

issues Merton once again proves to be a prophetic voice. I would highly recommend 'The Road to Joy' which describes the "unfathomable grace of friendship" (pXIII) and allows us to see that grace in Merton's life and in his contact with friends whose names are so familiar from his other writings and from biographies about him, and invites us to join him travelling along that same road.

Paul Pearson, Worth.

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### THE GENERAL SECRETARY IN AMERICA

It was my privilege this June to travel to Kentucky and take part in a meeting of the executive committee of the I.T.M.S. of America. I was only in Kentucky for three days but, they were quite valuable days, the benefit of which I hope will reflect itself in the content of these pages over the coming months.

It was a long flight (something like 21 hours, total travelling time) so perhaps it's understandable that I walked straight past Bob Daggy who had come to pick me up from Louisville Airport; however, shame is unavoidable since he was apparently holding in his hand a big picture of Thomas Merton which I completely ignored.

After resting for much of the Sunday I was present at the committee meeting all day on the Monday. This consisted of the executive members of the board, the past President (William Shannon), the directors, and four of the International Advisors to the board; in all sixteen of us met and had a very interesting day.

The main purpose of the meeting was to organise the next General Meeting of the Society which is to be held in Rochester in June 1991. However, the great benefit as far as our own chapter was concerned was the opportunity it afforded me to meet with the people on the other side of the Atlantic and to enlist their support and encouragement for what we are trying to establish in Europe. Not least of these benefits is the promise from Msg. William H. Shannon, who will be in England late in 1991, to lead a retreat for us and take part in a number of conferences the details of which I will let you have later.

I was taken to the Abbey of Gethsemani and given the 'Tour' and I had the opportunity to meet with individuals who actually met with Merton.

I am currently trying to obtain additional materials which exist in a number of places and it is my intention to have these held at one single location to facilitate the use of these by interested parties.

I should also report that it seems that interest in Merton is being encouraged in other countries; I spoke with a Franciscan from Yugoslavia, Zoltan Dukai, and he reports that books have been translated into Hungarian and Croatian. Cyrus Lee, Advisor for China, tells me that there is interest in the thought and work of Merton in China and surprisingly, in Russia where Cyrus made a visit recently.

You should find enclosed a little memento of my visit; pass on the spare to a friend and try to interest them in the society.

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I picked up a book the other day which isn't on sale in England and which, it is not proposed to release over here. The book is Merton's Alaskan Journal which was written as Merton made his way towards the east and Asia. I have Only had a very brief look at it but it seems well worth the effort of obtaining it: if any one is interested I think I can obtain copies from the U.S.A. and I would be prepared to do this if enough are interested. I may also be able to get copies of 'My Argument with the Gestapo' for those interested in what is an autobiographical novel. If you would like any of these, or other Merton Books, do please let me know and I can arrange it. Remember my new address! !



THE ABBEY OF GETHSEMANI, KENTUCKY

(Photo by Stephen J. Hotchen.)