among the sweetes joys in our heavenly eternity. She's rit even as for Jesus our blessed God will be His Crudifixion. So, courage! fortitude! humble gratitude! ...

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, November 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Nov. 6 - '49.

Mrs. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
Raymondville  
Texas.  
White-wing Hotel.

St. Felix Capuchin Monastery  
R. 8 Huntington, Ind.

Bles'd be God in all His ways.


Dear Mrs. O'Donnell:

God bless you and guide you. - you and yours.

I was just with Joseph J. He said had been in long distance touch  
with just before and - God help, us another disapointment! Well?...?  
It is a problem what to do - or what it may be possible to do. One  
thing, which in the final will much mean much is to try again and  
again in time of any crisis, to keep our old heads from overmuch  
wrrying. At times of course this will seem impossible but God is  
always pleased to see us turn to him and His saints and try on.

These days especially we just cannot surmise what may be ahead of us.  
However, that is nothing specially new, for its more or less the same  
story at ever turn in our earthly pilgrimage. In other words, it  
would seem that the great lesson Godhimself would want us to learn on  
that pilgrimage, is appreciation for the Life Eternal He has waiting  
for us, if by correspondence with His grace we begin to wean ourselves  
from this temporal - "momentary existance....courage therefore...  
Heroism! In God's grace are we not spouses of Jesus Crucified...

Fr. Solanus.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, December

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Christmas, 1949.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. O'Donnell

Many thanks for your kind letter and favors of Dec. 18.

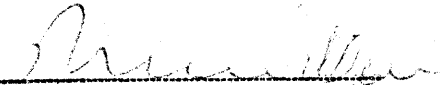
Rest assured that I will add my prayers to the Masses for the intentions  
you mentioned in your letter. The names and intentions have also been  
inscribed in the records of the Seraphic Mass Assn.

With sincere best wishes for a Holy and Happy Christmas, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Yes Joseph and Winifred: God bless you and  
yours.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M., Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, July 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

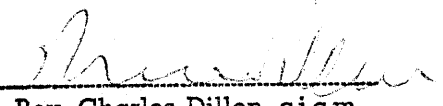
July 8th 1950

Mr. J. J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lake Shore Dr.  
Chicago 11  
Ill.

St. Felix Friary,  
R. R. No. 8,  
Huntington, Indiana.

Bles'd be God in all Things!

God bless you Joseph J. - with Win and all. I just read your interesting letter of July 5th and we surely appreciate your zeal and generosity. Many thanks and God's reward. We pray and trust that the new care-taker's hopeful report may turn out to have been not too optimistic. My new Rev. Associate, Fr. Simeon called my attention to special reference to enrollment of my Intent's. I just asked that he put it down in your own words. "I have plenty of them - and the O'Donnells always included. Thanks be to God: I am feeling well again after just two weeks in the Hospital. Thanks be to God too for the ideal weather He has been sending us lately - not over hot during the day and cool nights.....Many thanks and God's blessing to each and all. - Fr. Solanus, ofmc

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, January 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.


January 21st  
1951. 9:30 P.M.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Bles'd be God in all His designs - operations and eczemic shins included.

God bless you Mrs. O'Donnell, away out there in the (once-upon-a-time) wooley West, in reality just across the Mississippi some 25 miles up from my birth - place - 4 miles below Prescott. At that time in 1870 it was indeed a pioneer portion but a wonderfully picturesque section of the Country.

Well I just had a talk with Joe and we are surely pleased that your trouble is so hopefully checked - and promising. I hope it may prove to have been the climax, left over from the old year, etc after all, however if, "Whoom the Lord loveth He chasteneth," we ought to thank God for the privileg of being made to resemble His divine Majesty... so now I'll say Good Night and again God bless you and yours - speedy recovery.....Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, March 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

March 14<sup>th</sup> 1951.

Mrs. J. J. O'Donnell  
White Wing Hotel  
Raymondville,  
Texas.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.  
St. Felix Friary,  
R. R. No. 3,  
Huntington, Indiana

Bles'd be God in All His designs. God bless you Mrs. O'Donnell - Mrs. Winn .JJ. - you and yours.

I hope you are well and that you may enjoy your exile down there and find it more and more congenial - doing missionary work as long as you can. For, after all every one who believes in Christ Jesus and tries to follow Him is necessarily doing work of a missionary. Glory be to God.

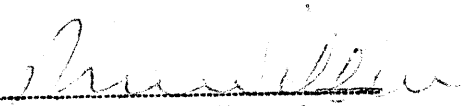
I started to write you before but something so often thwarts me and then its neglected. I talked with Joseph J. a few nights ago and he seemed well - tho somewhat lonely. No doubt you know what that means down there in the great South West.

April 13<sup>th</sup> Bles'd Be God!

As the inclosed leaflet certificate will indicate, I am enrolling you for God's holy guidance. If it be God's holy will that you sell the Farm we hope that you succeed - as you did a few years back in selling that old house of your Parents. If not; well donot be over anxious about it; but hope that God have other designs. ....

In the mean time offer up to God your exile etc, in union with that of our dear Lord from Heaven - also that of our Bl'd Mother Mary after the Ascension of Christ and of the Holy Family in Egypt. At all events, we do well to hearken to our dear Lord: "Sufficient for the day is the evil there of." ..... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

P.S. Tell Joseph J. Many thanks for the elastic bandages received To-day. - in case I neglect it. Fr. S.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, May 9

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1951.

Mr. Joseph J. O'Donnell  
1120 Lakeshore Drive.  
Chicago Illinois.

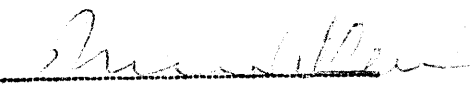
St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all His designs.

God bless you Joseph J. - you and yours. Again many thanks for your kind favor of 4<sup>th</sup> - duly noted - as well as for the elastic bandages - was inclined to write electric and then came back the picture of the remarkably practical blanket of a couple years back you sent us. Thank God, while last year I did use it a short time, this year I never thought of such a thing. - not too bad a sign? Well....best wishes and God's blessing to yourself and to all, especially our promising Texascan - Exile. Naturally if time and duty permitted I would not mind such an exile myself for a year or so....

Please don't forget us in your prayers to the Holy Ghost these days. That old essay problem still floats in my memory surface.....  
Now, I almost forgot: Some one from Knipe's Rest enrolled the family - parents and family of Rev Thomas J. McKugo - St. Francis de Paula Church, 7820 Dobson Ave. Chicago - and they did not know his parents names. I would appreciate it if you could let me know at your convenience the name of his Father. God bless you Joseph J. and Keep you.  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

+

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1952 January 1

The following is a faithful transcription of a message written on a Seraphic Mass Association card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Seraphic Mass Association,                      210 W. 31 St. New York 1

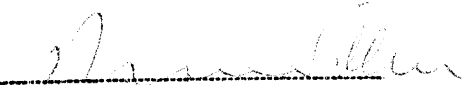
Joseph O'Donnell  
for God's holy guidance in his many  
problem - together with his associates  
New Years Day January 1st 1952  
God bless you Joseph J. - you and yours -  
Now and in Eternity!

Fr. Solanus, OFM Cap.

requested by - His Wife Winnie

After all, if the saints have found +++++  
and sorrows to bring them closer to Jesus  
- and they must be so short -  
why fear to embrace them ! ? !

Fr. Solanus.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, February 29


The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

February 29<sup>th</sup> 1952.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Bles'd be God in all His designs.

God bless you Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell - you and yours. Many  
thanks for your prompt action in "preventing" further solicitude  
about your so-highly-commended cold remedy, "Brom-Quinin: I hardly took  
time to read directions - so, as early as possible for good results.  
Thanks be to God I feel that He must have some way prompted your  
charitable move I hope we all have the requisite good days befor  
the week is over; - you with out temperature and Fr. Sol. without  
his nose running away, etc. I looks better here already Deo gratias. -  
Time for matins and lauds.

---

Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed message on a Post Card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Bles'd be God!  
Febr. 11  
Bles'd be the Immaculate Conception!

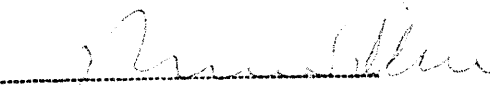
God bless our Friends the Doyls - trying their hand at ... I almost said - being "Fronteer-cowboys". Would likd to be with you. Well I was just talking with our Friends Joe and Win. who thank God, seem to be brightening up consiterably. I made a proposition to them that seemed to appeal as quite favorable. We must get our Bl. Mother Mary and St. Joseph positively interested --in a way we must try and shift the respositility for real success more to their loving sholders. etc. But about this, more another time. . . . . I understand your weather down there is not too balmy. Glory be to God, however, sure its the loving Who is sending it. It must be for the best.

Congratulations to Peter at least, that he don't have to plow throuth ten to twenty-foot snow-drifts as he probably had to do 25 years ago, and as I did more or less sixty years back, 1888-9, in trolly service at the head of the Lakes. How merciful the good God has been to us -- always fitting "the back to the burden, if not vice versa, as often seems the case. . . .

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. C.

Praised be Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(received with the O'Donnell letters, Mrs. Peter Doyle was the sister of Joseph J. O'Donnell)

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, September 13

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

September 13th 1951.

St. Felix Monastery R.R.8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all things

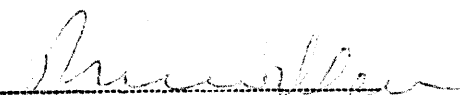
God bless you Peter Doyle you and yours these days - tragic indeed but by the mercy of God, hopeful and beautiful. Yesterday, the Nativity of our blessed Mother Mary and tomorrow the exaltation of the Holy Cross; both so full of promise and consolation. I was talking with Joe. this Morning and he told me you were not very well and that you are inclined to worry, etc. Ofcourse that is a weakness of which very few of Adam's children are entirely free. Indeed it is something we all have to be on our guard against as a most insidious enemy to our peace of soul. Afterall, if we look back as many decads as possible and recollect, we will be easily convinced that our biggest worries have always been about womething that never happened; eg, twenty years ago on your way to "Good Saint Ann in Qubeck". .... O! Instead of worrying about anything - past or threatening to come - les us foster confidence in God by thanking Him ahead of time. No creatur, when there is question of generosity, can ever get within a weakest shadow of anythin like even dreaming to beat the Lord in generosity or anything else. But God loves to load confidently loving souls with supernatural, divine generosity. ....

As for what they call an anatomical operation after death; it seems to me, such a thing should be the very last thing in the world to worry about. On the contrary, while in the vast majority of such cases there is very little operating done, the idea is possibly to help some similar case or cases still suffering or to suffer in future. For my part I shall consider it as doing an actof charity after my death if they can use my old bones for fertilizing. .... As for worrying because about past stupidities and sins: It just seems to me that we ought to be so occupied in gratefully thanking God for having rescued us from Hell and from the jaws of our unruly passions that we should find no time to worry about anything - save possibly, that about making so little progress toward progress in the way of perfection, etc.....

Very Sincerely Yours in Jesus Sacred Heart.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

(received with O'Donnell letters, Mrs. Peter Doyle  
was the sister of Joseph J. O'Donnell)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1940

The following is a faithful transcription of handwritten notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

If there is a blessing of any kind to come from atheism - in itself the Climax of insanity - it will be this Unity among those professing to believe in God.

After all, if Religion can be defined as: "The science of relationship between God and the rational creature, and dependence of the latter on his Creator - and his neighbor - then religion must be one, and whatever is contrary to that unity is opposed to that peace between men themselves and God their Creator that ought to permeate human society - the peace of which the Good God Himself, through the Apostle assures us "surpasseth all understanding" - the peace that the Divine Ruler of the universe will no doubt establish between men and nations even at the cost of hells on earth before that peace be perfected.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

May 7, 1940


To Rabbi Rosenwasser.

Why atheism the climax of insanity...?

.....I claim that gratitude is one of the very first and surest indication of intelligence and atheism is the blackest ingratitude possible.

Fr. S. - ut supra

"...religion the science of our relationship with God and our neighbor and our dependence on both." Furthermore atheism robs man of supernatural hope the very soul of human happiness.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1940, February & October

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S MONASTERY

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue

Detroit, Mich.

Feb. 21, 1940

Mrs. Eleanor Stumm  
Traverse City, Mich.

Dear Mrs. Stumm:-

God bless you and yours. Hope you are all well. Pleased indeed to know of the progress and good out-look of your "Novena-movement."....Ray Garland was in this evening, in fact just left before time to close up. He has been having trouble with a bruised shin since Xmas time. It is almost healed now....Mine too is quite improved. He brought me some of the special salve the head Dr. at Ford's made up for him.

I want to try it To-night....hope its good. How is Bob and the employment coming along....and the two girls...Neighbors.etc.

God bless all and each

Fr. Solanus O.M.Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S MONASTERY

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue

Detroit, Mich.

October 25th, 1940

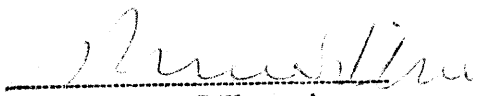
Mrs. Eleanor Stumm  
Traverse City, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Stumm:-

God bless you and yours. Only just now I read your note of October 11th...Why of course it would be alright to hold your St. Anthony devotions or novenas any convenient time. Perhaps Thursday for a try-out. Perhaps Fr. Verreau was kidding you.---- It is real spiritualism that's wanting to him as well as to you and myself and every one of us. Spiritism of course would be something else. I think you'll find a difference in Webster....Anyhow have patience and be sure. "The darkest hour is often the hour before day. Keep up courage and God's blessing to yourself and all our friends in Traverse City - Fr. Solanus

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Stumm  
301 Maryland  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1941, February 4

The following is a faithful transcription of photo copies of handwritten messages on Seraphic Mass Association Cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Mr. George V. Panyard

-- for God's grace and guidance -

Feb. 4 , 1941

God bless you Mr. Panyard

I hope this helps some way.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

1945, August 27

Poor Souls in Purgatory  
- for the intention of Geo. Panyard  
and associates and relatives  
for God's special guidance -

August 27 - 1945

God bless you George - you and yours.


Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Glad to hear from you George -  
Was on retreat - all last week in Glen Cliff up the  
Hudson 60 miles. Only To-night after 10 o'clock go  
to your favor. Best regards to all - Mother, Doris,  
Grace and the rest - with God's loving blessing to  
all the little ones.

Fr. Solanus.

The originals in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Grove Rd. Apt. 17  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1944, March 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap. (from the Photo-copy)

March 8, 1944

Miss Grace Panyard  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Panyard:

God bless you and yours. I have somany messages from you unanswered that I am now determined before postponing more to thank you at least. I hope this finds you improved and improving . . . . I have just a few minutes . . . . The picture I am sending under separate cover was quite ideal, but some one had and accident and broke the glass.

The little frame just fits where I want it . . . . .  
. . . . . I hope you will like the Placque . . . . . etc.  
. . . . .

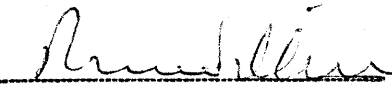
God bless all. Do not worry.

Praised be Jesus . . . . .,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



c. 1945

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of brief message written on pictures and cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

(for Doris Panyard)

on reverse of a photo of Padre Pio, Father Solanus wrote.

December 8th, 49 anniversary of his vocation, say a little wispered prayer for the real conversion of poor

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.  
SINNER

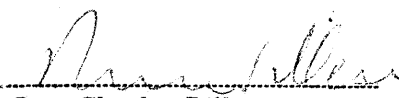
On another card Fr. Solanus has written:

Prayers for the Missions and for the missionaries is mostly what they need.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 27  
Muakwfon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, May 12

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

(from the Photo-copy)

ST. BONAVENTURE'S MONASTERY  
1740 Mt. Elliott Ave.  
Detroit, Michigan (7)

May 12, 1945

Miss Grace Panyard  
Muskegon, Michigan

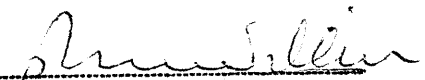
Dear Miss Panyard:

God bless you and yours. Almost 10 P. M. I feel that  
before waiting longer I must at least just thank you for your  
favor of a few days ago. I noted your request and do hope that  
the dear Good God may bless those intentions you recommended.  
I am inclosing a few little badges which I hope you may find  
good use for . . . Best wishes and God's blessing to all . . .  
Mother Doris, George, Arthur, etc. . . . . Praised be Jesus  
Christ.

Fr. Solanus O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, September 23

The following is a photocopy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap., and a faithful transcription of it.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N.Y.

September 23rd, 1945

Miss Grace Panyard  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Panyard:

God bless you and yours. Before further delay this time I'll just write "Thank you" and God bless you for the favor just noted which you sent me special day-before yesterday. Also for a number of others never formally acknowledged.

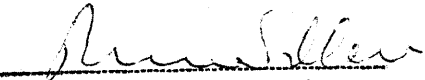
We are having 40 Hour Devotion till Tuesday-night and I hope to purpose to remember you all in Muskegon. I'll pray for yours,

Faternally

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, November 15

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of handwritten messages on Seraphic Mass Association Cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

November 15th 1945

God bless you -----

Grandma Panyard

With all the years - - past bye.  
Your joys, your sorrows, pleasures, pains,  
Just fit you for - - on High.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

God's blessing for yourself Grandma --- and for all who follow on the great pilgrimage to Great Home awaiting the faithful at the end of the war-fare.

Fr. Solanus, F.M.Cap.

Mrs. George Panyard Sr.

November 15, 1945

Happy Birthday and God bless you Mrs. Panyard

Fr. Solanus, .F.M.Cap.

by


her daughters -- and her Sons

Congratulations Mrs. Panyard. Thank the Good God for keeping us from scandal so long and for keeping us in the faith.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Originals in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, December

The following is a faithful transcription of photo copies of handwritten messages on Seraphic Mass Association Cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Miss Doris Panyard

For God's holy guidance.

Dec. 5th, 1945

God bless you Doris P. Shake off - worry.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Pray for the poor big sinner down here at St. Michaels.

He too sometimes feel...? But what can I do ? ....?  
O! I just think: "some day it will be over" and then we'll get HOME."

God bless you again

Fr. S.

George L. Panyard --

-- for the Poor Holy Souls --

special Intentions --

Dec. 11th, 1945

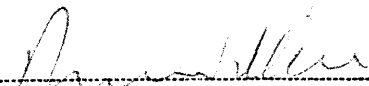
God bless you George, you and yours all around

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Hope the Holy Souls -  
-- especially who in any way have helped and been interested - may still show their interest.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 27  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, June 18

The following is a Photocopy of a handwritten Original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap., and a faithful transcription of same.

June 18th, 1946

Peace, God's blessing to all

God bless you Misses Grace and Doris Panyard and the whole Family.

Many thanks for your number of favors I've failed to acknowledge. What about that trip to Huntington and of course to St. Felix?.....I just received Doris' letter giving me your phone number. Please God I'll call you Sunday Evening about 7:45. We are to have a chapter in Detroit July 11-14 We do not know as yet who is to go thither. Please help us to storm Heaven for guidance of the Holy Ghost.

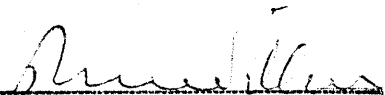
Sincerely in Christ....Thank to Doris too...

Fr. Solanus

P.S. I rather fear they will not leave me here long.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, May 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap. (from the photo copy)

May 6th, 1947

Miss Doris Panyard,  
Muskegan, Michigan

Praise the Lord in all His designs

God bless you Miss Panyard -- you and yours. MANY THANKS

Congratulations on your Birth-day -- another year's service in the good God's wonderful universe.

I meant to call you up last night the first I knew it was so late that I just decided not to call. I do hope that you enjoyed the day and especially with the folks last night. . . . Jerry called me from Notre Dame but I rather fear I was a disappointment. I did what I think was best under circumstances. I am glad he called. Some day --- God willing -- things will be different. . . .

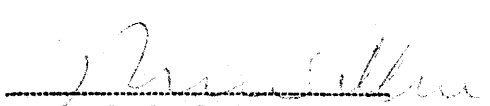
Praised be Jesus!

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

P. S. God's blessing to all the Family.

Original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, November 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap. (from the photo copy)

November 28, 1947

Miss Doris Panyard  
1st Street and Clay Ave.  
Muskegon, Michigan

The greatest science of all is that  
of our relationship with God and our  
Neighbor .....

RELIGION: Think it over and see if I  
am not right.

God Bless you Miss Doris:

Many thanks for your kind favor on the 25th . . . .  
The flower too. They came in good for Thanksgiving deco-  
ration on high-altar.

Hope Grace, George, Mother and all are well.

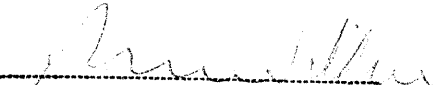
Praised be Jesus!

Sincerely in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1947, December 18

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.  
(from the Photo-copy)

December 18, 1947

Miss G. L. Panyard  
1705 Peck Street  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Doris Panyard:

Bles'd be God in all and each of His designs:

God bless you Miss Panyard, many thanks for your kind  
favor Rec'd and noted yesterday -- carbons, book, violin  
strings, etc.

May the divine Infant reward you shortly -- and in  
the end be Himself your reward . . . . A Bl. Christmas  
to you and yours and a peaceful, Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

A Joyous, Blessed Christmas  
to all the Panyard lineup. -- old and young  
big and little

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, August 3

The following is a photocopy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M.Cap., and a faithful transcription of it.

Bles'd be God in His Angels and in His Saints!

August 3rd, 1948

God bless you Grace Panyard - you and yours. Many thanks for your double favor of Aug. 1st. I hope this finds you with less pain and brighter hopes.


I've been thinking for sometime of telling you that you should spare yourself unnecessary details when convenient - as Jethro the Rev. Father-in-law of Moses told the great leader. Divide the work and share it with others. Just for Example, why write out such a detailed list every time you write? Not that they are not interesting or that I do not read them but because it must be more or less a drain on your time and energy, whereas they are really not necessary. Of course if you have something special its a different story. Otherwise we pray all those intentions in just praying for you and your intentions in general.....God bless you again.....

Yours in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

The original in Possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, May 19

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F. M. Cap. (from the Photo-copy)

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

May 19, 1950

Blessed be God. In all His designs.

Miss G. L. Panyard  
First and Clay Streets  
Muskegon, Michigan

God Bless you Miss Grace Panyard -- you and all the Panyard Family and associates -- with customers, employes, debetors and creditors.


I do pray and hope things in God's own time and by His grace brighten up. You know as well as we all do that it has been quite a struggle for thousands of concerns to keep from bankrupsy this past winter. . . . .

Thanks be to God the Panyards still holding on -- and please God will be enabled to "make the grade." We shall try and speed up our prayers in this regard. I thank you for your favor just noted but while things are so shakey I hardly expect such donations. However it may be for the best anyhow.

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, May 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M., Cap. (from the photo copy)

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

May 2, 1951

Miss G. L. Panyard  
First and Clay Streets  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Panyard:

Blessed be God in all His designs.

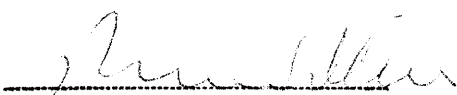
This is how far I got this Morning when you called. As I told you, "just started." Now, at all events: "God bless you" Miss Grace L. Panyard, I feel will be in place and will be appreciated.

Thanks be to God; I was surely pleased at the tone of your call over that of your letter received a day or two before yesterday. Let us pray and trust that, God willing, things continue to brighten. Nevertheless, it is always good to keep the shortness of time in mind as compared - better contrasted - with eternity. Good too that we remember again and again, whether we succeed or fail in our plans and efforts - good to remember the reminder of the Psalmist: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it. "Unless the Lord keep the City, they watch in vain who keep it." . . . Well God bless you again Miss Grace L. and all your efforts and all with whome you have association. I'm trying to catch the daily mail Collector and he is liable to toot any minute.

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, April 12

The following is a faithful transcription of photo  
copies of handwritten messages on Seraphic Mass  
Association Cards by the Servant of God, Father  
Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Mrs. George Panyard Sr.

with whole Family - for God's Guidance - for a holy Easter

Holy Thursday

April 10, 1952

God bless all and each. - A Blessed Eastertide

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

a Friend - and Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

1954, July 28

Mrs. Harriett Panyard

- for speedy health improvement, D.V.

God bless you Mrs. Panyard


special enrollment  
of  
Mrs. Harriette Panyard  
by  
Daughter Doris

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

July 28 - 1954

Originals in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1954, March 18

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.  
(from the Photocopy)

March 18, 1954

Miss Doris Panyard  
1705 Peck Street  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Panyard:

Blessed be God! In all His designs.

God bless you Miss Doras Panyard -- you and yours.  
May the dear Lord bless you all: May He Himself be your  
reward and your final Crown, as He is to be for all who  
by His holy grace shall persevere.

Sincerely yours in Christ


God's blessing to all

April 13  
In all his designs blest be God!

Fr. Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1955, April 7

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.  
(from the Photo-copy)

April 7, 1955

Miss Doris Panyard  
1705 Peck Street  
Muskegon, Michigan

Dear Miss Panyard:

Blessed be God in all His designs!

April 7, 1955. Holy Thursday. God bless you Miss Doras  
-- you and yours for blessed, Joyful Easter!

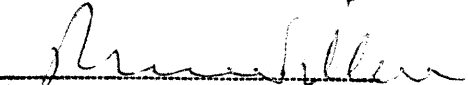
Many thanks two for the appreciated "Lives of saints"  
received several months back and was only recently discovered  
-- in fact just yesterday. Fr. Guardian is quite pleased to  
have in the House -- as are we all.

Very Sincerely, - - - - -

Fr. Solanus.

The original in possession of:

Doris Panyard  
3248 Maple Grove Rd. Apt. 37  
Muskegon, Mich. 49441

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

POSTCARD

AUTOGRAPH ON BACK OF A PHOTO

Good Friday  
4/8/55 Bles'd be God in all His Designs!

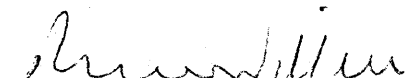
God bless you Thomas Panyard --  
you and yours -- near and far!

Would that you and I, dear Tom; had  
a spark or two more of holy Faith!  
Do we appreciate the little faith we have?  
Do we ever beg God for more?

Here is a little prayer I say often for you  
and me and all Humanity:

"O dearest Jesus! Who hast suffered and  
died for us - for poor humanity - Have mercy  
on us. Increase our faith and confidence in  
Thee, our grateful love and our reverence  
for thee. By corresponding with Thy holy  
grace may we ever learn to prize  
our privi - (lege) (pri) mary - blueprint  
pu'pose . . . . so that indiviually -  
trust'in' in God's mercy

UNFINISHED

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1955, July 25

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1955 -- Fifty-two years deacon To-day. Deo Gr.


God bless you Grace and Doris!

Many thanks for your wire congratulations, etc.,  
etc. Thanks be to God Grace is at least well  
enough to come home. Now Grace; you must at  
least for a month or so, take things easy, and  
as much as possible avoid worry. If you were  
to take a six months vacation it would be the  
proper thing to do.

(No Signature)

---

Note: Above probably to Grace and Doris Panyard  
of Muskegon, Michigan

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, C.F.M. Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY

CAPUCHIN FATHERS

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Detroit 7, Mich.

Miss Grace L. Panyard. 1705 Peck Street, Muskegon, Mich.

God bless you Miss Grace L. Panyard. God bless you and yours these unsettled days - in a way, fearfully threatening days and full of uncanny forebodings; viz, inasmuch as the individual or the whole world has been and seems actually to be turning away from God, to seek peace elsewhere than in His privileged service; in just so much do we find - individually or Humanity as a whole - unrest, disappointment, discouragement. God bless you MM, .. God bless you and yours these unsettled days - in a way, days of unrest, of suspense and of uncanny and threatening forebodings; viz, inasmuch as individuals or the whole world has been showing tendency to forget the purpose of their creation and of their existence as rational creatures and have been seeking peace other than in the privileged service of Almighty God, in just somuch have they been

(Unfinished)



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1942, September

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Miss Mae H. Whelan  
1117 Second Ave.,  
Peoria, Ill.

Dear Miss Whelan:

God bless you and yours. I hope you are well. I hope you are at least resigned to the cross or crosses that the Dear Lord entrusts to your weakness, your poverty.

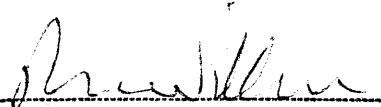
In regard to those thoughtless associates who refer to the "age of miracles" as past; I would say simply that to doubt the truth of miracles in any age of history or seriously to question their existence, would be nothing less than just to fall in line with the ideals of the unbelieving world - deaf, dumb and spiritually blind, - whose WANT of principle is atheism the climax of insanity and whose prince and inspiration is Lucifer himself the king of all (dam) fools.

I have two holy Masses this morning - 9 and 12 - and therefore, I can not think of going into details as I would like to do; but just to encourage you to persevere in patience and resignation to God's holy will, I am going to give you a few lines from a letter received last March, which I happened to pick up and reread just before opening yours of the-day-before yesterday. It comes from a nurse-friend in the State Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

Here follows some of the letter:

"....You will remember last August when I was in Detroit how very hectic things were at the hospital. I tried to remember everything religious and beautiful I was ever taught: I tried to think how the Saints prayed for crosses and sufferings; and decided (rightly), it was myself that needed adjusting.

"So I started praying to St. Joseph, saying 7 Paters, 7 Aves and 7 Glories in honor of the seven great Sorrows and Joys which he had experienced on earth. I offered this for the grace to bear the little crosses and injustices that were heaped upon me - at least seemingly so to me. Having started the novena things seemed to

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 81  
Notarius


Miss Mae H. Whelan

get worse but I kept on praying. I was afraid in fact to stop my prayers.

"One day when things were at their worst and I could not feel I were receiving any additional necessary grace to manage under such conditions, the afternoon newspaper announced that a new Superintendent was appointed to the Hospital, 'a very fair and peaceful man...'

"He is indeed a peaceful man and very fair. Peace seemed to settle all over the place almost immediately upon his arrival. I had almost given up hope of any thing like that, and was just begging for grace to bear patiently with the many annoyances, etc. when on Thursday morning March 19th he came to our office and told us it was his birthday. I fairly yelled with glee: "March 19th! What a wonderful birthday!" The other girls asked me afterwards, "What in the world is there about March 19th?"...never remembering that it is always the Feast of St. Joseph.....

"Dont you think that was a generous answer from dear St. Joseph? And so attentive and personal. It just looked as if He had been figuring during the whole novena how to spring his delicate little surprise on me and this way increase my faith and confidence....."

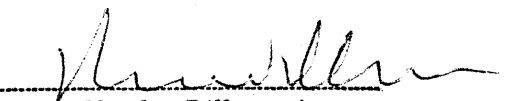


Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Miss Mae H. Whelan

Now Miss Whelan; God bless you and all your troubles as well as all your friends and all your joys and hopes....After all the soul of happiness here in this old world consists in the hopes we foster. Little children are happy in the vivid hopes that animate them. Ours should be the hopes of the Saints - springing from the infalible promises of Heaven and imbued with the appreciation of the contrast between the eternal and temporal, etc. Now I'll say, "God bless you again and good-bye till another time.

Fr. Solanus  
O.F.M. Cap.

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, January 3

The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Detroit, Michigan  
January 3, 1943

Mr. Charles Bracken  
Traverse City, Michigan

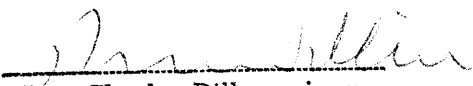
My dear Mr. Bracken:

God bless you and yours. I hope the outlook for you son is brightening since you wrote me last week. At all events, I hope we can help him. In fact, I think I ought to say, "Thanks be to God, I am confident that we can help him." This especially, if you and Mrs. Bracken and your friends who are interested, will do your part - each in his way. First, I want to tell you that I had an experience of skin-trouble similar to that of which you write your son is having and can sympathize with him even according to the little stanza:

"The mourners tear hath furrowed kindly faces,  
And left the light of love abiding there,  
Sweet sympathy and tender deeds are traces  
Of pain and sorrow soothed in silent prayer."

You tell me that Mrs. Bracken is not Catholic. I hope she as well as yourself - both of you - are earnest about saving your own souls. However, I am convinced more and more every day that such afflictions - in fact, that the trials and crosses of life in general - are sent us or at least permitted, primarily to wake us up and make us do better; in other words, "to switch us into line" in right thinking, and bring to our minds something of the shortness of things earthly - joys and pleasures as well as sorrows and disappointments, etc., and thus incline us to appreciate Eternity and the Eternal. Hence the old saying: "Whom the Lord loveth, He chastiseth."

Now, what can we each of us do to help to induce the Good God to lift this cross from the boy? If you send me his name, I shall inscribe him in our missionary work whereby he will have the benefits of prayers and holy Masses continually and, in a way may become - indirectly a foreign missionary. The inclosed booklet will give you necessary details. Then you can go more frequently to Holy Communion if possible and have the others of the family do the same. This is one thing that I have been advising Catholics to do for years and I assure you, in many cases, with quite astonishing results. Of course, Mrs. Bracken cannot join in this for the present at least. Let her do something in her own honest way; whatever she may deem most pleasing to the dear Lord - only that she be earnest about it and as confident as possible.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mr. Charles Bracken  
Page 2

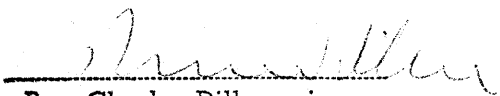
The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

The following might be a practical example with just a few details. It happened a few years ago when on a certain morning there was quite a crowd waiting here in the Monastery office, and an old-looking couple slowly rose from their seats and approaching the desk, asked in German, if they could speak to me personally. As we started into another room, I smelled a cancer, though I was not certain what it was till the old lady told me that her husband had cancer and could not work any more. She was the spokesman, and made no secret of it whatever. After a little I asked if they went to the holy Sacraments regularly. "My husband is not a Catholic," she answered. "Then, Mr. N.," I said, "You do something in your own honest way to please the God God." "What could I do to please Him? I was raised a Lutheran but for twenty years I have practiced no religion." "It's a poor way to be, man;" I answered, "and especially if you take it as I define Religion. THE SCIENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR - I might say - OF OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR. To practice no religion is making a secondary matter of the primary purpose of our creation as rational beings, viz., TO KNOW GOD; that we may love Him and serve Him and be happy with Him. Now I'll tell you what you can do to please God. Just start and be earnest about saving your soul." "After all" I added, if you are a Lutheran, you believe in Jesus Christ. I believe in Him as a Catholic; so we are both Christians, and one way or other we must be brothers.

This last especially seemed to please him and he answered, decidedly brightening up; "Yes, yes, that is right."

I would have taken the man to be eighty; whereas he was only forty-nine. But from the constant pain and stench of his malady he could neither eat nor sleep and it seemed to me he was wishing that he were already in the grave. Honestly, he did not look as though he would live another week and I feared he might go off in despair. To inspire him with as much hope as I could I proposed to him about as follows:

"Now, Mr. N. . . . I am going to tell you something else that you can do to please God. I am inscribing your name now in our missionary work, the Seraphic Mass Association, for prayers and holy Masses always being offered for the members. You, on your part could promise the Good God in your own honest way, that if it helps, you will be earnest in finding out for yourself the difference, rather the relationship - between your denomination and the "Mother Church", which latter is, of course, none other than the Catholic." Without the least hesitation he answered at once; "Ich tu es." (I'll do it.) Then, seeing his readiness and his growing interest, I added: "And, I can assure you beforehand that inasmuch as you are earnest and honest in this matter - and prayerful at the same time -- in just so much will it become as clear to you as twice two are four, that you have your Christianity not directly from Jesus. Indirectly, yes;

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, January 3

Mr. Charles Bracken  
Page 3

The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

but directly and historically you have it (inasmuch as it is Christianity) as said before, from the "Mother Church" - call yourself what you may.

Like a drowning man who grasped my hand when only a youth, so now this poor patient seemed to hang on every word of hope. "Historisch" he repeated, "Historically? That is true! I'll do it." . . . . . Next morning, about two hours earlier than the day before, he walked in seemingly quite a different person. There was color in his face and a smile on his countenance. He was twenty years younger looking as he walked over to the desk without stop or hesitation to greet me; "Guter Morgan" - (Good Morning.) "I came to see if I could start taking instructions today.


That he was feeling better was manifest. No one could doubt that who had seen him the day before . . . . . I gave him over for instructions to Father Charles, a born Bavarian, who could naturally speak better German than one like myself and had more time at his disposal than I could possibly give him. Eight weeks later, Sunday morning, I gave him his First Holy Communion myself, quite unexpectedly, and a week from the next day just as I had finished telling two ladies about him - one of them a Baptist with a cancerous breast - he, like rushed in thru the door, beaming all over to announce; " . . . . . I just dropped in to tell you I am going back to work next Wednesday." . . . . .

The above is a single case from many similar - I think I'd be safe to say one out of thousands. I very seldom go into such details and while I've tried to encourage quite a few cancer patients by telling them about this one, I have never written about it before. I hope it may not be a bore to anyone. On the contrary; may it be an inspiration and an example for many, not only for cases of eczema and cancer, but for whatever trouble may be met with. Our sad weakness today is our lack of faith and consequently, want of confidence in God.

In case you be in Detroit, or if, without too much inconvenience, the boy might be able to call down at the Monastery, I would be pleased to meet you. Hoping that by this time he is feeling improved and again wishing you and yours God's New Year's Blessing, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.,  
/s/ Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1943, November 25

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY  
1740 Mt. Elliott  
Detroit, Mich  
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25th 1943.

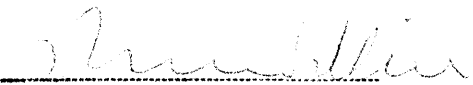
Mr. Raymon Bowers  
4060 Rose Avenue  
Western Springs, Illinois.

My Dear Friend:

God bless you and yours. May He guide you for the best in all your ways! Many thanks for your kind favor of October 12th with charitable request. Having read your really pathetic letter, I started at once to write you a reassurance of my heart-felt sympathy and of my prayers for yourself and your three little half-orphanants; and now it seems like months instead of weeks that I've been trying to get something back to you worth while; -- sympathy first of course and condolance.

At the same time, however, and the more I think it over, I would be wanting in appreciation of the confidence you manifest in writing me such a letter if, even while condoling with you, I failed, to at least intimate a gentle congratulation. This of course, not on the death of such an ideal wife and mother as was your Kathleen but on your fortune - perhaps wholly unmerrited on your part - of having for years had such a model of Christian perfection to live with and to drinkin for so long the spiritual influences necessarily radiating from the outstanding virtues manifest in the very-day life of any such a Christian. No wonder that you now lament feeling "bankrupt without her".

Your bereavement; yes; inasmuch as viewed through the melancholy lenses of worldly wisdom, so sadly inclined to exclude faith in God and consequently confidence in a favorable hereafter, would be an irreparable loss and misfortune. But O! what a contrast in the light of Christian faith that illuminates the soul of the really practical believer!. "How vain!" exclaims that faith and that philosophy; "How trivial and vain in themselves are the joys and the sorrows alike of this 'momentary existence', that worldlings worship as life!" Truly, We hardly need go further than your own letter and your own recent experience to coroborate with the above; in other words to be convinced that though in themselves are vain, still because of our weaknesses they are unnecessary or helpful-these joys

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Page 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

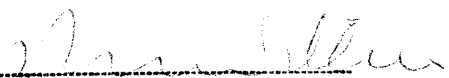
and sorrows - the one to buoy us up from becoming depressed, the other to chck us in our inordinate esteem of self and of wordly advantages.

Is this not exactly the conclusion to which you come in your letter

exclaims that faith and that Christian philosophy; "How vain and how trivial /in ipsis "How vain!" are the joys alike and the sorrows of this really 'momentary existence' that worldlings are so inclined to worship as LIFE!?" Vain they are indeed

Vain indeed in themselves, when we think of eternity, must seem anything that passes away; and only inasmuch as they buoy us up from depression or check us in our inordinate esteem of self and the world can they be considered really important. In this sense and considering our condition as pilgrims to ETERNITY THEY would seem to be a sort of salvation not only important but positively necessary. We hardly need go further than your own letter and recent experience, to corroborate this philosophy." . . . Her death/has brot out to me the utter emptiness of life except for something too fine to express in words. "Our food, our clothing, our home, our material things mean so little in the final analisis. "I am praying for more of the faith that she had; more of that which, I cannot define, other than a supprime confidence in God and a firm belief in a hereafter. "She had so much of it. "I have so little. "Sometimes I think, that first the death of little John and now her death are but signs, or a writing on the wall, a sort of warning to me. . . . "Now I want to rise up above material things, to get a better picture of life, a truer sense of values."

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, January 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Detroit, Mich. January 8th 1943

Dear Miss Krausman:-


God bless you and yours. I started to write you before but really I hardly know what to write. First I want to at least thank you for your favor of 28th ult.-duly received and noted. I'm leaving this sign-this coat of arms intact. (sign is the crossed Franciscan Arms)

May be that St. Francis and our Dear Lord too wishes you HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS in a spiritual sense and therefore is offering you a membership in his great Third Order of Penance. Possibly you've joined already! In that case then you could live up to the duties and comparatively "innocent obligations"-mekness, etc. during the NEW YEAR-and after-if things brighten up and your friend learns to overlook your crankiness as passed and of the past and have patience with poor Muriel..... This thought came to me as I came to said sign and I think it would be practical. You would then have something worth while to write-about. I am sure, if your friend has thought anything of you atal he would be glad to her just something like that.

It certainly would be a positive indication of your coming down from the high horse of haughtiness, that Muriel-bad as the rest of us has found unsafe and unprofitable. It would be a consolation also to your conscience as an honest effort at self conversion-source of hope supernatural, the soul of happiness for pilgrims here in this world.

....Pl. drop one of those tears for the  
conversion of your poor

Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, September 22

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by  
the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Bonaventure s Monastery  
1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan  
Sept. 22, 1943

Miss Muriel Krausman  
14595 Philomene  
Allen Park, Mich.

Many thanks -for favor-noted.

Dear Miss Krausman:-

God bless you and yours. I hope you keep well and shake off a  
little more of that worry of yours. Instead, just offer that whole  
affair to our dear Lord every time you think of it and beg our dear  
Bl. Mother to help guide things for the best. God bless you again  
and sleep in confidence.

Sincerely yours in +o

Fr. Solanus

over

1943, September 23

God bless you Miss Krausman.

I had hardly sealed your letter when your special walked in.

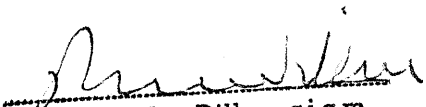
Many Thanks.... As said above try and keep courage. Every  
time you think of your troubles raise your heart with a little sigh.

"God help us!" including all humanity

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945 August 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M.Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.  
August 18, 1945

Miss Muriel Krausman  
Allen Park, Mich.

Dear Miss Krausman:

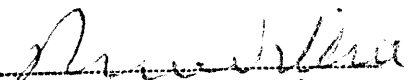
God bless you all-you and yours. Many thanks for your favor of a few weeks back. I hope you enjoyed your vacation-you and your Father. I started to fix up a big card-certificate for the Poor Souls to sent your Mother but was not certain about her first name, so let it go. I am not sure if I sent your Brother-in-law certificates. Its taken me so far pretty much to get acquainted with the work, etc here. Today five of us go up to the Immaculate Conception Monastery across from West Point, to make our annual retreat. In other words we'll try again to be converted for another year.

So I hope you'll pardon neglect and brevity. God bless and guide you and us all.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

P.S.-had to open envelope to say--The double relic ought to, ought to work something for little Juda. The white partical is of the linen shroud of Venerable Mary of Agreda, Spain, who after 249 years was ex-umed and found perfectly preserved. She had been our Bl. Mother's secretary in the writing "The City of God" autobiography.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, September 15

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.  
Sept. 15, 1945

Miss Muriel Krausman  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Miss Krausman:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for the air mail yesterday. Glad to hear things are improving with your dear Dad. Thanks be to God for everything.

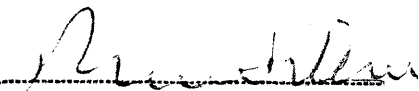
I am sending you the mourning card for Wm. Murphy and the certificates-blanks-for the two others. Not certain of their names I just made a special enrollment (\$1.00 or more) for each of two according to your intention. You can fill out the blanks, etc.

Dear Muriel:....You tell me you see others so happy....O! yes we see such people. Thank God they exist, though many of those who seem happy-who try to appear so-hardly know just what happiness is. Many do not realiz or stop to use their faculty of reasoning that the very soul of happiness for mortals-those who are to die some day-is hope. Children are happy as a rule because in the mind of any normal child there is always bright star of hope: "Some day I'll be grown up." "I'll be a woman." "I'll be a man." Herein we must imitate the children. But instead of their ideals to be mature-a man or woman-we ought to think over to goal ahead, our eternal destiny-for all Eternity- to be proficient in what in this world we can only taste, so to say Knowledge of God. Knowledge of anyone who is good means love for same in- as much as we be normal. Knowledge of God, therefore!!!! The aim, the purpose of the rational creature's existence.

Love and God's blessing to all,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

P.S.--Simply to be grateful to God for what has done for us, what is doing and promises to do. What Hope.....!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, October 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.  
Oct. 2, 1945  
Feast of Holy Guardian Angels

God bless you Muriel Krausman:

I hope you are well--you and all your dear ones.

Many thanks for your recent favors. I hope that someday you'll just wake up and start to live for God one day at a time, forgetting the fickleness of creatures--especially if they figure on getting "a nest in this world where they can find true happiness." The only tree in which to find place to build such a nest, is the Church that provides the material to build in untold graces from God--all sizes--with crosses for cement. Without such cement no one on earth can get very far with anything like getting a little taste of Heaven in this world.

So let us not take it over serious when trials and disappointments--from whatever source--catch us sleeping. In other words it never pays to become discouraged--at the faults of others or at our own. The sooner we come to realize our own stupidity and unworthiness of the blessings surrounding our whole life and in which we are immured--the air we breathe, the light of the heavens we enjoy by night and by day and all movies of visible creation. (All in the natural) To say nothing of the unseen, the supernatural!--the sooner we'll find peace.

God bless you again, and Daddy, and little Judy, and all.


Praised be Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

Fr. Sol.

P.S.--God bless you again M.K. Hope things are still bright--and brightening.

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap..

P.S.--Columbus Day. This came back yesterday for the 2nd time. So.--???

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 93  
Notarius

1945, November 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by  
the Servant of God Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.


St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.  
Nov. 2nd, 1945

God bless you Muriel Krausman-with Daddy, little Judie, and all your friends.

Many thanks for your kind favor just noted-including Miss Riss' request.  
....Of course I sympathize with you....that peculiarity you complain of but  
you have to be patient....you could-and I believe you'd improve if you were  
to promise St. Francis you'd join the Third Order if he would obtain for you  
the grace to overcome the difficulty. In the mean time pray on and have  
patience-with Muriel especially-remembering that Charity rightly ordered  
always begins at home. Now God bless you again and thanks for the stamps.  
Please sigh a little prayer for removal of my old defects....stupidity etc  
too.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1946, January 20

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

MASS ASSOCIATION  
CAPUCHIN FATHERS  
225 Jerome St.  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.  
January 20th, 46

Dear Muriel:


God bless you and yours. I just read your letter of yesterday which  
came about an hour ago and before I put it off and it gets "snowed under"  
with other work, I am answering it at once.

