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O U R L A D Y O F G E T H S E M A N I
T R A P P I S T , K E N T U C K Y

July 4, 1958

Dear Dr Thompson:

This letter is long overdue, but now that I sit down to reply to your kind letter written months ago, it gives me a special opportunity to express my happiness and satisfaction with the Prometheus printed by the Margaret King Library. It is really beautifully done and I am very content with the whole project and with the way in which we have gone about it. It is a keen pleasure to be able to do something in the right way, and for the right reasons, and untrammelled by the question of money-making. I wish all my work could be so pleasant and so free of all formalities, and carried on in an atmosphere of disinterested love for truth and good craftsmanship.

Prometheus seems to me to have turned out, in every way, as a monastic project should. And this would not have been possible were there not something essentially "monastic" in the attitude and outlook of the Library there. So I want to express my gratitude to you.

I have sent Mrs Hammer another short piece, naturally hoping that it may prove of some interest later on for a similar project. I am sending this same piece to a magazine in South America and perhaps it may be published in France. For U.S. publication I leave it first of all to you.

For a long time I have been meaning to accept your offer to lend me the little book about printing in the Jesuit Reductions. I have always been very interested in the Reductions and have collected a little material on them with the hope that

perhaps some day I might do something about it. It is interesting to think that some of the first books printed in the Western Hemisphere were in an Indian language. That to me is encouraging--and in the history of the South American Indian since the conquest there is precious little that can be called encouraging.

I have also thought at times of studying Vasco de Quiroga - another of my favorite figures, though I know very little as yet about him.

Remember that, as always, the door is open and you are welcome to come and visit us whether with the Hammers or on your own.

Sincerely yours in Christ

John Louis Merton