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ABBAY OF GETHSEMANI  
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

Jan . 9, 1961

Dear Victor:

Thanks for your good note. Next Saturday the fourteenth would be a very good day. I hope this letter gets off to you immediately to tell you I will be expecting you Saturday at the regular time.

There is one little hitch: the hermitage has now been put out of bounds to the ladies, as of January 1st. This involves the immediate enclosure of the hermitage, i.e. the fence at the top of the hill. However the road is in no condition for driving whether with a station wagon or a Volkswagen or anything else. I just don't think there is any way of getting up there with a car. Only a jeep or tractor could make it.

The reason why Father Abbot put the place under enclosure is that too many monks were getting the idea that it would be a nice place to show their aunts, mothers, sisters, grandmothers and great grandmothers and it would not have been possible to maintain it for its proper purpose under such conditions. I tried to get a special exception made for my own friends and above all for Carolyn but it was not accepted. Naturally that is logical, because once it was seen that some women went there then the whole thing would start over again. But I am very sorry we won't be able to get together for lunch on David's excellent new table which is very fine and I like it more and more.

So we will just have to walk quietly up the hill, you and I, and look at the situation, and Carolyn can wait for us and read a magazine, if she will.

Please thank her for the books she has sent and for considering the others as possible for the future. I am very grateful.

I want to get this note off at once, so I close now with all blessings.

Very cordially, as ever,  
in Christ

*fr. Louis*