As I said before I think the whole trouble comes from the fact that  
some one, as it seems, never receives holy communion and therefore,  
neither of you say the right thing or do what prudent to promote mutual  
confidence. You can overcome that to an extent for both by receiving all  
the more frequently yourself and perseveringly praying-without too much  
anxiety-for the our dear Lord's guidance and protection of both-and of  
all.

God bless you. Keep up courage.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Many thanks for the stamps. Will try to comply with request....

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 95  
Notarius

1946, February 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

225 JEROME STREET

BROOKLYN 7, N. Y.

February 2nd, 1946

Purification

Miss Muriel Krausman  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Miss Krausman:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for favor just noted.

Thank the Dear Lord that there is at least "A rift in the clouds" now and then. After all that is what "life" on earth is like-ups and downs, rain and sunshine...."Great Life if one don't weaken"

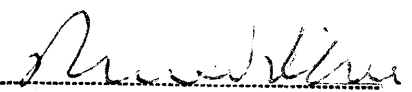
Hence: "Poor wanderers of a stormy day: from wave to wave we re driven.

Moore. And fancy's flash and reason's ray serve but to light the troubled way. There's nothing calm but Heaven."

Courage therefore, with the souls eye fixed-on the goal of Eternity, it behoves us to battle on.

Praised by Jesus!-----

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M., Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 96

1946, June 9

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

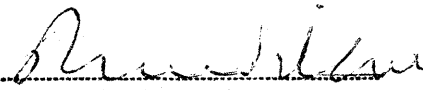
St. Felix Monastery  
Huntington, Indiana  
June 9th, 1946

God bless you Muriel Krausman and many thanks for favor of June 6th. I am glad you are feelin not too bad-like myself-battling along one day at a time....Had a solemn high Mass today - 35th anniversary of my Brother Maurice Joachim's first Mass Celebration. That was in Superior, Wisconsin 1911. Thanks be to God. He is in St. Paul, Minn. now with our Rt. Rev. Br. Edw'd back from the Philippines. Latter was rescued last year, March 23rd. Will be going back before long. It would seem that the Japps had been figuring on a general massacre of the whole camp - that day - over two thousand, including two Bishops, 150 priests and 125 nuns.

They (the prisoners) had been saying the holy rosary and having Benediction every day and Pontifical Mass every Sunday that they might be rescued without anything too drastic. Most of the prisoners were so starved that they could hardly walk. About 20 actually died of malnutrition - starved.....

Praised be Jesus Christ.....

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

1946, September 17

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
September 17th, 1946

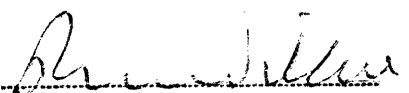
"O all ye works of the Lord!...Praise and Exalt Him..."

God bless you Miss Krausman - you and yours.

Many thanks for your kind favor of the 5th. I hope you are feeling better by this time. It seems to me your apathy regarding glasses is uncalled for.....As long as I can remember I was inclined to think that, in many cases, glasses quite improved the appearance of the wearer. I would not doubt this could easily apply to M.K.

Thanks be to God I was surprized at looking at your letter today, I could read it nicely without glasses. I started to a Chiropractor in July - two treatments a week and I am feeling improved all round. My Dr. in Detroit who put me on my feet in one month - after trying M.Ds. for years - was Dr. R. N. Schorn ( Chiropractor) of 10050 Connor Ave. - just across Gratiot from the Air Port. He positively helped quite a few patients I sent him - even when almost blind. If you go to him.... Best regards!.....God bless you now and be grateful to God....Don't worry.....

Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, April 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Capuchin Monastery  
Huntington, Indiana  
April 24th, 1947


Blessed be God in all His ways!

God bless you Miss Muriel Krausman. I hope you keep well. You've been on my mind for ten days, - wanting acknowledge your favor of Apr. 4th. Well you remember how it was with me when I was up there in January. It is not audiences with callers now but answering letters that is my problem. So please have charity to overlook tardiness, etc.

I thank you just the same and pray for you even though I fail to write. Many thanks again.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, August 4

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
August 4th, 1947

Miss Muriel Krausman  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Miss Krausman:

God bless you and yours.

Many thanks for your kind favor just read and noted. I tried to get you on the phone last Monday and then with so many calling and so much hustling, etc, I failed to get you afterwards. I certainly would like also to have spoken to your dear Father.

Of course, I sympathise with you all in your problems, especially that of being without a roof over your heads. But why make so much of that after all? How many millions have in addition to that lamentation, hardly a bite of food to put in their mouth? Why not make a virtue of a necessity or emergency by offering it all to the Heavenly Father in union with the situation in which Jesus found Himself when not in complaint or lamentation He whispered to the youth who proposed to be His disciple: "...The Son of Man hath not where to lay his Head."

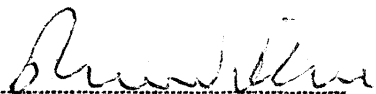
But alas! Humanity's outstanding weakness seems to be a thoughtless want of appreciation for the uncountable blessings by which Almighty God is always surrounding it; and no doubt the Krausmans as well as the Kennedys and the KCs are no exception in part of that old humanity. But how incalculably fortunate we are after all that the merciful God has patience with us and notwithstanding such failings has patience with us and still manifests His solicitude for our welfare in such a next-to infinite number of ways?

Let us, therefore, shake off the spirit of complaint and lamentation over trifling difficulties that, even though unpleasant for nature and for the thoughtless, who make little of an eternal happiness awaiting those who persevere in, at least resignation to poverty and, which difficulties can so easily be turned to such vast advantage.

Hoping this finds things brightening around you and that the next time I get to Det., even if only a day or two, that I'll get you at least on the phone, I remain,

Sincerely yours in +o in Christ,

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, November 1

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

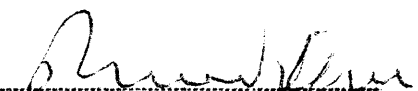
St. Felix Monastery  
Huntington, Indiana  
Bles'd be God in all His designs:  
Feast of All Saints, 1947

God bless you Miss Krausman, -- you and yours!

I hope you keep well. Many thanks for kind remembrance for  
Oct. 25th. Thanks be to God for the quite excellent He gives me  
at 77. Naturally of course my steps are slowing down as to quite  
to be expected. Next week (10th) my Rev. Brother M. J. Ex- to  
celebrate his 80th birth-day. Please pray that we be guided so as  
to please God to the end. Edify - at least in our last days.....

Praised be Jesus!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1948, January 23

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
Bles'd be God in all His designs!  
Jan. 23rd


God bless you Miss Krausman:

Many thanks for your prayer and for your kind favor just noted.

Thank God, while i have been "half down" for several weeks,  
still its nothing possitively serious. Of course we are hoping it  
will clear up so that I be able to do a little more toward so much  
waiting to be done.

Thank the Lord too: I am glad things seems brightening up for  
you and yours. It always comes right if only we have a little  
trustful confidence in the good God and our Blessed Mother Mary  
Immaculate.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1948, July 3

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
Bles'd be God in His Angels  
and in His Saints!  
July 3rd, 48

God bless you Miss Krausman.

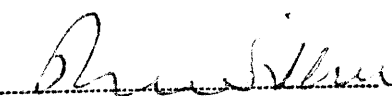
Evidently M. does not love God as is the first duty of every  
one of us - to try to love Him....

What's to be done? We'll simply have to have patience, humble  
ourselves and wait....Praying in meantime that the Good God increase  
our faith and confidence in Him till we can appreciate creatures as  
of secondary importance. Then possibly it will come natural for us  
to act naturally and tell what's honestly in our minds and hearts.

In the mean time we'll pray on and wait God's mercy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

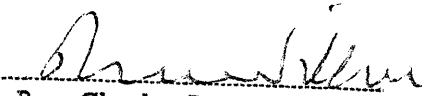
Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you M.K. Many thanks for your kind favor just noted  
- also for the several others unacknowledged.

This time I just thought "I'll write at once." Yes, thank God,  
my health has adjusted itself again so that hardly feel any effects  
of my dose of ptomane of two months ago....Best regards to your  
Father, to Jack, and all our friends, and keep pleading for God's  
holy guidance.

Fr. Solanus, OFM Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

(to M. Krausman)

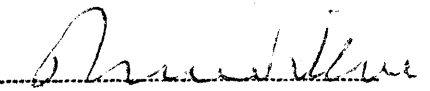
Saint Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

Praised be Jesus Christ! - and Mary our blessed Mother whom He  
has given us poor sinners to be our advocate and our heavenly  
Queen.

Many thanks for your kind favor of the 5th, just noted. I  
noted the enrollments as requested - also the special holy Mass  
in honor of the Holy Ghost for your guidance and that of your  
friends. ....Why should we worry? Why not rather ponder on  
the wonderful and innumerable manifestations whereby God in wis-  
dom and power and mercy has brought us into existence and thus  
far preserved us - notwithstanding our waywardness, our stupidity  
and our sinfulness. Is not His solicitude for our happiness -  
even temporal as well as eternal more manifest at every turn than  
that of all most loving parents and other friends? O if we  
would but keep in mind at all times the sweet words of our dear  
Lord - at once a philophic admonition and a paternally loving  
invitation - "Seek ye, therefore, first the Kingdom of God...."  
Patience therefore, "God condescends to use our powers, if we  
don't spoil His plans by ours."

from S. E. Corner

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, August 30

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana  
8 / 30 / '49

Blessed by God in all and each of His designs.

God bless you Miss M. Krausman; you and yours. I am inclined to congratulate you on what seems to be an opportunity of advancement. At all events, the old saying: "A change of work is as good as a rest," I hope will apply here in your case. It seems to me that you ought easily be able to convince your present Foreman of the propriety of your accepting the offer of advancement. At the same time show your gratitude his favorable attitude toward yourself as an employee, i.e., in case you do succeed in the desired promotion.

Thanks be to God too for the improved outlook for your dear Father, especially in regard to your Uncle coming back to the source of spiritual strength, our Holy Mother the Church. Deo Gr. I'm sure you will not take it amiss that I so often fail to answer your favors. If I had to answer them all - all my letters I'd be liable to at least lose my ballance.....

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

c. 1950 July 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
July 28th - just striking 10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Blessed be God in all His designs!


God bless you Miss Krausman and guide you on the way to good health, - God willing.

I just finished reading your welcome letter and thought I'd answer it at once before overlooking. I was in St. Joseph Hospital, Ft. Wayne for two weeks but that was in June and I am back to St. Felix and feeling fine. Deo Gratias.

One trouble or weakness that we all have to guard against is worry. Instead of this weakness we do well to foster confidence in God. This we can do by not only patience, but by thanking God ahead of time for whatever He see best for us....We'll pray for your intentions too.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, August 10

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
August 10th, 1950

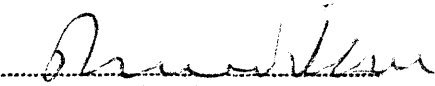
Blessed be God in all His designs.

God bless you Miss Muriel.

Many thanks for your kind favor of yesterday - Glad things are coming on favorably. Hope the your tiny niece shakes off that whooping, etc.

Keep well yourself but shake off some of that anxiety about your and others' health. Thank God I am feeling fine again. Hope you can shortly say the same. Before laying your letter aside and then forgetting I tho't I'd just drop you a card - then spoild it. -

Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c.1953

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Blessed be God in all His Designs!

God bless you Miss Muriel: - you and yours.

Many thanks for your kind favor just Rec'd, noted. I am  
sending you the Cert. for Helen Mayland. I think she needs it  
especially from your letter. In the mean time and till I get  
up a little better with my correspondence, best regards  
and God holy blessing to all the others - your dear Father  
especially. I do hope with you, that with the warmer Spring  
his health and spirits bloom up again and that things in  
general pick up in his favor.....


I almost forget to congratulate you on your February suc-  
cess, etc. Deo gratias. Please pardon haste and brevity. Hope  
for improvement in future.

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

9:45 P.M.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1953, February 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana  
Ash-Wednesday  
Febr. 18th, '53

Blessed be God! In all His designs.

God bless you Miss Muriel Krausman these strenuous days: - you and yours.


Many thanks for your kind remembrances and prayers. Thanks be to God, though I've had several colds etc. these past months. My health has been good. Today however a real "cold" seems trying to get hold on me....Deo Gr. Of course I was - am - pleased to know of your dear Father's success in selling that property, so long on the market, etc. We pray his health - as well as M's improve speedily. Whatever comes, however, let us try at least to be resigned.

As to my reception of your letters, please do not worry. For several years I have not been able to even read the majority of my letters to say nothing of answering them. I hardly know what I would have to do if I had no Fr. Jerome or some one to substitute him. In fact I have been thinking for some time of leaving the answering of all letters to some one else - provided by the Rev. Fr. Guardian.

Please say a prayer for my guidance in this regard too. I surely do sympathize with so many poor people in the world, - struggle, struggle, Str. Well, that too can be offered up as a sort of martyrdom. So let us keep courage....Keep faith with God at all events and save our souls....

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1953, September 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed and handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington Indiana  
Sept. 21, 53

Dear Muriel

Take courage! Trust in God! His providence governs all things sweetly, even tho we cannot see it immediately. That is where we must have faith and confidence!

Muriel has been enrolled once again and also the Poor Souls. God love you! We will pray for the best. Have confidence! Thank God ahead of time whatever He sends.

P.S. Please Miss Muriel:


God bless you and yours. You have never called up. (?) I only this P.M. got to read your letter of last Friday. And surely there was urgency enough about your sister and little niece to call Huntington 210. I would have called you but I had no permis'n F.S.

We'll pray for them of course; but in such urgent cases we find it practical even by telephone to enroll - hoping of course that the good God show His Mercy and give sanction to our presuming.

God bless you now and keep courage.

God bless Dad and Tom and all.

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1954, February 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS  
ST. FELIX PRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
Febr. 2nd, 1954  
Happy Feast

Bles'd be God in all His designs!

God bless you Miss Muriel Krausman. Thanks be to God things have brightened in a number of ways, especially in relation with poor little Mary Jane. Indeed, thanks be to God. However, I rather - I do not like that idea of a second O. I know of more than one such "Miracles" where the doctor's efforts at improvement has turned fatal.

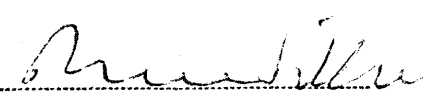
About 20 yrs. back a certain Thomas Ryan of Pittsburgh, Penn. was passed all hope of operation. His in-laws phoned from St. Rose Parish Detroit and we enrolled him...To their astonishment he went back to work without any operation. After two weeks work, the doctors induced him to go finish up on the X.R. Same T.R.-- Same T. Ryan got a relapse and died. I have known of several such cases.

Be grateful to God, therefore, and attribute miracles to whom they due. I hope Drs. find further surgery uncalled for. There is a similar case related in the "life" of our stigmatic - P. Pio. A certain poor, good woman was quite hopeless with cancer. She and her Husband went to Paadre Pio and she was cured. Afterwards (I presume) without consulting Padre Pio and she got sick again and P. Pio said he could, he could do nothing.....

Many thanks and God's blessings.

Blessings on Earth,

Fr. Solanus

  
.....  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1955, January 15

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

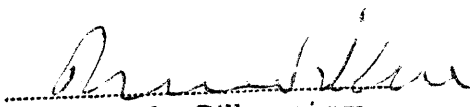
SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
January 15th, 1955

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you Miss Krausman. Many thanks for your favor of  
some weeks past - I wanted to write you for Christmas but that be-  
came just impossible. I am glad to learn that notwithstanding  
the many difficulties your dear ones meet with, still in general  
things seem to improve anyhow.

So God bless you - Dad and little Mary Jane and all -  
to all a Blessed New Year.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, September & December

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of message written by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap. on a Seraphic Mass Association Card.

Phillip Schreiner

- for speedy recovery, God willing.  
September 15, 1943

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

God bless you Phillip and Aunt Beatrice too.  
Get well and keep up.

Fr. S.

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of short messages written on holy pictures by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 12)

God bless you Miss Lamb.

And many thanks for favor of Nov. 24th Please God -

- - Philip's arm will be all okay. I am so pleased that you find things so favorable over there. Thank God. Hope it continues so God's blessing for the holy season so near. I am mailing picture as requested. God bless you all.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6th, 1943)


God bless you Philip DeSchryver.

Hope your arm will come out a hundred % Okay. Keep courage. Go to Communion.. Be a real "little-boy-friend of Jesus and Mary. And don't forget to remember poor me to them.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Originals in possession of:

Miss Beatrice Lamb  
36087 Bartell St.  
Richmond, Michigan 48062

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, November 26

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of messages written on Post Cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

"O all ye works of the Lord! Bless the Lord. ...forever!"

Nov. 26th, 1946

God bless you His lamb with Philip and all the rest. I am glad you are well. You always seem well out there. I have been here since last April. Thanks be to God it is quite an ideal place - 18 novices. The youngest about 17 ... to 23. Hope philip keeps well. Our Fr. Julius is down there some where in Tucson. He expects to go in January to the Guam Missions. There has been some talk of our getting a place in Tucson.

.....Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Bless the Lord in all things

July 12th, 1947

God bless you Miss Lamb - you and yours. Glad to hear from you - and about Philip. I hope that operation - and preparation therefor, may be not too serious.

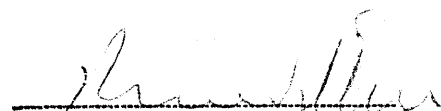
At all events try and avoid anxiety - and trust in our Dear Lord for Every thing.

Best wishes and God's grace to all.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

Originals in possession of:

Miss Beatrice Lamb  
36087 Bartell St.  
Richmond, Michigan 48062

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, September 17

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap. (From photo copy)

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Blessed be God in all  
and each of His designs.

Sept. 17, 1949 (9:55 p.m.)  
Stigmatization  
of St. Francis

God bless you Beatrice Lamb.

I just came across your favor of Aug. 29th on the conviction that: "Whom the Lord loveth He Chastened", and even while I surely sympathize with you, in your so many difficulties, I do, nevertheless congratulate you on all these experiences that the crazy world considers such misfortunes.

If we only try to show the dear Lord a good will and ask Him for grateful resignation to the crosses He sends or permits to come our way, we may be sure that sooner or later they will turn out to have been just so many blessings, in disguise.

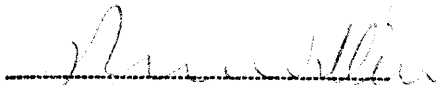
I hoped for quite a time that my "little boy-friend Philip" might have a vocation to some thing special. That, however is a personal problem and in many cases seems to be a very delicate question. I hope of course, that he be earnestly appreciative of the holy Faith - theoretically first of the outstanding "Trace of the Trinity in our souls. The other two, hope and being essentially one with it - hope the soul of happiness in this world, charity, the life and crown of everlasting glory. ....I must close now - almost 10 p.m. So God bless you and all our dear ones and have mercy on all. ...

Sincerely in +o

Fr. Solanus, o.f.m. Cap.

Original in possession of :

Miss Beatrice Lamb  
36087 Bartell St.  
Richmond, Michigan 48062

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the photo copy of handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Dec. 20th

God bless you Miss Beatrice Lamb.  
Glad to hear from you. I hope you  
keep well. Please say a prayer that  
poor Fr. Sol. catch up with out cor-  
respondence.

(Printed Greeting)

May the Christmas blessings  
of the Infant Savior  
be with you throughout the coming  
New Year

(Fr. Solanus' handwriting)

- With you and yours

Hope our one-time little boy-friend  
Philip is keeping well.....

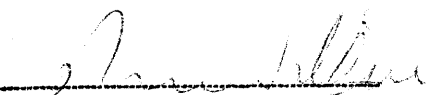
Best regards and  
God's blessing to all.

.....God to remember that on this star  
(earth) that we are living on, there is  
no real Heaven - and that : "Whom the  
Lord loveth, He Chasteneth". ...

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Miss Beatrice Lamb  
36087 Bartell St.  
Richmond, Michigan 48062

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, January 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX MONASTERY  
CAPUCHIN FATHERS  
PAX ET BONUM!

January 29<sup>th</sup> 1943

Dear Brother Leo:

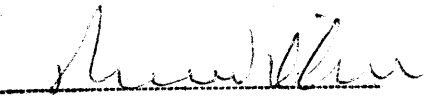
God bless you and yours.

While I feel it really a privilege to help one another and to save our neighbor a step whoever he be, I want to thank you for your practical assistance to this - I was going to say - poor old sinner. -- rapidly getting old at least.

After all, since we have nothing of our own, what we do, in the order especially, we do for the community and in a way it is sure to come back to us again - in many cases it comes back in many ways. As V. Br. Rufin exclaimed when he was treating my other foot a few years ago, and I remarked: "Every time you save your neighbor a step you gain one for yourself" - "You gain at least two steps for yourself."

So I hope you gain many favors for what you do for Br. Francis and myself and the whole community. Many thanks too for the medicine forwarded and the personal letters, etc. In case any of my friends ask - just tell them I am improving and thankful for such a restful contrast after nearly forty years - over 18 years in Detroit. God willing, I hope to be well before long and possibly back "at the old stand." .... God bless you again and Br. Francis too and all the brothers and novices and...community...Praised be Jesus!

...Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1943, February 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap. (also typed)

PAX ET BONUM!

ST. FELIX MONASTERY  
CAPUCHIN FATHERS  
HUNTINGTON, IND. February 28 1943

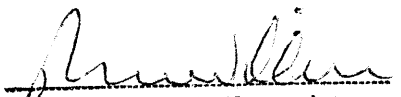
V. Brother Leo, O.F.M. Cap  
St. Bonaventure's  
Detroit, Michigan

My Dear Confrater Brother Leo:

God bless you and yours, - including that poor sinner Solanus, who more than anyone else gave me trouble as long as I was in St. Bonaventure's - Isent it a mercy that we really need examine only one "pair of conscience"! Well I received your card a few days ago and thank you for the same as well as for the personal letters therewith. Intimation of further appreciation below, if I can find it for you.

We had quite a celebration yesterday of Br. Gabriel's nameday. Father Provincial gave him a nice little "sendoff", praising his work as, "becoming quite proficient as a linotype" and thanking him for his work in the name of the entire Province, etc. I thought of you rightaway and of your message to him, which he seemed to quite appreciate. At the same time something came to my mind of our ineffable privilege in doing the little things we are able to do for the general welfare - most especially in a religious community - each one in his place without thought or distinction as to what the work may be. To whatever office or service one may turn to it is not easy to say just which is the more privileged - possibly excepting that of sacristan. At all events that of porter, even though fraught with dangers, has many advantages, if only we be of good will and cooperate with the graces never failing on God's part and our Bl. Mother.

Sometimes of course it becomes monotonous and extremely boring, till one is neary colapsing; but in such cases it helps to remember that even when Jesus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1943, February 28

V. Brother Leo, O.F.M. Cap.

Page 2


was about to fall the third time He patiently consoled the women-folks and children of His persecutors, making no exceptions. How can we ever be grateful as we ought to be for such a vocation - to such privileged positions - even in the Seraphic Order of the Poverello of Asissi? .... Thanks be to God that He has such divine patience with us. .... One of the secrets no doubt, as you surely have seen from "The Mystical City of God," is the fact that our Blessed Mother Mary is always coaching poor sinners on the one hand to confidence and penance, and on the other Jesus our Lord to have mercy and spare.

Thanks be to God! Praised Jesus eternally and Mary, our Bl. Mother!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. Talking with Father Provincial last Wednesday he said we'd go back to Detroit together. He has been working on the Messenger and I think very probably we will be leaving here shortly - possibly Tuesday or Wednesday. I cannot say just when.

God bless you again. Very best regards to V. Bro. Francis and to all our Dear ones.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, July 30

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
CAPUCHIN MONASTERY  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N. Y.

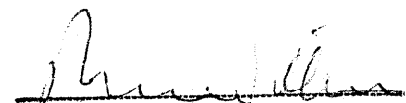
July 30<sup>th</sup> 1945

V. Brother Leo, O.F.M. Cap.  
St. Bonaventures  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brother Leo:

God bless you and yours. I hope you keep well. Thanks be to God, I am here in this new assignment of privileged duty just a week. Tomorrow will be the forty-first anniversary of my first Holy Mass, Deo Gratias — and the next day the 21st of my arrival from Harlem, Our Lady of Angels, back to St. Bonaventures - 1924. How grateful we ought to be for so many graces and privileges. Praised be God in all His works and ways! Now I hope you have not found that middle cell that succored me so long in too hopeless disorder. I rather fear having left you a difficult job when I asked you to pack up and forward things hither, that would be of no use to any one else and might be of quite a little convenience to me. I am not certain if I brought a trunk with me from Harlem twenty years ago. If I did, it must have been worth next to nothing, so any old box you might find would do, perhaps better than a trunk. The "Letters" box on top of the "wardrobe" containing Fr. Edward's letters are good. The others are not important. Those few unfinished pieces in the cliper on the side next to the desk, I would like to have - if you've not thrown them away.

Also that little prayer on modesty that we were figuring on having in the office. I started over to bring it for Fr. Provincial's approval but he was not in and then it was neglected and I went off West. I hope to get a little more time for such things here at St. Michael's, although so far - getting acquainted, etc. - I've not had much surplus time. One thing, however, I've taken a little more sleep under the great archangel's wings this past week than perhaps in three weeks before my arrival.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 121  
Notarius

1945, July 30

Page Two

V. Brother Leo, O.F.M. Cap.

Page 2

Any photos or pictures of Fr. Solanus or the others I hardly know what I should do with them: so you may burn them if you wish. However, I would like to have the one of our golden jubilee that is framed viz. the one with all the little grandchildren. Some of them are grandparents now themselves. ....—

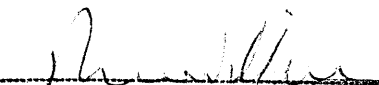
Well I guess I'd better come to a conclusion. Otherwise -- ?? Best regards to Br. Rufin and to all. Hope Br. Gerard is improving and that he'll get out of any further operation.

Best wishes to all our friends - inside and out who may be interested.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. The overcoat and habit arrived okay. Many thanks.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, August 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S MONASTERY  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN N.Y.

V. Brother Leo O.F.M. Cap.  
1740 Mt. Elliott Ave  
Detroit 7, Michigan

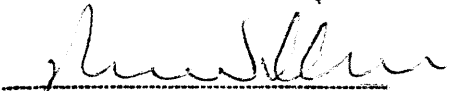
God bless you Br. Leo - with Brother Rufin, Br. Gerard and all.

The "bottle in the corner" you asked about is water from Lourdes. Use it in case of sickness, etc. It was sent me from the Shrine directly. . . . Do not worry about missing this or that piece of junk in Cell #5. I've often figured on how to rid myself of the whole collection.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap. L.J.

---

Note: Written on a picture postcard of the Famous Old Grape Vine, San Gabriel, California with notation on picture: "We were here July 11, -- waited five days for reservation."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, September 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

225 Jerome St.  
Brooklyn.

September 2nd 1945

V. Brother Leo, O.F.M.Cap.  
St. Bonaventures,  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brother Leo:

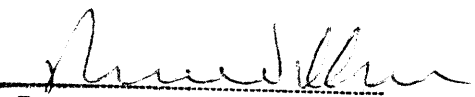
God bless you and yours.

Many, many thanks for your helping in the good work in office these last few years, and again for your sending me those things - package after package - since I came East. We had our Retreat this year -- last two weeks -- in the Immaculate Conception Monastery. Thanks be to God it was ideal weather and the location could hardly be surpassed. Brother Bonaventure and all send best wishes. Tell Br. Rufin . . . my shins etc. are really doing fine; bother me very little. Thank God . . . Am trying to keep my conscience at least as good as the same old shins . . .

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

Note: Above message written on a picture postcard of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Altadena, California with notation above picture:

"P.S. The most beautiful grotto I've ever visited.  
Note the natural water-fall below her feet."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, September 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N. Y.

Sept. 6th, 1945

Dear Brother Leo:

God bless you again.

I wanted to send you the inclosed card last Sunday before going to Yonkers for the High Mass next day--and Labor-day Parish reunion. Time was urgent, however, and so without getting it off I made hast(e) to catch a train, etc.

Thank God; we had quite an ideal day and celebration.

I made a little visit before going down to the Hall, as I was leaving Monday night and offered a few prayers--pater and Aves--in honor of our holy Guardians and especially of St. Raphael---A young Jack Kelly (...now past middle age) took me clear to Brooklyn Bridge and into the subway... Thanks to God--and His blessed messengers the angels. Time refuses me to give more details.


Since starting this letter-card--your letter and package came in. Many thanks again.

Now one or two things I've not as yet found, that would be of quite an advantage here--one or two of those Fr. Solanus stamps and a dater of some kind. The former especially would help considerably.

Many thanks again and God's blessing and best wishes to all.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.  
Praised be Jesus!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 125  
Notarius

1945, September 7

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N. Y.

September 7<sup>th</sup> 1945

Dear Brother Leo:

God bless you and all in Detroit.

I am sending you back the relic you chose as also the little particles of Fr. Stephen's habit. They are pieces left over from about ten or more years ago, when Fr. Capistran was Guardian and we had the Felician Sisters mount those others, now I presume, about all gone. I think they would be glad to finish that work. Some of their numbers are quite enthusiastic about Fr. Stephen.

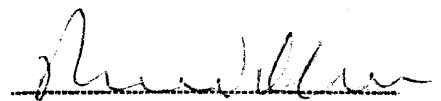
God Bless you. Praised be Jesus Christ!

....Fr. Sol.

P.S. I think the Sisters could be easily induced to mount some of these relics a little more artistically than what I was satisfied ten years ago.

Praised be

Jesus, Mary, Joseph!



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1945, December 5

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N.Y.

December 5<sup>th</sup> 1945

Dear Brother Leo:

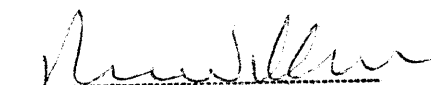
God bless you and yours!

Many thanks for favors last week. . . . .  
Am sending you a few of the badges asked for. We've not been receiving any of late. The sister in Cleveland so active in that line for some years wrote in October that she...could not continue. Miss Modock also hopes to go to the convent...can probably not continue. O well as long as we have them we can share. After all it was the dear Lord sent them so far and if it please Him we hope the beautiful supply may continue.

Dear Brother Leo, our equipment here for Ser Mass Association is rather behind time. Will you see if Fr. Lambert could muster an extra loose-leaf outfit - as you and Bro. Rufin or someone else introduced a year or so ago. We would appreciate it for the new year. In the meantime we'll drill along and do what we can under handicap of old "machinery" etc. --always ocourse praying for one anothers final conversion. Fraised be Jesus Christ. Best wishes and happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Fraternally in the Sacred Heart.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap., sinner

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the typed original by the Servant of  
God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, May 23

May 23, 1946

Dear Brother Leo:

God bless you and all at S. Bonavent's

I am sending the original of this carbon to Miss Lyke. I hope it may smoothe the thing off in a manner; though I am not just clear as to what she really complains about. Perhaps she expected a personal acknowledgement of somekind more than just a rubber-stamp.

I've been getting so many cheques - bothe here at St. Felix and at St. Michael's that I would have to posess an extraordinary memory to recollect particulars like this little mixup might require. One thing I do remember, that during the nine or ten months I was at St. Michael's it was very seldom, if ever, that I was without letters to acknowledge, even though I sometimes worked on them till after min-night.

God be praised, however, I did not mind it and my health kept fine. Seomtimes my two faithful ole sentinels would threaten to go on strike and to quiet them down I felt I'd have to give it up.

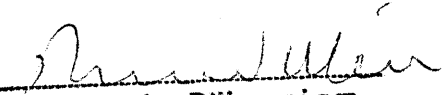
Well she will possibly writ again. Afer all if she got her check back, she ought to know that things were oky..?

We'll hope for the best anyhow and pray for the dear Lord's gentle guidance.

Praying in the mean time for one anothers' conversion - till some day we can sin no more and the good angels will be able to bear us off to the eternity; forever - really and truly CONVERTED, WE'LL sing on withe angels awaiting that blessed day: "O all ye works of the Lord bless the Lord, Praise and exalt Him above all forever."

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 22

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
THE CAPUCHIN FOREIGN MISSIONS

DEAR FRIEND OF THE MISSIONS: October 22nd 1946

MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU HIS PEACE!

I WISH TO THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR YOUR KIND AND GENEROUS ALMS TO THE CAPUCHIN FOREIGN MISSIONS. I AM SURE THAT THE PRAYERS OF THE MISSIONARIES WILL ASCEND TO THE THRONE OF GOD FOR YOUR WELFARE.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER I AM MAILING YOU THE CERTIFICATES OF ENROLLMENT, WHICH I TRUST YOU WILL LIKE.

GRATEFULLY YOURS IN CHRIST,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

.....  
(Reverse Side of Card, written in Fr. Solanus' hand, to wit:

October 22, 1945

St. Felix Monastery  
Huntington, Ind.

V. Bro. Leo, O.F.M. Cap.  
St. Bonaventures  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Brother Leo: God bless you and all.

Thanks be to God I am sure we all enjoyed our little "day off" to St. Bonaventures and to our Lady of Prompt Succor, etc. We arrived back at St. Felix at 6:05 p.m. Deo Gratias. However, we would hardly be Capuchins if some one of the crowd did not forget something. Possibly you found the trousers I left in the corner room, where you found the hat yesterday a.m. I hope you have them on their way hither, if not I would appreciate your sending them on as soon as convenient. Before I thought of it, we were well on our way to St. Felix. Praised be Jesus, O.F.M. Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, October 31

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

"O all ye works of the Lord!  
Praise the Lord. . . ."

October 31, Halloween 1946

Dear Brother Leo:

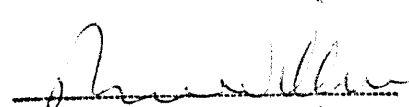
God bless you and all. Many thanks for the kind favor received in best of condition a few days ago. . . .

We got home that night just as they were starting supper. Deo Gr.!

Love to all.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, August 9

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 3  
Huntington, Indiana  
August 9 '49.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you Brother Leo: you and yours . . . . including if we  
may, also poor, poor Fr. Solanus.

I just received your charitable letter and will be pleased  
to join with yourself and your friends across Meldrom in praying  
for poor dear little "Granma Kauffman. Sorry I did not know of  
her trouble before she went to the hospital . . . Diluted creolin,  
say 2 to 4 tablespoonfuls to a pint of water will give wonderful  
relief by simply sponging the parts effected once over, every two  
or three hours. - - - or every 4 or 5 or more hours.

Several years ago, before I got acquainted with mistress creolin,  
I applied the pure stuff to quite some patches of No. 1's area and  
very shortly - for a couple of minutes - I began to rather fear I'd  
possibly made a fearful mistake - It made things so hot for me. It  
was a good lesson without the least injury. Few doctors seem to  
know about this remedy; so simple! =

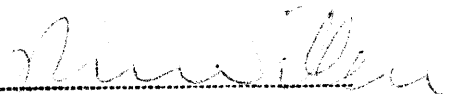
Now; Dear Br. Leo: I've had a big problem on my mind for  
over a year. - have spoken about it to Fr. Provincial and to sev-  
eral religious friends, asking their prayers, etc.

I started months ago to write F. Provincial particulars about  
and am still trying to get it off. Of course it is not easy to write  
important lines of any kind without study and practice, at least for  
me . . . . . To-day of sixteen letters received there were ten personals,  
which leaves me very little time, so that often it is not easy to what  
to do. On an average there about a dozen letter per day. In Father  
Blase's absence - otherwise too - Brother Raphael attends to many of  
the letters we get here concerning the Ser. Mass Assoc'n. . . . . So  
please pray . . . . .

Best regard and God's blessing to all the Novices and Candidate  
& of course all in the Monastery and your dear Parents, etc. Just  
herein, viz, in praying for success of good works and undertakings the  
novices and candidates can fall in line as practical religions and  
Capuchins before-hand.

God Bless you all again,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Nectarius

1951, August 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, IND.

August 11th 1951

Eve of St. Clair 1951

God Bless you Brother Leo - you and yours

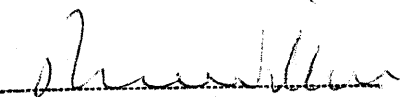
Just a line to thank you and your young associates -- novices and candidates -- for your charitable remembrance for my privileged name-day.

We hope and pray they all pray for vocations; to multiply all over the world - in every order and every society and phase of Catholic action. Thus they will at once be doing real missionary work and insuring their own holy vocation - and perseverance therein. For no one who appreciates his vocation, as such a grace deserves, and is duly gratefull will fail to pray for a multiplication of further vocations.

Thank God we have a very promising boquet of brother-candidates - including a very care-free, happy darky.

.....Glory be to God!

... Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, July 30

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX PRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

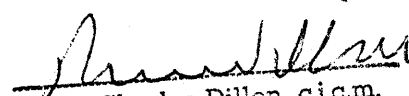
Feast of S. Ignatius  
July 30st, 1952-  
1st Vespers  
My 1st Holy Mass 7/31/04

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you Brother Leo-

you and yours, especially our young brothers the Novices, with whom you are now seemingly in a sort of exile from your former nest in St. Bonaventure. And of course to Fr. Alouise, for the past years (3 or 4) my next neighbor at Saint Felix's. I can hardly help missing him more than I usually do in most cases because I knew him ... as a novice and now again after close to 25 years - possibly more. However, that is the way it goes in the Order as well as in secular life; though in the latter it is very much more disappointing.

Anyhow, best wishes to Fr. Aloisius and to all the novices and God's blessing to all in St. Francis, your new Novitiate. It is possible that before the summer is over I may have the privilege there for a day or so, God willing so, I'll be pleased. Till then In the mean time we'll do well to continue praying mutually for further conversion and - hearkening to our dear Lord's Own most earnest plea .... "Pray we the Lord of the Harvest that He send laborers into His harvest".

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

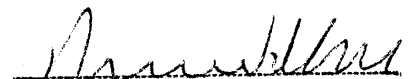
1952, July 30

Brother Leo  
Page 2

I shall remember you all in my High-Mass tomorrow. Please have them all as much as convenient - have them all - supply my want of appreciation and gratitude to God for the uncountable mercies and graces we have received these 48 years - graces and mercies that have, not only surrounded us but in which, without our half realizing it, we are continually immersed in God's merciful graces / like the air that permeates us. Glory be to God! How little is it possible for poor mortals that we are, to appreciate as we ought, or to be properly grateful to God and our benefactors this side of Heaven! But after all that is what we became candidates for - candidates for the Kingdom of Heaven - when we were baptized; and every time we receive the Holy Sacraments of Mother Church we take another step forward, virtually pleading with our angels for another white bean at every step. How wonderful and how legion are our privileged opportunities! Glory be to God a billion.

Aye Blessed be God in all His Designs,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



The following is a faithful transcription of a printed description and recipe for Baked Beans written by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M.Cap.

(Father Solanus supplied not only the recipe for Baked Beans printed in the Eucharistic Mission Band Cook Book, but he also wrote a introduction and described his own experience, found on page 60 - EMB Cook Book, published in 1945.)

### BAKED BEANS

Like potatoes, beans may be served in almost innumerable ways with good advantage at once to the cook and the guest. From the following actual experience of the writer may be culled a practical recipe for preparing and serving -- Real Boston Baked Beans.

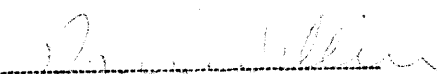
A certain monastery in charge of a struggling parish, wishing in a way to forestall the financial drain often consequent on Thanksgiving Dinners, proclaimed to friends near and far the staging of a real Boston Baked Beans Dinner. This was to be just a week ahead of the great turkey Thursday.

The Inspector himself was given the privilege of superintending the beans, supposed to be at once the staple feature of the repast and the highlight of the meal.

Priding himself more or less on the distinction, his first step was to get in touch with and have an understanding with the amiable Brother Cook (Wendlin) at the Monastery. They decided to put the beans to soak the Sunday night instead of Tuesday before the dinner. In that way they figured on about a good half-hour in a hot oven for the dinner Thursday evening.

They boiled them according to the recipe below and had them in the best condition Monday evening. When others sampled them the next morning they seemed even further improved. "Unsurpassable," was the word. Three days to wait for their grand display seemed long, but we were content - confident that the delay would not lessen their value and appreciation.

But our pride, however legitimate it may have been, was to get a really practical jolt. Thursday morning finally came and was ideal - could hardly be more promising for a successful affair that night. So wishing to further cooperate with Brother Cook, the inspector made his way to the monastery kitchen. Brother, too was in best of smiles as they met at the kitchen door. But:

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Page 2  
Baked Beans

"Oh, Brother Cook," exclaimed the inspector, on seeing the previously baked beans, fifty gallons strong, leisurely sitting on the heated back of the stove where they had been since Monday. "That is a bad place for those beans. They should have been in a cool place for keeping." He sampled them. "Sour!" he exclaimed. "Sour!" sighed the brother, as he tasted them himself. They gazed vacantly at each other for a moment. They both felt stupidly guilty. They both thought of the same baseball phrase, "---three men on bases, - Casey struck out!"

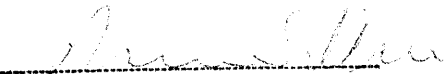
Their guardian angels must have smiled, for each blamed himself rather than the other. "Wait." exclaimed one of them with a gleam of hope, "Saleratus sweetens sour milk, if not too far gone. Let us try it on the beans." They boiled a sample quantity adding a pinch of saleratus (simple baking powder). The unintended experiment, with the magic powder coming to the rescue, had made the beans a credit for a king's banquet. Such at least was the general verdict that night.

"THE INSPECTOR HIMSELF"

THE RECIPE FOR THE BEANS

1. Wash well and soak overnight in plenty of water.
2. Boil about 10 minutes in cold water, until outside skin breaks when blown upon. Skim. (Added by hand in one copy - They get soft enough by long baking.)
3. Put a layer of salt pork or a portion of drippings in bottom of earthen pot, and alternately pour in beans and salt port. Earthen Pot by all means preferred.
4. N.B. molasses etc for coloring spoils the taste of baked beans.
5. Add salt to taste, and a little saleratus.
6. Bake in moderate oven from 3 to 4 hours, or until they become a rich brown color.
7. Sour kraut, pickled beets, or mustard pickles may be served as a relish with beans.

(Inspector) Father Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1944, July 25

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Bonaventure's Monastery  
1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Detroit, Mich.

July 25, 1944

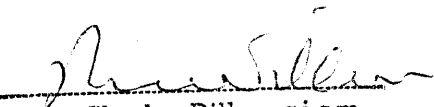
Mr. Simon Houlihan  
Traffic Court, City.

Dear Mr. Houlihan:

God bless you and yours.

Inclosed herewith I am sending you the ticket of which I spoke to you yesterday when I asked for Judge Maher. In a way I was pleased rather that you answered. I've been imposing on the good nature of both Judge Monahan and Judge Murphy that they are liable to throw me out some of these days with my unfortunate friends..... Trusting that they still have a heart, I hope you'll be able to take care of us this time too. ....God bless the court and all concerned.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, February 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

SAINT BONAVENTUR MONASTERY

Detroit, Michigan

February 11, 1945

COMMEMORATION OF OUR BL. IMMACULATE MOTHER MARY/TO BERNADETTE

My dear Friends, Daughters of Isabella -- Amadeus Circle, Detroit:

Since receiving your recent note favor- for which, MANY THANKS - and your practical request in regard to the benefits of the Seraphic Mass Assotian, I am moved to earenst thought and action on a project that for many months has been floating in my mind. Thanks be to God for His patience with me in not lifting the thought away from me - the inspiration, perhaps I ought to say -- till your appreciated communication awakened me to decision.

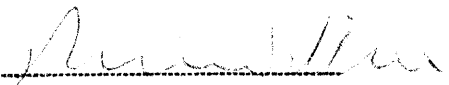
The benefits of this association, as seem to me, are so manifest in many cases and so manifold that to enumerate them even briefly would require more than a short letter, time for writing which is about all I have at my disposal. I shall try, however, not to disapoint you entirely by giving you a short summary of such benefits or advantages.

To start with our holy Mother the Church quite singles-out this association as outstanding in importance by granting to promoters of the work three hundred days indulgence for every enrollment - nay, for every effort made, even if it be but a few words in its favor, to further the interests of the Association. (See inclosed booklet, page 13). The diversity and in some cases the magnitude of

The manifold reports of favors received here as through/Association ought to convince any thinker', of the wonderful benefits acruing to its members thru this providential organization. Let me give here a single example at least, of the notes made in this office of such favors as I am sure would interest the members of your esteemed organization.

I think it was in August that a certain Mrs. B., anxious about her son shortly to leave for over-seas enrolled him in the "Seraphic Mass". The note follow

"October 5, 1945, Mrs. Fred Brewer ... reports having enrolled her son Fred and his comrade and ship-crew, etc. The ship crossed the Atlantic Okay; but two hours before scheduled landing she struck

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Page 2

Daughters of Isabella

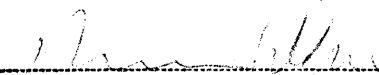
a mine and ship and cargo went down. However, of the 2500 men on board no one was lost. The Captain himself said that the escape was miraculous."

Now a word about possibilities and obligations.

Anyone may be enrolled: -- the sinner (atheist or believer) for conversion; the saint for further conversion and progress in sanctity - in RELIGION, THE SCIENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR. (and, if yiu will, of our dependenc: on Both)

Obligations are practical. Active members, appreciating the opportunities offered by membership are urged to pray for the missions and the missionaries and for all members of the Association; and to offer Holy Communion when they can for these intentions. Those who can afford to do so, are asked to contribute to the material support - usually 50¢ annually or \$5. as a perpetual member - more if they wish and \$2. or more a deceased member - - perpetuall membership or participation. Direct and immediate benefits include five hundred and about twenty-five holy Masses every day or 188,500 holy Masses annyally, saying nothing of the indirect participation in all the good works of the whole Order otherwise including thousands of Holy Masses dai

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, April 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

April 28<sup>th</sup> '45

Pax Domini!

St. Bonaventures  
Detroit Michigan

My Dear Frater Sebastian! -

God bless you and yours.

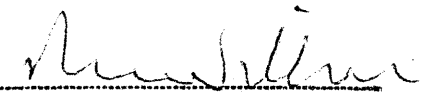
May 11<sup>th</sup> You see I made very little progress two weeks ago on the card Br. Leo gave me and suggested I write you. However, while I would like to write you more of a real letter, which in fact I proposed to do, I have found it not easy to get any where. However, I am sending you herewith a letter written to a priest who at the time was in Yonkers N.Y. and quite inclined to worry about one thing or another; - nearly always about imaginary things, i.e. about something that turns out to have been more or less just a temptation.

Of course we are all naturally inclined that way. From our dear Lord's "Sermon on the Mount.", you can see how the Apostles themselves were no exceptions. Just read the 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> chapters of St. Matthew and see how our dear Lord almost scolded them for their want of faith.

