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February 1, 1978

Rev. Bernard Lonergan, S.J.
Jesuit Community
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167
U.S.A.

Dear Father Lonergan:

Planning is continuing on our department's proposed conference for this fall, now with the theme "Contemporary Religious Consciousness." We hope very much that you are still willing to participate to some degree and present your paper on "Emerging Religious Consciousness" from the 1975 Vienna conference.

Before we could request support from the Canada Council in the form of a conference grant, we needed some indication of who the participants would be. A letter was circulated in December to a number of our colleagues across Canada, describing our plans and asking for suggestions. I am pleased to tell you that we have positive responses from nearly twenty already, including Charles Davis, Cathleen Going, Phil McShane, Fred Crowe, John Robertson, Bernard Cooke, and Wilfred Cantwell Smith.

As for the details of your participation, you mentioned that you could not be here on a Wednesday or Thursday, and for reasons of health would have to avoid long sessions and taxing schedules. With that clearly understood, we have selected October 12 and 13, a Thursday and Friday, the dates preferred by most of our respondents. Your personal participation would therefore be limited to the second day, either the morning or afternoon session, as you prefer. Would such timing be acceptable?

We could easily arrange convenient transportation; I know that Delta, for example, has a couple of early evening flights to Montreal that take less than an hour, and it might be possible for you to travel Thursday evening after your seminar. Regarding your travel arrangements and the degree of your participation, we are quite flexible, and will be guided by your wishes.

It is not possible at this time to draw up anything like a complete program of papers for the conference. All I can say is that Smith, Davis, and a few others have either offered us papers relevant to our theme, or have suggested they might respond to some aspects of your work. That brings me to your paper.

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St. Patrick's College

Rev. Bernard Lonergan, S.J.
February 1, 1978

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Fred Crowe has kindly lent me a copy of your paper from the Vienna conference. Would you be willing to allow us to make a limited number of copies of the paper for distribution in advance to those committed to participate in the conference? Besides helping lay the groundwork for discussion, prior distribution would also achieve a higher level of response to your paper. It might even be possible to follow a format similar to that used at the June workshops at Boston College (I have attended the last two), where questions have been prepared for you in advance. Your paper opens up a number of areas that our other participants will want to explore, and I think the more organized their responses can be, the better. What do you think of such an arrangement?

Two further questions regarding your paper: Would you use it "as is," or would you want time to revise it? Should the latter be the case, I can simply return Fr. Crowe's copy and await the revised version. The other question has to do with publication rights. Is it necessary to check with the Italian publishers about English publication rights? My colleague and chairman, Peter Slater, who is working on the conference plans with me, is responsible for the series of supplements to Studies in Religion/Sciences religieuses, and has just edited a volume of essays on "religion and culture in Canada" in that series. We hope to publish the conference proceedings in that context.

One final request: would you send us a copy of your curriculum vitae, which will be part of our submission to the Canada Council.

I know I speak for the rest of my department in expressing the hope that some form of participation such as I have suggested will be agreeable to you. I appreciate your consideration very much, and look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Ramisch
Assistant Professor
Department of Religion

JGR/nc