



Saint Joseph's Seminary

Dunwoodie

Yonkers, New York 10704

January 9, 1975

Dear Father Lonergan:

I am enclosing a copy of the homily I delivered on the 4th. Do with it what you will--perhaps you have a file for talks which have earned the coveted award of the "3 P's."

I was very pleased that I had opportunity to take part in the celebration, even if the homily did not afford a place for expression of my personal gratitude to you. The great thing you did for me in Rome was to restore my faith in the Catholic intellect. I had been a Newman fan before I came to Dunwoodie as a student in philosophy, but Newman never appeared in our manuals, and while Aquinas did, I am sure you would not recognize his features. In desperation, I suppose, I read a good deal in the Fathers and then in contemporary biblical studies, Myles Bourke being the only teacher here who showed the intellectus agens to be in actu. Your courses in Rome enabled me to start to put things together, and your kind encouragement and then your tolerance of my questions in your room kept me going. I will always be profoundly grateful.

With this I am also sending copies of two papers on authority. They were done originally in substitution for a written exam at Union. They gave me more trouble than anything else I've tried to write, and when I realized that I could not wait until I had solved all the issues, I threw them together so that I could go on to the dissertation. That will account for some of their roughness and perhaps excuse what inadequacies they have. If you have a few moments, I'd appreciate it if you could look through them and suggest what criticisms or lines of further development might occur to you. If I am able to take part in the Boston seminar this summer, I may try to rewrite them and then perhaps use some of it for the October lectures at Gonzaga.

I trust that everything went well in Vienna. I enjoyed your paper very much.

Congratulations again on your 70th birthday, and ad multos annos.

Peace,
Joe