No one blames you, selfunderstood for trying to be healthy. That's only a part of the first law of nature. But to be over anxious about it is not good; or to think that the good God should work a miracle for us. Because we ought to know that He is the only one can work a miracle. We can try of course, to induce Him e.g. through the intercession of the saints and our Bl. Mother Mary Queen of all. ...When Fr. Exprovincial Theodosios was a cleric it was generally feared he'd never last to be ordained. ...So keep up courage dear Fr. Sebastian -- just one day at a time and leave the morrow and yesterday to the good God. and pl pray for this poor sinner. ...

in cord. Jesu

Solanus



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, May 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.  
(from a carbon copy)

SAINT BONAVENTURA MONASTERY.  
DETROIT MICHIGAN  
May 21st 1945

V. Sister Mary Joseph.

Sisters of Saint Francis, LaFayette, Indiana.

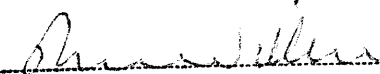
Dear Sister Mary Joseph:

God bless you and yours. Praised be His Holy Name in all His unsearchable designs! I read your pathetic letter this morning and again just now. Yours is certainly a peculiar case. .... But after all, whose case is not a peculiar one? As no two grains of sand can be found exactly alike on all the strands of the oceans and as "star differeth from star in glory", so the ups and downs of this "life". So too the rainbows, the sun bursts, gentle breezes and the real Hellstorms we are liable to meet before, by the grace of God, we shall be able to tumble into our graves with the confidence of tired Children into their places of peaceful slumbers.

But dear Sister; we are never justified in being "bitter" toward anyone except ourselves. In very deed, if we were only one tenth as appreciative as we have every reason to be; our gratitude for what God has done for us - directly and through His creatures, most especially through our immediate superiors, - would be such that we would be perfectly content with what we are and what we have, without ever dreaming of what others may be in themselves, or what in all the world we may have "missed". Furthermore, to ever hope for really "true happiness" this side of Heaven has been alway vain. only a dream Hence Father Ryan, the "Blind Poet of the South in his "Song of The Mystic": "...I walked in the world with the worldly. I craved what the world never gave "And I said: 'In the world each ideal that shines like a star on life's wave; "Is wrecked on the shores of the real(ity), and sleeps like dream in a grave. The peace, etc promised by the world is the peace of the Serpent - ahellofapeace. Ofcourse, there is such a thing as getting "a taste of Heaven" in this world, as we see clearly in the lives of many saints. But that is only possible - and its up to each of us to strive for - in as much as our virtue of Hope is inspired by Faith in God and strengthened -sweetened - in confidence of His great, merciful goodness. But O! "to enjoy life in the world" is another thing.

How long your Great....Grandmother Eve dilidallied with Satan before she finally reached for the fatal apple, Holy Scripture does not tell. If it were a hundred years, which is easily probable, she would have enjoyed the original Paradise ten times as long as you've been a nun. Had she listened to reason and been appreciative for her creation and the unsullied faculties that graced her soul and caused all on earth and in Heaven to smile in her direction, she would never have had time to give way to unprofitable curiosity or to discontent that the devil never fails to foster in our tainted nature.

But alas! ! ! Poor Eve's sad story! Poor Humanity's sorrows! Ingratitude!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 191  
Notarius

V. Sister Mary Joseph  
Page 2.

Poor Sisters of Saint Francis too! we might add; and poor religious of every other order! How often they make mistakes! How often they must have cause to regret imprudence! - miscalculation! - disappointment in even most promising candidates! .... to say nothing of doubtful vocations.

There must have been something about Sr. M.J. as a tiny infant as well as again when she was in her teens, that at least promised appreciation - cooperation with God's grace. So, rather than leave her in some old ash-can .... or later-on turn her out inexperienced, a probable victim for wolves without conscience or morality, she was nursed-on and mothered as though someone in justice really owed it to her. And now? Bitterness ! ? !

Dear Sister Mary Joseph: what you need most - and you are no exception - is a little more appreciation for what's been done for you. Thank God for it all But don't forget the Fourth Commandment and those who take the place of Father and Mother; - who, in your case have taken that place so long.

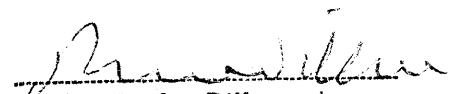
Finally, I would ask you to just compare the two short questions; first, the one of Old: "Why should we - Adam and myself - not be permitted to even look at the beautiful Tree?" and then: "Why should we - Sr. M.J. and myself - not have a chance to enjoy 'life' as other girls?"

Just one little question in conclusion. Where do the great majority of the "other girls" come to in their "enjoyment of life"?

If you stop to observe at all you must see that the majority of them find a very short taste of real joy. A sadly portion of them fall to be sickning "flappers", despised by men and women alike; "houses painted in front with vacant attics and nothing stable below".

If you had to deal with the cases of lost virtue and of blighted faculties and of shattered hopes that every confessor and every doctor meets, one of your first prayers would probably something like the following: "From the 'joys of life' as promised by the world and passion; O Lord deliver us!"

Very Sincerely Yours in Christ, Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 142



1945, June 15

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

COLLEGE OF ST. THOMAS  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

June 15<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Sacred Head  
(Octave of the SS. Cordis)

Quam Bonus Israel  
-- Deus!!!

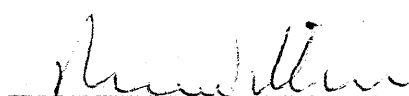
Thanks be to God! At midnight the end of the first day of our "vacation" and trip to ~~First~~ nephew's (John McCloskey, S.J.'s) First Holy Mass -- Seattle, Wash'ton. Just a week and a day since Rt. Rev. Edw'd, with Patrick and Owen -- three brothers arrived at Detroit, (Mich) -- St. Bonaventure Monastery.

A week to-day June 7 we were fortunate in having a real, private interview with the great "Radio Priest" of a decade ago (and since), Rev. Charles E. Coughlin. He seemed appreciatively relieved to remark: I am just up to the Third Nocturn, anticipating the Feast of the Sacred Heart." For years there had been dreamings of a "Family Reunion" on occasion of the First Holy Mass of said nephew John McCloskey, S.J. Now the questions could I go -- should I go?

We had not been together since our dear parents golden wedding in 1913 (32 yrs) -- they with the eldest of sixteen and the 4 of her 10 brothers, having gone ahead, we have ~~had~~ trust to a happy eternity, R.I.P. But Fr. Maurice Joachim, one of the ten brothers ~~was~~ had not been well. Some doubts were expressed as to whether he were able to make the trip. I told them I'd decided not to go unless F.M could go along. ....The above named three ~~went~~ left for Baltimore to see Maurice . . . Saturday a.m. June 9<sup>th</sup>...Following Friday at 8:30 a.m. came the telegram:

"...Capuchin Monastery...Detroit.  
Maurice with us on BandO, due Chicago  
Thursday nine oclock. Can you meet  
us at Dean Conley's? Edward."

(No Signature)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1945, July 9

Pastor's Residence  
Church of St. Michael  
Los Angeles, California

July 9<sup>th</sup> 1945

V. Rev. Fr. Marion, O.F.M. Cap.  
St. Bonaventure's  
Detroit, Michigan

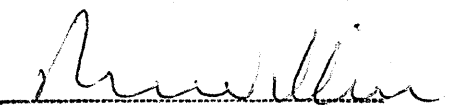
Rev. Dear Father Guardian:

God bless you and all the Brethren.

Thanks be to His merciful providence for all His  
blessed designs. Whether to my discredit or other-  
wise, I am still here in this remarkable part of  
country. Instead of a day as I figured on, its more  
coming a week since I arrived in Los Angeles. - A  
name well befitting such a gentle wonder-land.

Last Saturday, after Fr. Stephen (O.F.M. Cap)  
wired to you, he informed us that the very best he  
could do - in regard to transportation - was to get  
"reservations for next Thursday (12<sup>th</sup>) instead of  
yesterday (9<sup>th</sup>) for Seattle, so that I may use my  
"pass" to St. Paul. To get on the train as I pro-  
posed, without reservation, he stressed would be  
foolhardiness. So here I am still - hoping to  
make the best of missing the privileges of the  
Chapter.

With one or two exceptions, I have met all my  
nephews and nieces and their children. A few of  
them seem "straying the way of worldlings," but  
thank God that seems rather exceptional - here and  
in San Francisco, in Portland and in Seattle.  
After all, however, it is not going to be my pres-  
ence that will work anything worthwhile. Rather  
it will be someone's prayers.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, July 9

Page Two

V. Rev. Fr. Marion, O.F.M. Cap.

You will be pleased to know that Dr. Turell -- formerly head of Detroit Police -- was at my (children's) Mass last Sunday with his son Jack. The latter received Holy Communion and seems to be a real practical and well anchored Catholic. He took us up next day to their home in the mountains. Both parents seem quite pleased at the step he took in the direction of religion.

I am praying the good God for holy guidance of the Chapter. I only hope that nothing may be done to weaken discipline (notwithstanding my example) and that worldliness and want of devotion to our Eucharistic King may get a check of some kind. For surely our appreciation in this latter regard is often manifestly wanting.

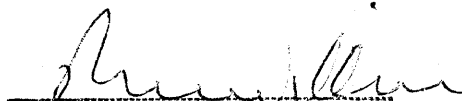
July 11<sup>th</sup>

The inclosed card will help in straightening the intention books

Brother Leo or Br. Rufin it to me. I have about half a dozen intents as yet.

Oremus pro invicem,

Servus Tuus, Solanus,  
O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, August 28.

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

August 28, 1945

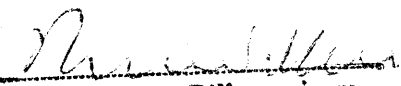
Mrs. Mary Kenny 2140 Concord Ave. Detroit Mich'n.

Dear Mrs. Kenny: God bless you and yours.  
I came down from Retreat in Garrison a  
few days ago to find quite a stack of letters a-  
waiting opening. I just came to yours of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> and sure do sympathize with you and  
your family. However, we've had so many  
decidedly worse reports than about your Pat,  
that turned out most remarkable after several  
months of suspense and anxiety, that I shall  
still hope for a good word about Son Patrick F.

At all events I have just enrolled him  
in the Seraphic Masses as requested and we  
shall not be surprised at any favorable  
report to come. We'll pray and hope -  
trusting in God for the best. After all  
if we look at things in light of faith,  
the worst, as the world considers things, is  
only our Victory - according to our dear  
Lord's own words: "Greater love than this  
no man hath that a man give his life  
for his friends". This I think ought to  
buoy us up as it is needed in millions of  
sad bereavements these days ... God bless you  
again and love to all the family and friends  
Sincerely in the Sacred Heart, Fr. Solanus. O.F.M.C.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Martha Stavale  
5034 Grayton  
Detroit, MI. 48224

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, Sept. 15

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.  
(from a carbon copy)

CAPUCHIN FATHERS  
St. Michael's Church  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

V. Sister Mary Belita. St. Nicholas Convent, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Dear Sister Mary Benita: God bless you and yours. I just finished your  
letter of March 10th and am inscribing the name of Mr. James Peters as a  
member in the Seraphic Mass Association which I trust may help him some-  
way. This in fact is the secret of the wonderful prayers they were tell-  
ing you about in Barclay Street, New York. The following will interest  
Mr. Peters and his friends. This is taken from "Notes and Favors" I have  
been making now and then for years.

"May 25th 1945.

"Mrs. Catherine Nagle - 45-- mother of eight children having been  
found so full of cancer when opened up for operation two weeks ago (May  
9th) that the doctor sewed her up with out further attempt to help her,  
lamenting that she'd never leave the hospital alive(Providence) "Having  
enrolled her in the Seraphic Mass Association, her husband asked: "Is  
there anything else I could do for her?" "I suggested that he enroll  
the Poor Souls - having his own deceased relatives specially in mind".  
"That's good", he said offering a special donation...whole Family storm-  
ing Heaven by daily Communion." ...."Leaving Hospital To-day, though  
unable to take any nourish't

\*\*\*\*\*

May 29th

"Thanks be to God! Mrs. Nagle, as above (May 25). Fearful pains and  
abdominal swelling entirely gone. Has good apetite and eating normally.  
... Husband smilingly enrolls Poor Souls as before in thanksgiving.

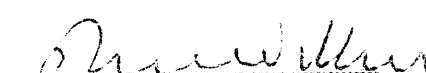
\*\*\*\*\*

Brooklyn, N.Y. Sept. 14th "Mrs. Nagle, noted above May 25 and 29th here  
To-day, seemingly OK.

March 7th 1926. here agin in perfect health." (added later - really - 1946)

Dear Sister: I hope this may give you all a little more courage to  
pray on and with your friends, storm Heaven. I often advise a proposition  
to the Poor souls; viz, that if an operation is averted, e.g., they donate  
an enrollment for the Poor Souls, of the operation averted - or charity to  
some good cause, and besides prayers and Holy Communions, etc.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 147

1945, October 1

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original letter by the Servant of God Fr. Solanus Casey OFM, Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

225 JEROME STREET

BROOKLYN 7, N.Y.

Oct. 1, 1945

Mrs. Helen Skonieczny  
6412 Joseph Campau  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Skonieczny:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your charitable and generous favor of almost a month ago. I remember you and your peculiar case very well. I surely am pleased that things have adjusted themselves so well. God in His wisdom and mercy working so favorably in all. I hope too that your Husband has arrived back by now. Please pardon delay.

God bless both of you

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

(also written on a Seraphic Mass Association Card)

Stanley and Helen Skonieczny

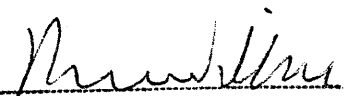
July 29, 1954

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap:

Bless'd God!  
Show Thy mercy and holy countenance.

Originals are in the possession of

S.J. Skonieczny  
35129 W. Chicago Blvd.  
Livonia, Michigan 48150

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, October 22

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

1945, October 22  
(found Aug. 21, -- '51)

Mr. Rae Garland  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Rae:

God Bless you and yours. Many thanks for favor of the 19th just noted. Am enrolling you and family and the holy suffering Souls for your guidance. Glad of your interesting meet. on the first. Mrs O'Malley sent me word about it yesterday.

Now I must tell you something that, in a way, I do not like to do. Its this. The arch enemy of our Blessed Mother and of immortal souls, at all times on the alert, must have received an extra length of rope these days. I have been reported as having been phoning you longdistance and the "Agradan Society"! ! !


Whatever the source, it seems to have given important offense, if not scandal . . . . . Therefore, I wish that for the present and until you be better known and your efforts recognized, you leave me out of the picture. Afterall if Venerable Mary of Agrata is a saint, about which I find it personally unreasonable to doubt, then, in my way of thinking, its high time she get active in working a miracle of some kind, in clearing away the prejudice or jealousy or at least misunderstanding that has hampered her work---which is not hers but God's work---and has pressed on your sholders for three years and on mine for at least seven. . . . .

Sincerely, in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

IV Book ". . .not your work . . . but the work of  
The HIGHEST TRUTH." Our M. Mother, to M. M. of Agreda.

About 575  
Coronation about 575

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1945, October 25

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M.Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 JEROME STREET  
BROOKLYN 7, N.Y.

Oct. 25, 1945.

Mrs. D.E. Wolf  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Wolf:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your favor of the 21st, just noted. I am so glad to know that your dear little one is improving. I surely hope she continues so - and surpriz the doctors.

I am you and your husband in the Masses as the herewith cards indicate. You should each make a proposition to the good God in your own best way, to do something in Thanksgiving if the baby is spared. I think I told you something to that effect last week.

In the mean time we'll keep on praying and trusing in the Good God to see fit and best to spare the little one.

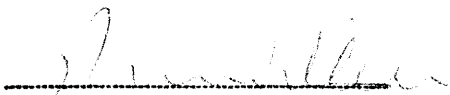
God bless you all - and breathe a little for the conversion of this poor sinner Solanus who makes so little progress in faith, hope and charity.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Mary Wolf  
3595 Flint Road  
Brighton, Mich. 48116

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1945, Oct. 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

St. Raphael's Day  
Oct 24- 1945.

Dear Mrs. Winke:

God bless you and yours. I have just read and noted your pathetic letter of the 19th and thank you for same--having enrolled you for your balky knee. I am inclosing a Sacred Heart (blessed) to place on your knee and I hope that our dear Lord may smile at you and cure the "old knee."

God bless you again--it just struck 11 p.m. Thanks be to God for all things.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(another sheet included with the above)

Rational Creature! Your purpose?  
...Why did God make you? ; ?  
. . . Ah! My blue-print primary purpose

God made me to know Him.--  
O what a bles'd aim!

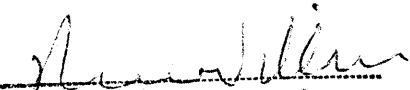
To love Him and serve Him  
Sure rests in the same

It's Heaven- begun --for the grate-  
Ful--on Earth! --

To treasure aright! ? !! !  
Highest Heaven it's worth  
(God Himself the reward.  
(even here).

Original in Possession of:

Helen Winke  
7444 Asbury Park  
Detroit, MI. 48228

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c.1947

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Bles'd be God!

God bless you Mrs. Helen Winke--you and yours. I am glad you are still carrying on. How wonderful-- the Good God has been to your Family! --Indeed to us all! notwithstanding our many sins and stupidities. I surely hope the doctors get a favorable surprise when they come to operate on your Husband. I have enrolled him in the Emergency list of the Seraphic Mass Associan and that--even that--seems to work wonders at times.

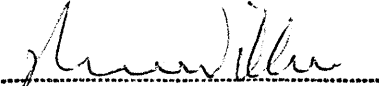
Again wishing you God's blessing on yourself and your whole Family, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Helen Winke  
7444 Asbury Park  
Detroit, MI. 48228

  
.....  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, Sept. 4

The following is a faithful transcription of the postcard  
written by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Bles'd be God in all His designs!  
Sept 4th 1948


God bless you Mr. Winke -- and no less may He bless your  
dear Wife and children. How wonderful has He not been to you!  
DEO GR.

I thank you indeed for your favor just noted. Pleas  
God I shall comply with your request and shall consider it a  
privilege. I surely congratulate you on not only successes that  
have come to you of late, but I might say--now that the sky  
has cleared--especially on the unusual knocks whereby you and  
yours were tried some twenty years ago. How can we ever be  
fully grateful?!"

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Helen Winke  
7444 Asbury Park  
Detroit, MI. 48228

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of a message handwritten and typed by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

A Blessed -  
Peaceful Christmas.

God bless you Mr.  
Wollenweber - you and yours.  
Sorry to hear of that old heart  
of yours playing truant.  
Do not worry about, but  
thank the Good God you  
still have such an organ  
to play on and keep time.

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

DAILY COMMUNION - ALWAYS CHRISTMAS EVE.

With love and with Christmas blessings to all  
Comes the INFANT once more to free us from sorrow.  
Whose garb and Whose mien and Whose gentleness call  
To each heart and each soul for a manger tomorrow.

Whose Birth and Whose power and Whose wonders proclaim  
Him, the SON OF THE VIRGIN as promised of yore;  
O! May He estrange us from sin with its shame! -  
And reign in our hearts as His crib evermore.

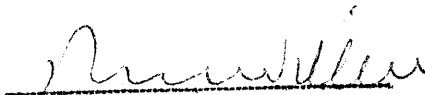
TO KNOW GOD - MY WONDERFULLY PRIVILEGED  
PURPOSE.

God made me to know Him. O! What a bless'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
It's HEAVEN BEGUN for the GRATEFUL on earth; - -  
To treasure aright! ? ! HIGHEST HEAVEN its worth.

(Note from Father Solanus in Brooklyn. Dec. 1945.)

Original in possession of:

Edw. P. Wollenweber  
11539 Messmore  
Utica, MI. 48087  
(Dec. 1975 - Bro. Leo.)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

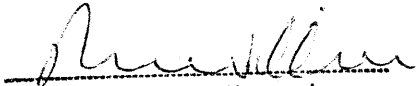
c. 1945

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Autograph by Father Solanus on lower right corner of a picture taken at the office, St. Bonaventures, Detroit. Written c. 1945.

Only in Heaven can we  
be satisfied as being  
fully and really converted. Therefore -  
including the above,  
poor Fr. Solanus - pray  
for the conversion of  
sinners, - and that God  
send laborers into His  
Harvest.

(s) Fr. Solanus  
O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

(typed on a Christmas card:)

ALWAYS CHRISTMAS EVE.  
Nay - INFINITELY MORE, FOR DAILY COMMUNICANTS

With love and with Christmas greetings to all  
Comes the Infant once more to free us from sorrow  
Whose smile and Whose power and Whose gentleness call  
To each heart and each soul for a Manger Tomorrow;

Whose love and whose goodness--Whose wonders proclaim  
Him, the Son of the Virgin, as Promised of yore.-  
O! may He estrange us from sin and its shame!-  
And reign in our Heart, as His crib evermore!

/s/ Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(added in Fr. Solanus' hand:)

"Christ wrought Redemption from dispair and sin  
By His dear Cross the clouds of grief were riven  
'Tis Bethlem and Calvary that win, from  
Pain and Sorrow the sweets of Heaven.

(above four lines quoted from:) Rev. Fr. Edward Casey

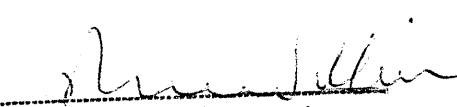
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(printed verse on card:)

AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN  
SON, AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING  
CLOTHES, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER... (Luke 2, 7)

added verse by Fr. Solanus)  
Ah! The rest of us, on Calvary--  
Mary conceived under the Cross--  
thirty-three years later... Glory to God!  
Peace to men of GOOD WILL.

/s/ Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, Jan. 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

10:40 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

JAN 8, 1946

Mrs. E. M. Barden.

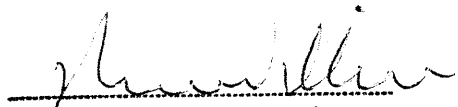
Detroit, Michigan.

God bless you Mrs. Barden. Many thanks for your favor of the 6th-- your Son Rex's enrollment and the other poor sinner Solanus. Only when he gets to Heaven will he be fully converted.-- So keep on praying for him-- we'll pray for one another. ..

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. E. M. Barden  
36511 Jefferson Ct.  
Farmington Hills, MI. 48018

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, January 12

The following is a faithful transcription of a  
photo Copy of the handwritten original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

225 JEROME STREET

BROOKLYN 7, N.Y.

January 12th

Mrs. Verna O'Neill  
4827 Edmonton Ave.  
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mrs. O'Neill:

God bless you and yours. I hope this finds  
things brighter and improving with you. Only To-  
night did I get to open and note your favor of the  
8th.

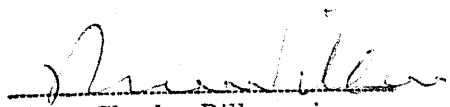
I have enrolled your father and yourself. I  
hope for the best and that you may experience a de-  
cidedly surprize.

God bless you all again

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in Pos-  
session of:

Mrs. Verna O'Neill  
4547 Laurel Club Drive  
W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48033

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1946, January 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

January 28th, 1946  
Telephone - Applegate 7-2748

Mrs. Ruth Dotson,  
Detroit, Michigan

My dear Mrs. Dotson:


God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your kind  
favor of last week. I am sending the certificates, etc., under separate  
cover.

I am glad you told me of the handicapped little girl  
with the brain tumor. And since you give such details of the parents  
etc., I hope the whole "tragedy" may turn to have been a blessing in dis-  
guise; viz, to bring the child and all concerned closer to the dear Lord.

I am going to copy some notes I made on a case of  
brain-tumor, the cure of which I know about. This case came to my know-  
ledge almost three years ago, when two ladies came to the Monastery Office  
on Mt. Elliot Ave. in Detroit, Michigan; Feb. 23rd, 1943. The elderly of  
the two introduced the younger:

"...This is Mrs. Wheeler who is not of our faith but  
whose husband is very sick and she would like to speak to you about him."  
Mrs. Wheeler was weeping. I asked her what denomination they belonged to  
and she answered: "Methodist." "Well, thank the dear Lord," I answered,  
"we're both Christians, so that in a way you belong to my faith anyhow  
because after all there is only one Christianity."

"But what is the trouble?" "My husband had a tumor  
removed from his brain just a month ago today and just this morning they  
performed the third operation on him. They give me very little hope of  
his recovery." ...."Now Mrs. Wheeler, I have a proposition for you to  
make." ....It was Tuesday. "You make a promise to the Good God in your  
own honest way that if your husband gives the doctors a surprise tomorrow,  
or by the end of the week, you will be earnest about finding out for your-  
self, at least something of the difference, or better said, something of  
the relationship between your denomination as a Methodist and the "Mother  
Church." "I'll do anything to please the Lord," she said weeping, "if  
He'll only spare my poor, dear husband."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mrs. Ruth Dotson, Detroit, Michigan.

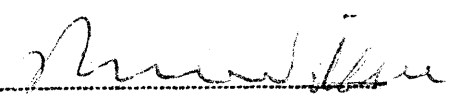
The following Friday the same two ladies came back quite smiling and with them a man with his head all shaven and one side quite tape-up Whom Mrs. Wheeler introduced: "...This is my husband.".....He had certainly given the doctors - Peet and Wood - of the Ann Arbor one of the surprises of their life; who together declared, as I have it in the said note "...miraculous that a patient should talk normally four days after such an operation." They had given him at the longest six months to live. I gave Mrs. Wheeler a copy of the "Conception" of Mary, viz, the first book of the "Mystical City of God" by Venerable Mother Mary of Agreda; that she might learn something in particular about the august Queen of Heaven our Blessed Mother Mary, that in this at least she might get an idea of how sadly those Christians are wanting in the out-standing feature of Christinaity, "Devotion to Mary," who know little or nothing of the same BLESSED MOTHER OF GOD, save that in general she was just the Mother of Jesus. ....

About a year and a half afterwards, October 16th, she came to lament that her husband was not acting as he ought of late. I had not seen or heard from them since a week or so after said surprise visit. I asked her if she had kept her promise -- and particularly about the Blesses Virgin. She hung her head and acknowledged she had neglected to do so. A few nights afterwards they both came back and were seemingly quite happy and satisfied. They had evidently started earnestly to keep the promise she and probably both had made. At all events he especially seemed enthusiastic about the said Book. He surely looked and seemed to feel happy.

I have no doubt that if those parents of whom you wrote me - the one baptized a Catholic at least and the other, though good at heart, with little or no faith - would wake up and turn to the Good God they would get a happy surprise. In case they come to New York any time, I would be pleased to see them. In the meantime, we will hope and pray. God bless all.

Fr. Solanus

P.S. I just remembered that possibly someone would like to go to see the above mentioned Wheelers. When they called on me last year, according to my notes, they lived at 686 Manistique Ave., Detroit.

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

1946, January 31

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of the handwritten message on reverse of a printed acknowledgement Card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

(Printed Message)

St. Michael's Church

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS

225 JEROME STREET

BROOKLYN 7, N. Y.

Dear Friend: - God bless you Mrs. Edw'd Wiethoff.

Kindly accept our heartfelt thanks for your Mass offering. The Masses will be said as soon as possible.

With sincere good wishes, we beg to remain

Gratefully yours,

Capuchin Fathers.

(Reverse - In Fr. Solanus' handwriting)

Jan. 31, 1946


God bless you again Mrs. Weithoff. You may well congratulate yourself and be consoled that yourself and your lately deceased Mother have been clients of our dear Blessed Mother Mary - under whatever title -- for whether as "Mystica Rose" or Mystical City" she remains the Blessed Mother of God and by His divine wisdom and power and merciful condiscention blessed Mother of redeemed humanity, therefore, our blessed Mother too. - - -

Sincerely yours in Christ -

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

Original in possession of.

Mrs. Mary Wiethoff  
14158 Berwick Ave.  
Livonia, MI. 48154

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Miss Mildred Maueal  
45 Candler Ave. Detroit, Michigan,

My Dear Madam: M. M. M.: God bless you and yours.

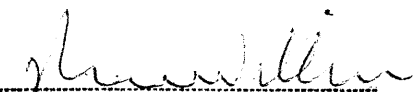
I hope this finds your out-look brightening. I just read your letter of the 11th--pathetic indeed--and surely do sympathize with you. Perhaps I ought rather to congratulate you on the unusual experience you are of course inclined to learn/ and which the unbelieving world must look upon as a sad indication of failure.

But O: Why discouragement as long as we have a spark of faith left? What different view we get by exercising and by fostering the "triune virtue FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY! In the first place "life" here in this world is so short--comparatively so momentary--that in regard to its success or failure one is inclined to think: "...After all, what is the difference?"--"life" so short, that worldlings are so inclined to worship as the only LIFE--as everything worth.

How is it possible that man can be so shallow-minded and still be considered "rational"?

Your failure, yes, is an indication of weakness of some kind, somewhere. But if "The weak thing of this world hath God chosen to confound the strong....." as St. Paul so wonderfully assures us--and the history of religion abounds in examples and all creation says Amen--then why ever be discouraged: unless it be that our faith, more or less weakens?

Why dear sister, you ought to rather thank God for having given you such an opportunity to humble yourself and such a wonderful chance to foster humility--and by thanking Him ahead of time for whatever crosses He may deign to caress you with, CONFIDENCE in His wisdom. Confidence in God--the very soul of prayer--hardly comes to any poor sinner like we all are, without trials and humiliations, and your failure, though simple and possibly single, has no doubt been quite a little cross, at least for a "little soul" to carry. There is a little verse I am sure will prof you to keep in mind and ought help you foster confidence in God.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

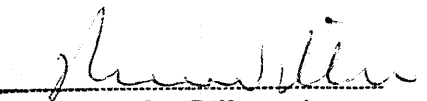
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Miss Mildred Maueal , page 2.

page two

"God condescends to use our powers, If we don't spoil His plans by ours." God's plans are always for the best: always wonderful. But most especially for the patient and the humble who trust in Him are His plans unfathomably holy and sublime.

Let us, therefore, not weaken. Let us hope when darkness seem to surround us. Let us thank Him at all time and under whatever circumstances. Thank Him for our creation and our existence, Thank Him for every thing--for His plans in the past that by our sins and our want of appreciation and patience have so often frustrated and that He so often found necessary to change. Let us thank Him for all His plans for the future--for trials and humiliations for as well as got joys and consolations; for sickness and whatever death He may deign to plan; and with the inspired Psalmist let us call all the creatures of the universe to help us praise adore and Him Who is the Divine Beginning and the everlasting Good--the Alpha and the Omega.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes, original by the servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, C.F.M. Cap.

A V O C A T I O N !.!?

As our holy Mother the Church would seem to us esteem it, might be defined as: "A call from Heaven on the part of Almighty God Himself - the eternal Architect of the universe - gently inclining and inviting the individual soul to choose that state of life which, in His infinite wisdom and divine solicitude, He foresees to be best adapted to its personal sanctification, and, consequently most conducive at once to the salvation of souls (humanity) and the eternal glory of Heaven Itself.

As our holy Mother the Church would seem to have us regard it, is a call from HEAVEN on the part of GOD HIMSELF, inviting the individual soul to choose that state of life or profession which, in His divine wisdom He foresees will be most conducive to the sanctity and therefore, peace and happiness of the soul itself


As our holy Mother the Church would seem to have us regard it, is a call from HEAVEN on the part of GOD HIMSELF inclining and inviting the individual soul to choose that state of life or profession which, in His infinite wisdom, He foresees will be most conducive to its own sanctity and, consequently, best adapted to the promotion of His divine glory and the SALVATION OF HUMANITY.

While such a call is undoubtedly offered to every boy and girl and may, therefore, / applied to the special graces whereby the Divine Lover of souls prepares and inclines each one for his particular station in society - including holy matrimony - the term "vocation" is usually understood to refer rather to the more outstanding stations: like

While such a call is undoubtedly offered every boy and girl - every individual able to think - and may, therefore be applied to the special trades whereby the Divine Lover of souls inclines and prepares each one for his station in society - holy matrimony included - the term, nevertheless in usually is usually used in reference to the more outstanding and in a way more difficult stations, for example, the Holy Priest- to be a priest, a religious, an

While the term, "Vocation" may really be applied to the special graces whereby the Devine Lover of Souls prepares and inclines each individual for his state of life in the community - including holy matrimony - nevertheless

While such a call - more or less clearly is sure to come to ever boy and girl who figures at all on what they ought to do for God and their neighbor; because in His infinite goodness Almighty God

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.-  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

#### ATHEISM.

As to the other--the climax of irreligion and of blasphemey--atheism: Webster rightly gives just its first meaning in its right place: "Denial of God's existence or refusal to believe in Him. Then he goes on for a quarter of a column with learned expouanations and references, all good as far as they go; but Webster

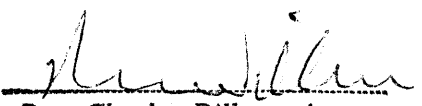
As to the otheher;-the climax of irreligion and of blasphemy-Atheism: Webster first and rightly gives the plain, simple meaning of the word: "The denial of God's existence or; refusal to believe in Him." Then he goes on with learned references of a quarter of a column, interesting in its way. But as refered to above, Webster himself seems lame in his grasp of religion and, like the big majority of the Hon. members of our Suprem Court, without a proper conception of what religion really means, can not possibly have a proper conception of the real monstrosity of atheism. Otherwise he as well as the Supreme Court would never make so little of religion or let atheism--its would-be destruction--of so easy.

Atheism is the climax of intellectual and moral insanity --the hopeless conclusion and desperate refuge at once of shallow thinking, of degenerate minds and of damm fools. No other their prime leader than Lucifer himself, --himself the prince outstanding of diabolical deceivers, and by God's permission, dictator in Hell's kingdom.

( On another sheet )

c. 1946

To every normally thinking mind, atheism, by its very nature has always been considered nothing less than a blasphemous suggestion of the devil. This, however, does not exactly cap the monster. For whereas man's purpose as a rational creature, is to recognize and to know his Creator, so as to be able, intelligently to love Him, confidently to hope in Him and gratefully to serve Him, this monster atheism, by trying to weaken belief in God and the supernatural and rob us entirely of holy faith in Almighty God, would poison and nihilize everything pertaining to these virtues so essentiao to man's happiness, by blinding us to their divine Source and brazenly denying the very existenc of a Creator.

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed note by the Servant of God, Fr. Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap. (typed on the margin of a mimeographed copy - titled Very Serious Words, a message of our Lord to Padre Pio)

NOTE:

Does not the following, in face of the growing immorality and its fearfully threatening climax atheism, remind one of the awful conditions and predictions immediately preceding the great Deluge of Noe's time and again, several generations later, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha and their being swallowed up in the Dead Sea? See also on rear page a definition of atheism the climax of stupidity.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

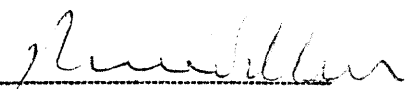
Notes of Fr. Solanus Casey were typed on back page - referred to above:

To every normally thinking mind, atheism, the very antithesis of noble, progressive science has always been recognized as, by its very nature, a blasphemous suggestion of the devil. This, however, does not exactly cap such a monster as we shall show presently, God willing. If we first have an idea of the primary and immediate purpose of atheism together with an knowledge whence it comes, as above, it will not be difficult to appreciate something of its perversity.

The direct and immediate object of atheism, in the designs of Satan, is to weaken belief in the supernatural and to rob souls of their life-giving faith in Almighty God. In other words, Begotten in Hell's hatred of God and in its coniving envy of mankind, atheism, by boldly denying the very existence of God would nihilize the very idea of supernatural virtue; and thus bring man down, not only to the level of the brute-beast but unspeakably below such a level; because, whereas the brute-beast has never been endowed with the faculty of hoping of believing in anything, especially above the senses; while the very soul of happiness for the rational man, consists in confident hope of what faith assures him is coming to him.

Atheism, therefore, (as a suggestion) aims at the very sources of mans' happiness, temporal and eternal. Hence the definition:

Atheism, to every normally thinking mind, is by its very nature, a blasphemous suggestion of the devil, and the "omega" (Climax), of intellectual and moral insanity; is at once the hopeless conclusion and the desperate refuge of shallow thinking, of degenerate minds and - lamentably - of damned fools; none their primary leader other than Lucifer himself, the reprobate prince of diabolical deceiver's and, by God' permission, chief dictator.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1946, March 7

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N.Y.  
Mar. 7, 1946

God bless you Mrs. John Beaman

A thousand thanks for your good wishes and your favor just noted. We'll pray for you and hope things go better with your husband, John and will all.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Sincerely yours in Christ

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, December 3

On a Seraphic Mass Association Card Fr. Solanus wrote the following:

Mr. & Mrs. John Beaman  
for God's holy guidance

Dec. 3rd, 1946

God bless you Mrs. Beaman. Nothing more practical to please the Lord than prayers and enrollment for the helpless in Purgatory.

Fr. Solanus

1951, June 6

The following is a typed message on a card written perhaps by his secretary.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

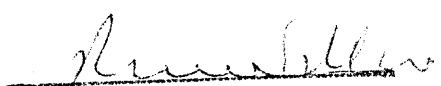
June 6, 1951

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter and the donation for the enrollment. I sent a certificate to Wilfred. May God bless you, We will remember you in our prayers.

Gratefully yours in the Sacred Heart

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcript  
of the typed original by the Servant of  
God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, March 12

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1946

Dr. William Koch.  
Near Deaconess Hospital.  
East Jefferson  
Detroit, Michigan.


Dear Doctor Koch:

God bless you and yours. I do hope your are well and  
able to smile at at your international enemies - in  
so many cases perverters of truth and justice.

I received your kind favor through Sister Mary Clarissa  
of the Guardian Angels' Home. about two weeks ago; for  
which ... many thanks. I was hoping to get a chance to  
write you a really worth while letter. But the longer  
I wate, it would seem the farther I get from a "let up"  
in correspondence. So I've decided to write you briefly,  
at least for the present.


Of course I am not surprised that they are trying again  
to make trouble for you. I am sure you have been more  
or less expecting it. This I concluded from what has  
gone before.

But dear Doctor: perhaps the dear Lord is expecting  
something that you are not regarding. As time goes  
on I am convinced that we poor mortals are quite alike  
in many ways. For example, we are naturally inclined  
to minimize the importance of the spiritual and the  
eternal and to over-rate the physical and the temporal  
- the latter at the cost of the former. Hence the Good  
God, often in His mercy, sends something - at least  
permits it - to come to us for the purpose of waking  
us up, lest we forget the final purpose of our exist-  
ence as rational creatures, viz. to know our CREATOR  
and, in love and service to blend our existence with  
His for all eternity.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Dr. William Koch

Of course, I know that you have been doing a lot of charity-work these past years and I have thanked God to see it. It indicates to me at least, that you have more faith and more charity than many would like to concede. After all, however, rightly ordered charity begins at home. That means, in my figuring at least, the cultivation and fostering in our own individual hearts and souls the supernatural virtues of faith, hope and charity - essentially one virtue. In other words I might say it means for me personally, that I should strive continually to learn more and more about God my Creator, about God as my Redeemer, about God my Sanctifier. Because in only as much as I know anything can I appreciate it. In only as much as I know a good person can I love him. Herein God Himself will be no exception. He wants, therefore, to be known in order that He may be intelligently loved. Therefore, the catechism puts knowledge of God first: "God made me to know Him; which means and includes all the rest - to love Him and serve Him. Hence the little verses, which I think you will like. Let them be a simple conclusion.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, March 12.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

MY GREAT GOAL - THE SUPREME PURPOSE OF MY CREATION AND EXISTENCE.

TO KNOW MY GOD.

God made me to know Him. O! What a bless'd aim!

To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.

It's Heaven begun for the grateful on eearth. --


To treasure arigh ! ? ! Highest Heaven its worth.

God Himself is the reward even here below

(though only as a shadow, comparatively).

But dear Doctor Koch: what I wanted to propose for you is something like  
this. You have shown quite a little interest in the one great science  
necessary for real contentment in this world and for supernatural hope in  
the life awaiting us beyond the

/Unfinished Draft/

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the typed original by the Servant of  
God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, March 17

March 17<sup>th</sup> 1946.

Dr. William Koch.  
East Jefferson Ave.,  
Detroit, Michigan.

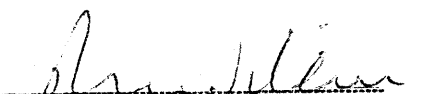
My Dear Doctor Koch:

God bless you and yours. I do hope you are well -  
and by this time able to smile at your poor inter-  
national enemies: in so many cases perverters of  
justice. and truth. Poor enemies! because in sad  
part materialistic - atheistic - little better than  
fools.

I received your kind favor through Sister Mary  
Clarissa of the Guardian Angel Convent. This was  
several weeks ago it seems, to, me and I surely  
want/thank you for your generosity. I wanted to  
wright you a worth-while letter and finally To-day  
for the first time in several months am I "out of  
the woods" with my urgent letters. Thanks be to  
God for everything.

Sister told me of your said enemies, again trying  
to make trouble for you, and asked for prayers for  
your guidance. Of course I am always glad to hear  
of you and get such reques. I know you have need  
of prayers. Who in tis world don't need them?  
And this, I might say especially for one whose  
abilities and whose work brings him in contact with  
so many teptations and such opposition as does yours.  
I know too that you do much for the community that  
men know little or nothing about - often are lothe  
to acknowledge, or to belive.

However, dear Doctor Koch: I have been wondering  
if there is not something else that our dear Lord  
may be expecting to see you do for Him; viz, more  
earnestness in providing for the "insurence of  
your own soul's salvation". Charity is always good;  
always to be commended and fostered. But after all,  
rightly ordered charity begins at home. To my mind  
that means it should begin right in one's own heart -  
to be practical, in my own soul.

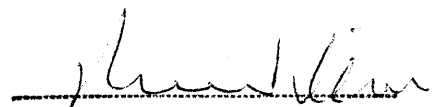
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 171

Dr. William Koch  
Page Two

But if the primary object of my creation and my existence as a rational creature is to know my Creator, and this, in order that I may be able to love Him and serve Him, and finally by cooperating with His grace, blend my existenc with His in eternal, unspeakable glory; then my first obligation, my first charity is to fulfil my obligation of gratitude to my Creator by trying as best I may to recognize My Creator/that thus, I may intelligently appreciate and some way manifest appreciation. In other words, reason itself and gratitude for my creation - gratitude for the "next to infinite manifestations of God my Creator's/wisdom and power and goodness and love"/demands that I really ought make the science of my relationship with Him, my Creator and God - the primary and the outstanding business of all my faculties, in all places and at all stages of my rational existence.

Perhaps someone will wonder if there is such a science. Well, if there be no such science, then I would say there can be no rational creatures either. Because the very first and surest indications of intelligence, as I figure, is gratitude for favors received. And since the very first favor any creature can receive is its creation and creature can(not) come into existence of itself

/Unfinished Draft/

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, April 5

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH  
CAPUCHIN MONASTERY  
225 Jerome Street  
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

April 5th 1946.

Dr. William Koch.  
East Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan.

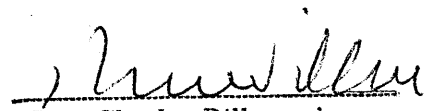
My Dear Doctor Koch:

God bless you and yours.

I do hope that you are well; and that by this time you are able, as once before, to smile at the seemingly desperate efforts of your really pittyable, international enemies. Pittyabl, because so frequently perverters of justice and truth. No doubt you have been wondering at my silence and seemingly want of appreciation/ your generous favor of several weeks ago. I feel that, were my failure to acknowled same to continue much longer someone might even be scandalized. Not that I have failed to remember your kindness and charity or that I have not made efforts to write you; but I wanted to get something to you that would be really worth while, and that takes time.

Besides all this dear Doctor; there has been something else in my mind I wanted to get it into yours: viz, to get you to realize that there is very likely something

(Unfinished Draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, May 20th

The following is a faithful transcription  
of a photo copy of a brief message on a  
Seraphic Mass Association Card by the Ser-  
vant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Mrs. Catherine Ravine

- for speedy recovery,

God willing ---

May 20th - 1946

God bless you Mrs. Ravine

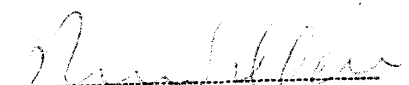
Do not worry too much.

We'll pray and trust in God.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

The Original in possession of:

Mrs. Catherine Ravine  
9182 Bishop  
Detroit, Michigan 48224

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



The following is a faithful transcription of  
the typed carbon by the Servant of God,  
Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, May 22

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, IND.

May 22nd 1946.

Miss Belle Lyke  
26 W. Oneida St.,  
Oswiego, New York

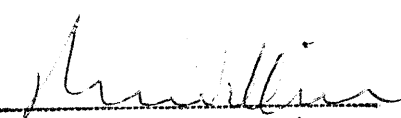
Dear Miss Lyke:

God bless you and yours. I hope this finds you well  
and that the, "kind of mixup" caused by my transfer  
hither, etc, may not be so grave as to be insurmount-  
able.

First I want to thank you for your constant zeal in  
the work of the poor foreign Missions as manifest  
from the realy laudable number of enrollments received  
from you these past years. However, while I have seen  
your name quite often, I have been force by circumstances  
to rely very much on others to keep up my correspondence  
and acknowledgements.

Notably ever since they took me in the ambulance to the  
Hospital where I remained for nine weeks, That was a  
couple of years back and for about sex months following  
I was able to do very little. I went to the Monastery-  
office; yes, but even after I was well on my feet  
again, there were so many callers that I had to give  
personal attention to, that/ I worked for 18 hours a  
day - as was sometimes the case - I could not attend  
to one quarter of my personal letters. ....

Since my transfer from St. Bonaventure's my personal  
callers have been by no means as heavy; though my  
letters - possibly because I have to take care of  
them myself - seem a heavy as ever; and you can imagine  
how I appreciate it to have someone like one of the  
Brothers or Fathers in Detroit continue their generous  
assistance in the work that, even with such help, often  
keeps me - with other duties - from 5 O'cl a.m. 11 p.m.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Miss Belle Lyke

Brother Leo and Br. Rufin and Br. Gerard and often one or the other Rev. Father have helped me thus. After all, as long as the wonderful work is done and it goes to the same headquarters, what's the difference who does it.

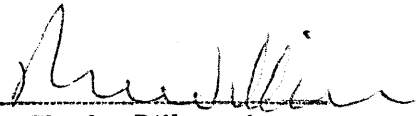
That Heaven is pleased with the work of the Association and you Promoters have mighty big share in the merit - ought to be manifest from the number and often the astonishing nature and magnitude of the favors we have reported as thru the same great source of blessings. Thanks and glory to God!

Regretting our failure and hoping that this may be at least nearly satisfactory I beg to remain,

Sincerely and Gratefully Yours,

In Christ - The divine Master Missioner,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, June 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION  
for the support of  
The Capuchin Foreign Missions

June 21st, 1946

Dear Friends of the Missions- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Geraci. God bless you and yours.

(following is a printed message.)

May the Lord give you His peace!

I wish to thank you sincerely for your kind alms for the Capuchin Foreign Missions. I am sure that the prayers of the missionaries will ascend to the Throne of God for your welfare.

- The certificate of enrollment are inclosed herewith.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

(signed)

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

(handwritten)

Many thanks for your favor of June 12th  
Praised be Jesus Christ  
over

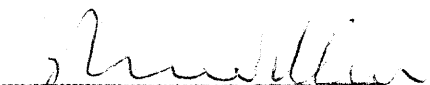
(other side)

June 21st 1946

Praised be Jesus Christ

God bless you Dear Mrs. Geraci. Yes, Mrs. Geraci, Your letter to Brooklyn was forwarded to me shortly. Noted the holy Masses as requested and do trust that everything comes according to God's holy designs. How wonderful are His ways--and His mercy is above all His works. Blessed be His divine Providence!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1946

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

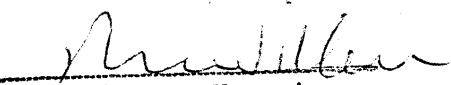
ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Dear Mrs. Geraci,

Thank you for the kind favor of August 26, which  
has been recorded as you desired. I shall remember you  
and your sister, Nora, in my prayers, and I hope that  
the Lord will give you both strength and courage to live  
according to God no matter what opposition may rise up  
against you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1947

The following is a faithful transcription of a printed message composed by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap. and signed by him.

HUNTINGTON

ST. FELIX FRIARY

INDIANA

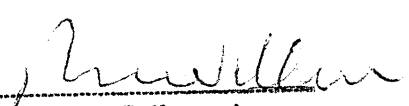
Dear Mrs. Geraci,

Many thanks for your appreciated favor duly received and noted. May our dear Lord bless you and yours and give you His holy peace! We shall always deem it a privilege to comply with such requests. We hope that our efforts will be satisfactory. How wonderful, in the promotion of mutual and common charity, that--next to our happy dependence on Almighty God Himself--He has made us mutually dependent also on one another. And, incidentally, what a marvellously different society we'd have here, and what an ideal world to live in if we'd all keep in mind the assurance of Jesus, "What you have done to the least of my brethren you have done to me."

Assuring you of our prayers, we remain,

Gratefully yours,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the typed original by the Servant of  
God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, July 1

SAINT BELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY.  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
July 1st 1946.

Officer Walter McClellan.  
13856 Manning Ave.  
Detroit, Michigan.


My Dear Friend:

God bless you and yours, - every thing that interest  
you worthwhile.

I understand you are once more in trouble - as  
years ago when we two first met, you took the pledge  
and, as I thought, we became pretty good friends. (Not?)

I have ofthen thought of you Walter McClellan,  
since that night when you took the pledge and, thank  
God you kept it. Many a time, however, I have wondered  
if "big W. Mack" ever tried to realize in any way what  
he has been missing in refusing to believe in RELIGION  
and in God, and in failing to foster faith in Jesus  
Christ. I am sure Walter would be quite a different,  
altogether happier man if he only had the Faith: - Ah!  
- that faith which down the centuries has been the  
consolation and the stay of uncounted millions. Of  
course, the very fact that I respect you as I do, ought  
to be proof sufficient that I am confident you can not  
be a real atheist, - except possibly such a one as have  
been heard to thank God for their atheism.! For as a  
matter of fact Walter; in my opinion there can hardly  
be any thing worse for the individual or for society  
than atheism; - nothing more positively opposed to  
right reason and hope, the very soul of terrestrial  
happiness.

Hence, the fearful definition to follow  
shortly. But first, - Think of it! --

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Officer Walter McClellan

if "Gratitude for favors received is one of the very first and surest indications of intelligence" and if the very first benefit possible to any creature is its creation, its existence, then in the Name of God and of right reason and of decency itself, where is there a shadow of excuse/the atheist and his atheism?

We'll let the definition answer.

"Born originally in the haughty pride of Lucifer himself, the prince of diabolical darkness, atheism as the climax of intellectual and spiritual insanity, is at once the hopeless conclusion and the desperate refuge - suggested by the devil - 1st of shallow thinking, 2ndly of perverse, degenerate minds, and thirdly (fearful to say), of damned fools."

Its first and immediate, ruinous effect which comes simultaneously with atheism, is the loss of supernatural hope, the very soul of happiness in this world; viz, for any one really able to draw the first practical conclusion, "obligation of gratitude".

/Unfinished Draft/

1946, August 8.

The following is a faithful transcription of message written by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap. on a Seraphic Mass Association enrollment card.

Mrs. Marion Stone  
for Special Inten.

August 8, 1946

God bless you Mrs. Stone - you and yours.  
Why worry so easily! Is not God watching  
over us - the divine Aut'or of all  
beautiful solicitude?  
Rather start now to thank Him for His  
designs for your future.

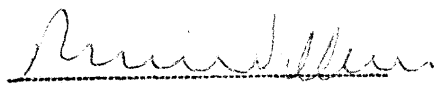
"God condescends to use our powers  
If we don't spoil His plans by ours".

Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Marion Stone  
2557 Somerset Blvd.  
Troy, Michigan 48064

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m., 182  
Notarius



1946, August 16

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M. Cap.

Blessed be God!

August 16th, 1946

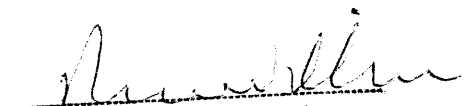
God bless you Bernice M. Schumacher you and yours.

I am glad you are feeling improved. Keep up the improvement and don't give way to worry or discouragement. That never pays. If we could only learn to appreciate the holy faith and the innumerable blessings flowing from it and the blessings otherwise surrounding us; We could never have time to worry about anything - except that we're so little appreciative.

P.S. Congratulations to your Husband, H.

.....Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:  
Bernice M. Schumacher  
42079 Toddmark Lane  
Mt. Clements, Mi. 48044

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, September 23

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

O all ye work of the Lord! Bless the Lord!

September 23rd, 1946

God bless you Mrs. B. M. Schumacher - you and yours.

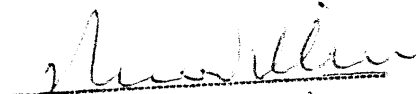
Many thanks for your appreciated favor of August 24th. I have  
enrolled the Poor Souls specially for your intentions and mine. I  
am confident they will help us out of many troubles that would  
otherwise come to us. Thank you for your kind prayers. That is  
something all need very much.

Thanks be to God for all things.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:  
Bernice M. Schumacher  
42079 Toddmark Lane  
Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48044

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the typed original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1946, September 19

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, IND.

September 19<sup>th</sup> 1946.

Mrs. Geraldine Bieke.  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Bieke:

God bless you and yours.

I just read your pathetic letter in regard to your  
little Daughte Lois' eye-trouble.

I certainly sympathize with you and your dear Hus-  
band in this, though coparatively trivial matter.  
We'll pray, however, and trust that it may turn  
out to be no more than trivial.

It is about twenty years back that a young couple  
brought their first-born to us at the Monaster of  
St. Bonaventure, the pupil of whose little eye  
had been scratched and lost fluid. Their doctor  
went with them to a specialest in the D. Whitney  
Bld'g who wanted to remove the eye at once. ...  
Then in consternation they came to St. B. and  
enrollied promising a perpetual enrollment and  
especially more frequent holy communion. Thank  
God the eye healed shortly and they never went  
back to the doctors.

So dear Mrs. - and Mr. Bieke - shake off the ex-  
cessive worry and istead exercise a little con-  
fidence in God's merciful providence by first  
promising some even a little sacrifice of some  
kind in thanksgiving if things go favorable and  
then, to show your confidence in His goodness,  
start and thank Him when ever you think of it  
for what He may see best to do for the little  
one and for her loving friends.

God bless you and now don't worry too  
much.

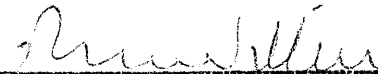
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Ed. (Geraldine) Bieke  
13070 Corbett  
Detroit, MI. 48213

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

185

1946, November 1

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

POSTCARD

"O all you works of the Lord! bless the Lord. ..."  
November 1st-All Saints. 1946.

God bless you Miss Alice O'Brien--you and yours.  
Many thanks too for your kind favor of Oct. 6th--duely received and noted.

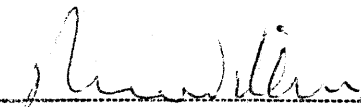
Yes I quited enjoyed the short visit with the five guests over night, etc. ... Indeed I did know your Mother Anna--almost like a sister. I stopped several weeks while learning to run the trolley cars in 1887 with our Aunt Mary and Uncle Pat and of course. She was (I think) a few years older than I but we were quite friends: --also when I started working in the State's Prison-- Uncle Pat one of the guards. ... When you write to Joe, tell him. Best Regards and God's blessing from Fr. Sol. I think I owe him a letter or two: but my big problem is my correspondence. So please pray that be able to speed up. ---Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(Also this message on a Seraphic Mass Association card:)

Miss Alice O'Brien -  
For God's holy grace and guidance.  
Nov. 1 - All Saints - 1946  
God bless you Miss O'B.  
Pl. pray for poor sinners and don't forget  
Fr. Solanus

Original in possession of:

Alice O'Brien  
320 No. Second St.  
Stillwater, Minn. 55082

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

POSTCARD

Feast of the Apparition of Mary our Immaculate Mother.

February 11th 1947

God bless you Alice O'Brien--you and yours.

Many thanks for kind favor of Febr. 6th--duly Rec'd and noted.

Glad to know that things seem brightening up.

Thanks be to God for all His mercies

Am herewith inclosing a few "jubilee cards."

Thanks be to God for such privileges as have been mine these fifty years.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

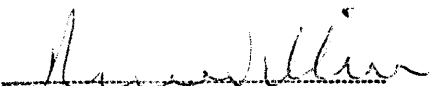
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(picture side of card has following added:  
(picture of Saint Felix Capuchin Friary Huntington, Ind.)

Clerical Novitiate (rear)--looking toward City 1½ miles down on the Wabash River. We have 18 novices--room for 40. Pray

Original in possession of:

Alice O'Brien  
320 No. Second St.  
Stillwater, Minn. 55082

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, November 14

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Wm Holdsworth - Ward 14  
Grace Hospital  
Detroit, Michigan.

Nov. 14th, 1946

"O all ye works of the Lord! Praise the Lord...."

God bless you Wm Hol's. Glad to know you are still on "the job - trying to make the grade to a happy eternity - some grade too..not ? - now and then especially -

Best regards to Mr. Schaffrtein...

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

I have enrolled for speedy recovery, God willing.

1937, April 18

(Handwritten message added to a Seraphic Mass Association Card, by Fr. Solanus.)

William Holdsworth

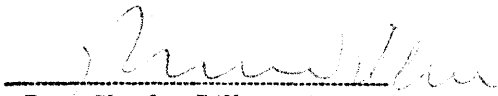
- for speedy recovery, God willing

April 18, 1937

God bless you William --  
But? Come, Shake off that  
excessive worry.  
God is watching all. He knows best

Fr. Solanus O.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:  
Mrs. Arthur (Georgia) Gietzen  
22237 Virginia St.  
E. Detroit, Mich. 48021

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, November 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SERAPHIC MASS ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE SUPPORT OF  
THE CAPUCHIN FOREIGN MISSIONS

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 1946

DEAR FRIEND OF THE MISSIONS: God bless you Mrs. Ronan —  
you and yours.

MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU HIS PEACE!

I WISH TO THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR YOUR KIND AND  
GENEROUS ALMS TO THE CAPUCHIN FOREIGN MISSIONS. I  
AM SURE THAT THE PRAYERS OF THE MISSIONARIES WILL  
ASCEND TO THE THRONE OF GOD FOR YOUR WELFARE.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER I AM MAILING YOU THE CER-  
TIFICATES OF ENROLLMENT, WHICH I TRUST YOU WILL LIKE.

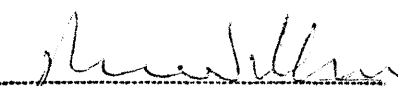
GRATEFULLY YOURS IN CHRIST,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. With that stiff knee of yours, you ought to see  
a good chiropractor or ostiopath.

---

Note: Above is copy of a printed correspondence form-card,  
with rubber stamp signature, to wit: "Fr. Solanus,  
O.F.M. Cap." The printed-form portion is indicated  
in solid caps. Added in Fr. Solanus' hand is,  
"God bless you . . ." together with the date and  
the "P.S. . . .". Also added in his hand is a note  
on the reverse side of the card, as indicated on  
Page Two hereof.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1946, November 24

Mrs. Bridget Ronan

Page 2

God bless us again M. Bridget Ronan.

Many thanks again for your kind favor of Nov 7<sup>th</sup> -- duly received and noted. Only today, however, did I get to answer it. I am enrolling you in the Seraphic Mass Association also.

We do well to remember how very short after all it is till our suffering - and our time of merit too will be over. Let us offer everything, therefore to the divine Spouse of our Souls that He may accept it as helping Him to save immortal souls -- our own included.


It will help greatly too, if we keep in mind what is meant by Eternity. ....St. Augustine was want to say: "What is not eternal is worth little." That is, in itself - terrestrial joys and sorrows alike. . .

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Many thanks for your prayers.

Praised be God!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius



1946, December 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIS CAPUCHIN FRIARY.

HUNTINGTON INDIANA

DECEMBER 14th 1946.

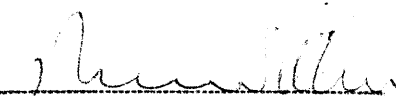
Mr, Henry S. Morgan.  
1700 Chicago Blv'd  
Detroit, michigan.

My Dear Mr. Morgan: God bless you and yours.

I was pleased to receive your kind favor of the 9<sup>th</sup> even though it was not as bright, as of course, we all would like to see it. However, God knows best, and, while we'll still hope for a favorable surprise, we can hardly do better than, not only be resigned to whatever God permits, but even beforehand thank Him for His mercifully loving designs. In this way we can foster confidence in God, whis is the very soul of prayer, and consequently heighten our hopes for supernatural intervention. Not only this, but in thus fostering confidence, we greatly eliminate the danger of sadness, want of resignation and impatience which, though not necessarily sinful in themselves, nevertheless sadly frustrate God's merciful designs. Hence the little verse:

"God condescends to use our powers  
If we don't spoil His plans by ours."

Besides this, dear Mr. Morgan; I want to thank you for your practical interest in the appalling cas of Dr. Kraus; whose efforts and personal sacrifices in the cause of the very principles of justice and truth -- of religion as against atheism, the supreme science of our happy relationship with God and our neighbor against the "diabolical climax of intellectual and spiritual insanity -- has been so outstanding and, at times, so internationally recognized.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mr. Henry S. Morgan

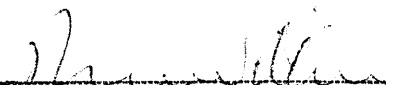
I do hope that something may be done to right something of the flagrant injustices against which Dr. Kraus has been fighting. I am confident that sooner or later his idealism - so really Christian - will prevail; though it seems to me he is fifty years ahead of his generation. I feel that if he only persevere and cooperate with God's grace, never wanting to good wills, there will come great results from his so far, heroic warfare.

So, too, do I hope that the good God whose ways are so unsearchable, have something ahead of poor, dear little Rickey Grix. All this, notwithstanding scientific conclusions in the one case and, in the other, ... political atheism.

Trusting to have brighter reports and better results, I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 6.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
February 6th 1947.

Mr. Henry S. Morgan. 1700 Chicago Blve'd Detroit, Michigan.

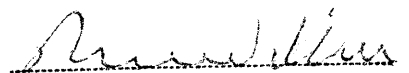
My Dear Mr. Morgan: God bless you and yours.

I do hope that things are brightening or soon to brighten up for you and your lately so bereaved family.

I have just finished a letter to the widow of the late A. J. Crawford, whose husband - same A.J. - was one time the fond hope of a fervently loving Catholic mother, but alas! for human fickleness! as my futile efforts to bring him back to appreciation of religion proved in his case. Alas for so many whose promising youth has sadly ripened into disappointing maturity and senile disaster.

No doubt David, the Royal Prophet; foresaw the possibility of the defection of Solomon's eldest brother, had(he) lived when, having stormed Heaven with all kinds of prayers and penance that the boy might be spared him, he was nevertheless taken, he washed himself from his penance and tears to the surprise of and edification of his contemporaries as well as future generations even to this end of time, - faithful and humble and real philosopher that he was. Ha! but such resignation to such berevements never fail to multiply the graces of the one so tried - in reality the privileged one, could we but peer through the veil of only the temporal - to say nothing of the eternal - future. From a sinner and an adulterer, to which David had in a moment of weakness fallen, through resignation to this and other trials perhaps more heartrending, he becomes the outstanding seer of penance, - the Royal Prophet and Psalmist, "a man according to God's own heart," nay, an outstanding progenitor of the Hope of all ages the God-Man Himself Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Saviour!

What are our trials, severe as they seem, when we think of Abraham offering his only son Isaac? To say that he became "The father of all the faithful", is only to touch, as it were, on the visible. Who can doubt that before he left the Mountain, God has given him a picture of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Church and the coming generations to the blending of time into the incomprehensible glory of eternity?

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 6.

Mr. Henry S. Morgan  
Page 2.

And - shame on us stupid "Christians" - in the light of Mary the Queen of Martyrs, the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God actually at the foot of the Cross offering herself together with her divine Son - her God and her Son - for the salvation of fallen humanity!


O dear Mr. Morgan! Where is our faith? Where our foresight? Where our generous cooperation with opportunities of graces that Almighty God is always providing for our best? For indeed and at all times:

"God condescends to use our powers. --  
If we don't spoil His plans by ours."

Again and again He must repeat to each one of us: "...Unless you see signs and wonders you believe not." How is it that, though we can lookback fifty, seventy years as if it were but yesterday, we still figure on the endurance of human plans? We want to be Christians - spouses of Jesus - risen and glorified of course, but without getting too near the Cross of pain! ?

Is it not time indeed that we pray for one another's conversion? Hoping that this may help in some way and begging for your prayers I hope to remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ our Saviour,

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

194

1946, December 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Sclanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.  
(from a carbon copy)

SAINT FELIX FRIARY  
(Capuchin Fathers)  
Huntington Indiana

December 14th 1946

Mrs. Abraham Trabulsy.

Detroit 6, Michigan.

Dear Madam Trabulsy: God bless you and yours. I hope you are well.


A friend of your Daughter Jenny's, Miss Rose Faris, writes me that Jenny is very low with polio and asks for prayers, that if it be God's holy will she recover. I am enrolling Jenny in what we call the Seraphic Mass Association for prayers of hundreds of thousands of people.

The members of this association are asked to pray for our foreign missionaries and their work and for one another; those members of course who can pray. Also those who can afford to do so are asked to help with an offering of some kind besides by prayers and Masses. I am confident that this will help your Jenny. This especially if you and yours do your part.

You will get an idea of what I mean by telling you of a remarkable case in Detroit about four years ago. I made a note of it at the time which was about as follows.

"Jan. 9th. Judge Healy called this evening: '... There is a certain Dr. Kleitzer in my office whose only child is very low with spinal meningitis and the Dr's give him very little hope of recovery. He is not a Catholic or a Christian. He is a Jew, a good, God fearing fellow. I wish you would enroll the boy in the Mass Association and pray for him. I'll be glad to do that.' I answered. 'Tell the parents I'd like to see them.' 'I'll bring them over tomorrow.' he answered"

"Next day (Saturday), I saw them - the judge and the Dr. waiting over in the corner about 1:15 p.m." ..... Introduced to the doctor. I asked, "... How is the boy?" "Well, he slept last night!" (the first time in a week) .... "Now Dr., I have a proposition I want you to make to the Good God yourself. I understand you're a Jew." "Yes." "That is Okay Dr. After all if religion can be defined as a science and I claim it is unquestionably the greatest science of all times; In fact it is nothing less than "THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR.", then there can be but one religion, though there may be a thousand different systems of religion." ..... "Dr. seemed pleased but said nothing. ...."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

195

Mrs. Abraham Trabulsy

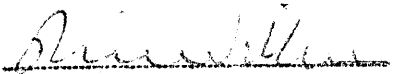
Page 2.

"Twenty-five minutes later the Judge phoned: 'I thought you would be pleased to hear; I brought the doctor right back to the Children's Hospital and in the vestibule we met the mother of the boy, his wife all smiling. "At 1:30 he opened his eyes and smiled at me'. "A week later (Sunday) he was brought home in perfect health."

Dr. Klietzer told many people about this remarkable recovery. I learned later that his father was a Jewish rabbi. The last time I spoke with Judge Healy I asked about Dr. Kleizer. He regretted that, owing to some political misunderstanding and exaggerated report the Dr. resigned his position in the Children's Court and is now in business for himself.

Hoping that the above may not have been too boring for anyone and that if it be God's holy will your Jenny may give the doctors and all concerned a favorable surprise of somekind, I remain,

(not signed)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, a.i.c.m.  
Notarius 196

1946, December 27.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY.  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
December 27th. 1946

Dr. J. P. Young. 216 North Jefferson, Huntington, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Young:

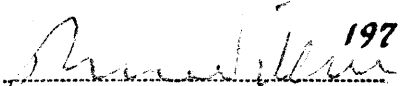
God bless you and yours for a blessed Christmastide and, please God too, a happy prosperous New Year. I was sorry to learn of your not being well. I hope its nothing too serious. But whether serious or not, we may be sure that inasmuch as we take such things as from the hand of God, they will never fail in the end to turnout as having been a blessing in disguise. At all events I am enrolling you in the Seraphic Mass Association and am praying for your speedy recovery and thereafter speedy improvement, - physically of course and, what is infinitely of more importance, spiritually.

God knows that, in our stupidity we all need real conversion to Him. Anyhow, I hope things brighten for you soon in both regards. No question about it, if we do the right thing on our part God never fails us. Just here, however is always a danger. We are naturally so inclined to go wrong. Therefore too, our obligation to admonish one another when danger threatens.

Hence, Dear Doctor Young: I feel that I would not be your friend or even a decently grateful patient were I to be silent as to dangers ahead of you as I see them without any doubt.

Only yesterday a middle-aged couple - friends of yours too - lamented to me that after several years in holy matrimony, they had never been blessed with - what I have long since considered the greatest blessing that, in the natural order, God gives on earth, A Family. And my Doctor Young has no family. ? Because the family that God blessed him with has no head. ? At all events, it is a sad situation; and notwithstanding the fearful prevalence of similar cases, it must be, in the sight of Heaven a most lamentable problem.

Not since yesterday only Doctor, has this been on my mind; but since away back in July, and decidedly more so since early in September; when a youth came into your office while I was waiting in one of the apartments and whom, judging from his voice and the familiarity that followed between you, I took to be a son of yours of probably fifteen to seventeen years. He seemed promisingly bright and alert; but what pained me as the little dialogue proceeded was the sad want of filial reverence and even respect shown to his father. So much so, in fact that I almost called out to him: "Boy ... Honor thy father and thy mother". "Alas", I thought afterwards, "The poor lad has only an absentee father and his mother a convert .... Where is the responsibility? Who's to blame?"

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Dr. J. P. Young con't.


Page 2.

Honestly dear Doctor, I've been thinking ever since that day, how to devise, or what, to induce something of Christian peace and harmony into that half-divorced family, - something to bring that father and whole, half-divorced family together.

You can imagine my surprise this morning, therefore, when a hitherto stranger to me came begging for prayers to help "storm Heaven" for this very purpose. The party was evidently a friend of yours, as well as of your whole family. Of this I was convinced after a very few words. Incidentally, one of the primary causes lamented, with what seemed to me genuinely fraternal solicitude, brought back to me a rather disappointing remark you made on occasion of my first visit to your office.

If you remember I had just given a definition of, "THE GREATEST SCIENCE OF ALL AGES" as, "RELIGION IS THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR", adding that, while there may be an indefinite number of "religious systems", there can be only one science of RELIGION".

(Unfinished.)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

198



1947, May 25.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY: HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

May 25th Pentecost Sunday, 1947

Doctor J. P. Young 229 Roche Street Huntington, Indiana

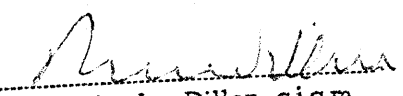
My dear Doctor Young:

God bless you and yours. I hope you are well. Perhaps I ought rather to say I am trying to hope for your welfare, - spiritual of course and especially, as well as physically and socially: because after all in the sight of Heaven, the first is what supremely counts.

I have been wanting to write you Doctor these several months. In fact I started a couple of letters to you before Christmas, especially when I learned of your serious heart-attack and enrolled you in the Seraphic Mass Association. But first let me too, as a member of the community, thank you for your charitable favor to Rev. Father Guardian several weeks ago. I was doubly pleased to hear of it - for your own sake as well as for the needy poor. For it would seem in many cases that just such exercises of charity has meant the final salvation of many a soul otherwise most likely lost.

Now dear Doctor Young; I want to tell you in all sincerity and truth, that for close to a year you have been a problem on my mind, and I feel that I would not be a friend of yours or a grateful patient were I to let the present holy Easter Season pass without at least fraternally calling your attention to the very grave danger ahead of you, of completely losing the very little faith in Jesus Christ and His Church which, (un) fortunately at least, you seem to have left. But; "Why such an alarming conclusion?", you will ask. For indeed your outlook in my way of reckoning is grave.

First. Because, according to the greatest theologians, the first punishment on sin is the withdrawal of sanctifying grace - of God himself, therefore, - and the consequent weakening of the soul to fall again with less resistance into the same and other sins. For: "God will not remain in a soul subject (to) sin." But surely this must apply to the culpable neglect to foster and to practice that God-given faith that we have so gratuitously received and which has been so tenderly and conscientiously fostered in our souls, - God himself breathing it into our very immortal souls with loving parents and tutors so providentially solicitous.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

199

Doctor J. P. Young  
Page 2.

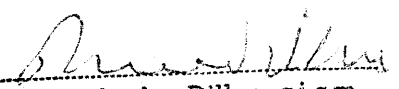
But, in God's blessed Name, who can claim exemption from such Guilt? I for one could never dare think of such a thing. Can you Doctor? Then, if "gratitude for favors is one of the first and surest indications of intelligence", then, in the name of everything that is logical, and intelligent and holy; let us be men enough to acknowledge our weakness, our stupidity, our real insanity and guilt in the sight of Heaven: that by such humble acknowledgement - How mercifully simple and easy! we may recover our friendship and our peace with our God in Heaven -- at once -- the divinely gentle and loving Governor of the universe, and the no less divine Avenger of the proud and the stubborn who refuse to appreciate His merciful goodness and to cooperate with His gracious condescensions.

Something for me as well as you Friend, and us all to think about. Not? Then Doctor: you possibly remember reading the great encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on the Holy Eucharist, even when it first came out. Anyhow, I think it has been generally considered a decided master-piece, at once like-inspired and indeed very inspiring. Here is a notable passage from it that I have often considered and that have often wished were proclaimed again and again, in season and out of season:

"History bears witness that the virtues of the Christian life have flourished best wherever and whenever the frequent reception of the Eucharist has most prevailed. And on the other hand it is no less certain that in days when men have ceased to care for this heavenly bread, and have lost their appetite for it, the practice of Christian religion has gradually lost its force and vigor."

And because society is made up of individuals these great, great documents, - the encyclicals - pertain to the instruction and the welfare of the individual and society in general alike. Hence it goes on, like a divine admonition and exhortation:"

"And indeed it was as a needful measure of precaution against a complete falling away that Innocent III., in the Council of the Lateran, most strictly enjoined that no Christian should abstain from receiving the Communion of the Lord's Body at least in the solemn paschal season." Ah! "as a needful measure against a complete falling away..."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Doctor J. P. Young  
Page 3.

Where are any of the protestant sects to-day or the protestant nations in their, "practical faith in God and in Jesus our divine Redeemer, or in God the Holy Spirit our divine Sanctifier? Where is Russia? Where is official England or official Germany or France? etc? They have followed the individual. To a sad extent they have fallen victims to atheism - the most diabolical cancer, because the climax of intellectual and spiritual insanity, -- at once, -- the hopeless conclusion and the "desperate refuge" of shallow thinking, of perverse and degenerate minds and, almost fearful to say, of damned fools. Hell is its officeal headquarters and none other their supreme knight than Lucifer himself, the prince of diabolical deceivers."

Protestantism! Christianity without our eucharistic God! without Holy Communion! ? Christianity without the virtues of the Christian life!

We had a memorable funeral in Detroit about ten or twelve years ago, - memorable no doubt for those called to attend it.. A one-time prominent judge who as a youth and as a young professional had been quite commonly looked upon and not infrequently referred to as "a model young Catholic", but who, for some cause or other abandoned the practice of frequent and regular Communion. Little by little he had left off attendance at Holy Mass on Sunday and shortly dropped that practice too, altogether.

Finally he turned more or less against religion entirely, as it would seem, since he discouraged at least on 32nd degree mason from personally looking into Catholic claims and practices. Of this I was informed by same mason's own widow, who having called for a priest on his death-bed died a Catholic. This was several years before the unfortunate death of the judge, who seemingly having become disgusted with himself and with everything else, went secretly and hanged himself. I think dear Friend: this ought to suffice to convince you that my apprehension as above, is not at all far fetched. ....

I am not the least surprised Doctor; that under the circumstances and most especially in your present condition of mind and soul, you simply shudder at the thought of returning home to your family. That condition has been a long time growing in your mind and soul, - most probably starting with the first time you deliberately missed your Sunday Mass or some other mortal sin.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

1947, May 25.

Doctor J. P. Young  
Page 4.

Going back to your family, however, is a secondary matter and can in a number of ways be bridged over without great difficulties. If ever again you get back into the grace of God by a good, humble confession, that "preternatural fear and dislike you now experience for things you once revered and loved, will at once weaken, and, little by little you will in all probability come to your old happy self again.


But to dance along the "wide road that leads to destruction" and in a state of most probable mortal sin, dily-dallying with a possibility of some day obtaining the grace of God and eternal salvation, is a fearfully perilous course to take. To my mind it is positively following the steps of our unfortunate judge above referred to, in an appallingly close imitation, and something to checkup on at every and all costs.

Hoping dear Doctor, that I have not been over harsh in my conclusions and that this may not discourage you. Rather on the contrary that it may simply wake you up before it's too late, from your most threatening drowsyness, I beg to remain

Sincerely at your service in any way wherein I may be able to do you a favor.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Please do not forget Doctor; I need prayers as well as any other poor sinner. In this it seems to me we are all in like need -- not knowing, as the great Apostal of the Gentiles teaches: "not knowing if we be worthy of love or punishment, - love or hatred."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, October 4.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY.  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
October 4th 1947.  
FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS.

Dr. J. P. Young. 616 North Jefferson Ave. City.

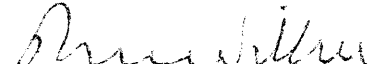
My Dear Doctor Young:

May the Lord give you his peace!, you and yours - that peace of which the "world" knows little or nothing; the peace which St. Francis was so astonishingly successful in promoting, the peace to establish which, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity came down from Heaven and lived, suffered and died as man and the promoters of which, "shall be called the children of God".

I have been wanting to write you Doctor but I feared to embarrass you. I have wanted to talk things over but you've escaped me. I was pleased at your bringing that, "Companion of the Summa", as you called it. I would wish to have seen more of it and to have talked it over with you - in connection with the primary purpose of my visit. For, to be frank, much as I appreciate your treatments and miss them and thank you for them, they must be altogether of secondary importance in face of the condition of your immortal soul and the danger of which I see you to be in of losing it together with your faith in God and His Church.

I was happy to see you, as it seemed to me, that you were trying to do the right thing and to be happy. To the rational creature it must mean the same thing. I still hope you are trying. What more can any of us do? Its all the Good God requires or expects of us. - TO TRY. Success must depend on Him. He does expect, however, and He will be the Judge as to whether we will have used the means He offers to insure the success He expects and which His justice will demand.

Alas for humanity! How sadly few comparatively, ever think of such an obligation? - Alas! Hence the want of peace for the individual. hence the turmoil! - domestic; - national, - international! Everyone seeking peace, - as positively as the stone in the air seeks rest - and there is no peace for the rational creature except in the willing service of its Creator.

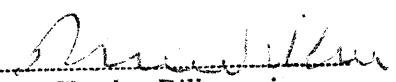
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Dr. J. P. Young  
Page 2.

Dear Doctor: You gave me a treatment on Tuesday. God bless you for it. I hope that I shall always appreciate such favors - every and all favors; for appreciation means gratitude and: "Gratitude for favors is unquestionably one of the very first and surest indications of intelligence." But I felt that day there was something on your mind; that you were not your own self - happy as you ought to be. In fact I've felt that way more or less right along. The next day I again had the great privilege of singing a High-Mass, and as usual for several months I had J.P. pretty much in my mind. During the "Pater Noster", possibly due to more than ordinary fervor, when I came to the words: "...sicut nos dimittimus..." - And forgive us .. as we forgive those who trespass against us", I almost faltered. There was something like an answer or a response in my very soul to the effect: "Unless and until he forgive .. I can not." That evening at Matins you came to my mind again as I intoned the psalm: "Nisi Dominus...", "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it." (126) And from the other choir came back the response like a divine sanction: "Unless the Lord keep the city, he watcheth in vain that keepeth it."

Now Doctor: I want to assure you that it is not to embarrass you that I am writing you thus. On the contrary, I positively feel that I could not be your friend without making as strong an effort as possible to save you fearful embarrassment unquestionably ahead of you unless, by the grace of God you open your eyes and cease trying to do without Him, - without God!

After all, what is the embarrassment of a friendly fraternal correction when contrasted with the multiplied accusation at the General Judgement Tomorrow before heaven and earth as well as all Hell? For my part I have long since come to the conclusion that when there is trouble ahead, the quicker we prepare to meet it the less its going to amount to; whereas, the less we make of it, if it be real, the worse its going to prove.

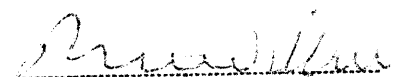
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Dr. J. P. Young  
Page 3.

But you dear Doctor; while in quite a number of ways you have been doing good - have been an asset and a credit to the Community at least as far as the general public sees. You have used the talents God has lent you to a great extent in a creditable manner. Has not God bles'd you too, and temporarily at least filled your heart with grateful appreciation for the ability to do for Him and for humanity? But are you going to drift on, and into eternity satisfied with the natural "kick you get out of it"? - and the temporal advantages, including in this latter the shadowy credit of an unthinking public? I am asking - addressing - these questions as to a brother who can draw conclusions; as to one who, in the sight of Heaven can not plead ignorance. Are you going to continue till too late, to tacitly defy the Church of the Living God - doping your conscience with the poison of modern atheism, the climax of intellectual and moral insanity, that you can get along without the Church and her sacraments and consequently without God?

Get along without the Church? A peacemaker without humbly confessing one's own sins? ! "Charity begins at home". Peace is an outstanding characteristic of charity. They accompany each other and must begin, if really genuine, between God and the individual soul, ... "without me you can do nothing." "He that is not with me is against me and he that gatherith not with me, scattereth." "He that heareth you heareth me..."

If the withdrawal of grace is the first punishment on sin, which means the flight of the Holy Spirit from the soul guilty of sin and if peace is outstandingly a gift of the Holy Sprit, and furthermore, if one of the parents of a family virtully defy the divinely installed and established representative of peace, then Doctor; can any thinker acquainted with the case be surprised at the scandallous want of peace in such a parents home? -- and of course, that every immediate member of the family be upset is quite to be expected. No positive faith fostered or appreciated, or moral obligations for a rational creature? Is it not as selfunderstood, Doctor; at least with philosophers, that all these necessarily go together - reason, moral obligation, appreciation, religion?

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, October 4.

Dr. J. P. Young  
Page 4.


Just to quote one little saying from the prolific pen of one most outstanding and universally acknowledged of all philosophers and moralists: "But if any man have not care of his own, and especially of those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." St. Paul (I Tim. V-8). Of course Doctor; I know that unless one be some way in the grace of God, this must be boring to read. Neither is the drilling of a hopeful tooth pleasant - for the poor doctor any more than for the agonizing patient. But, But?

If you dear Doctor; will have patiently read the above, having prayed for light and a good will, there will be great hope for both of us in your regard. Not only a tooth, but a temporal life worth living as well as an immortal soul will be saved.

In the name of Saint Francis, and through his most humble, therefore, most powerful intercession; may the Lord give you His peace - you and yours.

Sincerely - Hopefully - Fraternally Yours,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
.....  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius



1946, January 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original message composed by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap. for his Golden Jubilee.

Jan. 14 - 1897 - Jan. 14 - 1946


Thanks be to God for His  
uncountable mercies - and to my  
neighbor for his patient charity:  
fifty years in the Order have  
slipped, scarcely noticed ahead  
of me, into eternal life.

Blessed be God in - -  
- - all His designs !

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Fr. Charles Repole, OFM.Cap.  
Sacred Heart Friary  
110 Shonnard Place  
Yonkers, N.Y. 10703

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, January

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original drafts of a message composed by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey O.F.M. Cap. for his Golden Jubilee Card.

Jan. 14 - 1897 - Jan. 14 - 1947

1897 - Jan. 14th - 1947

Thanks be to God for uncountable mercies - for all things. Thanks to my neighbor for his charitable patience: fifty years of Capuchin life have almost unnoticed slipped ahead of me into eternity - whither I hope to follow before half of another fifty. Deo Gratias.

Thanks be to God for uncountable mercies - for every blessing: Thanks to my neighbor for his charitable patience; my first fifty years in the Order - almost unnoticed - has slipped away from me into eternal life.

Thither I hope to follow before half another fifty - trusting in the merciful goodness of God.

The Lord be praised in all His designs!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

1897 - Jan. 14 - 1947

1897

1947

What shall I render to the Lord for all He hath done for me? He created me to know Him..that includes all the rest - - God made me to know Him. O what a blessed Him! To love Him and serve Him Sure rests in the same. It's Heaven begun - For the grateful on earth - To treasure aright!!! - - Highest Heaven its worth. He permits me To-day to Start a second fifty years in the Order. "Quid retrbuam!" Now shall thank Him! May the rest of my Existence be an Eternal Deo Gratias-to God and my Neighbor! - Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

PAX ET BONUM!

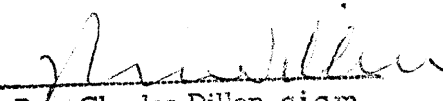
IN MEMORY OF MY GOLDEN JUBILEE IN RELIGION

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY DETRPOT. ,OCJOGAM

Thanks be to God for uncountable mercies - for every blessing! Thanks to my neighbor for his charitable patience. Fifty years in the order - almost unnoticed - have slipped from me into eternity - Thither I hope to follow before half another fifty; trusting in the merciful goodness of God!

FR. SOLANUS, O.F.M.CAP. DEO GRATIAS

(Final Printed Version)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

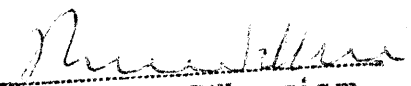
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Rev. Fr. Simon, O.F.M. Cap.

Director Third Order of Saint Francis

My Dear Confrater Simon: More than simply to say "A thousand times many thanks" for your practical/in the elaborate preparations and actual celebration of the golden jubilee at dear Saint Bonaventure's a few weeks back (Jan.26); I want to congratulate you and your dear Tertiaries - every Juniors ofcourse as will as the Seniors-and I am inclined to say especially the members of the privileged Eucharistic Mission Band, on their beautiful, artistic, generosity. One could hardly feel other than convinced without a second thought that they must all have worked in real Franciscan harmony together in "so masterly putting over" such a fraternally loyal display. May our dear Lord bless all and each who helped along.

I am sure that, even aside from the solemn holy Mass itself - whose very ceremonies,etc, I am assured brought tears to many a noncatholic eye - that the mutually fraternal simplicity of the whole proposition was a source of much happy edification. Writing later on when the tention of excitement had gone (if there had been such), a certain Jew who attended and understood the beautiful prayers with the epistle and Gosle,etc,assured me that he could not restrain his tears.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

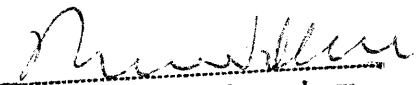
The following is a faithful transcription of the original recording.

Transcript of a short talk by Father Solanus Casey. Recorded on a 78 rpm record at the home of Joseph and Winifred O'Donnell in Chicago c. 1947.

My dear friends: You asked me for a few words on my trip this morning. As we raced down the Mississippi on the Hiawatha, with the zepher across - across the Mississippi - the words of the psalmist came to me - on science. And I thought, when shall we wake up to know that the greatest of any particular science, must depend on the gravity, the importance of the subject treated? Botony for instance or zoology, simple sciences, interesting in themselves. Music is beautiful, the flute, the piano, the harp, the violin, queen of them all - music on the cross - how sweet when properly mastered. Then the science of astronomy that treats of the innumerable planets, their wonderful order, their speed, their inconceivable distances - the marvelous clock-work of the universe. They talk too, of a less attractive science, but oh how important, that of mathematics. But what are all these petty sciences when there is question of that one great science of all ages, all generations; the science of our relationship with God and our neighbor - religion! No other science in the end, amounts to the snap of ones finger. But for time and for eternity the science of religion fills the individual and society alike with hope, the very soul of happiness, this side of Heaven. Then the verse came to mind on the purpose of the rational creature - my purpose is this:

God made me to know Him, oh what a blessed aim,  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
It's Heaven begun, for the grateful on earth  
To treasure alright - highest Heaven it's worth.

God bless you all.

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA


DEAR FRIEND,

Kindly accept our heartfelt thanks for your recent favor, duly received and noted. May our dear Lord reward your charity in, something of "that peace which the world can not give." Incidentally; we are asking our friends to join us in, "storming Heaven" for God's blessing on our poor, dear Foreign Missionaries and their charges.

Quite alone in many cases, and far from other Priests, they often meet with unforeseen difficulties of discouragement. They would not be human if failure and consequent discouragement did not sometimes weaken their efforts. PRAYER, therefore, on part of friends at home, is of primary importance;--everything else secondary. Besides: in this, we are only reechoing the divine call to "duty of gratitude" -- Jesus himself, pleading, --"...Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest; that he send laborers into his harvest."

Gratefully yours in Christ

Capuchin Fathers

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1947

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of a typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Dear Miss Larmee,

Thank you for your kind favor of August 2. The world is full of misunderstanding, but often God uses its mistakes to correct us, to give us the right outlook on life and its eternal destiny. Yes, I shall join my poor prayers to yours so that God may give you the happiness of always conforming your will to His.

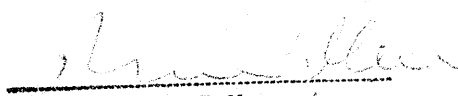
God bless you,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mr. Peter Bercik  
41265 Glocamora St.  
Mt. Clemens, MI. 48045

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of a message written by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

( on Seraphic Mass Association cards)

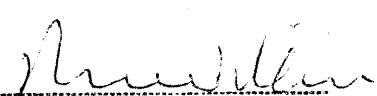
"God bless you Catherine. Keep us courage ... and kiss the cross just  
as Jesus offers it to us. He knows best. He can cure us too."

(A note in the handwriting of Father Solanus Casey on card in possession of:)

Mrs. Francis Leonard  
25584 Koontz  
Roseville, MI. 48066

Another Message:

" Mr. and Mrs. S.J. Barnum -  
God's holy grace and guidance - patience in all trials."  
Emergenct membership  
God bless you Mrs. Barnum. We will pray for you and yours.  
July 20, 1947 Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

February 8th, 1947

Mr. Raymond T. Taylor  
Brighton, Michigan

My Dear Mr. Taylor:


God bless you and your poorly, dear Wife, Bernice. May He bless your whole family and all your friends!

I received your pathetic letter of January 23rd and do surely sympathise with you. I hope, however, that is His great mercy and infinite wisdom the good God may see fit to draw good from your plight and as He never fails to do, inasmuch as we take our crosses in resignation at least to His holy will, turn your seeming misfortune to have been a blessing in disguise.

I have been down here in St. Felix since last April. So for the present am no more at St. Bonaventure's in Detroit; though I was up in Detroit all last week, as the little cards may at least intimate. You might do well, nevertheless to visit the Monastery there on Mt. Elliott (#1740). They can enroll you in the Seraphic Mass Association as well as I can, and that is a big feature in the "secret" of the many notable favors there reported - as well as in our other friaries. Thanks be to God.

At all events, dear Mr. Taylor, I am going to tell you of just one of said notables; that you may draw your own conclusion and as I sincerely hope, draw therefrom a happily profitable lesson. The case was noted close to four years ago in my own hand and runs substantially as follows:

"March 26th, 1943, Andrew Wheeler, a methodest of 686 Manistique Ave., Detroit, had 'brain-tumor' removed four weeks ago, (Febr. 23). At first, operation seemed to have been successful but two weeks later infection started. March 12th second operation. "Last Tuesday, March 23rd Mrs. Wheeler accompanied by a Catholic neighbor came weepingly lamenting; "...They have just operatid on my Husband the third time in a month and they give me very little hope of his recovery. .."  
"Now Mrs. Wheeler", I pleaded, "do not take it so hard. We will pray for your husband and enroll him in the Mass Association and try to induce the our dear Lord to take over the case Himself". ....I recorded Mr. W's name, etc.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 214  
Notarius



Mr. Raymond T. Taylor  
Page 2

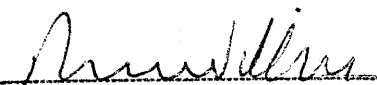
"Now Mrs. Wheeler, I have a little proposition for you to make yourself to the good God in your own honest way". "I'll do anything to please the good God", she interposed, "if He will only spare my poor, dear Husband"! "Well this is the proposition or promise I want you to make, if you choose this rather than something else, whereby to please God. It is more a suggestion, therefore, that you promise or earnestly resolve in your own mind to look into the claims of that "Mother Church" divinely planned and proclaimed infallible, and the claims of any other denomination or system of religion. Or I might say that you look into the connection between them". . . . . Mr. Wheeler came home the next day - the day before yesterday and is here with his wife and neighbor To-day. A patch of about three inches square was like taped around and above his right temple. While I was noting the surprise, he remarked to the party who had given him his place: "...its great to feel normal again, though I feel a little weak. Drs. in Ann Arbor, Peet and Wood, call it miraculous ... that a patient should talk intelligently inside of twenty-four hours after such an operation". Thanks be to God".

I had not heard from them for over a year and a half, when Mrs. Wheeler came to lament the her husband was not very well of late. I asked her if she had kept her promise as I had suggested and if she had read the book I had lent her - "The Mystical City of God". She humbly admitted that she had not. She had come without him, as she said, because she wanted to tell me about him first.

I told her without hisitation: "The whole trouble is in your failure to keep your promise, or your proposition whatever it was". She promised to return next night with her husband and in the meantime to do something to show her good will. It was very stormy the next evening, so that she phoned their inability to come as promised but that they would come the following evening. Following is the note I made under the original:

Oct. 18th, 1944. Thank God they are both here To-day. He has started to read the said, wonderful life of the Blessed Virgin, the "Mystical City of God" and is quite enthused about it".

Among other things in praise the wonderful work, the "Mystical City: which has been referred to as the autobiography of the Bl. Virgin herself, he remarked: "I find so much in it that I have often wondered about.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 8

Mr. Raymond T. Taylor  
Page 3

I hope dear Mr. Taylor, that I have not bored you overmuch with the above. If I were an experienced typist I would do the whole thing over. Under my circumstances, however, that is out of the question. I am enrolling yourself and Mrs. Taylor in our emergency list and will hope for a favorable surprise of some kind - and a favorable report.

Very sincerely yours,

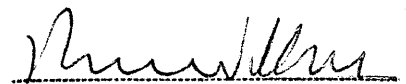
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. Incidentally, I think it is slightly an error for one who is a Christian (as I presume you are), or who believes in Jesus our Redeemer, to intimate that he does not belong to the same faith as another who, though believing in Jesus Christ and professing Christianity, happens to differ with him in some details, possibly not even essential. Because I claim that there is really but one Christianity, as scientifically there can be but one religion, though there be a thousand different systems of that "Greatest science of all times and of all generations --

"THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR."

Fr. Sol.

"Thus saith the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, and let not the strong man glory in his strength, and let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, for I am the Lord that exercise mercy, and judgement, and justice in the earth: for these things please me, saith the Lord". (Jer. IX, 23-24).



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 13.

The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana  
February 13th 1947.

Mrs. Irene O'Donnell  
Miami Beach, Florida


Dear Mrs. O'Donnell:

God bless you and yours. I hope you keep well. Many thanks for your charitable favor of February 7th, duly received and noted. Please pardon tardiness of acknowledgement, etc. I do hope you find things at least a little more promising in Detroit when you return thither, than they generally have been these many moons. And of course that you will be feeling better, and more able to bear up under the pressure that has certainly not added to your temporal peace.

And after all, dear Mrs. O'Donnell; I do congratulate you on the attitude and the conclusion that just that pressure, perhaps more than any thing else - aside from the grace of God - has been the means of bringing you to; viz, "... that probably I am the one will have to change and not notice every trifle.... quarling only makes matters worse."

How fortunate you are to have finally arrived at such a conclusion - by the grace of God and your own experience. Indeed, that looks to me like a good beginning of a real conversion. And, just incidently, the very first adage I remember wondering at, being about four at the time and not fully understanding its meaning, was: "WELL BEGUN, IS HALF DONE."

Sometimes, in fact very often, as we see in the lives of the saints, it is only after many a battle and a long struggle with ourselves and against the injustices of the world that we learn to appreciate, as otherwise we probably never would learn, the sweetness that patient suffering unfailingly brings in the end, - often long before the end. So that, as the present Monsignor E'd F. Casey wrote after quite a decade of youthful struggles he could write, on his final start in the seminary for the holy Priest-hood - the great goal of his heart:

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mrs. Irene O'Donnell  
Page 2.

"Tis pain that purifies the human heart.  
Let this a gentle consolation be  
When bright hopes fade and dearest friends depart; -  
And love itself seems but a memory.

The hours that fill the soul with silent grief, -  
That flood it with unutterable woe,  
Become, when time hath given calm relief,  
The fountain whence a hundred virtues flow.

The mourner's tears that furrowed kindly faces  
And left the light of love abiding there.  
Sweet sympathy and tender deeds are traces  
Of pain and sorrow soothed in silent prayer.

Christ wrought Redemption from despair and sin.  
By His dear Cross the clouds of grief were riven.  
Tis Bethlem and Calvary that win,  
From pain and sorrow, the sweets of Heaven".

(Msgr. Edward F. Casey)

(Unfinished)

1947, February 13

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

February 13, 1947

Mrs. Margaret Doyle  
866 Alter Road  
Detroit, Michigan

Praise the Lord in all His works:

God bless you Mrs. M. Doyle:

Many thanks for kind remembrance. Sorry I missed you. Haven't been here since April 25th.

I received word from Mr. Stanton wrote me of your flight to Europe - - - and shortly after came your cards. . . . . I hope by this time he believes more in his Patron - - - - St. Anton. ! Best Wishes.

Sincerely yours in / 0


Fr. Solanus.

Praised be Jesus the Messiah.

(on picture side of postcard Fr. Solanus has written:)

Clerical Novitiate (rear) -- looking S. E. to City down a mile and  $\frac{1}{2}$  on the Wabash. We have 18 promising novices -- pray for 40.

Original in possession of: Joseph F. Doyle  
954 Barrington Rd.  
Grosse Pointe, Mich. 48230

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, March 6

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Bles'd be God in all His designs!

March 6, 1949 -- Epiphany

God Bless you Mrs. Margaret Doyle, you and yours:


I hope you are well and that the dear Lord guide you.

I've "kind-a" been expecting to see you these days and been wanting to write. . . . so our sending a card at least on "Little Christmas," April 24th, 1949. God help us; it just struck 11 P. M. and want to get this off first in the morning. I just came across this letter of yours of Dec. 18th, 1948. . . . with Mrs. Stanton's \$20.00 cheque, etc. I hoped to see you last January and get informed --- instructed rather, etc. What shall I do? I am not clear about anything regarding this matter and it must look to poor Mrs. Stanton as if Fr. Solanus "don't care." I'd like to go into details but . . . .?

I suppose it would be rather out of the question that you could come down closer to St. Felix together. ?

We have a "Guests' Apartment," where we could talk things over. We have a "Guest quarters here" to accomodate seven and I am sure you would both enjoy a little visit. I am confident that Mr. Stanton was a Christian at heart and a Catholic. I feel too that Mrs. Stanton is at heart a Catholic: for as I have been stressing for years there can be but one Christianity and but one religion - - - the greatest science of all ages and the perfection of that science. God best you both . . . all. . .

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. C.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, March 6

Mrs. Margaret Doyle

Page 2.

P. S. Pl. pardon hast. I am just starting, for a day or  
so at Milwaukee, Wis.

Praised be Jesus!

Praised Mary our Blessed Mother:

Fr. Sol.

July 8<sup>th</sup> Blessed be God:

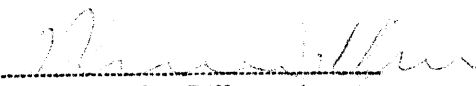
Dear Mrs. Doyle: God bless you . . . I am sending this (above)  
just as I found it this morning. With several others I got From-  
ane poison in Milwaukee and had an experience quite worthwhile.  
Thanks be to God.

Afterwards too, here and in St. Joseph Hospital in  
Ft. Wayne. Doctor Hoffman there, I hear, feared I would  
lose my lower legs. I never thought of such a serious  
thing. Thank God they are again quite OK.

. . . . Fr. Solanus, Ofm. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Joseph Doyle  
954 Barrington  
Grosse Pointe, Mi. 48230

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY

HUNTINGTON INDIANA.

February 21st 1947.


M. Marie Baxter.  
3793 Virginia Park  
Detroit, Michigan.

My Dear Mrs. Baxter:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your appreciated favor just received and noted. I am taking this before several letters ahead of it. ... I have a brother Patrick Casey of Seattle, Washington. He has been dear to me, having grown up with me since 1871. Ten days ago he was reported as dangerously ill. ....

He has been a successful business-man and a daily communicant, Thanks be to God for both. I would not want to tell him of a namesake of his having no faith. He would conclude at once: "The boy does not know how to think, and unless he pray for an increase of faith he most likely will lose the little he has and in the end drift to atheism -- "The climax of intellectual and spiritual insanity; because atheism is primarily a suggestion of the devil and the hopeless conclusion at once and the 'desperate refuge of shallow thinking, of degenerate minds and -- fearful to say it, -- of damned fools: - no one the primary leader other than Lucifer himself, the prince of diabolical darkness."

Its a strong definition and to choose to be satisfied with tending to follow such a monster rather than foster faith, hope and charity by which alone, progress can be made in the greatest scienc of all times and of all generations -- RELIGION, "THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR", must be the choice of ? to say the least, of an unfortunate creature, - supposed to be rational. You can tell that poor P. C. from me as well as from his older namesake that while we sympathize with honest men who tend to think (?) in that line, or are content with the prospects of an eternal blank of even nothing-ness, - to say nothing of hell, in which the vast majority of every age of thinkers have believed - we would at the same time call attention to/obligation we are all under of asking for faith, a free gift of God and without which, God himself has revealed we cannot please Him.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 222  
Notarius



M. Marie Baxter. 3793 Virginia Park Detroit, Michigan.

Any one who has been raised a Catholic, - nay who has believed in God and has fallen away from such faith, little as it may have been, will have a fearful responsibility to answer for if satisfied to meet - to take the chance of meeting - the divine King of the Banquet without having on the "wedding garment" of charity; viz, without faith, because without faith neither hope nor charity (profitable for eternity), can exist. A real and outstanding "trace of the Holy Trinity" as the divine "stamp of Heaven on the immortal soul", God will require on the Day of Judgement if we are to be admitted as having on "The Wedding-garment". Its up to the individual to preserve, to acquire, to appreciate that free gift of God's gratuitous liberality.

If God made every rational creature primarily to know Him in order to love Him and serve Him as only rational creatures can, then surely there must be something in the very nature of every rational creature inclining him to seek such knowledge. .... Therefore: "Woe to that man who through his own fault loses the faith he has once received - or who having come to the use of reason will have failed to acquire and foster it. Hoping that this may help some one in some way to wake up before too late, I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus!



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, February 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

February 24th 1947.

Mrs. Raymond Gabriella Smith  
8756 Knodell  
Detroit, Michigan.


Dear Mrs. Smith:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your favor of the 20th, just noted.

I am certainly pleased to know that things are brightening up in some ways at least. Just keep up your courage and pray on, and you may be absolutely sure that God will never fail to be more than liberally generous. In fact we only have to think of how merciful He has patience with poor sinners who never seem to think of Him - ourselves included - to be convinced that it is out of the question for Him to fail in His goodness to those who call on Him with confidence, sorry for our poor sins.

I am glad you are able by the grace of God to have patience with those who laugh or sneer at anyone turning back to serve God and save their souls. Just that is the very secret of success in the science of saving our souls, after all the greatest science of all times and of all generations: RELIGION, THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP AND DEPENDENCE ON GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR.

Some people have a queer notion of religion and, therefore, I might say an even queerer idea of conversion. .... It seems to me, therefore, that to be converted means to receive the grace of God, one way or other, to come back more and more earnestly and more practically to know, to love and to serve God. And since we are all so inclined to go wrong and to sin - even born in sin -- we can always be converted (in the wider sense), from our less perfect ways: and if outside the true Church, people can be converted from paganism and Judaism to Christianity. If they already believe in Jesus Christ as so many good protestants do, they can be converted from their errors and from human, therefore erroneous systems of religion, to the one and only divinely established founded system, viz, the Catholic system or true Church of Jesus Christ.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 224  
Notarius

Mrs. Raymond Gabriella Smith, 8756 Knodell, Detroit, Michigan.


Let me stress here the expression, systems of religion, because if as above defined, religion is a science, there can be but one religion, whereas there may be a thousand different systems. Furthermore, inasmuch as we believe that Jesus was God amongst us and that as God He keeps His promise, "all ages even to the end of time to be with us", as He is with us in the Most Blessed Sacrament; so we must believe too that according to His promise: "... Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," we must believe that the system of religion which He founded can not possibly go rong. "For the Church cannot err that has God for its guide." And again: "He that heareth you heareth me...." And stell again: "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me, scathereth." \*\*\*\*\* How disapointing to Jesus! - to professed followers of His "reforming His Church", instead of following. ....

As to that depressed feeling, etc, you complain of or lament, it may be from your age. It seems most women have an experience similar to what you describe, for a time after they are about forty-five. In such cases they usually have to practice quite a little patience - with themselves and with others. At allevents, try and keep up courage and shake off anxiety as much as possible. ....

Again wishing you God's holy grace and guidance, I beg to remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, March 1.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, C.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana  
March 1st 1947.

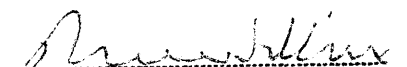
Charles M. Turrell, M.D.  
2838 Pacific View Trail  
Hollywood 28, California

God bless you Doctor Turrell - you and yours - and keep you in His holy grace and guide us all to the one great goal where love God and our neighbor is the life and the very soul of society and association, where hopefull faith has merged into eternal charity.

It was only last night that I came to your letter of the 9th (Febr.), forwarded hither from St. Bonaventure's, Detroit. How wonderful are not the ways of / Lord as well as His works! I surely was pleased with Jack's New Years report - almost surpassing my most cherished hopes, that yourself and poor, dear little Mrs. Turrell too had received your First Holy Communion on Christmas. It surely brought a tear to my eye, as even now it does writing about it. I once more am glad to congratulate you on your privilege as on that night I did on long-distance. Of course the same goes for Mrs. Turrell as I felt it did that night. I was surprised after we hung up that I did not ask to speak to her personally to congratulate her too, but then I thought; its better instead, that we just turn to God and thank Him, the divine source of such graces, such happiness, such consolations.

Fortunately I was in St. Bonaventure's that night to receive such tidings and particulars, directly. When I told the others next day at dinner they were more than pleased. Father Salesius especially and the others present who knew you while here in the East. When I told them of my pleasant experiences on meeting you two years ago in Los Angeles, how I had gotten in touch (with) Mrs. Turrell, surprising her on the phone and about our "children's Mass next day, Jack, with his details about St. Anthony, so tragically changing his hesitation to determination, etc; Father Provincial thoughtfully remarked: "That is quite a remarkable case." I've been thinking of late, especially since Jack and you all are so rightly solicitous about his success, even as a manager, God willing, - why not? - and especially since Saint Anthony seemed so solicitous himself as to give "his life for Jack's decision" to continue instructions and actually join the true Church, we should go after him with confidence in his intercession and not let him rest till he finish the work he had possibly in his mind when (he) awakened his protege,

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 226

1947, March 5.

The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

V. Sister Matthew  
Sisters of Charity  
Seymour Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan  
March 5th 1947

Dear Sister Matthew:

God bless you and yours. Only late last night did I get to read your kind favor of March 1st, duely received and noted. Many thanks for same.

I rather regret, however, that I failed to find the sister's name whose condition is lamented. I wanted to enroll her in the Seraphic Mass Association - a great part of the secret (?) of the many favors reported back to our monasteries, as answers to prayer. I shall enroll her anyhow, as best I know, in the hope that possibly the merciful God may deign to smile some way at our "daring simplicity". Adored be His blessed designs.

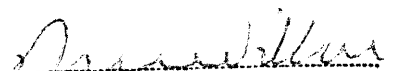
In the mean time please send me her name for registration. Rather have her write me as she proposed to do and explain the trouble as best she can. Why should she hesitate? Details are not necessary of course. But something personal would naturally be better than a report from some one else. If, as you tell me, she tries I am sure we will be able to help her. We have had cases that I am sure have been more threatening by far than hers, judging from just what you have told me, that have come out better than before afflicted.

While waiting to hear from her I am sending you a letter for her, written by one of my reverend brothers to another - ordained just a year apart -- 1911-'12. For five yrs. the elder was hardly ever able to say Holy Mass. Now in his 80th year he says his office and Holy Mass every day. Thanks be to God. I am sure you will all like the letter.

Hoping that this may find you and "our patient" (?) improved and improving, I beg to remain,

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O. M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, March 5.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX PRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana  
March 5th 1947.

Mrs. Maxine Cavanaugh 10 Crescent Ave. Muskegon Heights, Michigan

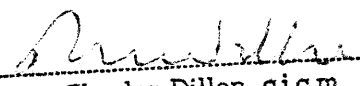
My Dear Madam: God bless you and yours.

I have just read your pathetic letter and do surely sympathize with both you and your husband, - with him possibly the more, because of his greater danger of losing his soul, unless you be induced to turn back to God.

You tell me as much as that our friend Grace Panyard guided you hither and again that you are not "of my faith". Whatever you be, you have an immortal soul - your ownself - to save for God; and I am glad to help you do that.

I presume that you are a Christian of some denomination. If I am right, then in saying you do not belong to my faith, you err in a way; because there is only one Christianity. Think a little and see if I'm right. I go further. If religion can be defined as a science, and I claim it is not only a science but the very greatest science of all times and of every generation; in fact the only science that in the end counts for aught, and without which all other sciences are vain allusions. Ah! "RELIGION, THE SCIENCE OF OUR HAPPY RELATIONSHIP (dependence on), WITH GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOR".

Furthermore, while there may be a thousand different systems of that science -- a thousand various denominations - the science of religion remains one. Its up to the individual with the use of reason, cooperating with God's grace to find which is the best system and to choose it rather than any other. On his choice depends to a vast extent, his own peace and that of the community - as well as their hope for eternal happiness hereafter.

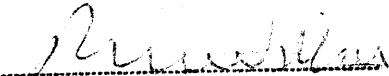
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mrs. Maxine Cavanaugh  
Page 2.

Most probably the trouble of which you complain is an effect, a simple consequence of want of this science, lack of religion. One is almost forced to conclude that neither of you are much advanced in this appallingly neglected science. . . . . As to what your husband was once upon a time is a mighty small matter for him to "bank on". He certainly was never one of the Apostals or an archangel. . . . . Judas was. Lucifer was. If he has given up the exercise of faith in God and the fostering of religion, rather I'll say that inasmuch as any of us fail in this vital matter, in just so much does the individual stand in danger falling a prey of Hell.

Some ten years ago there was a fearfully tragic death in Detroit. A certain judge who as a young man had elicited high compliments publicly given as a "practical model of a young Catholic". Even in his youth, however, it would seem the same judge had been naturally inclined to petty jealousy. Whatever the cause, he had little by little given up the practice of his faith - the sad way we are all inclined - and finally abandoned religion entirely and in the end went and hanged himself. May the dear Lord preserve us such a fate!

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

1947, May 10

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

May 10, 1947

Mr. C. W. Seery  
18 W. Lawrence St.  
Pontiac, Michigan

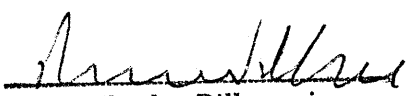
My Dear Mr. Seery:

God bless you and your friends, and us all. I hope you are well and that your friend-patient is not losing. We received your wire some nights ago and enrolled M. O'Laugh'n in the Seraphic Mass Association as an emergency case. Today we received your special and are enrolling as the enclosed will indicate, a perpetual member.

Thanks be to the merciful God, we have had several notable cases of cures reported as through this means here as, especially in Detroit, and elsewhere.

Rather than detail instructions what for anyone to follow, I am going to give you here a brief resume of a letter I wrote several months back to a presbyterian whose father, grand-father and great-grandfather were all presbyterian ministers and who I believe is now taking instructions or is possibly already a practical Catholic. In fact there are two cases here involved, - bothe noncatholic, therefore, Seery or an O' would say: "on the other side of the fence". It follows about thus:

"... I am sure dear Mr. R.J., I tolde you of the W. case, noted here just about two months ahead of yous. Lest I be mistaken, However, here it is in brief. 'March 26, 1943. Mrs. W. ...W. was a methodist, had been given up after the third operation on a brain-cancer as destined for death inside six months. (The first operation was on February 23rd). Mrs. Wh. weeping was introduced same

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1947, May 10

Mr. C. W. Seery

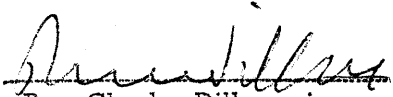
Page 2

after-noon by a Catholic neighbor. .... "Ill do anything to please the good God if he'll only spare my poor, dear husband"., she answered. "Then, Mrs. W.", answered, "This is about what I would advise you. "Make a promise or proposition to Almighty God in your own honest way as a methodist, that if your husband gives the doctors a surprise tomorrow or by the end of the week (it was Tuesday), you'll be earnest in looking into the difference or rather the relationship between your denomination and the "Mother Church". ..... They returned the following Friday with Mr. W. all taped-up but smiling. He had come home from the Univ.-hospital in Ann Arbor next day Wed.

Doctors Wood and Pete had pronounced his recovery miraculous. .... October 18th a year and a half later they came back - the last time I saw them and he looked and acted as he'd never been sick. This, however, was two nights after she had phoned me, lamenting that he was not well, etc, and I had admonished her to do something toward the fulfilling of the promese she had made so many months before, if her husband were spared her.

Besides, I had given her a copy of the "Mystical City of God", - the winderful Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which I honestly consider her own autobiography; the actual writer being as her secretary Venerable Mother Mary of Jesus, of Agrada Spain. He especially seemed enthused over the book that night - had eviden on the "job" of reading the book, those couple of days.

(Unfinished Draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, June 28.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana  
June 28, 1947

Mr. Merrick O'Loughlin  
Detroit, Michigan

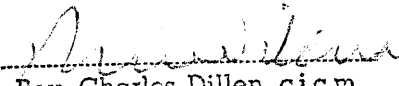
Dear Friend:

God bless you and yours. I hope you are well, as evidently you are not too bad to write such an interesting letter as that which I have just read from your pen. And all notwithstanding your trying berievement of losing your dear, patient Wife Mercile.

I surely would like to have seen her and consoled her before it were too late. Rather I should say, to encourage her in her acts and dispositions of faith, hope, charity, patience, resignation, confidence in God etc. What a privilege; what a happiness to have been of assistance to anyone in their final struggle and to have whispered an encouraging prayer into the ear of the patient when naturally everything must seem dark and hopeless! From what you have written of her, however, with all her struggles and humiliations, etc, I think she must have learned quite a little of the one most important art of "dying well".

Incidentally, I had an "atheist" in-law lose his eldest born, ten years ago on his way with his family to the diamond jubilee of his wife's parish - St. Joseph's in Prescott, Wis. That was where myself and a number of my brothers and sisters had been baptized, including one of my Rev. brothers.

I said "atheist" because he had never been taught much, if anything in childhood, about God and the science of religion and consequently had never joined any denomination. He was a good, clean-living man, however, and from the outstanding example of his wife - Kathleen O'Brien her maiden name - and the sweet prayers and peace pervading his home as a result; he had learned to admire the wonderful faith, so inspiring of hope and real supernatural charity, she practiced and fostered.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Mr. Merrick O'Loughlin

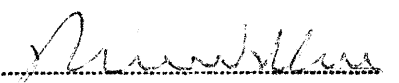
Page 2.

The son drowned in Chicago on their way to the Jubilee. It happened on his seventh birthday. They took the little corpse along and we buried it in her family plot a few paces from the graves of my two little sisters who died in one week when I was eight, 1878.

Pardon such details. But you were considerate in the details of your letters to me and I hope these may be to good in one way or more, so just briefly, I am inclined to believe it difficult for anyone except a parent to realize what such a death must have meant to my in-law. The poor man just seemed to wonder. It certainly made him think more deeply about essentials. However, that was not the worst. Just six years later after a brief illness, his said Kathleen also was taken; leaving him three children to mother for himself as best he might.

He wrote me at the time that at first he had just wondered like if the sun might shine again. This, however, seemed to be the turning-point. The greatest sermon he had ever witnessed -- her example of never failing Christian virtues -- had planted seeds of admiration for Christian faith in his

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 233

1947, August 6

The following is a faithful transcription of a carbon copy of a typed note by the Servant of God, Fr. Solanus Casey O.F.M. Cap.

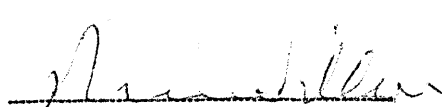
(note added to a letter from Sister Mary C. (Eagen) to Fr. Solanus dated August 6, 1947)

Mount St. Joseph

Aug. 6, 1947

(NOTE) The case herein referred to in the following letter was certainly very remarkable. Mr. Eagen and Wife were brought from Smith's Creek (5 miles So. of Port Huron) January 10, 1925 - had been sent home from Ann Arbor University Hospital fore-going November - given up by doctors as hopeless. He looked like 75 an old man. He was only 39 and looked it when eight days later he drove his own car to report and enroll perpetually. I did not know him till he spoke. Thanks be to the merciful God!

Fr. Sol.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, September 10

The following is a faithful transcription of the photo copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS

SAINT FELIX FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

September 10th, 1947

Dear Miss Medora Louisell:

God bless you and yours. I have just read your favor of the 8th - pathetic enough in its way, though indicating nothing to be over anxious about.

Good housekeepers and good business-men are careful to have "a place for everything and everything in its place." In this they show a trace of the divine character of the universal Guide and Master, Who of course, has a place for each one of us. He, the Creator and Divine Governer of the universe in all its details, could create children as in the case of Adam and Eve without parents. He could teach little children without nuns or schools and give the holy sacraments as has been the case on several occasions, - without priests, therefore.

In His divine economy, however, God has been pleased to honor His creatures- most especially His rationals - by giving them, each according to his ability, a part of His own work to do. Rather I ought to say, by participation and cooperation in His won divine activity, etc.

Why be over anxious, therefore, about something that God himself is infinitely more solicitous than any of His creatures can be? If you go to the divine Headquarters by receiving holy Communion frequently, and earnestly and humbly plead with the divine Spouse of our souls for guidance not only for yourself but particularly for each of those friends of whom you write - I am sure you will have nothing to be particularly anxious concerning the important matter of your vocation.

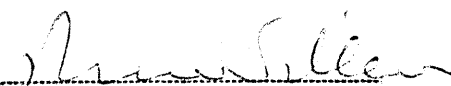
In the meantime of course we will be glad to include your intentions in our poor prayers.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in Possession of:

Mrs. John Hoste  
3450 Maple Lane  
Sterling Heights, Mich. 48077

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription  
of the handwritten original by the Servant  
of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1947, October 24

POST CARD

Bles'd be God in all His designs!

Feast of St. Raphael Archangel. 1947.

God bless you Mrs. Mauer.

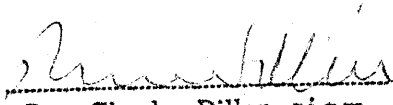
I hope this finds things brightening.  
I have just enrolled Richard for this intention.  
We'll pray for you all - that our dear Lord  
guide and guard.

Best regards and God's blessing -  
including your ..... Stella.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original card in possession of:  
Mrs. George R. Farrell  
1120 Roslyn Rd.  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI. 48236



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

236

1947, Nov. 4

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten postcard by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

November 4th. Again many thanks for your generous favor of October 16th. May the dear Lord bless you for same. Thank you specially for enrolling me. Yours must make about a dozen perpetual enrollments I've had this Jubilee year, and I have no idea how often I've been enrolled annually. The continued favors we have reported as through this association gives me an appreciation for such enrollments that I could hardly have otherwise. Thanks be to God. ...As to taking children for adoption, I look at that according to our dear Lord's own appreciation: "What you have done for the least of my brethren You have done to me." --It is getting late now: So I'll say Good Night for the present ....

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

(written on the picture side of the postcard)

(printed)

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY, HUNTINGTON, IND.

(handwritten)

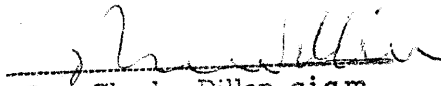
and clerical novitiate. This year we have 24 promising novices. Thanks be to God. We could place a hundred more priests if we had them--in home and foreign missions.

P.S. Congratulations on your joining the privileged Family of the Franciscans.

(Postscript appears on back of envelope)

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Flaherty  
1382 Nottingham  
Grosse Pte., MI. 48230

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1948

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten message on back of a photo by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

So glad "little Tommy" is bigger now and doing so well

Thanks be to God.

Snapped to the side of the Chapel  
St. Felix Monastery, Nov. 4th 1947.

God bless you, Mrs. O'Flaherty.  
I hope you are all continuing well.

Please pardon delayed acknowledgment.  
Many thanks. I wanted to write you a letter: but---!

Love and God's blessing to all.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.


"God condescends to use our powers  
If we don't spoil His plans by ours."

Praised be Jesus Christ.

(Father Solanus identified himself and his nephew, J. McCloskey, S.J.  
on the front of their picture)

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Flaherty  
1382 Nottingham  
Grosse Pte., MI. 48230

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1949, March 23

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

3/23/49

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you Mrs. John O'Flaherty--you and yours.

Dear Mrs. O'Flaherty:

Many thanks for your kind favor of just a month ago--  
duly received and noted.

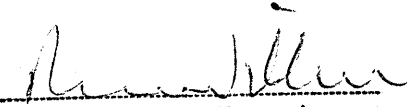
I've had it right here waiting to get a chance to write worth while and it just seems such a time never comes! I do hope that by this time Mr. Flaherty is quite o.k. and that Tommy continues to like it in the Seminary more and more. Indeed that is a grace in itself for which we should never cease praying viz. to be grateful for and love the vocation to which, in His great mercy God has called us. This of course really applies to every vocation, for after all, What a privilege to serve God in even the least capacity! -- Nay even as an irrational as the flowers and the birds! and the bees that praise the Lord providing for man.....!

Priased be Jesus and Mary!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Flaherty  
1382 Nottingham  
Grosse Pte., MI. 48230

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, November 7

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX MONASTERY. HUNTINGTON INDIANA.

November 7th 1947.

V. Sister Mary Cecilia.

Mount Saint Joseph, Ohio.

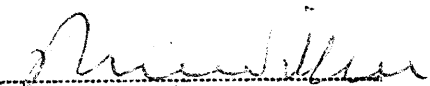
Dear Sister Mary Cecilia: God bless you and all your community at S.Jos's.

I recieved your very interesting letter several weeks ago and started a number of times to enroll your little "hopless case" in the Seraphic Mass Association; and each time I found no name to record. Consequently postponed further action.

Now I am going to give you a few particulars about that notable case that you probably never heard. Then you will easily conclude something as to what I would suggest and advise.

It was Saturday Morning January 10th 1925 that a neighbor-friend of theirs from Port Huron, brought your dear Parents to the St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Your poor Father was hardly able to talk. He tried, however, to tell briefly how he felt and that the doctors said he had "ulcers of the stomach". Later on I learned that they had sent him home as a hopeless case of cancer. I told him quite a little about the Ser-- Mass Association and suggested that he do something for the missions.

"Now I have you name Mr. Eagen." I said. "And you can enroll perpetually if you wish. If you are anyway short, however, I would advise that you enroll for just a year now and promise a perpetual enrollment as soon as convenient, if things go favorably." With a feeble quivering voice he answered: "I sure will." I took him to be 75 years old or upwards; Your poor Mother looked old too. Sunday morning eight days later your Father dove his own car down to keep his promise. From their appearance alone I would hardly have known them; but themoment he spoke I thought: "This is the fellow from Port Huron!" He looked thirty years younger. He was only thirty-nine at the time. .... "But Father"; he said, "The doctors in Pt. Huron want to take an exray ... What do you think?" I asked him : "How much is it going to cost you?" "...\$25." "What do you think?" I asked your smiling Mother. They were bothe smiling all over. "Father, he don't need it. Look at him!" she exclaimed. "Listen." I said. "You make a promise to the poor souls in Purgatory, that if you are able to forget that apointment tomorrow, you'll enroll them for a part of it." "Gee!" he said, "I'll give them half of it. I'll go them fifty-fifty."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

V. Sister Mary Cecilia. Mount Saint Joseph, Ohio.

After that he drove down every week for several months. Febr. 29th - I believe he had the whole Family down - having enrolled some other, as he nearly always did, he concluded about as follows: "Now Father; I want to enroll the Poor Souls as I promised them I would. Put them down for a good half of that \$25. - fourteen dollars."

Some years afterwards I was up to see an old lady in Smith's Creek who died shortly after with cancer of the stomach and your Father having heard of my visit came and took me over to see the little farm you refer to and I remember seeing little Dorothy. Congratulations on my "dream" even then of her vocation. Try at least to become appreciative for such a really surpassing privilege. - Think of it Sister M.C. <sup>of</sup>. A chosen spouse from among millions, - a spouse of the eternal King/kings! How little it is possible for any mere creature to be adequately grateful for such a privileged calling! We can only try and that suffices. Do not forget to send in the name of your little "hopeless case" friend, and to have as many as possible to offer prayers and holy Communions, not only for her but for so many more sadly unfortunate "big shots" in hospitals and elsewhere who, having little or no faith, in the supernatural, refuse to believe in even the possibility of miracles, and who by a manifest miracle might be induced to at least pray for the gift of faith -- which Almighty God is only waiting to be asked for. Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1947, November 23.

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

November 23rd 1947.

Mr. James P. Hyland 71 Fairmount St. Marlboro, Mass.

My Dear James:

God bless you this blessed day of the Lord, - you and yours. Many thanks for your kind favor of several weeks back. I started a number of times to acknowledge same. I hope my tardiness may not scandalize.

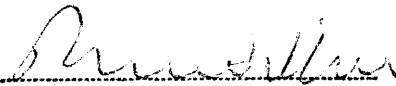
Not only this favor, however, do I want to thank you, but more I want to assure you of our appreciation of your generous activity these several years in the really privileged, though not less arduous work of the holy foreign missions. I am sure that the Good God will bless - has blessed - you in many ways for your practical interest in this outstanding phase of really Catholic action.

Besides this, I want to congratulate you on your having been so guided as to be able to write of a business associate as you do of the young man with whom you condole on the death of his amiable mother. It is always a relief to know of such a person. The very fact of his having been a "bible student" ought to spell something in his favor. This, even though, for want of proper guidance, many a "bible student" has anchored in dangerous waters.

But these days when atheism, the very climax of intellectual stupidity, of moral insanity, of diabolically devilish perversity; it is a hopeful indication to see anyone of good will taking more than ordinary interest in the divine messages from Heaven as are those conveyed to humanity through the inspired writings, the divinely guided compilation and the appreciative, prayerful study of the Holy Bible. This all the more now, that in the family of governments one of even the "big powers" is not only permitted to show its shamelessly criminal face, but brazenly to insist on dictating hell's own principles of peace. Indeed an unmistakable indication whither our godless system of public-education is, not only tending but tumbling; unless by an effective S.O.S. call of true religion. Pardon my digression.

I would have enrolled your friend-associate as also his deceased mother, but I did find their names. I have no doubt but that they would both profit thereby. So if you just send me their names I shall be glad to do that for you and for them.

Wishing you and yours God's blessing again for a happy day of national Thanksgiving; and especially in case you do not in the mean time hear from me again, the grace of a blessed and happy Christmas celebration with all success for the coming New Year and thereafter. Sincerely Yours in Christ.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

242

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

A   P   O   S   I   T   I   V   E   C   R   E   D   I   T .


TO RELIGION, TO HIS CHURCH AND TO HIS COUNTRY AS WELL AS TO THE AUTHOR:  
IS the PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE  
CIVIL AUTHORITIES, by Archbishop John Carroll. (+1815).

(Fr. Solanus' copy of the prayer follows:)

We pray thee, O almighty and eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy name.

We pray Thee, Who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, N. N., the vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, In the government of His Church; our own Bishop, N. N., (or archbishop); all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation. We pray Thee, O God of might, wisdom and justice! through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted and judgment decreed, assist with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of the United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the law in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellence, the Governor of this State, for the members of the Assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability. We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow-citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world can not give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

## A. Positive Credit

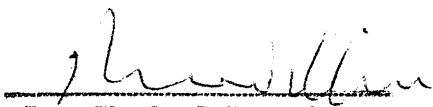
Page 2

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith, and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relative, and frinds; (of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance.) To these, O Lord! and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

(following added by Fr. Solanus)

November 27th 1947.

(Deacon To-day instead of Fr. Amb. regretted to see such an opportunity pass without a word on appreciation or gratitude and no Benediction.??). Gratitude for favors received (one of the first and surest indications of intelligence. Hence the climax of intellectual and moral insanity, atheism, Hell's own principle of individual and international peace and progress.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, January 23

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

1948, January 23rd.

Bles'd be God in all His designs!

God bless you Mrs. M. J. Turner--you and yours:

Many thanks for your charitable favor of Dec. 22nd duely received and noted. Only To-day, however, did read it.


I've been "half down" for several weeks and have not been in condition. Thanks be to God for it all and that things are clearing up again . . . . . You were right about the Poor Souls, I did refer to those in Purgatory primarily. You idea further is right too. So many poor Souls.

I am glad to know that you know from actual experience so much about the benefits of the Ser. Mass Ass'n. I have forgotten the particulars of your trouble but your idea of doing something in thanksgiving for the favor you hope to receive is certainly practical -- just as I often suggest. I hope it brings the hoped-for results.

Hoping this finds you improved and improving, I beg to remain,

Sincerely . . . . . ,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 295

1948, May 10

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

1948, May 10

Blessed be God in All His works:

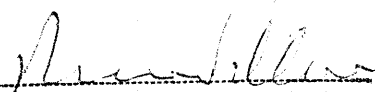
God Bless you Mrs. Murray J. Turner, you and yours:

Many thanks for your favor of May 6th. It is rather hazey in my memory what your trouble was in December, since I get different cases often mixed.

However, I feel you are taking a practil way for any and every "hopeless" -- so called. We'll pray for your intention and try as best we can to foster confidence in God -- and in the intercession of our blessed Mother Mary.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1948, July 31

The following is a faithful transcription of a message written on a Seraphic Mass Association card by the Servant of God, Fr. Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

1948, July 31

Mrs. Regina D. Turner---  
for a speedy recovery, God willing.

Special member

God bless you Mrs. Turner, Do not worry.

July 31st 1948:

God bless you Mrs. Turner. If "courage is half the battle" then with confidence in God it must mean sure triumph --whatever the natural outlook.

. . . Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana  
c. 1949

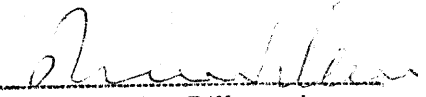
Dear Mrs. Turner:

Thank you for your kind favor of July 19. I shall pray that the good Lord will grant your intention, if it is for the good of your soul. I do not think that I know Mrs. Jennie Ferreri personally, at least I can't recall her just now.

God bless you,

Very Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

247

1948, November 13

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana  
1948, November 13

Bles'd be God in His each and every design.


Dear Mrs. and Mr. Turner:

God bless you, and keep you fostering the happy resignation in your souls which looms out in that little word of Mrs. Turner: "I have eased up on offering prayers for a complete cure; feeling that perhaps my constant inconvenience may help the poor Souls and also in the conversion of poor sinners." And then again: "God knows my needs, etc., etc.

That really sounds like fostering confidence in God, than which hardly anything can be more pleasing to God and at the same time more profitable to our own poor souls. Such resignation and confidence is a great grace in itself, which we should at all time and in all circumstances foster.

Your promotion of devotion to our dear Bl. Virgin Mother Mary by means of the rosary and the scapular will surely bring untold blessings on you and yours. By all means keep it up. For we can never be so grateful enough to such a singularly chosen and privileged blessed Queen of the entire creation, God's own blessed Mother, whom, in His infinite condescension, wisdom and mercy has deigned to give to each and all of us if we only appreciate.

As to the stole proposition; well I do not remember or know of any one specially in need of such a prized garment just off-hand now. I do know we have many priests on the Missions in Central America and in Islands who would surely appreciate such a donation. Probably the simplest solution would be to give the equivalent to some one in immediate touch with the mission-work going on in so many places. Our own Father Provincial of course would know best where to place such a donation. I am sure Brother Rufin or any one at the desk in St. Bonaventure's in Detroit would be able and pleased to receive the favor. Or if preferable you could include it sometime when you send a check hither to St. Felix.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, November 13

1948, November 13  
Mrs. and Mr. Turner  
Page 2

Hoping this find you further improving in every desirable way I beg to remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Praised be Jesus!

Fr. Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.  
Deo Grat's.

(ANOTHER CARD TO MRS. TURNER)

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana  
c. 1949

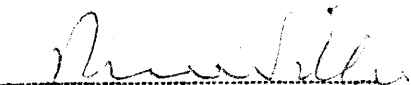
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Turner:

Thank you kindly for the Mass stipend. The Mass has been taken care of.

May God bless you,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

Praised be Jesus!

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of  
the original handwritten message by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1948, January 27

/Postcard/

January 27, 1948

Bles'd be God in all His designs  
Who always knows best.

God bless you Mrs. Alvera McCarroll. I am  
glad to hear from you though sorry to learn of your  
poor dear Husband's affliction. However, it must  
be for some good purpose and will turn out to have  
been such if you keep courage while battling along  
and making the best of the situation.

Try and have your Husband and friends go to  
Holy Communion more frequently with you. Nothing  
like frequent communion to bring peace into a family  
or into a soul. At the same time it fosters faith  
in God and heavenly relationships - with all God's  
dear ones gone ahead of us.

Many thanks for your prayers for poor Fr.  
Solanus. Like all other poor sinners he need the  
grace of God in order that he be fully converted.

.....

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

---

(On picture side of card following is written)

Clerical Novitiate  
23 Novices this year.  
Pray for them and for vocations.

Fr. S.

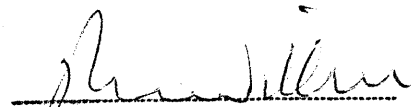
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed/corrected copy of an original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

REV. FATHER STEPHEN, AS I REMEMBER HIM

"Shortly after our ordination to the holy priesthood--Fathers Damas, John, Fabian, Pius and Maurus--I was sent to the Sacred Heart Monastery in picturesque Yonkers, New York. Father Stephen who was about my age and had been ordained several years ahead of me and had preceded me thither at least a year or two and even then, though second to the Very. Rev. Pastor, Fr. Bonaventure Frey, seemed to be the popular Father and the Monastery--his bell continually ringing.

"From the very first he seemed to me to be a really earnest, zealous priest; always, not only willing but solicitous to help whom and where he might, without exception, high or low, rich or poor, learned or ignorant, Catholic or "Atheist." He was surely not over-talented. He had many friends among our non-Catholic neighbors over on Hudson Terrace, especially where the more wealthy and the "millionaires" were wont to employ Catholic girls and young-men. It would seem that he never failed to ask for the employer-master or mistress--of the house when he visited the employees. Later on, when continuing such visitations I found that many of these dear good people would feel slited if we failed to see them too. It just seemed sufficient to ensure employment if a Capuchin father sent any one over where there was work to do. Father Stephen was friendly too and was seemingly missed by the clergy as well as by the laity whenever anything important was on; even though he never seemed to care about making personal friends. In fact, unless he could see an advantage toward doing something to benefit, he was decidedly reticent and preferred to be alone. He was wont to retire (to) Jesus in the Tabernacle as often as convenient without being noticed, even in time of recreation. He worked hard on his sermons although he seemed always ready to take over any helpout that might offer itself. Even at that time he seemed to favor the idea of not taking over the conducting of parishes for Capuchins. He was disappointed . . . .

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1948

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

### ASCETIC

"O Lord God and Sanctifier of Thy Saints!", Exclaims St. Augustine. "Thous art the eternal comfort of those who reject the comforts of the world for the love of Thy consolations. ...."When I meditate on this truth, O Lord my Comforter: my soul is willing to do without the consolations of this life in order to be worthy of Thy eternal consolations."

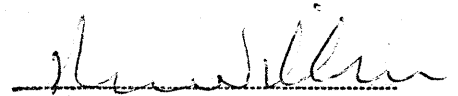
### PURPOSE OF THE RATIONAL CREATURE

TO KNOW GOD MY CREATOR is the purpose of my creation, the supreme end and aim of my existence as a rational creature. This includes everything and gives a purpose to each and all sciences, human and divine.

God made me to know Him. Oh: What a bles'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
It's Heaven-begun, for the grateful, on earth.--  
To treasure aright! ? ! Highest Heaven its worth.

God Himself is the reward--infinitely great--both, here and hereafter of those who strive

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

THINK OVER

To know is to appreciate--is to love, and to adore. In things divine and to glory in the service of the known. What an outlook this ought to afford us! What an outstanding horizon --if, "Hope is the soul of happiness here and if the revealed purpose of our creation, "to know God" is kept in mind--what a horizon for poor sinners if we but stop to think and remember that to know God covers everything.

GOD MADE ME TO KNOW HIM. O what a bless'd aim!

To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.

It's "Heaven begun" for the grateful on earth;--

To treasure aright! Highest Heaven its worth.

But how can I know what the senses fail to perceive. How know the incomprehensible God whose attributes--wisdom and power and goodness and mercy--are infinite? A simple question demands, in the first place, a simple answer.

Do the senses perceive the electricity--the "juice" in a "live wire?" Or, do scientists peer into the sun to consider its wonderful benefits?

If the primary purpose of my creation is to know my Creator, so that I may be happy in His loving service; and if no one but a fool can say in his heart, "There is no God," then the conclusion would seem to be that God's existence must be manifest, one way or other, to everyone that is not a fool, that every normal person able to think can and ought to recognize his Creator--can and must worship God; and this under pain to losing everything good and of damning his own soul,--"cast out into exterior darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

However, in a matter of such tremendous importance it would be nothing less than criminal to be satisfied with the minimum. The foregoing is simply no answer at all to what we want and to what we'll have, please God. Self-understood there can be no thought of our knowing God in our present state directly and as He is known in Heaven. Our privilege here is to start such knowledge as can be perfected only in the great, Blessed Beyond. Nevertheless, if we stop to think as we ought to do; there must be ways and means close at hand whereby, according to the lives of the saints, we may if we try, ascend to great sanctity and to an astonishing familiarity with God even here as pilgrims to the Beatific Vision.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy from the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1948, February 10


February 10<sup>th</sup> 1948.

V. Sister Sister Agnes Carmel.  
Sisters of Charity  
Lansing, Mich.

My Dear Sister Agnes Carmel:

God bless you and yours. I do hope you are well and that this long delayed little message finds you with brighter outlook than seemed to be yours when last I heard from you. Though thank God, it had already brightened.

Now Sister: though my past silence might seem otherwise, I want to assure you that you and especially your poor, dear Parents and folks have been on my mind more than you would think. I surely do sympathize with you all. Most especially I may say with your poor, dear Father because, as you seem to think and is quite probable, of the bitter disappointment and scandal he must have met with in some unfortunate judice of a priest. Alas! it seems to be a sad fact, there had to be a Judas among the Twelve Apostles, and ever since there have been those among the priests of holy Mother the Church - sometimes even bishops that have betrayed her. In fact we know that the most terrible scandals have come just thru the falls of priests and bishops. No doubt St. Bernard had this in mind when speaking of scandal he concludes: "Since the scandal of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ it is never reasonable to take scandal." For that was surely the most terrible scandal of all. And still Almighty God has turned it into the salvation of those who will be saved. O the mysterious ways of the Lord! "How incomprehensible are His Judgement! And how unsearchable His ways!"

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius




V. Sister Agnes Carmel

As for yourself dear Sister Agnes Carmel; since I read the first half dozen pages of your big letter, I have been convinced that there is nothing wrong with your mind at all. It has seemed to me that you have been suffering for someone else - most likely for just your same dear Parents and folks, and of course at the sametime for your humiliation and consequently your purification. You really ought to thank God for offering you such a mission. I might rather say for imposing it on you; for otherwise you would hardly have had the courage to consent to it. I mean to the sacrifice it has cost you. And the victory (over the devil and scandal), is not as yet gained.

At the time of your last letter, when you requested the return of said long letter, I did not really know where I had put it and consequently had to let go. Just a few days ago I came across it and I decided again to write to your Father and see if possibly I can do something to promote peace in his poor soul and in his family; for I am sure that after these long years of estrangement from the Church, from the Holy Sacraments and from religion which alone promotes peace that the world can not give, He must be longing for a change of some kind. I have no doubt God will have mercy on him and help us. For I believe he has a heart that wants to do right.

I thought, therefore, dear Sister Agnes Carmel that before I would write him, I would ask you about any change that possibly has come to your Father since you wrote me about him. This especially since it is so long that I have not heard from you - and about him, And otherwise too the outlook may have changed.

Besides; if you have any suggestions to make as to the way I might approach him, etc, I would certainly be glad to receive them. Furthermore, if you still



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

V. Sister Agnes Carmel

wish me to send you that letter to help others in matters of your conscience, and you find satisfactory results, just let me know.

Hoping this finds you and your whole outlook brightened and brightening, I beg to remain in the privileged service of our dear Lord's "least brethren".

Sincerely Yours in the Sacred Heart,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Bles'd and praised be the  
Sacred Heart of Jesus and next to it  
the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our  
blessed Mother, Queen of the Universe!

P.S. Dear Sister Agnes Carmel: After the above conclusion I read your interesting letter of April 27<sup>th</sup> last, which I should have taken time to do before writing; and again as before I would stress the necessity of humble patience -- of patient humility.

Do not lament or be discouraged at your inabilities, e.g., of mixing with associates, etc. The conscientious exercise of the talents God has otherwise blessed you with surely excuses you from such and ought to makeup for the former. At the same time just the weaknesses we experience -- and who is so stupid as to imagine he is an exception! -- are naturally providential guards against one of the very greatest dangers to genius, "the big-head". So instead of lamenting such weaknesses we really ought to thank God continually for them. In fact I believe that in the sight of Almighty God just the light to see such poverty in our own makeup and to realize thereby something of our stupidity to which sin has caused in our characters is a special grace to make us other than crazy worldlings that have no faith and never learn to really think.

Fr. Sol.

1948, April 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten message on a Seraphic Mass Association card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Missing Brother                      of Sister Mary Dolores, O. P. of  
St. Andrews Convent. Flushing, L. Isl. N. Y. -- speedy  
return home. D. V.

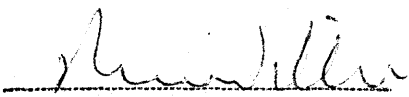
emergency special membership.  
We'll pray for him too and will trust  
in God and our Bl. Mother Mary.

"Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth!"  
April 29, 1948

P. S. Tell your Br's. wife to ask Mrs. Euphasia Cunningham  
(a 1st cousin of mine) for her prayers. She is almost an  
invalid but likes to help. Lives at 323 e. Boone, Spokane,  
Wash'n.

Original in possession of:

Sister M. Dolores, O. P.  
Northwest Catholic Convent  
Wampanoag Drive & North Main St.  
West Hartford, CO. 06177

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, July 14

The following is a faithful photo copy of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap. , and a faithful transcription.

1948, July 14th

Bles'd be God in His angels and in His saints!

July 14, 1948

God Bless you Mrs. Francis Eggen O'Connor:

Many thanks for your kind favor of a week ago. I certainly do remember you and your folks. How fortunate you have been in the faith God has given us -- strengthening it so often by supernatural responses to prayer -- as in the case of your dear Father Earl -- with his "hopeless" cancer!

Glad to know he is well as also your little Sister Dorothy -- now V. Sister Mary Celia -- also wrote me.

I have told hundreds of your Father's case when they brought him first time to St. Bonaventure's January 10, 1925, and how he surprised us when eight days later he brought your good Mother with him driving his own car -- looking 25 years younger! . . .


Praised be Jesus!

Fr. Solanus O. F. M. Cap.

N.B. Sister Mary Cecilia Eagen wrote on this photo copy that the above date January 10, 1925, (in Fr. Solanus' hand) should have been 1935.

Original in possession of:

Sister Mary Cecilia Eagen  
32450 South Pierce  
Birmingham, Mi. 48009

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, October 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Saint Felix Capuchin Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
October 14th 1948

Mr. Jerry McCarthy  
Detroit, Michigan

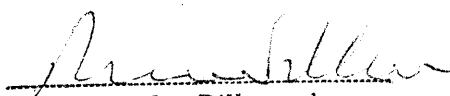
My Dear Friend Jerry McCarthy:

God bless you this beautiful season -- you and yours.  
I do hope you are well, as thanks be to God we all are, here  
at St. Felix.

Reading over a pathetic letter this morning that I received more than a month ago, I was forcefully reminded of an article I had read about a week back on: "Missed Opportunities," which letter brought some very serious thoughts to my mind. The letter was written by a friend of mine whose outstanding courage and perseverance in the face of unbelievable odds and handicaps I have since more than fifteen years admired. It is by one whose earnestness and honesty and really deep thinking has been proven beyond the shadow of an honest or reasonable doubt.

And that "poor-guy-friend" of mine and, if you will, possibly one of God's very least brethren," is Dr. A. J. Kraus.  
-- in many ways an

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1948, Oct 21

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Oct. 19th '48 Saint Felix Friary: Huntington, Ind.

God bless you Mrs. George Schulte. We are enrolling your little Thomas in the Seraphic Mass Association. If he be not improving by the time this reaches you, let us trust in God's goodness that the doctors get a good surpris of some kind.

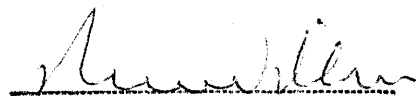
In the mean time have as many of your friends as possible offer holy Communions and promise some extra Receptions in thanksgiving if the outlook shortly takes a decidedly brighter aspect, etc. We will pray too for your intention, especially in regard to little Thomas.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. George A. Schulte  
3463 Harvard Rd.  
Detroit, MI. 48224  
882-5412

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

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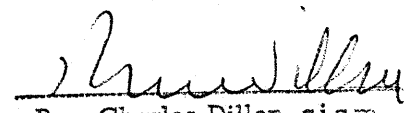
TO KNOW IS TO APPRECIATE;--is TO LOVE when the known is good,-  
--is TO ADORE when divine.

What a consolation! What an outlook this ought to afford us! What an outstanding horizon for poor sinners--if "hope is the very soul of happiness here" and if the revealed purpose of our creation, "TO KNOW GOD" is kept in mind, --what a horizon for sinners if we but stop and remember that to KNOW GOD covers everything. Hence the lines:

God made me to know Him. O what a bless'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
Its "Heaven Begun", for the grateful on earth'  
To treasure aright? ! Highest Heaven its worth.

But how can I know what the senses fail to perceive? How know the incomprehensible God, whose attributes--wisdom and power and goodness and mercy--are infinite? A simple objection may demand in the first place simple answer, and besides there is a trite proverb: "A fool can ask questions that will puzzle a philosopher to answer." A nave can ask such questions. But after all every nave is a fool too. However, a simple answer to the above objection might be to ask another very simple question: "Do the senses perceive the electricity--"the juice"--in a live wire? Or again: Do men look at the sun itself to consider its benefits? Objections here are vain. No excuses.

If the primary purpose of my creation is to know my Creator so that I may love Him and serve Him and be happy with Him; and if no one but a fool can say in his heart, "There is no God", then the necessary conclusion would seem to be that God's existence must be manifest, one way or other, to everyone who is not a fool; consequently, that every normal person able to think can and ought to recognize his Creator--can and must worship God; and this under pain of losing everything good in the final, and of damning his own soul--cast out "into exterior darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."



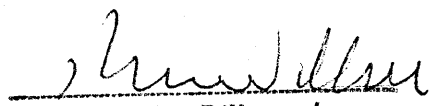
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

## TO KNOW IS TO APPRECIATE

However, in a matter of such tremendous importance it would be nothing less than criminal to be satisfied with the minimum...The foregoing is simply no answer at all to what we ought to have--nothing to what we shall have; please God. Self-understood, in our present state there can be no question of knowing God directly as He is known in Heaven. Our privilege here in this world is to start such knowledge as can be perfected only in the great Blessed Beyond. Nevertheless, if we stop to think as we ought to do; there must be ways and means even close at hand as manifested in the lives of the saints--whereby we may if we try, ascend to great sanctity and attain to astonishing familiarity with God, because, though infinite in His attributes and perfections, as Saint Paul exclaims: "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are His Judgements and how unsearchable His ways!", still His mercy is above all His works

(Unfinished)

  
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c. 1948

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TO RECOGNIZE THE CREATOR  
THE FIRST PURPOSE OF THE RATIONAL CREATURE.

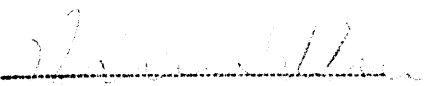
To know is to appreciate - is to love what is good - is to reject  
what is of evil - is to adore the Divine.

What consolation this offers us! What a hopeful outlook it ought  
to afford! What a sublime horizon for poor sinners, -- if "hope  
is the very soul of happiness here" and if the revealed purpose  
of our creation, TO KNOW GOD is kept in mind -- what a horizon  
for us, even though we be sinners -- if we but keep in mind the  
primary purpose of our creation, TO KNOW GOD.  
Hence the lines:

God made me to know Him. O what a bless'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
Its "Heaven Begun" for the grateful on earth;--  
To treasure aright? ! Highest Heaven its worth.

But how can I know what the senses fail to perceive? How know the  
Incomprehensible God whose attributes - wisdom and power and goodness  
and mercy-are infinite? A simple question may, in the first place,  
demand a simple answer. But right here, we shall do well to remem-  
ber a trite proverb: "A fool can ask questions - can make ob-  
jections - that will puzzle a philosopher to answer." A nave of  
course, can ask such questions too. But perhaps the nave is sup-  
posed to be included in the proverb; because after all, inasmuch  
as anyone is a nave in at least somuch does he prove himself in  
the end to have been a fool too. While it would be uncharitable,  
therefore, to say that every fool is a nave' it is always logical;  
to say that every nave is a fool.

However, a simple answer to the above objection intimating  
the difficulty or impossibility of a finite creature knowing the  
infinite God, might be to ask another very simple question; viz.  
Do the senses perceive the electricity - "the juice" in a live  
wire? Or again: Do men gaze into the sun to consider its bene-  
fits? Objections like the above are futile and vain and if meant  
to excuse atheism, are criminal. For there is absolutely no ex-  
cuse for any rational creature refusing to recognize its Creator.  
In fact, if "Gratitude for favors is one of the very first and  
surest indications of intelligence", and again if according to  
all logical reasoning, one's first possible benefit is his crea-  
tion; then the ingratitude of the atheist, must of its very nat-  
ure - without further proof or parley - condemn him with his

  
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To Recognize the Creator

Page 2.

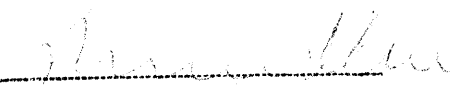
The following is a faithful transcription of typed notes by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

TO KNOW IS TO APPRECIATE

atheism as most woefully wanting in intelligence; and consequently, whatever his talents or brilliance may be otherwise, must rate him as an unqualified fool. The most fearful example of such insane want of appreciation and of such damnable ingratitude, is that of Lucifer and his reprobate legions, where-Heaven itself was depopulated and Hell's creation was made necessary - the most terrible prison-asylum ever designed or conceived.

If the primary purpose of my creation as a rational creature is to know my Creator so that I can love Him and serve Him and be happy with Him; and if according to Holy Writ, no one but a fool can say in his heart, "There is no God"; then the necessary conclusion would seem to be that God's existence, at least, must be manifest, one way or other, to every one who is not a fool; consequently, that every normal person able to think, can and ought to recognize his Creator - can and must worship God. And this under pain of losing everything good in the end and of damning his own soul - "cast out into exterior darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth".

However, in a matter of such tremendous importance it would be nothing less than positively criminal to be satisfied with the minimum. The foregoing is simply no answer at all to what we ought to have, -- and Please God to what we shall have. In the first place, there is something intrinsically in the very nature of man - and in the very nature of every rational creature --that instinctively feels its dependence on something greater than itself - on something supernatural. History and philosophy alike prove this beyond the shadow of an honest doubt, -- to say nothing of common sense; or of theology, the queen of all sciences, so much so, in fact, that to question it seriously, would be to intimate atheism again or a denial of God's existence which according to all sciences is nothing less than an insult, not only to honest reason to every normal generation back to our, Adam and Eve, but a most flagrant ignoring of Holy Scripture, and of divine revelation and of God's own supreme Majesty, Who admonishes, Who pleads, Who commands: ". . . I AM THE LORD THY GOD . . . THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH THY WHOLE HEART AND WITH THY WHOLE SOUL AND WITH ALL THY MIND AND WITH ALL THY STRENGTH . . . LET NOT THE WISE MAN GLORY IN HIS WISDOM, AND LET NOT THE STRONG MAN GLORY IN HIS STRENGTH, AND LET NOT THE RICH MAN GLORY IN HIS RICHES: BUT LET HIM THAT GLORIETH GLORY IN THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDETH AND KNOWETH ME, FOR I AM THE LORD THAT EXERCISE MERCY AND JUDGEMENT AND JUSTICE IN THE EARTH: FOR THESE THINGS PLEASE ME, SAITH THE LORD".  
(Example: The graduate from Calcutta) "Dr" Schroeder  
(unfinished draft)

  
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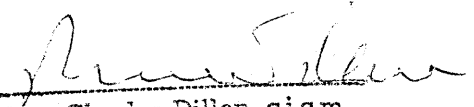
RELIGION AND ATHEISM DEFINED.

In view of the foregoing "Very earnest words", and the general conditions of society -- including the threatening spread of atheism these days; of which a Jewish rabbi not long / lamented to the writer, especially among the Jewish youth, -- and we might say, most especially because of the lameness of Webster's information on the above; -- surely no one will object to an honest effort at improving on his definitions of subjects so positively vital for and against the individual and general welfare of humanity as are the religion and its would-be destruction, atheism.

First however, it will surely be not too much for us to presume as selfunderstood that any branch of study or learning deserves the distinction of science only inasmuch as it tends to the glory of God and the welfare of His creatures, e. g. the science of music, the science of mathematics, of astronomy, of oratory, etc.

Hence the positive and supremely outstanding claims of religion to such a distinction; for in all branches of knowledge and themes of study and research, where can anything be found whose claims to promoting happiness can even compare in depth of meaning, in broadness of scope, in subtility and universality and necessity of religion? -- the Great Jehovah Himself, midst the thunders of Sinai proclaiming: "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no strange gods . . . ." just an echo down across the ages from the first instruction and commission to Adam and Eve, confident that inasmuch as His new creatures were rational so they would be also appreciatively grateful. An echo? Yea, and as history repeats itself among the hills of generations and the mountains of world struggles, so too do the commandments to love God and neighbor -- Jesus Christ Himself, Son of the Living God and true Messiah of the ancient prophecies Himself stressing the same and proclaiming as he does through Christian philosophy, the principle till the end of time and into eternity: "Gratitude for favors received the first and surest indication of intelligence." And thru the present Roman Pontiff, Pope Pius XII: "Man's first and greatest duty and obligation."

Furthermore, not only is Religion a science pertaining to rational creatures on earth, viz, to mankind; but it is the greatest

  
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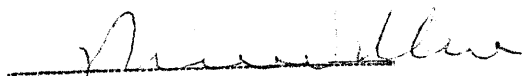
science of all ages and pertaining to all rational creatures whether on earth or in Purgatory or in Heaven, not, however, to the atheist or the reprobate, -- the latter hopelessly lost by a choice of his own, the former -- by his own free choice also -- a positive candidate for perdition: "He that believeth . . . . shall be saved; He that believeth not shall be condemned." Hence the definition:

"Religion: the science of our happy relationship WITH God and our neighbor."

Incidentally, we might add that, like with other sciences, or branches of science, -- though there may be a thousand systems of religion -- there can be but one religion, according to the above.

As to Religion's "would-be-destruction", atheism; It really ought to suffice to know that atheism is positively and diametrically opposed to religion of any kind according to the above definition, and that of whatever system; that it would deprive man -- actually does deprive man inasmuch as it prevails -- of the privileged, the supernaturally hopefully duty of loving God and neighbor; thus aiming at positively nihilizing the very sources and soul of the supernatural and again; thus, by degrading man below the brute-beast that has no faculties for exercising hope, offers him despair instead. Hence the demand for what may seem strong words in the definition:

(unfinished draft)

  
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A MILLION-DOLLAR PROPOSITION: (NO. I)

HOPE, THE SOUL OF TERRESTRIAL HAPPINESS: DESPAIR?

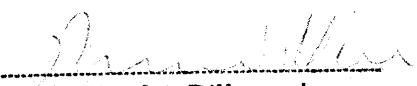
? LORD SAVE US! A FORETASTE OF HELL.

"KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE."

For the best popular definition and contrasting of two Extremes of most fundamental importance - RELIGION, the "UNRECOGNIZED SCIENCE": AND ATHEISM, THE CLIMAX OF INTELLECTUAL INSANITY AND OF MORAL DEPRAVITY: we shall offer a million-dollar prize; - said definitions, etc, not to exceed fifteen hundred words and to avoid undue reference to any particular system, or denomination. Who "we" are to make such an offer will follow shortly. For the present let it suffice to say that though the writer can hardly claim a red copper as his own; he is nevertheless confident that this proposition is so timely, so urgent just now and so opportune; that, though he know there are individuals, both Christian and Jewish - possibly Pagans too - who would be happy to donate the whole million at once; he would prefer not to accept such an offer. He feels rather that a convention of some kind should be called without delay: - say of reverend clergy and God-fearing lay editors under perhaps a chosen committee of bishops, and rabbis who are known for their faith in God and earnestness to promote human peace on earth and save immortal souls.

Incidentally, it was only about eight or ten years back that a Reverend Rabbi R. - God bless him - came to consult a Christian clergiman; lamenting the threatening groth of atheism among the rising generation, notably among the Jewish denomination. Without one word the latter wrote on a piece of tissue-paper just at hand: "If there's anything of good to come from atheism - in itself the climax of insanity - it is this; It is going to force all those together and ... to harmony, who honestly and gratefully belive in almighty God." At this Rabbi R. who had been steadying the corner of said tissue exclaimed as he struck the desk: "That's inspiration!" Atheism has been becoming more and more threatening ever since till now - especially since the appalling scandal of our honorable Supreme Court last year; for since that unfortunate quasie approval, it has advanced by leaps and bounds, till red Russian atheism seems just waiting for a chance to take over in place of religion, that of course would mean of every system of religion in America as well as in the Soviet countries, for the final aim of atheism has ever been --- every thought of belief and faith in God and the supernatural.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

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Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

A MILLION-DOLLAR ESSAY-PROPOSITION: (NO. II)

TO RESCUE FROM DESPAIR, ... THE HOPES AND SOULS OF BILLIONS.

HOPE, THE VERY SOUL OF HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD:

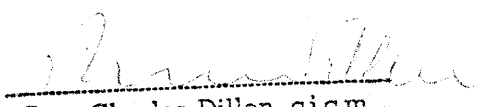
DESPAIR, A FIRST FEATURE FORETASTE OF HELL

"KNOW THE TRUTH: AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

When shall we be delivered, or how extricate ourselves these days from the nightmare so long lingering as a prophesy; now as overnight by the threatening advances of international atheism and the consequent loss of faith in God, become an actuality - the nightmare of "wars and rumors of wars" so pathetically foretold when, according to the evangelists: "Jesus wept over Jerusalem"?

Only yesterday the writer's attention was called to a press report headed: "Non-Catholics Score Pope .... Disapprove of Bid for Union with Roman Church." Lamentable as such a scoring would seem, to God-fearing people - non-catholic as well as those in communion with Rome and the "Mother-Church", there should hardly be cause here for anyone's taking scandal. Such objections as are given may be in every case, "perfectly well intended". We hope they are. For, even among Catholics how comparatively few appreciate the outstanding, marvelous consistency and harmony in the stand of the Church and the continuous dogmatic, infallible dictions of Her supreme exponent on earth, Pope Pius XII. Dogmatic? Infallible shall we say? Not that they are as such proclaimed, or possibly intended; but Pope Pius XII would seem to be so imbued with a love of peace - his very name providentially proclaiming him so - and, one with his love of peace goes essentially his love of truth and of justice, that he can be said to like-live and breathe dogmatically; so much so in fact that his every sentence even in every-day speeches and conversations would seem to carry a sort of fundamental and a divine broadness and color, e.g., when a year or two back, writing to the Portuguese People, as would seem a congratulatory letter, he like defines education in such all embracing words, so simple, so concise, so unerringly consistent with other pronouncements and with dogmatic truth: "Education is the cooperation with God's grace in making perfect Christians."

Quite naturally such a pronouncement will hardly measurup with the ideals of non-christians: all the laws by atheism which somewhere has been defined as: "A climax at once, of intellectual insanity and of moral degeneracy".


  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes by the  
Servant of God., Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Only yesterday the writer's attention was called to  
"press report" headed: "Non-Catholics Score Pope . . . . .  
Disapprove Bid for Union . . . . ." Lamentable as such a  
"Scoring" would seem, to God-fearing people -- non-catholics  
as well as those in communion with Rome and the Mother Church,  
there is really nothing in the report at which thinking people  
at least should be scandalized. In fact St. Bernard of Clairvoix  
reminds that: "Since the scandal of the Crucifixion of Jesus  
Christ, it is never reasonable to take scandal." The objections  
as given in the report may in every case be perfectly well inten-  
ded. We hope they are. For even among Catholics how comparatively  
few there are

(unfinished)

---

Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

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Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

MILLION-DOLLAR ESSAY-PROPOSITION, (NO. III)

TO RESCUE FROM DESPAIR: THE HOPE AND THE SOULS OF BILLIONS.

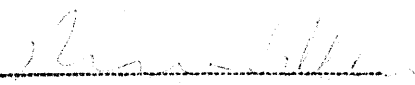
HOPE, THE VERY LIFE OF HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD:

DESPAIR? UGLIEST PHASE OF HELL-EXISTENCE.

"KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"

When shall we be delivered, or how extricate ourselves from the fearful nightmare, so long a solemn prophecy; now, as of over night a most threatening reality: - Nay, become an international problem, second to hardly another - the nightmare so pathetically lamented when Jesus, grieved at their want of appreciation and consequent ingratitude, wept over Jerusalem saying: "...And if in this thy day thou hadst known the things that are for thy peace, but now they are hidden from thine eyes..... and you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. .... And you shall be hated for my sake ... and they will put you to death for my sake ... And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor me." Plainly in other words, because they have not known the Truth, God eternal. And saddest of all, To-day as then, so many of us do not really care to know. Without realizing it we are so naturally inclined to live for the present and to prize temporal advantages as if there were nothing better to hope for. Temporal things - which in the sight of Heaven, must mean but - momentary - become all - important. Death and eternity, Heaven and Hell are lost from view. The primary purpose of the rational creature, to know God and his first and most important duty of consequent gratitude, become like to that of the ox and the ass that have no understanding. Our natural trend where religion is wanting is always away from God and Truth; and the farther we drift from God and Truth, so much the farther do we stray from the divine Source of peace, of hope and of charity. Just so much the more too do the words of divine Lamentation apply to us: "With desolation is all the world made desolate, because there is none that thinketh in the heart."

Truth? Prophecy? War-Problem? How simple to the man of faith! How infallible the solution Jesus, Eternal Truth gives! And as will be found after all, the only solution: "Know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



Page 2

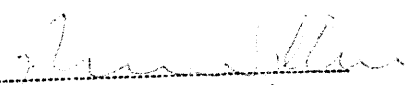
## MILLION-DOLLAR ESSAY-PROPOSITION, (NO. III)

We need not repeat Pilot's question here? We know what Jesus means by truth. Reason itself shows us that God is truth; and that it is of such a nature that for the normal mind to know the truth is to love it. So too, in giving the Ten Commandments to Moses and the People of Israel, Jehova just solemnly introduced Himself, reminding them at the same time of just a few of the outstanding favors that they could not but appreciate: "I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt and out of the land of bondage. Thou shalt not have strange gods before me...."

"Know the truth and the truth will make you free." At the time that Jesus proclaimed this doctrine to the Jews - this principal of Liberty from tyranny of hell, from turmoil among men, from the supreme climax of tragedy, - His own Cruel Crucifixion - which even then He knew them to be planning and which He foresaw that they would shortly execute, - at the time of this declaration about truth the world outside the comparatively tiny group of the "Chosen People", name of truth would seem to have been unknown; since even the Roman Governor seems never to heard the name before.

"What is truth?" he asks Jesus - "What is truth?" asked the Roman Governor and with that dismissed the whole question. Quite in similar manner the writer heard it asked: "What is religion?", with an identical dismissal. The very word Truth would seem to have been unknown, save among the comparatively tiny group of the Chosen People. "What is truth?" asked even the Roman Governor, and with that dismissing the whole question as of something entirely secondary in importance. Is it any wonder that at just such a time the whole world was in turmoil as never before, the climax in all creation - the claim of tragedy, of scandal.

(Unfinished draft)

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
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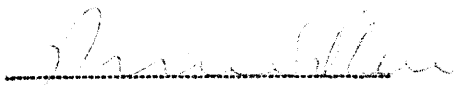
"KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE"

But what is TRUTH, that we may get a knowl'eg of it at whatever cost? Webster defines truth: "The being true," etc. His definitions are rather weak and incomplete. The words of Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist in reference to charity and which can be perfectly applied to Truth would be decidedly better and would read: "God is truth and he who remaineth in truth remaineth in God and God in him." This harmonizes perfectly with Jesus' own words in another place in the same Gosple: "I am the way, The Truth and the life."

Hence, the impotence of education - of finding-out about the truth and what-pertains to truth, In other words what ever pertains to God. Hence again, though we do well to study the so-called "sciences" as leading to Truth - of God Himself; in most of our modern educational systems the supremely outstanding and only really necessary science of all sciences - Religion, the science of our happy relationship and dependence on God and our neighbor is daily more and more being excluded and debared from our school-rooms, from our colleges, from our universities. ....,

Hence the sad want of knowledge of the divine Truth, the lamentable ignorance about God and supernatural things, the threatening spread of atheism - climax in itself of intellectual insanity and the appallingly scandalous decision made in its favor only last year, that if permitted to stand will go down in history as a blot on the records of one of our fairest....

And yet: if men would only stop to think, and to learn the lesson from history - always repeated - and from history's eternal God, never changing that lesson - that outstanding admonition to all and every rational creature - that we get nowhere without Him. (Except to Hell). If nations and governments, and all Israel, if humanity - Adam's posterity - would only listen to reason and faith as well as to common sense - all stressing together that same admonition: O, what a different outlook society would at once put on! What faith! What hope! What charity would be man's life here on God's footstool! - here - the privileged vestibule to a happy eternity for appreciative, grateful souls.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Page 2


Know the Truth, and the Truth will make you Free.

In other words, if we as rational creatures capable of thinking would weigh something of appalling consequences to society in general of such a war, instead of figuring on further perfecting ways and means for destroying our supposed enemies - in the sight of Heaven and reality our brethren whom in God's Name we ought to love - if we would listen to the divine prophet and King of Prophets Who, through His earthly Vicar To-day - Pope P. XII - O how comparatively simple would be the answers to such difficulties! How infallible the solution.

But, alas for our want of faith these days; and consequently, for our lack of appreciation between physical and spiritual values and between the momentary and the eternal. Well, therefore, do the words of Jeremiah the Prophet apply to any people or power or individual that has little or no ..... "With desolation is all the world made desolate, because .. none that thinketh in his heart."

Like a vast school of philosophers (supposed to be), that elaborate their days and go into eternity blowing bubbles; or like a class of elderly people one may visit in certain hospitals, that are evidently more interested in their dolls than in their prayers; so, must that individual become - and consequently, that, generation - that fails to foster gratitude to God, the Giver of all good gifts; that give up exercises of prayers and, criminally - before God and Heaven as well as in the estimation of common-sense-minded people - , criminally exclude religion at once the very foundation and purpose of all science, from their system and their curriculums of education. According to the highest moral authority on earth, P. Pius X: "Man's first and gravest duty is gratitude." Common-sense holds - as does the highest philosophy and faith itself - : "Gratitude for favors received is one....."

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, February 7

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX PRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

February 7th, 1949

Miss Mae C Berling  
Decater, Indiana

God Bless you Miss Berling - you and yours:

I hope this finds you well, which means of course hopeful too. This latter is something that is sadly overlooked, to the great detriment of spiritual progress as well as physical.


The probably all-outstanding example or proof of this is the historical scandal that some of the disciples took at Jesus' choice of the CROSS AND CALVARY whereby to establish His Reign of love, rather than any other; - the scandal that drew from St. Peter himself: "Master! Far be it from thee...." and the alarming response: "Get thee behind me satan..... Thou saverest not of God".

It is well to remember that such scandal was never intended to be confined to the Apostolic-age: Hence, Saint Bernard - the outstanding Doctor of the Middle-ages - wisely reminds: "Since the scandal of the Cross it is never reasonable to take scandal". Another occasion of the first disciples taking scandal is the detailed insistence of His giving us Himself for our own life of soul: "I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the desert and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven; that if any man eat of it, he may not die". (Jno. VI, 48)

Of course it is only natural for honest, upright people to resent falsehood and injustice as was St. Peter in striking off the brutal Malchum's ear. The same can be said of the wave of international indignation that the damnable hypocrisy manifest these days in the sacrilegious treatment of Cardinal Josef Mindezenty.

Of course it is but natural for moral integrity to resent falsehood and injustice wherever accosted

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, February 20

The following is a faithful transcription of the carbon copy of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

February 20th, 1949

(Very Rev. Edmund Kramer)

Dear Rev. Father Provincial:


No doubt you will have been expecting a report of some kind concerning the privileged trip conceded me recently to the Funeral of poor, dear brother, Father Maurice Joachim. I started to do this the day after the solemnities; for all considered it was a real solemn funeral and seemingly a happy one. Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

A wire at about 7:30 Wednesday, January 12 from Ortonville, Minn. announced to us: "Father Maurice Joachim died at 6:20 this Morning". I erroneously took it for almost self understood that the Funeral would take place on Saturday, waiting for more particulars till near midnight, when a call came; but it was from a poor party - convert - lamenting their unfortunate divorce.

Your Very Rev. Paternity, on my long distance call had benignly bidden me go thither. Deo gratias. We concluded that possibly the funeral might be Friday and decided accordingly to take no chances. Hence, our plans to catch the Hiawatha as probably - surest train to make the desired connections.

It snowed that Thursday morning and to be sure of catching the "Golden Arrow" train on the Pennsylvania, we left early, for Ft. Wayne; - Brother Cook, Ignatius at the wheel and Rev. Father Guardian accompanying. Leaving Fort Wayne, the Conductor had to lament that he was 25 minutes late, which to me meant that we'd be nip and tuck in catching the Hiawatha in Chicago, if we didn't lose any more on the schedule thither. On leaving Huntington, however, we had said our Rosary for Divine guidance and protection and safe return and thanks be to God, I forgot all about worrying. We made it, even if the train had to wait a little, till they kindly got me a ticket.

I was still figuring on the Funeral being on Saturday and on my staying over night in St. Paul till, the first passenger off the Coach, my friends held me up. I had to go back on the train and they

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

(Very Rev. Edmund Kramer)


Rev. Father Provincial

Page 2

accompanied me on to Minneapolis, whence, after an hour and a half, I was to take another train and go on two hundred miles further to Ortonville, Minn. , right near the S. Dakota border; thence, after holy Mass next morning drive twenty miles to Graceville for the funeral at ten ocl. It was 3:30 when we pulled into that station. It had been moon-light all night, though rather pale, but with the snow on the ground I heard the train--men's view come out in harmony with my own: "Its a beautiful night".

We were about thirty miles from our train-destiny when I was able to stretch my bones in the empty smoking-car which was better than in a corner of a seat. Thank God that was a relief. I was at least half-asleep, when the gentle brake-man called me and I went out to find the Pastor patiently waiting. We were a half hour late. He, Father George Campbell, tooted when he saw me leave the train and greeted me like an old friend. He has a nice little (Church) - one altar - to accomodate about two or three hundred, St. Mary's. After holy Mass and breakfast, we made the twenty miles in a dense, freezing fog about twenty minutes before services. Father Ed'd had hardly expected me and was disappointed in his figuring on Monsignore Reardan of Mineapolis - a one-time pastor of M.E.J., to give the sermon. No one else seemed ready for that privilege; so that I was ashamed to decline when asked if I would say a few words. I took the text that came to my mind as we were leaving for the Altar: "Quid Retribuam ...?" ....Thank God; though a most happy theme if properly developed, it could not, under the circumstances, be more than extempore. It seemed, however, to be satisfactory. A nice crowd of intelligent looking school children together with the silent sermon of a happy death of one who had weathered the storms of 81 winters consecrated to Almighty God, naturally inclined my thoughts to vocations. (for 20 minutes).

(conclusion lost)

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

1949, July 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft by the  
Servant of God Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Saint Felix Friary

Huntington, Indiana

July 18th, 1949

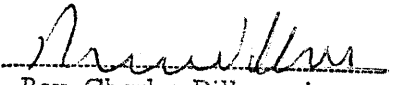
Very Rev. Father Provincial, O.F.M. Cap., Edmund

Very Rev. Dear Father Provincial:

Praised be Jesus Christ. Deo Grt. Honestly I hardly know how to begin. That million-dollar proposition has been on my mind since months before your Paternity held Visitation here last year; And the longer it go on the more it seems to me timely, opportune, urgent.

Besides the encouraging proposition of our Benefactor, Joseph J. O'Donnell of Chicago, a copy of whose letter I shall herewith enclose, there are other - quite a few, perhaps mostly religious - praying for the "million-dollar essay contest. I mentioned the proposition to Rev. Mother Mary Fidelis - helpless invalid at the time - and afterwards to about fifty of her nuns, of Notre Dame Milwaukee, the day of Unvaling Fr. Stephen's Statue and of my own very fortunate ptomane-poison experience, - anything but pleasant of course but - most profitable to my soul. I hope the students from Calvary profited too by their taste, at least, of similar experience. Deo Gr. for all His designs.

Well, Mother Mary Fidelis and her said nuns seemed quite interested and promised to pray the good God bring it to success. I had hardly come to the parlor after blessing them with several relics and a little visit in the Chapel when I urged, "Sister, please get me a vessel quickly. I'll have to vomit. I'll wait right here on the floor". Luckily nothing came but strenous reaching till the vessel arrived, and then very little, with quite a relief of very short duration - again and again - till the ambulance came and took the patient to St. Michael's Hospital ... for about 40 hours. ...

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

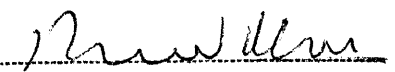
1949, July 18

Very Rev. Father Provincial, O.F.M. Cap., Edmund  
Page 2

There is another very interested party, a certain Mrs. Gordon Thorne, quite a benefactor who without effort could donate the whole Prize (\$1,000,000.) and possibly will do as much, if successful in her present efforts to break away from a trust-company that has been charging her \$40,000. annually for their service. She is preparing for a battle in court on this score next Monday, 25th. She expects them to appeal the case if she win. .... She asks for prayers. A daily communicant and quite a "live wire" , with far-reaching views, she seems solicitous to make up for lost time while her non-catholic, though seemingly very charitable, Husband, Montgomery Ward Thorne, lived. Among other works of charity she is figuring on building an orphanage for His Eminence, Samuel Cardinal Strich. She has been sending us his diocesan "New World" which recently received the gold medal as being the best all-round Catholic Newspaper, The Rev. editor, Father Daly, as it seems, wants to come over to learn about our "essay proposition".

Now, since talking to your Paternity about this proposition, it has grown immensely in magnitude and possibility, as seems to me; so that instead of giving it over to the (Cowl) or any individual publication, there should somehow be a convention (of) clerical and experienced lay editors - including even non-catholics who have shown

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1949, July 18

The following is a faithful transcription of a photocopy of brief messages on Seraphic Mass Association Cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sherman

Please God, for speedy brightening of our look -- God's holy guidance

Emergency special membership

They should pray as best they can, forgetting about denomination. We are Christian only in as far as we believe in Jesus and keep His word. With God the name counts 0-

July 18, 1949

God bless all and each.

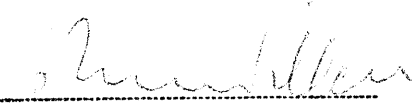
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Praised be Jesus!

(on reverse of card is written under picture of Mary:)

Destined to be Mother of Jesus, Savior, and Help of Christians

The original in possession of:  
Mrs. Eldred Metty  
20210 Regent  
Detroit, Mich. 48205

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, July 18, 1949

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

7/18/49

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all  
and each of His designs.

Mrs. E. Netty, Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Netty:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your kind recently received. I am enrolling your Sister and her Husband in the Seraphic Mass Association - emergency and special - and I hope you may be able to send us a favorable report. Thanks be to God, we have notable reports as through this source of blessing every day. I am sure that if they turn to God as best they can and pray to Him with confidence as we all ought to try to do, He in His mercy will enable them to give the doctors and all concerning a good surprise.

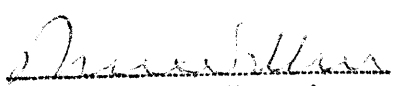
Something they could do specially to please the good God in case Mr. Sherman is cured, in thanks-giving; would be to: "like-promise" to be earnest in finding out for themselves, some-(thing) about the difference of the relationship of the methodest denomination with the Mother-Church; or that they will look into and find out some of the reasons why Catholics try so much to imitate Jesus in his love and reverence for Mary, His own dearest Virgin Mother. "Behold thy son." Jesus said to His sorrowing Mother and the foot of the Cross, refering to the youthful Apostle John - and in him as theologians and the fathers of the holy Church have always taught, - in St. John - refering to all followers of His doctrine. Then as in the same breath to St. John: "Behold thy Mother." ..... If religion is the greatest science of all ages - "The science of our happy dependence on God and our neighbor.", which definition no one seems to question, then there can be but one religion. In like manner if: "We are Christians only inasmuch as we believe in Jesus Christ and keep His words - His doctrine - so there can be but one Christianity. Therefore, its up to each one of us individually to examine into our own conscience whether we be Christians in reality or only in name. Too, it ought to be our happy privilege to perfect ourselves in that faith more and more, and to find out its infallible Guide on earth.

Praised be Jesus Christ Let us all pray for one another's conversion...

Fr. Solanus OFM

Original in possession of:

Mrs. Eldred Metty  
20210 Regent  
Detroit, MI. 48205

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, August 9.

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

August 9 -49

ST FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all  
and each of His designs.

God bless you Gramma Kauffman: you and yours.  
But what is this we hear of you? Brother Leo and Mrs.  
Whitman, Norma, tells us you have been not at all well;  
and that you are in the hospital. I kinda wondered  
when reading this, if you were following my bad ex-  
ample. Well in that case, I hope you will have fol-  
lowed the good part too and get well in short notice.

Four of us drove over to Milwaukee for the Unveiling  
of the big statue of Father Stephen, with whom I worked when first  
ordained and for several years off and on. Well, there were a  
couple dozen affected by ptomane-poison and, according as one looks  
at difficulties and crosses, I was one of the dozens of unfortunate  
or would rather say fortunatie ones. It was surely to nature a  
very unpleasant experience; but thanks be to God! I feel that my  
soul profited greatly by the experience of about a month in hospi-  
tal, -in Saint Michael's Milwaukee and St. Josephs, Ft. Wayne.

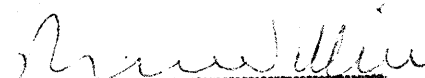
It was a "bitter pill that turned to sweetness of soul and body",  
as St. Francis tells us in the holy Rule, about his personal ex-  
periences with the poor, dear lepers of his day, and as many  
chaplains and soldiers tell of what the went through in the 2nd  
World War".

Now dear Mrs. Kauffman: I hope you are turning this  
breaking of life's monotony - all unpleasant as such experiences  
are to nature, - into sacrifices of great merit. This you can do  
by thinking on the sufferings and Passion of our dear Lord and  
offering your sufferings in union with those He suffered for all  
us poor sinners that in His infinite condescension deigns to call  
us His brethren. And more than this, that it may be no empty title  
and as a last bequest, gives us His own blessed Virgin Mother to  
be our dear, gentle Mother too. !!! Incidentally there is something  
wherein you could do me and my dear Guarding Angel a real favor;...  
Offer something of your restlessness for God's blessing on a pro-  
ject I - let me venture to say, we - have been working on for many  
months. If we put it over, as with divine assistance we hope to do,  
it will mean much toward the true peace of billions. Deo gratias!  
Pray too, that God's Holy Spirit guide the deliberations of our fathers  
in the coming Chapter in Nov.

Sincerely in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Fr. Solanus

Original in possession of:

Richard Wollenweber  
14503 Parkgrove Ave.  
Detroit, MI. 48205

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius 281

1949, October 3

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX PRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

October 3rd, 1949

Miss Margaret Shavey  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Miss Shavey:

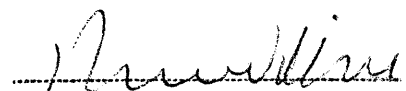
God bless you and yours. I hope this finds you all well, especially that your outlook is hopeful and brightening.

Please pardon my tardiness, etc I think the following will be a decided asset to Father E's rhyme -letter.

NOTE. The following rhyme-letter, "a remedy for the blues", from a missionary in the Philippines to a Rev. Brother - 12 years his senior and located in Yonkers, N. York. senior brother's health-failure in his early clacics.

NOTE. The following rhime-letter, "a remedy for blues", is from a missionary in the Philippines to a senior brother brother in Yonkers, N. Y. Health-failure on part of the senior brother in his early classics had sent him home from the seminary, heavy-hearted, - a family disapointment. For twenty years working for vocations to makeup for his own failure and, on occasion of his serving at the first holy Mass of another of his junior brothers he had decided; "...to try it over again". He had joined the junior brother (now the missionary) in the seminary, and had preceded him to the holy Priesthood just one year. The letter, at once humorous and poetic as well as ascetic and thoroughly philosophic, offers food for every thinker. (a third Britger)

(Unfinished Draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, October 23.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

ST. FELIX PRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

October 23, 1949

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Holtz. Detroit, Michigan

My Dear Friends: God bless you and yours. God bless all our afflicted brethren of good (will). I received your pathetic letter yesterday and I surely do sympathize with you. What a disappointment to any loving parent to hear such a diagnosis. .... "Blindness, Deafness". I surely hope D. J. will give the doctors a surprise as nearly always happens when we trust in Almighty God. At all events how merciful has not God shown Himself to you in blessing you with another bright boy, and even in Donald's case, otherwise endowing him with such happy faculties!

And yet dear friends; what are all purely physical or temporal blessings in comaprason with the faith that God has given us? - You and me, even though (we) differ, as may be, in some essentials. Besides, we have somuch in common - and this we can say of all who honestly believe in God and hope in Him, that we ought surely to be patient with weaknesses so common, if not in systems of religion at least, in application and practice. The fact too, that there seems to be such an avalencehe of atheism - the very climax of intellectual insanity and of moral depravity - threatening to inundate civilization: That ought to bring us all into mutual agreement and harmony of some kind.

At all events, we shall be pleased to join our prayers with yours in favor of poor dear little Donald Jay; viz. in "storming Heaven", that God be pleased to give him sight wherewith to glorify God Himself and promote - be instrumental in promoting - peace among men and nations. .... Afterall, as a science (and religion is, notonly a science, but the greatest science of all ages) there can be but one religion, viz: "The science of our happy relationship with - dependence on - God and our neighbor." In the face of so much - such brazen and threatening atheism, is it not time we come together and get humanity to consider something about whither it is tending without faith in God and without fostering this greates of all sciences, which outside of the comparatively few, refuse in their blindness even to recognize it as a science atall? .... Pardon the digression.

We shall hope and pray that little D. J. give the doctors a favorable surprise.

Very Sincerely Yours,  
Fr. Solanus, OFM Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 283  
Notarius

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Holtz.

P. S. October 30th, (Feast of Christ the King of Kings).

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Holtz:

God bless you again.

I intended to reach you with the above acknowledgement a day or two after its reception but was ashamed to send in so muddled a condition and am disappointed in my failure to have it rewritten.

However you and your little Donald Jay have been on my mind and in my prayers continually since receiving your letter. I am confident You will understand something of what I wanted to write you.


Had I a little more time or if I were a real typist I would run it all over. As it is however, I hope I am not too presumptuous if I congratulate you on the answer to our combined prayers. I do hope you receive a favorable report tomorrow.

I am hoping, mailing this To-night. Hoping for good results.

Very Sincerely Yours,  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Holtz  
19811 Cherry Hill Lane  
Southfield, MI. 48076

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1949, October 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana  
Capuchin Franciscan Fathers

1949, October 29th

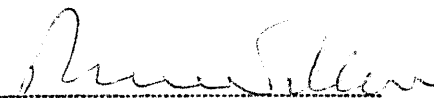
Miss Beatrice McCahill  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss McCahill:

God bless you and yours. Many thanks for your favor  
of September 30. Your "write-up" in the best weekly news-paper,  
THE NEW WORLD, was very good. Father Elmer, the Master of Novices,  
smilingly called my attention to it. I do hope you get time from  
your busy duties of nursing, to be as successful with your "write",  
about the, comparatively little known though prolific Seraphic Mass  
Association.

In regard to the benefits and blessings reported as through  
this quiet little organization, I have longsince been convinced and  
have frequently exclaimed ---

(unfinished draft)



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

DOGMA OF ASSUMPTION DIVINELY OPPORTUNE

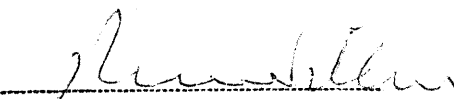
TO SAVE, HOPE IN THE SUPERNATURAL: AND THE SOULS OF BILLIONS.

TO RESCUE FROM DESPAIR HOPE IN THE SUPERNATURAL: AND THE SOULS OF BILLIONS.

Blessed be God in all His designs. Blessed be Jesus Christ in His appreciative love, in His filial gratitude to Mary our heavenly Mother (Mary) -- Jesus' Own Mother because she gave him his human nature and stood-by Him to the end: our dear, heavenly Mother, because she has given Jesus Himself to us, human and divine, -- Our Way, our Truth, our Life; and next to Him, whatever our falls, our never failing -- to the end our Refuge of sinners. But if, "Among men, gratitude for favors received is the very first and the surest indication of intelligence", and again, if Jesus is both divinely intelligent and infinitely appreciative and grateful; and furthermore, if in so many other regards, Mary His Mother was so singularly favored, if on account of her singular destiny to become the Mother of God she was divinely preserved from every taint of original or other sin, receiving instead such all-surpassing, till-then-undreamed-of graces that even at such a distance her peerless Excellency perceptibly heightened the triumph of every phase of heavenly glory, if Jesus as God had a hand in preparing her a worthy abode for Himself -- His living Tabernacle for nine months -- surpassing all conception but divine, if He endowed her with a will, a memory, an understanding outstandingly similar to His own, if for thirty years as a single pupil

if then after fifteen years of most perfect correspondence with every grace received, with seraphic longing and pleading for the hastening of the Messiah -- the Saviour's coming -- her hopes continually growing that it might be her great privilege to know that the Messiah were come and possibly that some way or other she herself might have the happy privilege of serving the to-be Virgin-Mother, if after fifteen years of such fidelity, such prophetic hope, such seraphic charity -- never dreaming that she herself was already the chosen one -- she received the joyous surprise of her life. God's chosen messenger most reverently greets her: "Hail full of grace!"

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

DOGMA OF ASSUMPTION DIVINELY OPPORTUNE

TO RESCUE MEN'S HOPE IN THE SUPERNATURAL AND THEIR SOULS FROM  
DESPAIR.

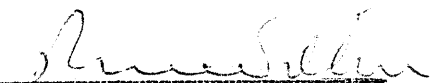
Blessed be God in all His designs. Blessed be Jesus Christ, true  
God and true Man in his loving gratitude to Mary our heavenly Mother:  
-- His Mother, because she gave Him his human nature and stood by Him  
. . . . . to the END: our Mother because she has given him her Jesus,  
wholly to us, divine and human -- Jesus -- her First Born, our Eldest  
Brother; And next to Jesus Himself in merciful compassion stands out  
whateve our trouble, the never-failing Refuge of sinners, our life,  
our sweetness, our hope; our heavenly blessed Mother Mary.

Yea, therefore, blessed be, Jesus in the example (of divine  
perfection) He gives the rest of us His brethren -- Mary's 2nd  
borne -- the example at once, -- how we should love our individual  
mothers and, with Himself how to love Her whom from the Cross He  
so providentially bequethd as heavenly Mother to all His followers,  
whose faith in Him will permit his calling us His brethren. What  
a specticle to men and angels (The divine Son of God officially  
commending to His dearest Mother each one of us: "Woman; Behold  
thy son." Pleadingly to each one of us: "Behold thy Mother."  
What condescension on the part of Almighty God -- Second Person  
of the Blessed Trinity in His human nature and (as) the Son of  
Man -- Son of the Virgin Mary and thrtly-three years before con-  
ceived by the Holy Ghost the Spirit of divine Love. What loyalty  
on Mary's part in the face of every opposition! What unshakable  
faith! What peerless, What incomparable confidence!

What a climax at once, as Mary, Mother of Redemption stood  
there at Calvary's first Altar, her own so Christ-like heart  
doubllly pierced, -- what a climax at once, of loving sympathy  
and sorrow at once with her divine, Son-Victim freely dying to . .

. . . .

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of typed notes by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.


THE SERAPHIC "MEN-OF-GOOD-WILL" ASSOCIATION  
SERAPHIC MISSION ASSOCIATION  
SERAPHIC GOOD WILL ASSOCIATION.

To approach, to foster, to promote on principles of appreciation  
and of Gratitude the "greatest science of all times and of all  
places."; the science of saving our individual souls from temporal  
loss and from eternal despair; the science without which, every  
dream of lasting peace must be vain, every thought of true happiness  
a deception;

To approach, to foster, to promote on principles of appreciation  
and of gratitude the greatest science of all times and of all places;  
the science without which every dream of lasting peace must be vain,  
every thought of true happiness a deception; the science of saving  
immortal souls - rightly - ordered charity necessarily beginning  
at home, viz, in our own individual hearts.

To approach, to foster, to promote by principals of appreciation  
and of gratitude, at once the most natural and most simple, most  
necessary science of all times and of all places /The preceding  
sentence crossed out/

To approach, to foster, to promote by principles of appreciation  
and of gratitude; the most primary, most natural, most essential;  
yet at the same time the greatest science of all times and of all  
places; the one science without which every dream of lasting peace  
is vain, every thought of true happiness (is) a deceptive mirage;  
Ah! - an association to foster, to promote the happy science of  
saving our souls; the science of our happy relationship with God  
and our neighbor: which relationship consists in our absolute  
dependence on God and next to that, dependence on our neighbor.  
(every man being his own first neighbor). And which science is  
nothings more and nothing less than

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

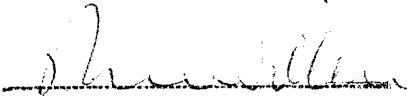
## THE SERAPHIC "MEN-OF-GOOD-WILL" ASSOCIATION

Page 2

To breathe, to foster, to promote by exercising the principles of appreciation and and gratitude, the simplest, the most natural science; which at the same time is for

To breathe in, and to foster by the principles of appreciation and gratitude, the simplest and most natural, yet the very greatest science of all times and of all places; the science of all sciences without which every dream of lasting peace is vain, every thought of true happiness, a castle in the air; every association of rational creatures and every company is as dead as Johnnie's potatoes without salt; the science for want of angels have become devils and surpassing lights of heavenly intelligence have become reprobate D.Fs. Ah! the Seraphic...Association to foster and to promote the supreme privilege of helping to save immortal souls - charity properly-ordered, necessarily beginning at home, viz, in the conversion and further conversion of each one's own individual heart; all of which means nothing more and nothing less than fostering: "Religion, the Science of Our Happy Relationship with God and our neighbor:

To breathe-in, to foster, to promote by primary principles of appreciation and gratitude the simplest, and most natural, yet at the same time the greatest science of all times and of all places; the science without which every dream of lasting peace is vain, every thought and every sigh for true happiness (is) a bauble" Ah! the Ser. As'n to harmonize with

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

1950, February 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solarus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA+

February 11, 1950  
FEAST OF THE APPARITION OF  
OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY  
AT LOURDES+

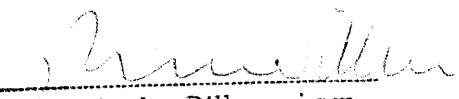
Dear Sister Mary Constance:-

God bless you this happy feast of our dear blessed Mother Mary; Queen of Lourdes, Queen of Mercy, Queen of the Universe and of the Most Holy Trinity. It is really time to retire, but I must at least start with a few words to you before this date is gone, - even though it be as yet only a "duplex."

I received your letter of Wednesday last evening and, as much as time would permit, have studied it since. I want to go into some details in response to it but can not do so just now. In general, however, I must say that I am greatly encouraged at its upright tone and the good will it indicates all around, - an example of patient forbearance and of gentle readiness to relent in charity.

15th 9:30 P.M. -A late start again. God Help us! It just seems that I get nowhere; and yet so many things I ought to be doing. Glory be to God! I did remember you in my holy Mass this morning and blessed you at the end. In fact your request for Tonight's "break" has been pretty well on my mind since Saturday, and in my prayers. I trust you had a favorable experience rather than any serious embarrassment, - both for yourself and your teeners, ... etc. This, however, excluding whatever might check anyone's already too weak tendency to love the really life-giving humiliations that so often gently lead us to love Jesus more, and to follow Him.

But dear Sister, how fortunate you are after all now, under such circumstances as are yours, without realizing it! How fortunate in having a Rev. Mother at once so decided and yet so condescending! Surely you ought to keep in close touch with her and inform her about everything that transpires as affecting this, your so really threatening and fearful experience; - an experience that I for one, have not the least doubt is - for your final "doing or undoing", for time as well as for eternity. ...

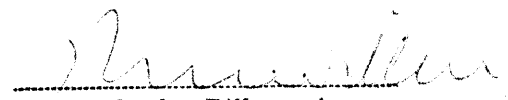
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Sister Mary Constance  
Page 2

But what a mercy of God to be, the second time inside as many months, received back a "prodigal" on the simple obedience - the coveted boon itself - of again putting on the holy Habit of your Order! Where in all history is there another such example? It surely speaks more than any works, for poor, dear Mother General's confidence in her wavering daughter. Ah! To me it looks as though Jesus Himself were someway behind Rev. Mother on that occasion, - as indeed He does seem to be someway coaching everything that tends to smoothe off and, notwithstanding her many infidelities, to facilitate the return of His, sadly inconstant, Constance. Still, the enemy of souls will ask - and the destroyer of the souls' peace - "If..." and "Why"... and will dare to intimate that there is something wrong - something other than mercy and wisdom and power and love in God. ... concerning His adjustments of our individual cases. Ah! These "Ifs and Whys"! Do they not sound like the wily philosophy of Grand-Mother Eve's garden adviser? ... Yes, it is disappointing to nature, to be deprived of a chance for self-justification. ... No doubt that is because of our corrupt nature's want of realization that in the science of the saints, and in the sight of all Heaven, self justification before creatures, is never a victory for the Christian soul. Ah! When we behold the astonishment of the Roman Governor and his whole court - Pilate before Jesus divinely silent. -What a contrast to our noisy self justification!

Sad to say, I feel myself to have been many times a "past-master" at that kind of worldly cleverness. Just that kind of cleverness is still one of Fr. Solanus' unhappy weaknesses. Hence, another instance of mercifully sparing from embarrassment in the sight of Heaven a wavering daughter, -- an inconstant spouse - so solicitously smoothing embarrassments away, before the Guardian Angels and all the triumphant Church and Heavenly Court, - really preventing some one from still further making a F. of herself.

Ah! Dear Sister: you had cause for wondering at Rev. Mother's not seeing you other than in your holy habit; but was it not - should it not have been wonder at Mother's overwhelming gentleness and forethought? Rather, was it not Jesus again smoothing off difficulties and embarrassments?

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, February 11  
March 8

Sister Mary Constance  
Page 3

March 8th

Dear Sister Mary Constance    God bless you

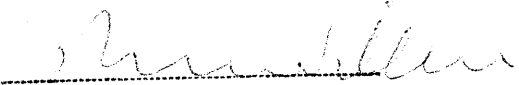
I want to catch mailman.

Please God you ll here from me shortly -  
suppliment to the above

God bless you Sister:.....

Your pathetic letter of a month ago has been on my mind ever since, as your vocation, has been increasingly in my prayers: seeing your intricate problems, your growing embarrassments, your so fearfully threatening dangers to temporal welfare as well as to the (spiritual) - and sadest of all your seemingly unsuspecting blindness, till thanks be to God: your very last, but redeeming paragraph

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, March 15

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY.  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA .

March 15th 1950.

Ven. Sister Mary Constance, O.P.

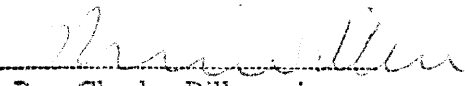
Dear Sister Mary Constance: God bless you and may He be your Stay ,  
your Refuge and your divine Guide these days. I have hoped that by enc-  
ouraging you as I have been trying to do these several months, that with  
the many prayers that I know are being offered for your guidance,- your  
conversion indeed - you might, by cooperating with God's holy grace, be  
fully convinced that your only salvation, for time as well as for eternity,  
is a generous and whole-hearted sacrifice of your--your everything to God.

Your desperate experiences these same months (hair-breadthly border-  
ering on fearful tragedy), --experiences --in themselves and in reality  
extraordinary manifestations of God's mercy to you Sister Mary Constance,--  
which ought surely to help convince you that such is about the only con-  
clusion for you to come to.

While I have still more than hope that during these  
fearful experiences, you have not strayed mortal-sinfully from your Rule;  
nevertheless I believe on the other hand that, had you been really faith-  
ful to your vows and absolutely turned down the promises and the allure-  
ments of the world, the flesh and the devil as you should have done (two  
years ago), God would have promoted you before this to an incalculably  
more intimate and happy confidence and espousals with the divien Lover of  
Souls -- to something vastly surpassing your highest ideal.

You have lost out fearfully Sister: but your mistake is not irrepar-  
able. By the mercy of God and your humble and grateful cooperation  
therewith, you can, not-only regain your former standing in the Hearts of  
Jesus and Mary; but like St. Paul who from even a zealot persecutor of the  
Church became an all-surpassing Apotstle, Vessel of election, you too can --  
and out of humble gratitude ought to -- become outstanding on the side of  
Truth and justice in the already-raging warfare against Antichrist and  
atheism.

Your mistake of seeking solace and peace from other sources than  
in the Cross and the Crucified, and innumerable lesser mistakes that in  
consequence have followed since have evidently disturbed and muddled your  
spiritual waters, to say the least and beclouded your vocational horizon.  
Otherwise you would hardly moralize with so many "ifs" and "whys" and  
we might say "half truths." ..... Yes, love in itself is always beauti-  
ful, but when and inasmuch as even love becomes inordinate it loses that  
native beauty and like an immortal soul in sin, becomes hedious in the  
sight of God and Heven. Illegitimate love is always inordinate; not always  
visa versa. Here is an actual example of the latter:

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

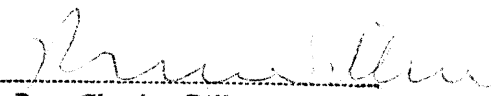
Notarius

Ven. Sister Mary Constance O.F.  
Page 2.

Just about twenty years ago a certain practical school-mam married and was blest with a family of six boys. Every thing was bright in the beginning and indeed promising till a while after the first baby came. The attitude of her Husband became indifferent and even cold. For several months she never suspected the source of this unnatural attitude. Never suspected, till she herself had lost much of her affection and respect for her Husband.

Ah! It dawned on her and she rememberd, --ashamed of herself -- She had been giving all attention to the baby and been practically monopolizing its affections. That baby is now in its latter teens or early twentys but there/still evident traces of an inordinate mother-love IN THAT whole family. She still writes us; still laments ...but hopes.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1951 April 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Good Shepherd Sunday                      Secpmd after Easter 1951.  
April 8th.

BLESSED BE GOD IN ALL HIS DESIGNS.

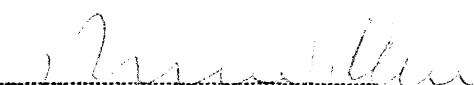
V. Dear Sister Mary Constance: God bless you and yours this holy season — a Blessed Eastertide if not too late. I hope this finds you well and tasting at least something of that peace which the great triumph of the Risen Saviour ought to inspire and insure.

I figured on reaching you two weeks ago/ but your Easter-card on top of such an unwanted silence sort o' checked my decision. I almost wondered if it were a reality or had I only dreamed that SSrs. M.C. and M.B. had been here. Not a single syllable of reference from any quarter as to such a conference; and this even though Sr. M. Bernadene wrote me quite a letter for Easter and asked if I heard from Sr. M.C. Surmising, Thinking I'd erroneously presumed I decided to withdraw what I had written and wait. .... Glory be to God for everything. It offered me a practical occasion to just practice something of what I've been trying to preach.

Now I am writing to ask your prayers for a party whom I have known and in a way admired for twenty years or more, whose long-distance lament of perpetual Good Friday reminded me yesterday of a more recent friend of ours whose cry/ essentially the same 18 ago.

I do hope that by this time the latter, becoming a little more accustomed

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, Feb. 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

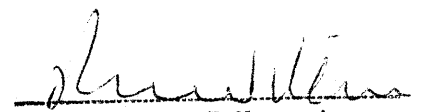
Feb. 11, 1950.

Dear Friends, Mr. & Mrs. Gearardo and son:-

Your kind letter of Feb. 5 has been received. Rest assured that your intentions, and of those near and dear to you, shall be included in my prayers, and in the prayers of every member of the community here at St. Felix. May the Good Lord Bless you all, and give you His Peace. God be praised in all His Designs. Have Faith in Him Who Loves us so much.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, March 4th

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY

HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

March 4th, 1950

Mrs. E.L. Eichhorn, R.N.  
Bay City, Michigan


Dear Mrs. Eichhorn:

God bless you these days of unrest and suspense - you and yours. I have read your pathetic letter and do surely sympathize with you and your dear ones. I hope that the good God may manifest something of His merciful designs in favoring you with such a peculiar cross; for indeed, from sacred history the truth of the old saying - of St. Paul (?): "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth", is most manifest.

We've had several cases similar to yours and some of them altogether more tragic and hopeless - turn out to have been indeed real blessings in disguise. A single example: It must be ten or more years ago that a certain modest lady, having waited close to an hour, till all else had gone, introduced herself: "...I's not Catholic, but I would like to get a bessin too. I's always had head-aches". Her accent rather than her color indicated something of her particular origin. ....

About three hours later a well featured but very dark visitor of the same name and identical accent asked for a rosary. I told him of his namesake who had been in about 11 a.m. "That's my Wife". .... She had come home without any headache. Glory be to God! .... They had been praying for a family for thirteen years and were naturally discouraged or becoming so. They believed in Christianity but had never been baptized. ....It is next to "Unbelievable", what difficulties they met with and, by God's grace overcame, before being received into the Church, and even for months afterwards. All Hell just seemed determined to shake them from their purpose.

We make it a point to stress the importance of making sacrifice in recognition of a favor received - having started out with an understanding, at least to that effect. For Catholics, e.g., more frequent holy Communion if favor is granted and preferable, by all means to start at once - to "get ahead of the Good God in generosity" if possible. For non-catholics, that they be earnest in looking into something of the claims of the Church; or something of the relationship - dependence of the denominations on the Mother-Church, etc and working accordingly. ....

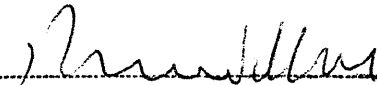
  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 297  
Notarius

1950, March 4

Mrs. E.L. Eichhorn, R.N.  
Page 2

I almost forgot to tell you that having left Detroit the convert darkies returned after plus three years - three of them instead of two. The good God had blessed them with a decidedly promising youngster, the picture of his appreciative Daddy. . . . . I hope that may offer you an example from which to draw a practical lesson. - one case in thousands. Thanks be to God.

(not signed)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, August 18

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

PAX ET BONUM

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

August 18th 1950

(seal)

Bles'd be God; in all His designs.

John Martin — Frater Don Bosco, o.f.m.cap. (at least in spirit and hope, I trust)

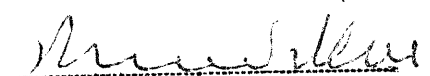
God bless you Frater Don Bosco. I hope this find things more promising with you and yours than seemed to be when you wrote me last week. The intentions you wrote about have been in my mind pretty much ever since reading your letter; and I hope in my poor prayers. .... No, I had not heard of your stepping out of the Clericat. I was sorry of course and disappointed; but do hope that the Holy Ghost — the divine Spirit guided you and that in the end it will turn to have been to your advantage and to the glory of God. Glad at all events, that the trouble was nothing more than physical; for even from the clean sports' columns like in the lives of the saints, we find innumerable examples where such difficulties only heightened appreciation for the hoped-for ideal and Goal. One of the great advantages of a study of the lives of the saints, is the supernatural courage that such studying tends so positively to foster. And at the same time appreciation for one's vocation; — appreciation — the natural foundation of gratitude which, in its turn, — "Gratitude, the very first and surest indication of intelligence." Hence the poet's happy dictum:

"The lives of all great men remind  
us that we can make our lives sublime.

"And, parting leave behind us worthy  
footsteps in the sans of time".  
Footprints

Pope Pius XII; peerless and outstanding champion To-day of dogma, of morality, of peace among men and nations; stresses this virtue as man's first and gravest duty.

Lives of saints? ... In 1909 I had completely lost the hearing in my left ear and the same condition was rapidly threatening the other side. I had returned a certain Thursday-evening from the specialist with a throbbing ear-ache after a very painful treatment and very delicate and dangerous propositions. Five years before that, I had read the life of Sister Therese Martin, till then seemingly quite unknown, and had greatly profited thereby; happy in the communion of saints as I felt, on having met another heavenly little friend. I had felt from the first reading that she would be canonized. Well, in my anxiety that night I made a "mental proposition" to her that if she would help to save my hearing I'd read her life again. I was even then confident that she could help me and that being already in Heaven, she would.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

John Martin - Frater Don Bosco, C.F.M. Cap.

With no further trouble that night I slept well, and next morning at the first douche of water on my face, there was like a bubble broke in my bad ear and I thought: "Thank God! My drum is not broken". Before 24 hours my hearing was perfect; and, what is further notable, I've had practically no trouble with my hearing ever since. Thanks be to God and His little spouse, now Saint Therese "The Little Flower. I have read her book fifteen times since that and have had at least that many favors.

The above will give you an idea of how I would advise you if you still hope for a vocation. Praying for vocation, if not a positive vocation in itself, is surely an essential and outstanding feature in the character of every ideal Christian as well as in every practical missionary. Think it over, Encourage, foster vocations. Wherever we may be or whatever our state in life, we may in many ways become instruments of the Holy Spirit by praying for and promoting vocations.

Now, as to your "big problem"; as well as the minor interests to which you refer. I think you ought to be able to find a practical solution in the above, as primarily intended for your own personal guidance. I am inclined to congratulate you on your place of employment, Mt Olivet Cemetery; and on your privileged connection with the boys of Holy Name Parish. It was a privilege of mine to be assistant in that dear parish twenty-five years ago and chaplain at the — then — comparatively new but leading cemetery.

(Unfinished draft)



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

1950, August 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

PAX ET BONUM

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

(seal)

August 24th 1950

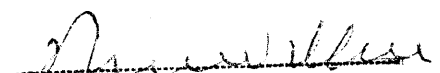
Bles'd be God in all His designs.

God bless you I surely do sympathize with you in your manifold troubles. However Saint Paul assures us, for our encouragement no doubt and for our consolation; "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." I have been long since convinced of the inspiration of this saying. ... The fact that Almighty God has permitted so many and such trials and crosses to come your way, till in a way you are forced to seek help where otherwise you would hardly ever dream of turning, indicates to me that the Good God must love you specially. I would wish I might express something of the peace that I hope will come to you as a direct result of your bravely humbling yourself just to appeal as you have done. God bless you for such effort.

After all, I am sure that such reluctance on your part was nothing less than a temptation of the enemy of our souls, to divert you from the path to peace you thereby took, — the path to that peace of which the unbelieving world has hardly any conception; therefore, as Saint Paul says simply: "...which the world can not give. ...which surpasseth all understanding".

As to your not being Catholic: You are probably more so than you imagine, — if you only just knew what Catholicity is. I am confident that you will agree with me when I claim that, whatever we may call ourselves, — you or I, or anyone else, — we are Christians only inasmuch as we believe in Jesus Christ and keep His word, His Commandments. There can be but on Christianity, for there is only one Jesus Christ. Moreover, if we define religion as a science — and who can doubt, if properly studied, that it is the greatest of all sciences, — then there can be but one religion; only one such science. Truly scientific and educated peoples have in all ages understood "the Science of the Saints" to refer to religion, i e, to the relationship between Almighty God and His rational creatures.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of  
the handwritten original by the Servant of  
God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1950, September 23

ST. FELIX PRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

September 23rd 1950

Blessed be God In all His designs!

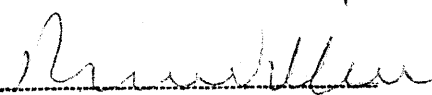
God bless you Mrs. Farmer - you and yours.

Here's an envelope which I thing I must have  
addressed to you early in August, wanting to  
thank you for your kind favor received some-  
time befor that; so because I neglected to  
do that even last Monday when you were here,  
I'll at least acknowledge same favor. Fr.  
Gabriel came down Thursday and is conducting  
the 40 hours Devotion in S S. Peter and Paul  
Church - our Parish. Everything seems quiet  
and satisfactory. Deo Gratias.

Pray for the multiplication of vocations and  
for the conversions of poor sinners. God help  
us. ... That we be appreciative and make at  
least some progress towards real gratitude.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, o.f.m. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1950, October 7

SAINT FELIX FRIARY: HUNTINGTON INDIANA  
FEAST OF THE HOLY ROSARY.  
PEACE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL GLORY TO GOD  
1950 HOLY YEAR

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

1950, October 7


Rev. Michael Z. Cefai  
Detroit, Michigan

God Bless you Father Cefai:

You and yours this beautiful feast and holy season. I do hope that you keep well; glad of course that your dear Parents and the others seem to hold out as years ago when I use to helpout at Saint Paul's. How imperceptibly time does fly! I certainly wish you success with your plans relative to taking-over that long-since dwarfed and recently orphaned episcopalian church of St. Peter. May the good God bless at once your confidence in the Committee in charge and their unbiased and -- in the face of present international atheism / -- reasonable judgement and prudent generosity.

In the face of international atheism? Yes. And this should be stressed in dealing with any and every such committee. If the members thereof are able to think for themselves, as surely their honorable responsibilities presupose they are, at least in this instance, then they ought / realize that, whereas; the faith of perhaps the great majority of men these days having become weakened, hope and charity, its necessary accompaniments have likewise waned. In consequence, religion, the great science of faith, hope and charity, -- the science of our happy dependence on God and our neighbor is refused recognition even by "educators", God is being ousted from our systems of education and, as a just judgement from Heaven on humanity's apathy atheism -- "the climax of intellectual insanity and of moral depravity -- is marshaling its diabolical forces, ready at the first opportunity "to take over" in place of God and religion. We need only to look across into red, communistic Russia to see some of the temporal . . .s.

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, February 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

SAINT FELIX FRIARY

February 11, Apparition of the Immaculation Conception, 1951.


God bless you Father Cefai. -- you and yours.

I do hope you all keep well and that this finds you in hopeful outlook. After all the present is so passing and so quickly gone that in the sight of Heaven it must appear nothing more than momentary.

Many thanks for your kind remembrance of January 15th under such "prorsus" unwanted circumstances. Also that of the day-before yesterday. May the dear Lord Himself be your Reward. I am applying this latter as an enrollment in the Seraphic Mass Association, of the Holy Souls in Purgatory; -- especially the deceased of St. Paul's little Maltese Parish on 4th Street as also the deceased and living-benefactors / to whom we are appealing these days for prayers and for material assistance.

Among these latter, as I suggested several weeks back I have had in mind the model and saintly Monsignor Connolly and his eminent Brother the Judge, both of whose early deaths Detroit so much lamented. I had the privilege of meeting the former for several years and of helping-out in the church that / his proposition and what few know about, his prophecy of a new Cath.

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Capuchin Franciscan Fathers

Pax et Bonum

St. Felix Friary

Huntington, Indiana

April 11th -- Solemnity of Saint Joseph our Patron

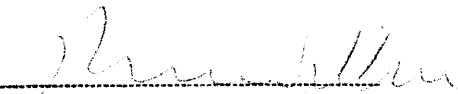
Rev. Michael Z. Cefai, D. D.  
Pastor of Saint Paul's Fourth Street and Plum  
Detroit, Michigan

God bless you Dear Father Cefai, this happy feast and season, you and yours.

It is getting a little late for Easter greetings but nevertheless I do wish you a blessed Eastertide; hoping that something worth while may come your way before Holy Trinity Sunday to brighten your path and lighten your horizon, that may offer you and your dear Maltese People at least a sigh of relief. This most especially for your poorly, dear old Parents.

But dear Father Cefai: as your one-time privileged assistant I am going to kinda beg leave to scold the Pastor, lest he lose sight of or forget -- as we are naturally so inclined to forget -- the primary rule and purpose of spiritual progress, in every thing from common sense to the very climax of highest asceticism; viz, "Charity begins at home." It is quite probable that Fr. M. Z. feels he's doing just that, in his solicitude for his people and his parish. In a way he is. But laudable and all as is such solicitude (and even in laudable: "No quid nemis") it is never rightly-ordered charity for me to forget that the primary purpose of my creation and of my existence as a rational creature, is to recognize and to know, to appreciate and to love -- with an intelligent, personal grateful love -- God my Creator, my Redeemer, my Sanctifier. Zeal and solicitude for others is certainly praiseworthy and pleasing to Almighty God and edifying to the Church and to all observant men. Such is the vocation of, not only the Priest and the Pastor to whom it specially refers; but if, "Gratitude for favors received is the very first and surest indication of intelligence", then it applies also to every Christian and indeed to every rational creature; viz, in the spiritual world especially, to gain souls for God; which means too for their own hope, happiness, glory.

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1950, November 11

The following is a faithful transcription of  
a photo copy of the handwritten message on a  
Seraphic Mass Association Certificate by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Mrs. Philomena Discenna, for speedy  
sight improvement, God willing - - -

Special

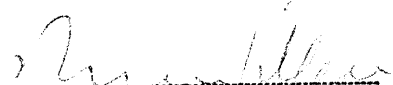
(By request of) her Daughter Anne

November 11th, 1950

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M., Cap.

Original in possession of:

Miss Lee Discenna  
12281 Wilshire Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48213

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, January 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
ROUTE 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

January 29<sup>th</sup> 1951

Blessed be God.  
In all His designs.

Mrs. Raymond Schick  
Monroe Michigan

God bless you Mrs. Schick.

I hope you are well and that by this time things have  
brightened in regard to your little Mary. I put your  
letter aside - having noted your favor, for which many  
thanks, a special Mass at the time - and then lost  
track of it. I wanted to answer it personally. I  
surely sympathize with you and your family. We have  
had quite a few cases similar to little Mary's, the  
majority of which, thanks be to God, have come through  
astonishingly well. They sometimes seem miraculous.  
Glory be to God.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
ROUTE 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

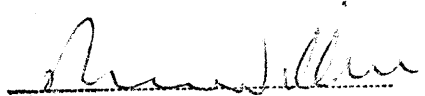
Febr. 2 - Feast of  
Purification

Blessed be God in  
all His designs.

God bless you Mrs. Schick - you and yours.

I just found this envelope of yours, in my

(No Signature)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, April 22 & December 18

The following is a faithful transcription of photo copies of the Seraphic Mass Association Certificate and Remembrance by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Ven. Sister Mary Le<sub>n</sub>cia O.S.F. for special Intent., God willing and for His holy guidance -  
emergency special

April 22, 1951

"And the Lord said to me: My grace is sufficient for thee".

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Courage! Confidence in God (abstinence from delicascas.)

Christmas  
- forpatient progress in virtue -

Ven. Sister Mary Le<sub>n</sub>cia.....

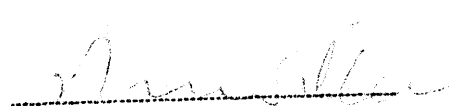
Why not offer our temptations themselves to God - for perseverance in purity, etc of inexperience, youth, etc....fostering confidence in God, the very soul of prayer. Bles'd be God in all His designs.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Dec. 18 - 1956

Originals in possession of:

Sister Le<sub>n</sub>cia  
Madonna College  
36600 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Livonia, MI. 48150

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, May 13

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

CAPUCIAN FRANCISCAN FATHERS  
PAX ET BONUM  
ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

May 13, 1951. Feast of Pentecost.  
Blessed be God. In all His designs.


Miss Lorteea Gibson  
Mercy Hall  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Miss Gibson:

God bless you this glorious Feast and Easter Season, you and yours. May the divine Prince of Peace Himself breathe His Spirit of good will and harmonious enlightenment on all and each of those unselfishly interested in Mercy-Hall activity, -- present, past, future.

Glory be to God; what a record is not the story of that fair flower of Christian activity! and of practical Catholic action! -- a record of struggles sometimes bordering on the desperate, and of escapes, hair-splittingly close to disaster; struggles with and escapes from financial difficulties and bankruptcy, from envy and suspicion, from misunderstanding, calumny, etc. And some of all this in a way, before the idea of Mercy-Hall was fully conceived or its Heaven-sent "blue-prints" unfolded. -- as it was unfolded in that "miraculously" developed and unfading blooming slip of immortal from your Girl-Friend, Miss Daly's grave--] and it was definitely and urgently counseled: "Get started; if necessary, with a single patient in some old attic. God who loves tiny beginnings, will know as He always does know, how and when to provide development."

Ah! Blue prints? Struggles? Escapes? Crisis after crises? Thank God for them all. How wonderful with the inestimable gift of faith, whereby, with our cooperation, all and each such trial turn to have been blessings in disguise. Thank God too even for the present -- seemingly the supreme -- crisis. If "The memory of past difficulties is pleasant." as an old Latin proverb has it and if according to Saint Paul and every teacher of true asceticism: "It behoves us, by many tribulations to enter into the Kingdom of

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, May 13

Miss Gibson  
Page 2

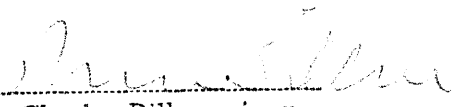
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M., Cap.

Heaven.", why worry about struggles, etc, -- past or to come? Why not rather focus all attention on thanking God for having seen us safely thus far notwithstanding our many, many, innumerable weaknesses and sins!!! ?

Let us go a step further and thank God ahead of time for every trial and cross He may see fit to permit our meeting in this "vale of tears" -- that, in His mercy and wisdom He so often sweetens into tears of joy? We do well it seems to me, to include in this ascetic idea -- this exercise of confidence, the trials and probable struggles of the happy death awaiting us, notwithstanding whatever adversities in His infinite wisdom and loving mercy He may see fit to permit. . . . I hope you still pray to Miss Daly, even while praying for her -- I believe that she has been praying for you all these years. Naturally, therefore, she would be disappointed as at a want of appreciation of her Girl-Friend down here on earth if you should fail in this; because too, as a certain sister for whom St. Theresa of Avilla had prayed long and earnestly, - on its way to Heaven- assured her " . . . Pray for you Mother Terese! Ah! Mother: . . . for there is no place for ingratitude in Heaven."

If you honestly humble yourself, dear Miss Gibson, -- and this applies to each and every one of us - your victory will be certain. In other words, in as much as any of us can immitate our Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of God, who the more she was honored, somuch more did she humble herself. Ah! Because next Jesus Himself the supreme, the divine Model, she too was indeed: "Meek and humble of heart." . . . Let us not blame anyone for suspecting or persecuting us, as at first we are naturally inclined to do. On the contrary if we have a little patience and pray for them instead, thus we will surely be following the diving counsel and in the end have the consolation of converting them and of gaining our own Triumph.

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1951, September 8

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS  
PAX ET BONUM  
ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
September 8th 1951

Nativity of Mary Most Holy, Virgin Mother of God

Blessed be God in all His designs.

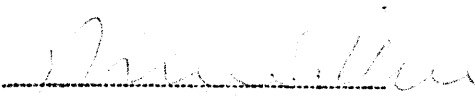
Miss Loretta Gibson  
Mercy-Hall Hospital  
Detroit, Michigan

God bless you Miss Gibson, - you and yours this happy Feast of Mary's Nativity. --

Ah! the aurora of Salvation's Day. Next to Jesus Himself and always with Him may she be ever our refuge and our stay during this pilgrimage on earth, in reality so very short at the longest and still, at times so seemingly long. Indeed I say again God bless you, and May Jesus the true Light breath His own Spirit of good will and of harmonious enlightenment on each and all of those unselfishly interested in Mercy-Hall activity, - present, past, future. This has been my prayer for you and for them.

Glory be to God! What a record is not the story of that fair flower? -- a record indeed of genuine, Christian activity and of really practical Catholic Action; a record of ups and downs; a record of struggles, bordering on the desperate and of escapes hair-splittingly close to disaster: struggles with and escapes from financial difficulties and bankruptcy, from suspicion and criticism (sometimes honest and well meant), and from envy and ambitions intriguing and consequent misrepresentation and calumny, etc. -- and in a way some of all this, before the idea of Mercy Hall was fully conceived or its "Heaven-sent blueprints" unfolded and it was at once stressed: "Get started. . . if necessary with a single patient in some old attic." --- intimating at least in effect: "God who loves tiny beginnings will know -- as He always does know best - how and when to provide developments".

"Heaven-sent blue-prints"? Indeed! For that "miraculously-developed", unfadingly blooming, little slip from the girl-friend's grave was nothing less than just that, Heaven, sent blueprint. In a way it was more; for who with a spark of supernatural faith in God, could even behold that phonimally-blooming little slip without

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, September 8

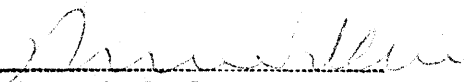
Miss Loretta Gibson  
Page 2

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

a decided heightening of his faith and confidence in the supernatural and in the divine providence of Heaven?

In His merciful, unfathomable wisdom and goodness, Almighty God left that little relic with you as long as you needed it for just that kind of inspiration. And when it had served its purpose and Mercy Hall was well started, He lifted it away from you, (how, is quite secondary.) lest curiosity and consequent want of appreciation and of reverence mar the delicacy and the supernatural fragrance of that -- ? -- His own little blue-print? . . . . .  
. . . Aye! Glory be to God and blessed be His holy Name in all His designs! and in these designs; not merely including, but positively stressing just the knocks and the humiliations we meet with and the crisis after crisis He sometimes permits even while by His grace He fortifies us to profit by them all more than by anything else, save by the actual reception of the very Sacraments themselves.

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1956, April 1

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Easter Sunday - April 1st 1956 - 8:45 PM.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

God bless you Miss Loretta Mry Gibson  
God bless you and yours these unsettled  
days - glorious days, however as always,  
for men of good will. .... for men who  
can humbly appreciate what enables them -  
us poor sinners - to glory in actually  
holding a place of trust Even near -  
at least in sight of - the General -  
our crucified Jesus.

I am sending you a copy of the, "Prayer  
for Peace," of which you have likely  
known away ahead of me. I heard it first,  
only after coming to St. Bonaventures last  
January..... It strck me at once as from  
a saddened heart. My own heart filled up,  
at my first official praying thereof.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, o.f.m.  
Notarius

1951, May 30

The following is a faithful transcription of the photo copy of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.  
St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Ind.  
May 30th, 1951

Blessed be God in all His designs.

God bless you Mr. and Mrs. H. Ricard.

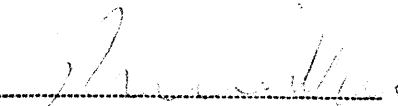
We shall be pleased to see you as proposed, or at your convenience. We hope of course that you may not be disappointed.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. H. J.(Bernadine L.) Ricard  
2119 Seventh Street  
Bay City, Michigan 48706

  
-----  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, October 11

The following is a faithful transcription of the photo copy of a handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

St. Felix Monastery R.R.8

Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in all His designs.

October 11th, Maternity  
of Mary our Blessed Mother  
'51

Mr. H. J. Ricard  
Bay City, Michigan

God bless you Mr. Ricard - you and yours.

I am certainly pleased to see your hope and confidence in the mercy and gracious wisdom of Almighty God in regard to your little Maurice. I had a very dear and amiable brother of that name Maurice Joachim Casey. He was very talented and from earliest childhood seemed to dream of being a priest. When 16 in his 3rd year in the seminary his health failed and he came home - a family disappointment. However, he worked generously in promoting vocations and was extremely pleased to others take his place - especially our 2nd youngest of ten brothers - just now back from the missions in the Philippines with his mission Headquarters in St. Paul, Minn. .... - Rt. Rev. E'd F. Casey. - Well after 20 years roving when I was ordained and he served at my first Holy Mass, he decided to "...try it again and after seven years further study was ordained - at 43 instead of 23. Thanks be to God a billion.


So we will hope an for something of a miracle for little Maurice. I am going to pray my deceased Rev. Brother Maurice - and especially our Father Stephen Eckert - whose relic I am herewith inclosing to pray for him and if it please God that he be spared - and have a vocation. For Father Stephen especially we a hoping for miracles so as to promote his Cause of beatification first and then his canonization.

Thanking again for your generous favor for the holy missions I be to remain Sincerely yours in Christ.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Original in possession of:

Mrs. H. J. (Bernadine L.) Ricard  
2119 Seventh Street  
Bay City, Michigan 48706

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1951, July 13

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

PAX ET BONUM

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

(seal)

July 13st. 1951. St. Bonaventures; Blessed be God in all His designs!

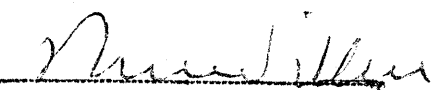
Rev. Mother Mary Hilda. Beech Grove, Indiana

God bless you Rev. Dear Mother Mary Hilda. May He be favorable to you  
and to all your benefactors — most especially those in Beech Grove  
Hospital and bring them more and more to realize and to appreciate the  
privilege of harboring a religious "so tempted and tried in the humilia-  
tions of extraneous "warfare in the world.

July 21st. Dear Mother Hilda. God help us! You see I did not get  
far a week ago. I do hope you keep up courage and persevere these trying  
times, — glorious times if by God's grace we persvere in "keeping the  
faith: and, God willing, having the privilege of finally giving our life  
its defense. For surely "civilization" has been rapidly losing its one-  
time rational balance. Thank God however, there are still members of  
society - of the human-race - who like the seers of old and the prophets  
and apostles keep faith with God our divine Creator and Preserver; but,  
Alas! for modern society! civilization! humanity! If ever the words of  
Isias, have been applicable to a people or a generation of nations, they  
are surely appropriate today in reference to the majority of our modern  
"scientests", "educators", "statesmen", "Governments": "With desolation  
is all the world made desolate, because there is none that thinketh in  
their hearts."

"Scientests" that refuse to recognize as a science, the most privi-  
leged and most fortunate relationship and dependence of the rational  
creacheron the divine Creator and Preserver of the Universe! "Scientests"  
and "educators", etc, that fail to see or refuse to recognize "general  
principals the truth of which can be plainly perceived by the light of  
reason"; as Pope Leo XIII, in his Encyclical on the Holy Eucharist de-  
clares, — giving — "for instance", the most important, all-outstanding  
principal whereon rests to humanity the sanctity and the soul of the  
Ten Commandments of God and the authority of all legitimate, divine  
authority; — "for instance, that the dominion of God our Creator and  
Preserver over all men, whether in their private or in their public life,  
is supreme and absolute; that our whole being and all that we possess,  
whether individually or as members of society, comes from the divine  
bounty; that we on our part are bound to show to God, as our Lord, the  
highest reverence, and, as He is our greatest benefactor, the deepest  
gratitude."

(Unfinished draft)



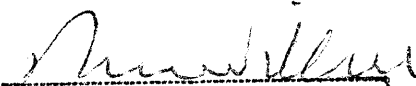
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed carbon by the Servant of God, Father Scianus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

God Bless you Mother Mary Hilda this happy feast day of most privileged Grand-Mother dear St. Ann. I have started to write you several times these last more than six months, and whatever the trouble, I can hardly excuse myself for such negligence in failing to express my appreciation for your kind remembrances and to say thank you, as I want to do now at least, with a thousand times God bless you.

I do hope that you keep up in health and courage, persevering in keeping the Faith and helping Jesus our Savior in the saving of poor sinner's souls - including our own of course, charity beginning at home. God help us! How little we appreciate our privilege of being given opportunity after opportunity of suffering in diverse ways and of offering all in union with and for the intentions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! I have been reading: "The Way of Divine Love; or The Message of the Sacred Heart to the World", as jotted down and noted by a most privileged contemporary of our own, the little, kitchen-lay-sister Josefa Menendeth, born in 1890 and called to Heaven December 29, 1923. - all in strict though gentlest obedience to Jesus and her superiors. What sufferings of soul and body she went through - what agonies she learned to welcome! - for the sake of helping Jesus to rescue straying souls! Glory be to God! Would that we might be convinced - that we might realize - in the time of temptation, of trial and struggle, and when the clouds seem most threatening that just then it is that Our Dear Lord in nearest and that just then too we ought to offer all to Jesus - turning to Him with the holy fear at once and the confidence of the Apostles: "Lord we perish! - Save us! "

As still a child at home struggling to support her poor parents, whose modest means had become exhausted through failing health and unforeseen family expenses, including the early death of her father, Josepha had learned many a practical lesson in patience, resignation, confidence in God; - humility permeating all, supporting every step toward the heights of Calvary and confidence in Heaven.

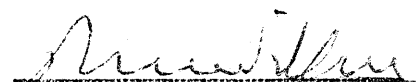
  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius 317

(Following added to unfinished letter of July 26, 1951.)

Sept. 17, 1951 - God bless you Rev. Mother Mary Hilda. I hope this finds you - still on the way of the cross, the best school wherein to learn appreciation for and love of Jesus Crucified divine lover of souls. Our friend Miss B. from Decatur was here this P. M. with her two sisters, niece-in-law and little girl, - pleasantly surprised on hearing of your visit, etc. Afterwards I just came across the above started letter which I had pulled out of the machine about a month ago to get something off that seemed more immediately urgent. So, hoping that it is not too late or too inopportune I'm sending it just as it is. However, as a sort of key to the letter from Miss Gibson which I gave you Sunday, I am going to try to get a copy for you of the letter she wrote me a week or so before the trial when things seemed so very threatening. I am sure you will enjoy it - as heightening the interest and beauty of the one that followed. An obvious lesson it ought to stress, as seems to me, is the old adage or motto: "Per aspera ad astra", - "Through trials to triumph": or straight prose as St. Paul gives it: "It behooves by many tribulations, to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."

Bles'd be God again in all His designs - not only including them simply - but stressing the trials, the humiliations, crosses, disappointments, etc. whereby, next to the reception of the holy Sacraments in importance, it would seem divinely providential that those whose motto ought to be: "ALWAYS EXCELSIOR", be purified from self conceit, so natural to originally tainted human reason, and introduced gradually into the light and intimacy of confidence with the Divine.

Glory be to God. Deo Gratias  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius



c. 1951, September

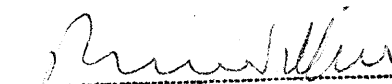
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

PRIVILEGED SACRIFICES. BY an Eye Witness

"Without Sacrafice You get nowhere." is quite a generally conceded principle. Fomr the ABC's of any science to the "master degree" no complete let up can be counted on, if outstanding success is to be the prize. And, selfunderstood, "the greater the prize in view, the greater also the sacrifice, i. e. the greater the efforts worth making and expected.

Yesterday and To-day at Saint Felix Friary--the Capuchin-Franciscan Novitiate, we witnessed something of such sacrifices. In each case it was a culmination of several years strenuous studies and of self-discipline. To-day seventeen novices--all young, promising youths between 17 and 23 I presume--pronounced their first vows, thereby, with the grace of God becoming Capuchin friars and crowning another year, outstanding in their individual lives a successful novitiate. The happy absence of any shade of reluctance or hesitation indicated to moistened-eyed community and audience something of the appreciation on part of the students present. Tomorrow and next day they leave for further progress toward the holy Priesthood in our Ser. College of the Immaculate Conception overlooking the lordly Hudson.

They will no doubt be missed here at the novitiate where for more than twelve months they have been endearing themselves to the older members of the local community. These, however, without exception will wish them God speed and blessing; -- happy in the confident hope that the promising twenty-five following in their steps since yesterday's not-less-touching ceremony of enrollment or clothing, will profit by such a happy example.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 319  
Notarius

1952, January 17

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed notes by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Father Solanus - January 17, 1952

"THANK GOD NOW, AHEAD OF TIME,  
FOR ALL THAT IS COMING TO US.  
INCLUDE OUR DEATHS WITH ALL  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH  
THEM. (DEATH IS THE CLIMAX OF  
ALL HUMILIATION, WHEN WE MUST  
FINALLY GIVE UP ALL, AND TURN  
ALL OVER TO GOD. DEATH CAN BE  
VERY BEAUTIFUL--LIKE A WEDDING,  
IF WE MAKE IT SO. DEATH IS STILL  
BETTER WHEN WE ARE CONSCIOUS,  
AND KNOW."

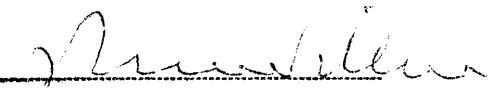
c. 1952

BLESSED BE GOD IN ALL HIS DESIGNS

Many thanks and God's blessing to every associate and to every associate's every neighbor. May the Holy Ghost teach us all something at least of appreciation - of gratitude - for the inestimable privilege of serving God and saving our own immortal souls by helping one another! This incidently we might add, according to the definition of religion, rather say, in harmony with "Religion; the Science of our supremely privileged, happy dependence on Almighty God and our neighbor" (each rational creature being its own first neighbor).

The definition holds for every rational creature - alike in Heaven, on Earth and in Purgatory; not in Hell, because they are not rational there, the acknowledged headquarters of atheism.

Atheism? "The unqualified climax at once of intellectual insanity, of moral degeneresy, diabolical blasphemy.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, March 23

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten message on a holy card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap. (from the photo copy)

March 23, 1952

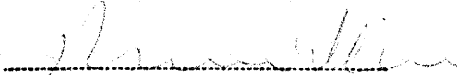
(11 P. M.)

God bless little Marty O'Hara  
and speed his health back to  
normality --- God willing

God bless all concerned

Fr. Solanus,  
O. F. M. Cap.

Original in possession of: Mrs. Florence O'Haver  
36325 Grand River,  
Apt. 104  
Farmington, Mi. 48024

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, May 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

May 6, 1952

Miss Margaret Belain  
8784 Morley St.  
Detroit, Michigan

Blessed be God in all His designs.

God bless you Miss Belain, you and yours:

I hope you are well and that things are coming favorably for you. I am sure my failure to acknowledge your appreciated favor of December 6th last, must have been deeply disappointing. Please pardon! I can hardly explain further than that, wishing to thank you personally for such a favor, I put your brief letter aside and, some how or other it was simply "snowd under."

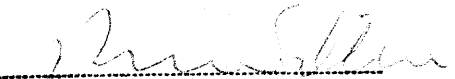
However, I am sure God has blessed you just the same, and you have been included in our prayers as noted at the time. Besides this, I am going to offer my first - next - "Free Mass" for your intentions, your guidance, and welfare. Incidentally we have the privilege of two such "free-Masse " each month.

Thanking you a million for your kindness and hoping such failure on my part may not occur in the future, I beg to remain, at your service,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O. F. M. Cap.

Glory be to God.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

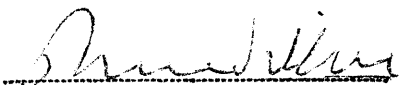
The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

Mr. Frank B. Stabile. Detroit 14,

Many thanks for your pathetic communication of June 20th, which I had to put aside at the time and which frankly, till I neared its conclusion, I was inclined to ignore. However, though the situation is not essentially changed, I feel bound to offer you something of encouragement for the "problems" of which you complain, viz, about God and about "science and religion". For "practical children of the Church" such problems are to a great extent solved at baptism; so that by the grace of that Sacrament the principles of the "triune virtue of Faith - Hope - Charity" are divinely infused into the soul whereby, from the very start it becomes docily inclined to believe; and to behold the Church and to confide in her with growing conviction as divinely founded and as infallibly guided in her capacity of mother and mistress of immortal souls - of human candidates for the life of eternal glory; of which St. Paul writes: "Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what things God has prepared for them that love Him".

But let us first lament your failure - which is not yours only but humanity's to which we both belong. Perhaps our sadest failure, notwithstanding our faculties for thinking and reasoning, notwithstanding our advanced steps in every phase of science and, (what ought to count most of all in the natural order of conclusion) notwithstanding uncounted ages of bitterest experience of men and angels, that ingratitude to God never pays. We have in great part failed to recognize as a science, the one, in the sight of heaven, greatest science of all times and of all places wherever pertains to rational creatures. We have failed to recognize as a science OUR MOST FORTUNATE RELATIONSHIP - absolute dependence on the Almighty, all merciful God, and together with that, our dependence on our neighbor.

(Unfinished.)

  
 Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
 Notarius

1952, July 28.

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.

July 28, 1952

ST. FELIX PRIARY  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Blessed be God in  
all His designs.

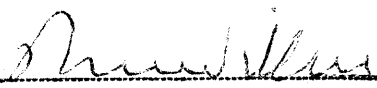
Detroit, Michigan

God bless you F. B. Stabile.

Many thanks for your pathetic communication of June 20th. Because of the hundred and more letters before me that claim response I was about to make very short work of yours before I had read half of it. However, I put it aside. Today, though the situation is not improved, I feel I must give you a few words. If you were a faithful "child of the Church", you would escape the danger of many of those problems of which you lament, viz, problems about God, science and religion. I must be brief. ....

First let me lament your failure - with your so-called science - you fail to recognize as a science, the greatest science itself of all times and of all places, viz, the science of our happy dependence as rational creatures, on God and our neighbor. That is RELIGION; the only science that in the end - amounts to more than the snap of one's finger. Like every other science, though there be a thousand systems (denominations) there can be but one such science. It might be defined also; "The science of saving our souls or simply: "the science of charity", whose primary purpose is to foster what is sometimes called "the triune virtue of faith-hope-charity". Because they are essentially one virtue, the positive contrast on first glance of "Atheism-despair-hate" of which your first two sentences seem so positively to lament, viz, someone's own agnosticism, hatred and consequent, worse than disturbance. I was going to say above, that practical Catholics know without a doubt what to believe concerning the referred-to problems. Besides; the more anyone of good will knows about true religion viz, the system of divine and infallible religion - the infallible system of religion - established and founded by Jesus Christ and proclaimed by His Twelve Apostles - watering it with their blood in imitation of Jesus their divine Master; so much the clearer does the whole Christian system unfold before the eye of common sense, and of the highest reasoning, as well as in the light of divine faith - all true sources of science and all phases of true religion the crown and final purpose of all.

(Unfinished.)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1952, August 14

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
ROUTE 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Blessed be God  
In all His designs!

August 14<sup>th</sup> --

Vigil of our dearest  
Bl. Mother Mary's  
Assumption

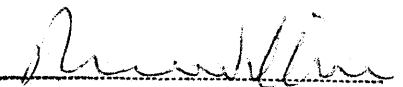
Mr. Philip M. O'Brien  
Bailey's Harbor, Wis.

God bless you Mr. Philip O'Brien - you and yours,

We all hope this finds you well - which, for one experiencing what you have been going through these several months, must mean that you are keeping up courage and by the grace of God continuing to foster confidence in His merciful wisdom and goodness - all the better of course if the physical condition, at least does not get worse, till we see a decided improvement and final recovery, God willing.

The purpose of this card, since I cannot finish the letter I wanted to send you, is primarily, to just reassure you that we are keeping you in mind and please God will not forget you in our prayers.

(No Signature)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1952, August 20

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Pax Et Bonum  
St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

1952, August, 20 th


Feast of Saint Bernard. Blessed be God in all His designs.  
Mr. Philip R. O'Brien  
Bailey's Harbor, Wisconsin

God Bless you Mr. Philip R. O'Brien:

God bless you and yours these days of grace. For days of grace are these our days and days of God's great mercy to all men of good will, notwithstanding our lamentable want of appreciation and of gratitude for His inestimable graces and His uncountable favors. Days of grace too, notwithstanding the threatening avalanche of international red-atheism even now be-deviling millions of humanity more and more brazenly and presumptuously aspiring on earliest opportunity, "to-take-over" for religion. May - in places behind the "Iron Curtain", actually taking over and, instead of keeping highest promises, is doubly grinding its dupes into abject slavery of body and soul: while at the same time it is going to the limit of its power in trying to play Hell with every decent subject who dare profess other than what tends to kill true religion and belief in the Supernatural.

Atheism! God help us! "The social octopus-cancer of mind and spirit"! Atheism? The no-God-monster proposition, when philosophy and commonsense as well (as) revelation and faith in the Eternal -all- proclaim, "appreciation and gratitude for favors received, the very first and surest indication of intelligence."? Atheism; the stifler of every phase of science that down the ages has fostered gratitude to parents and benefactors as to God's representatives and that, instead of, "Hope, the very soul of happiness in this world", would inject the poisonous nightmare of eternal despair? Aye! Aye! God help us these days of God's grace and mercy, against the atheism of Anti-christ: -- atheism the unqualified climax atonce, of intellectual insanity, of moral degeneracy, of diabolical blasphemy and of eternal despair. God help us!

Pardon me Dear Mr. O'Brien I hope this is not boring you, but it seems to me that, when we behold the general outlook in the material and materialistic world today and the inordinate tendency of thot-less humanity to worship this passing existence as though it were our final destiny and the only life worth striving for (unfinished draft.)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1952, September 3

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
ROUTE 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA


September 3rd 1952

Blessed be God.  
In all His designs.

God bless you Mr. Fred Thomas.

Many thanks for your appreciated favor of August 20th which I just finished reading. I hope this finds you well and improving! For you, that means that by the grace of God you persevere in His holy grace and service -- resigned in all circumstances to His adorable will. Of course it is not wrong to pray for improvement of health, etc. But perhaps more meritorious to even offer ourselves to suffer something in union with our dear Lord's suffering and death for our holy Redemption -- remembering too that: "whom the Lord loveth He chastiseth." Keep courage therefore and I hope that before long - God willing - you surprise the doctors and all concerned.

(No Signature)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN  
FATHERS

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

November 24th, American Thanks-Giving Day; Deo Gratias.

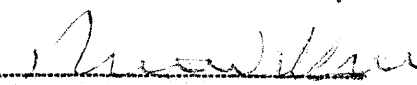
Rev. Thomas G. Brennan. Rosary Academy Bay City, Michigan.

My Dear Father Brennan:

God bless you and yours. I do hope that you are well these days and that our dear Lord guide you always. For as years and decades pass we realize more and more clearly, with Holy Job that, "The life of man on earth is a warfare". Indeed a warfare it is that, notwithstanding the innumerable graces and safe-guards that surround us, is fraught with pitfalls and dangers at every turn. How can we ever appreciate as we ought, or be grateful for having from infancy been blessed with the supernatural certainty that the True Faith alon can inspire and insure? ! Deo gratias a billion.

I have been wanting to write you these several weeks and especially since Sr. M.C. was down a couple weeks ago. I know you are interested in her welfare and that, like many of the rest of us, have been trying to help her find her bearings and the peace of soul she seems temporarily at least rather sadly to have lost sight of. However, I feel that if we can just keep our heads and, especially if she can only be induced to have patience and to humbly foster confidence in God; I am sure, as I have been trying to assure her right along, that Almighty God is permitting all this trouble of hers - seemingly a real "night of her soul", to come as a blessing in disguise - as a feature of her preparation "sine qua non", of her arriving at that peace the world knows nothing about; the peace of soul she once most probably dreamed of but, of which, for her vocational maturity she has been permitted seemingly to lost sight these years and sadly to have forgotten. .... True, she has made innumerable mistakes and stupid blunders. Who has not made them? Nevertheless and notwithstanding all such and even were they multiplied.

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1953, May

The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Pax et BONUM

SAINT FELIX CAPUCHIN FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA  
c. 1953, May

BLESSED BE GOD!                    IN ALL HIS DESIGNS

Rt. Rev. Edward J. Hickey  
Pastor St. Mary's Redford, Michigan

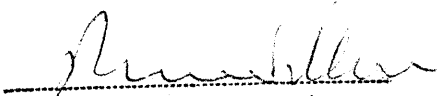
Rt. Rev. Dear Monsignor Hickey:

God bless you and yours. I hope this finds you well and that your dear Mother's health has improved since your short visit here to Saint Felix. Thanks be to God we are all well notwithstanding our prevalence of real "grip weather.

Dear Monsignor Hickey: you will hardly be surprised if I tell your Right Reverence that for quite some time I've been wanting to write you; and this concerning two problems, some details of which I am sure will be a relief to your Rt. Reverence - as the release, I feel will be to me. For whether a matter be trifling or tremendous the wisdom of Jesus' dictum must always hold: "Know the Truth and the Truth will make you free."

The first problem concerns the origin of the Mercy Hall Cancer Hospital of Detroit. I probably should have given you the details long ago that I now finally propose to release - details - which few, if any other could offer, details which, together with the here inclosed letter, (as a sample), will change your view of said institution and with the grace of God, I trust may completely reverse the hitherto shown attitude toward the foundress by your Rt. Rev. Paternity. Ah! for your own joyous relief as well as her extremely tried fortitude. I beg pardon for such culpable hesitation. Glory be to God. Following are a few details.

About twenty-five years back two young nurses came to Saint Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit seeking guidance in regard to starting a cancer-hospital. I enrolled them in the Seraphic Mass Association and promised to pray for them and their project. This repeated itself a number of times for two or more years; so that I was inclined to take them for a "sort of dreamers" (?) .

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

II

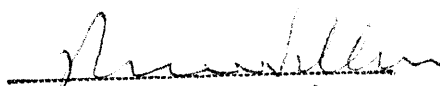
The following is a faithful transcription of a typed original by the Servant of God Fr. Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Continues letter to Rt. Rev. Edward J. Hickey

. . . . Finally while Miss Gibson was sice in a Detroit hospital her girl-friend the other nurse - her "saintly friend" as she considered, (a certain Miss Daily), died in New York. Just another knock for the girl-friend left to weep and to pray - - - of whom she was wont to speak as being a saint and on the help of whose prayers she still seems to have confidence. Having lingered at the Grave . . . . Miss Gibson plucked a slip of an "immortal" (a little plant growing on the grave), and simply put it in a little, round "vanity-box" perhaps two inches wide and a 1/2 of an inch deep, half saying to herself: "This will be my relique." Shortly afterwards she was packing her trunk to come West and without further ado, like tossed it into the trunk to take care of itself. Weeks afterwards she was looking for something else when the little "vanity-box" unexpectedly appeared. "O!", she thought, "Here is my relic!". Her emotion on finding it not only fresh and green but perfectly in bloom was unspeakably more than surprise. To me, when first I saw it and as often as I saw it - which was quite occasionally for more than a year --it was a "Blue-print from Heaven" and nothing less, of the institution that she and Miss D. had been dreaming of and praying for . . . . "Get started . . . .", came to my lips the first thing following my astonishment. "Get started if necessary with a single patient in some old attic. and God Who loves tiny beginnings will know, as He always does know best, how and when to provide development." She did not have to start in such extremes. Her said little "miracullous blue-print" would seem to have carried her successfully at every turn; for she carried it with her everywhere and never hesitated to show it where appreciation for the supernatural might be expected. All this till Mercy Hall was well established and to stay. . . . Aye! "A really Catholic Hospital, with everything in detail and up to date . . . ." . . . What a contrast after three years when Chapel and Altar were gone and no visits more to Jesus or reception of the Sacraments! Still Miss G. was a Catholic. Still her Catholic pictures and statues were in the corredors and parlors. Stell, though she wore no "habit" she was keeping up reception of the Sacrament herself. She had aged more than three years.

Less than a quarter of an hour's visit was sufficiently revealent. Dr. McClellan was my hoste and chauffeur, and he had an operation scheduled that morning and we necessarily had to be brief. One could only wonder as to the cause or the purpose of it all. . . . But: "Who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor? ! !

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1953 May

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

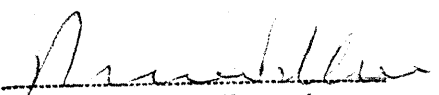
another draft of previous letter to Rt. Rev. Edward J. Hickey

## II

As much as I remember I had not seen either of them for some months. They had always come together. Now Miss Gibson comes alone with such unwanted tidings. More remarkable still however, though of a happier color is her story of a phenomena in connection therewith and which bring us nearer to our purpose. - - - our problem.

After her own recovery she - Miss G. - had taken a trip to New York, visiting friends and relatives as I understood - her own and those of Miss Daly - the deceased nurse-friend and naturally the latter's place of burial. This visit or visiting lasted for some days (five to be exact, as she tells me now). At all events, she brought back with a slip or sprig from a little "immortal" already growing on the still fresh grave where she had lingered these days and prayed and fostered supernatural hope. She had placed, the tiny sprig in a common envelope and when about / return / Detroit had placed it with some letters, etc, in her hand-bag. Some time afterwards, on opening the envelope she had been astonished at finding the slip, not only not withered and dried, not only fresh and green but actually having grown and in perfect bloom . . . . It is easy to speculate on the more than surprise that such a greeting offered the beholder . . . . That, for just now however, must be secondary. Suffice to say that her whole attitude was beaming. Her every move corroborated conviction. Spontaneously opening a small "vanity-box" to which her "relic" had been transferred, she like triumphantly displayed her "supernatural immortal." To me it was a marvel. To me it was a "blue-print" of what the nurses these late years had been dreaming about. - - - a sort of mystical fore-shadowing of how their yearnings to do something worthwhile for God and humanity were to be realized and their institution was to flourish, viz. quiet and unassuming, hidden-like from the unappreciative.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1953, August 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Blessed be God!  
In all His designs.

August 6th '53

Mr. Wallace V.E. Bedolfe  
27 White Oak Blv'd  
Toronto, Canada.

God bless you Wally and multiply His graces and joys in your soul!

I surely congratulate you the privileged step you had on the 49th anniversary of my first Holy Mass, Feast of St. Ignatius. Glory be to God! I should surely like to have been there. I am sure Father Edward will be pleased to hear of your progress. But its only when we shall actually reached Heaven that we'll be in contition to appreciate the real meaning of heavenly joys. Because as St. Paul assures in his letter to the Romans: "Eye hath not seen, Ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what God hath prepared for them that love Him." .....something like Fr. E'd concludes one of his poems; his "Valley of Plains" (in Montana)

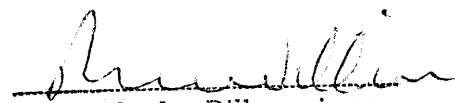
"O God! What the glory of Heaven must be!  
when its feeble Reflection on Mountain and lea,  
Enrobes the dull clay in a beauty sublime! --  
Eternity's breath -- on the ashes of time."  
.....

Best wishes and God's blessing to all.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

P.S. An old adage: "Finis Coronet Opus"  
"The end crowns the work."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1953, August 29

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
ROUTE 8  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

August 29<sup>th</sup> 1953

Blessed be God!  
In all His designs.

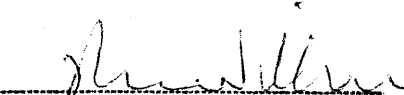
God bless you Mrs. Mrs. Fred Birkhill -  
these days at once of tragedy and of God's mercy.

Many thanks for your kind favor of August 12<sup>th</sup>. I only got to read your letter To-day. I reached with a ruler for what I thought was a letter-head and: "In appreciation", came down on the ruler. I made a copy of it and am sending you the original. I must memorize it. How mercifully provident is not the good God in making us His creatures dependent -- next to Himself!-- on one another! Hence the beautiful definition of the greatest science of all times and of all places: "The science of our happy dependence on God and our neighbor -- Religion! Ah! - Ah!

Glory be to God! how natural and how easy to understand; if we remember that we are all individually our own first neighbor! Best wishes and God's blessing to the Chaplows. It would be nice if you and Mr. Birkhill could come down with them. ..."As a Rational Creature.

God made me to know Him. O! what a bless'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the: -  
It's Heaven-Begun for the grateful on Earth: (to know God)  
To treasure aright! ? -- Highest Heaven its worth.

Sincerely  
.....Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1953, Sept. 17

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

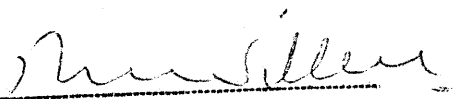
Blessed be God!  
In all His designs.

Sept. 17th 1953

God bless you Mrs. Mary Polack--you and yours.  
Thanks be to God that the crime you write about did not lead--as is often the case--to the actually threatened, worse crime and climax of insanity. To give way to bitterness at such a fall--such a misfortune? and especially when acknowledged on the border of despair!! .....to suicidal danger!?

Jesus, who was infinitely more deeply offended be (by) the crime of the poor adultress before Him than ever pharisee could be or even husband gives the solution. For very shame of such an offense to common He would seem to seek escape from discussion with the parisees of so delicate

(unfinished letter)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius



1953, Sept. 24

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

St. Felix Friary  
Route 8  
Huntington, Indiana

Sept. 24th  
1953

Blessed be God  
In all His designs.

God bless you Mr. Frank M. Foran--you and yours.  
Many thanks for your appreciated favor of a week ago, which  
only just now I got to read--as it was striking 10 P.M.  
Glory be to God!

9/25/53. To-day My associate in the Seraphic Mission  
work tells me he wrote

(unfinished)



1953, October 31

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed draft by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

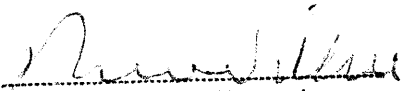
October 31st 1953.

Bles'd be God in all His designs.

Mr. Joseph Matt. Editor, The Wanderer, Saint Paul Minnessota.

God bless you Mr. Matt. God blss you and yours these hectic days - at once days of God's great mercy and of supremely tragic, international history. The great "Oracle of the eleaventh century Saint Bernard of Clarveau was wont to plead against taking scandal: "Since the scandal of the Crucifixion of Jusus Christ by the politically enslaved priests of the it is never reasonable to take scandal." For that was the supreme climas of all possible scandal

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1953, November 7


The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

November 7<sup>th</sup> 1953.

God bless you Mrs. J. Czubojs; you and yours.

We surely sympathise with you and your family under your peculiar affliction. Would it be possible that some of your folks have not been going to the holy Sacraments as they should or not at all? Some years ago in Detroit a young girl - 19 - was brought to our front-door curb-stone who had been sneezing for five days. She was already unconscious and the doctors had given her only 24 hours further to live if remedy failed. I asked them about their Easter Duty. The children had been going regularly but the mother had not been to confession for five years and the Father since he came from Europe thirty years before. They came back the next morning reporting: "...Still sneezing and still weaker." We enrolled her a second time in the Ser. Mass Association and the parents promised they would make their confession this P.M.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius

1953, Nov. 25

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original  
by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.


St. Felix Friary  
Huntington, Indiana

Nov. 25th  
1953

Blessed be God  
in all His designs.

God bless you Patrick Gainer. Many thanks for your  
favor of several weeks ago. Please pardon delay. I pray  
for your good will and for God's holy guidance in regard  
to the important step you have been considering. I am sure  
that if you go to the holy sacraments frequently and  
earnestly, God will not let you go astray.

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 338  
Notarius

1953, November 25

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed draft by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.


ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

November 25th 1953

Bles'd be God in all His designs.

Miss Marjorie Franklin and all our Friends at 6250 Woodward Ave. Detroit, Mich. May the Lord bless and smile on each one of you and all together! Rev. Father Guardian and others of our Cap Community thought it would be appropriate that we send you on the Eve of our national Thanksgiving Day, at least a short word of our appreciation for your wholeheart'd kindness in so generously corresponding with and seconding the wishes and ideals of our late friend and lamented benefactor Jerry McCarthy. May his open confession and candid expression of regret, etc for his habitual blasphemy be laid to his credit. This especially, since Today we had the first actual results after so long suspense and fully satisfactory operation of the new Drier.

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1956, August 15

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed draft by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY  
CAPUCHIN FATHERS  
1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Detroit 7, Michigan

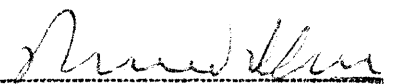
Feast of the Assumption,  
August 15th 1956

Blessed be God in all  
His designs!

Miss Marjorie Franklin 6250 Woodward Detroit, Michigan

God bless you Miss Marjorie Franklin. God bless you and yours these days - at 6250 Woodward and elsewhere. I hope He the same merciful, good God be with you - each and all - to keep you and guide you during the days and months of trouble and trial that irreligion - worst of all - the avalanche of atheism - determined to push-over on us, on unthinging, ungrateful, unappreciative humanity. Incidentally, from the gravity of the Condemnation of atheism by the Vicar of Christ - both Pope Pius XI and Pius XII and from its very

(Unfinished)



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1954, January 12

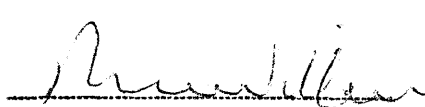
The following is a faithful transcription of the typewritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

January 12<sup>th</sup> 1954. Bles'd be God in all His designs.

God bless you Father Ambrose My Dear Rev. Confrere. God bless you and yours these days at once of God's great mercy and of supremely tragic, international history. It was only last night that I got to read your pathetic letter of a few days ago. Why apologize for such a letter? I wrote poor, dear Fr. Fred. some months back but never heard from him. I am sending you herewith a copy of a "rhyme letter" which I hoped would help him; but like my own Rev. Fr. (MAUrice) Joachim, O.F.M. Cap - ten months a novice - to whom the same was originally written (Like Fr.) he probably did not appreciate. I was hardly surprised or disappointed at receiving no response. Now, however, we shall try something else which I trust will work something towards bringing out the blessing contained in every cross and every bereavement. I am inscribing Fr. Fred. in the list of our "emergency cases" which Thanks be to God has surprised ... in more than one example. But neither is the foregoing anywhere the limit or climax of our suggestions. I am sure the following details of my Rev. Brother's case will and the outcome thereof will offer you and your poor dear Mother and friends example at once and encouragement not to say as I hope it will assured confidence.

/Unfinished Draft/

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.f.m.  
Notarius

c. 1954

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of Handwritten messages on the back of photographs by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

( ON A PHOTO OF HIMSELF )

Blessed be God in all His designs !  
To know God is to love Him. To serve God is  
to reign with Him. But, ? ! Thy dignity !  
Thy excellence, rational creature!  
Q. And O ! Blueprint - purpose sublime ?  
A. If gratitude is the very first, surest indi-  
cation of intelligence, what God sees first:

MAGNIF C AT ANIMA DOMINUM

God made me to know Him, O what a bles'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him sure rests in the same.  
It's heaven begun - for the grateful - on earth!  
To treasure aright ! ! highest heaven its worth.

How little is it possible for mortals this side of  
Heaven to appreciate our holy Faith! or to be Fully  
grateful for its blessings, - its outstanding  
excellence.

Bless'd be God! for my past 4 and 80 years - as also  
for Sister Death in her patience if the Bl. God add  
other day or other decades . . . Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap.

P.S. Our faith - religion! The science of our happy  
dependence on God and our neighbor - of our  
living in His grace and dying in His Love.

( ON A PHOTO OF ST. THERESE.)

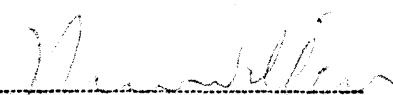
From the original negative now in possession of  
undersigned C.C.L. - a Carmelite III Order man

Vigil of Assumption

Blessed be God in all His designs !

C.C.LINSTROTH  
3940 Garfield St.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

God bless you Brother Leo. This is genuine:  
from the above C.C.L. himself - here this a.m.  
old friend ours in Minneapolis. Fr. Solanus, Cap.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius




The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, C.F.M. Cap.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty and Eternal Father, God of Wisdom and mercy, Whose power exceeds all force of arms and Whose protection is the strong defense of all who trust in Thee; Enlighten and direct we beseech Thee those who bear the heavy responsibility of government throughout the world these days of stress and trial. Grant them the strength to stand firm for what is right and the skill to dispel the fears that discord; inspire them to be mindful of the horrors of atomic war for and vanquished alike, to seek conciliation in truth and patience. To see in every man a brother - that the people of all nations may, in this our day, enjoy the blessings of a just and lasting peace. Conscience of our own unworthiness, we implore Thy mercy on a sinful world in the Name of Thy Divine Son, the Prince of Peace, and through the intercession of His Blessed Mother and all the Saints. Queen of All Saints, Pray for us.  
Queen of the Holy Rosary, Pray for us.  
Queen of Peace: pray for us.

(May be a copy from other sources.)


  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed draft by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.P.M. Cap.

Ven. Sister Mary Dianne.            13200 Oak Park Blve, Oak Park, Mich.

God bless you Ven. Sister Mary Dianne. God bless you and yours these unsettled days - as our beautiful diocesan Prayer for Peace notes - days of stress and trial. Indeed they are days at once of threatening forebodings and - not only days but decades too abounding in outstanding manifestations of God's merciful Goodness and Power and infinite Wisdom and

(Unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius            344

1954, May 4

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed draft of the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

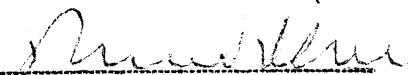
ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana  
May 4th 1954.

Blessed be God in all His designs!

Mr. Philip Leslie. 1929 E. Palm Kane Phoenix Arizona.

God bless you and yours.

I was pleased to receive your pathetic communication. I regret (in a way) that it is impossible to go into details such as a letter of that nature and gravity would naturally hope for. However, God has given you perhaps more than ordinary faith and intelligence. If that be the case as is probable, then it ought not to be too hard for you to adjust and evaluate and to readjust the temporal and the eternal. I am certainly pleased with your letter in general, and it would look hopeful that your Ernie's influence on you will be for good. Nevertheless it seems to me if he were earnest about the one thing that ought to be first in every thinker's head, he would know long before this where to look for and to find, the peace that is the life and the heaven of every rational creature, viz; he would know positively by this time, something of the greatest science of all ages and places and would appreciate it as the very life of his soul.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

345

1954, September 4

1957, February 11

The following is a faithful transcription of photo copies of handwritten messages written on Seraphic Mass Association card and holy pictures by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

(to Mr. Phil L'Esperance )

St. Felix, Huntington, Ind.

Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory

Sept. 4th, 1954

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Pleased be God.

2/11/57 Appearance of Mary Immac. Queen and  
Mother of Missionaries and of  
Promoters of the Missions  
Pray for our missions  
and appreciation of our  
Christ-like work and  
Privileges!!

Congratulations Dear Friends on the grace of  
your perseverance. God bless you and all yours.

Capuchin Fathers  
and Missionaries

% Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

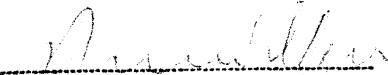
Bles'd be Jesus! Now and forever!

Glory be to God!

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.Cap.

Originals in possession of:

Mr. Phil L'Esperance  
19820 Jerome St. Apt. #223  
Roseville, MI. 48066

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

POSTCARD

AUTOGRAPH ON BACK OF A PHOTO

St. Felix, Huntington, Ind.  
Sept. 9th 1954

Blessed be God in all His designs.

God bless you Dear Father Venantius.  
many thanks for your practical remembrance  
of our Jubilee here July 24.  
God willing, I surely hope to see you have  
that privileged distinction in just a  
few years more - yourself  
and Fr. Boniface . . . . Glory be to God!  
We certainly had a happy - in a way -  
an unique celebration.

Our Monastery Chapel of course  
was too small for anything of that kind.  
Thanks be to God - and to our two neighbor -  
pastors we had an ideal set-up . . . .  
Solemn Mass in St. Mary - Irish Parish with  
a German Pastor - Miller - and the dinner -  
breakfast (about 300) in SS. Peter and Paul's  
School Auditorium - Father Schmitz the Pastor.  
The two have a High School together . . . .  
One could only wonder at the doctrine there  
manifest - communion of saints.  
. . . . Pl. pardon brevity - 10 40 p.m.

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M.C.

1954, December 28

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten and typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
Huntington, Indiana

Dec 28 - '54 Blessed be God in all His designs.

Mr. James A. Carrico  
South Bend, Ind.

God bless you Brother Carrico. God bless you and yours these days - at once, of threatening forbogings and of God's outstanding mercies. I am not at all surprised at the difficulties you have been meeting with in the cause of Ven. Mother Mary of Jesus de Agreda.

If "To know God is to love Him", and if, "To to serve God is to reign with HIM". then who can doubt the same, because of Mary's nearness and dearness and likeness to God that in every care, so outstanding - who can doubt - that the same, knowing and serving her, holds good? Hence we ought to be ready for ought to expect such diabolical opposition, even from sources whence least expected - - . . . "Courage is half the batte". Keep it up. "Confidence in God - the soul of courage - is victory assured. Let us foster it in every way and pray for it - always for an increase of faith and confidence and of reverence for God's holy servents and service. How little it is possible for poor mortals to appreciate, this side of heaven! Blessed be God in all His designs!


As much as I have read of your poetic rendition of The Mystical City of God, I have found interesting and inviting. I certainly would like to go through the whole of it.

Dec. 29th

In my condition and in my present circumstances, however, that would be quite out of the question. I started the above last night when a machine of this kind would not be tolerated. Thanks be to God for the experience and, Glory be to God for a decidedly improvement in the outlook.

What follows now will, at first at least be disapointing. its regarding that said-tobe master piece by the acknowledged genius Michelangelo: "The Fall...". For mature minds and for souls perfectly without concupiscence; ..... Well? For my part, I never liked the picture. I have never believed it more than tolerated by-the ecclesiastical authorities. At a first glance at the work I would conclude: "It is more work of a genius than that of a saint. In the first place is it historacal, that it should be a masterpiece? I do not think so.

The sacred Historian, (Genesis III), assures us that the very first thing our poor, dear First Parents, Adam & Eve did, after their sin of disobedience, was to make aprons for themselves, - evidently to avoid giving scandal. Here follows the exact description: "...and she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave to her husband who did eat. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened : and when they perceived themselves to be naked, they sewed together fig leaves, and made themselves aprons."

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m. 348  
Notarius

Mr. James A. Carrico . South Bend, Indiana


Shame Michelangelo on such a masterpiece! No doubt you were a genius in your hobby and did much to be admired. I would like to hope you were wont to receive the Holy Sacraments more appreciatively than not a few of our genius ~~these~~ these days. I pray that you are in Heaven and if not, that you may soon be there. Wherever or whatever any of us be, it seems to me the least we ought to do for such a work, notwithstanding its weaknesses, and for those - ought-to-be dear ones it represents - the least we could do, and which would possibly liberate the artist himself from Purgatory - would be to relieve their present worse than boorish appearance by presenting them each with an historical fig-leaf-apron. Believing in the dogma: "The Communion of Saints", such a move, I think though so simple in itself, would afford much relief to souls in Purgatory and annually to thousands of pilgrims and tourists who otherwise would hardly care to return again to the otherwise famous Sistine Chapel.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.  
Blessed be God in all His designs.

Original in possession of:

James A. Carrico  
63760 U. S. 31, S.  
South Bend, Indiana 46614

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1954 - 1955

The following is a faithful transcription of handwritten messages on Jubilee card of 1954 by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

1904 Blessed be God In all His designs! 1954

To know God - the rational creature's primary purpose -  
is to love Him. To serve God is to reign with Him. !!!

Thy Excellency? Thy Purpose? O! Rational Creature?

Answer.

God made me to know Him. O! What a bles'd aim!  
To love Him and serve Him Sure rests in the same.

Its Heaven begun - for The grateful - on earth.  
To treasure aright !!! Highest Heaven its Worth.

(Ah! God Himself the final Prize.)

July 24, 1954 Golden Jubilee of my Ordination to the Priesthood  
Rev. Solanus Casey O.F.M. Capuchin      Huntington Indiana

Another message on a Jubilee card by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey,  
O.F.M. Cap.

c. 1955, August


Blessed be God in all His designs!

To know God is to love Him. To serve God is to reign with God.  
Religion is the science of all science - the science of saving souls.  
Granting that every rational creature is his own 1st neighbor  
"Religion is the science of our happy dependence on God and our  
neighbor"

July 24, 1954 Golden Jubilee of my Ordination to the Priesthood  
Rev. Solanus Casey C.F.M. Capuchin      Fr. Solanus O.F.M. Cap.

Original in possession of:

Bro. Pius Cotter, O.F.M., Cap.  
St. Francis Friary  
1927 N. Fourth St.  
Milwaukee, WI. 53212

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.,  
Notarius



1955, January 30.

The following is a faithful transcription of a typewritten letter by the  
Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

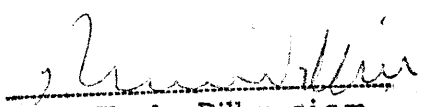
ST. FELIX FRIARY.      January 30th 1955.      Blessed be God in all His designs!  
Huntington, Indiana

Ven. Sister Mary Bernice, O. P. St. Andrew's Convent, Grand Rapids, Mich.

God bless you Sister Mary Bernice. God bless you and yours these days -  
at once - days of threatening forebodeings and God's outstanding mercies.  
God bless our poor, modern Humanity, with all its wonderful gifts; but too,  
alas! with its innumerable weaknesses and its appalling absurdities;  
atheism, the chief and unholy parent of themall.

Dear Sister M. Bernice: I read your letter over again this Morning and  
surely do sympathize with you and with the many, these days whose circum-  
stances and conditions seem to call forth lamentations quite similar to your-  
own. I'd like to answer them each one in detail if that were possible, I  
think I've started to answer yours - this of Jan. 16th at least a half dozen  
times. I am glad to hear from you, even though the tone of your letter is  
anything but too bright. It only convinces me more and more that there is  
something I am inclined to call drastic, shortly ahead of us. One thing is  
certain, if these are the days of antichrist as it seems to be more and more  
tending to a general conviction that way; then we must be on our guard  
against being scandalized; for it seems to me that it is most especially to  
activities of antichrist and his agents that Jesus refers in His admonition:  
"Beware of Scandals: for it is necessary that scandals come. Nevertheless,  
woe to that man by whom the scandal cometh." St. Bernard the outstanding  
Doctor of the Church of the eleventh century was wont to exhort the people  
of his day, especially against taking scandal: "Since the Crucifixion of  
Jusus Christ, "he would admonish, "it is never reasonable to take scandal."  
.....Ah! Because from that climax of scandal God saved Humanity - decreed  
Heaven's rehabilitation. Glory be to God! ... Ascetic writers always  
stress openness and confidence with our superiors as with those represent-  
ing or taking God's place in our regards.

As for "religious" in a community who persist in refusing to speak to  
member of the community because of some petty offense or dislike ? ! The  
very fact of such example would in my opinion indicate as a rule, PITIFUL  
narrowness. Patience in such cases and prayer for conversion of sinners -  
always including one'self - charity beginning at home. In this way we  
can help Jesus in His great purpose of converting and redeeming Humanity.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

Ven. Sister Mary Bernice, O. P.

However, there is such a thing as "red communism" stealing into convents and monasterys. Very clever young men have been knowen to offer themselves as candidates for the Order who have turned out after months - sometime after years - to have been nothing more than secret promoters of unrest and red communism. Such candidates, I have heard of and in one case at least have known to show themselves very clever and experienced and naturall y older than real promising candidates - say intheir late 20s or even middle 30s, and of course not too fervent atal, even tho at the same keeping the rule fairly to the letter. Of course, to suspect anyone definitely without a conscience observance and prayer, is a rather dangerous course. Nevertheless selfpreservation and "charity beginning at home", where rightly ordered Charity always must begin; superiors especially are expected to be on the elert concerning any subject who persists in refusing to speak to, or associate with any other member of the religious family.

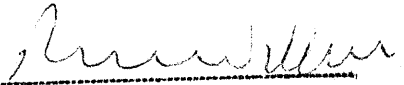
Hoping that this may be satisfactory and regretting having kept you waiting so long, I hope to remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ  
Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Gloly be to God!

Copy of letter in possession of:

Sister Bernice Botwinski, O.P.  
Marywood Convent  
2025 Fulton St. East.  
Grand Rapids, MI. 49503

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1955, March 20

The following is a faithful transcription of a photo copy of messages written on Seraphic Mass Association cards by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

Jack Bickel -

for speedy recovery, God willing,  
body and soul and every way -

March 20th - 1955

Fr. Solanus O.F.M.Cap.

God bless J.B. Shake off excessive worry. Offer all to God.  
Fr. Solanus.

1957, March 17

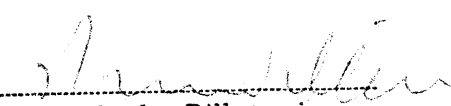
( other card to a Mr. Hoffa )

3/ 17/ '57

What is Religion? Ah! The science of Heaven come down to Earth: The science of our happy dependenc on God and one another, the science whereby Almighty God makes men like to Himself, viz. - men co-operating with the grace of God.

Apr. '57. Bles'd be God in all His designs!  
God bless you Hoffa

Real busy men are not, as a rule, too religious. The Lord who died for us, however, will always find something good - the busiest if at least now and then, they have a heart for His poor.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten message by the Servant of God Fr. Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

Rational Creature:  
Thy Existence? Thy Destiny!

But O too Thy responsibility?  
Answer 1st.  
Glory to God! I am what I am -----

God made me to know Him. - - - -  
O! what a blessed aim ! - - -  
To love Him and serve Him? - - -  
Sure rests in the same:

It's Heaven begun, --- for the  
Grateful --- on Earth  
To treasure aright ! ? !  
Highest Heaven its worth.


(This poem is his own composition.)

The following is a faithful transcription of an autograph by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap., written on his picture before the Grotto of our Lady:

Glory be to God! How little is it possible  
that we be properly, Grateful to Him!

Fr. Solanus

Pray for his further conversion.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

c. 1956, March 22

The following is a faithful transcription of the handwritten original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O. F. M. Cap.

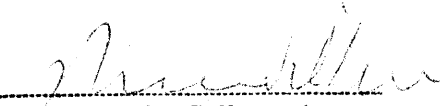
St. Bonaventure Monastery  
Blessed be God in all His designs.  
Capuchin Fathers  
1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Detroit 7, Michigan

Mrs. Betty Kopplin  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

God bless you Mrs. Kopplin.

Many thanks for your kind favor of March 22nd just noted. We are enrolling your friends as requested in the Seraphic Mass Association, and do hope for positive results. Where there is real Faith and confidence in God -- there is no such thing as a hopeless case. The great trouble with our stupid humanity -- to which we all belong -- is the fact that, notwithstanding uncountable proofs of God's wisdom and power and infinite goodness, all at our

(unfinished)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1956, October 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by  
the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue

DETROIT 7, MICHIGAN

October 6th, 1956

Blessed be God in

(Re:) Carson Stone

all His designs.


God bless you Dear Brother Gabriel.

God bless you and yours these days.

The above name - Carson Stone - is the name we were trying to think of this p.m. coming home from the doctor's. It was he from whom I received the remarkable letter that I have been anxious about, and that has been on my mind and on my conscience for quite a time.

Let me first tell you something about him so that I have cause enough for anyone to be ashamed of himself, to say the very least. .... World War II was fiercely on and the crazy nazies seem to have succeeded in landing quite some of their associates for employment in Detroit, especially in the PKard Factory. ....You probably remember better than I do something of the sensation throughout, when Carson Stone as Head Inspector of Amunition Department for that company, condemned a whole train-load of amunition just-about to be started for over-seas. Following that and such interference on Stone's part, drew all-kind of threatening letters to him which he seemed to pay little attention to

(unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1956, November 9

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

PAX ET BONUM

ST. FELIX FRIARY  
CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS  
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA

Nov. 9th 1956

Following refers to the Egan case of (Pt. Huron) --  
Smiths Creek Case Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 1925

"How much is it going to cost you?", I asked. "Well I suppose it will be twenty-five dollars.", he answered. .... "Listen.", I said. "You get after the holy souls in Purgatory, especially your relatives, etc, who may be there waiting for prayers. Promise them a % of that 25.00 as an enrollment if you be able to forget that appointment." "Gee!", "I'll give them half of it - I'll go them fifty-fifty." He drove

He drove back every week after that for quite a time, seemingly never thinking any more of doctoring. If I remember rightly, it was February 29<sup>th</sup> that he quite a number of his children along with your Mother, as in fact he nearly always did, and quite smilingly proposed about as follows: "Father; I want to give the Poor Souls a good half of that X-ray which was never taken. Enroll them for \$14.00.


It was a few years later that I went to Smith's Creek on a visit and your Father came in about as was about to leave and took me to see his home, etc. And just incidently, it was on that occasion that I remember seeing little Dorothy as a possible candidate for a convent or a missionary.

Now, if you send me the little victim of poleo's name, I shall be glad to enroll her in the Ser. Mass-Association and we'll hope and pray for a favorable surprise. In the mean time, however, induce as many as possible to help sorm Heaven by frequent and even dzily Communion. And do not forget the poor suffering souls in Purgatory, -- especially benefactors, relatives and the "most abandoned".

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Solanus, O.F.M. Cap.

Note: Included is a note to Friary Secretary in Fr. Solanus' hand, "Write it up as it ought to -- if you can.

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

357

1957, March 17

The following is a faithful transcription of a handwritten note on an envelope by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M.Cap.

(Handwriting of Mrs. Fellrath)

Enclosed check for \$20.00 for Msgr. Edward.

(In Father Solanus' handwriting)

From

3/17/57

Mrs. John Fellrath

20.00 - exchange -

God bless Mrs. Fellrath.

I surely hope her health will give Dr. favorable surprises.

Fr. Solanus,


Pardon Time

(On reverse side of envelope Father Solanus has written the following)

1957

March 17 - St. Patrick's - just as novices were leaving for Baraga - new novitiate - Sad news of Pres. Magsaysay's tragedy? came to us. ... We can hardly do better for him than pray for his cause, for him and for worthy successors - also for conversion of his unfortunate enemies.

Fr. Solanus

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

Notarius



1957, April 6

The following is a faithful transcription of the typed original by the Servant of God, Father Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap.

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue

DETROIT 7, MICHIGAN

Blessed be God in all His designs.

April 6th, 1957

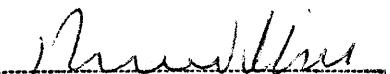
The Corcoran Publishing Company  
O.P. 174  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

My dear Friends:

God bless you and yours these unsettled, though by the mercy of God, greatly privileged days. I am sure we all here at the Monastery hope that things in general at least are going fairly well your way and with your business.

I received notice from your establishment several years ago, announcing your having taken over the publication of the divinely privileged - "inspired" Life of the Bl. Virgin Mary; the Mystical City of God. I hardly remember the particulars of the situation at the time but I've regretted since, my comparative inactivity in such a divinely privileged work.

(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

1957, April 11

The following is a faithful transcription of a typed original by the Servant of God, Fr. Solanus Casey O.F.M. Cap. (probably to Mr. Edward and Mrs. Winifred Brand)

ST. BONAVENTURE MONASTERY

CAPUCHIN FATHERS

1740 Mt. Elliott Avenue

Detroit 7, Michigan

April 11th 1957

Blessed be God in all His desighns.

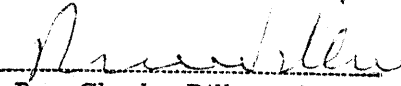
God bless you Mrs. Winifred - E'd - Brand,

God bless you and yours these unsettled - tho, by the mercy of God and for men of faith, most promising days. Many thanks for your kind letter and charitable prayers.

I took that little conference in the rain as a decided privilege and am confident that in God's own good time it will prove to have been a factor in the cureing and the saving the whole Man, your poorly dear Husband, Edward Brand.

For my part, I am not exactly surprised at so little if any apparent results from his little visit hither and simple conference; This especialy since Mr. Brand has already been to so many sources of instruction and of inspiring edification, Rome, Lourdes, the Vatican, the Pope, etc, with similar results - seemingly little or noth - seemingly all in vain. ...."O' The depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensable are His judgements and how unsearchable His ways!" ... Yes. the Gospel narations are full of miraculous examples, of which the history of the Church - inasmuch as it's the history of the institution of Jesus Christ - is a perfuet continuation of the same Gospel Naratives, - full of cures and of miracles, itself, as St. Augustin reminded the people

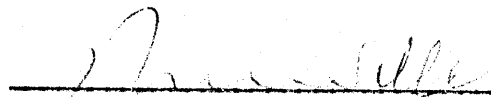
(Unfinished draft)

  
Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.  
Notarius

VOLUME II  
COLLECTED WRITINGS ATTRIBUTED TO  
THE SERVANT OF GOD  
FATHER SOLANUS CASEY, O.F.M.Cap.  
AND FAITHFULLY TRANSCRIBED

Contains 360 typed pages of his  
Letters to various Individuals  
and Spiritual Notes.

Concordat cum originali



Rev. Charles Dillen, c.i.c.m.

NOTARIUS

DATE May 7, 1970

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

SEAL

