

February 18, 1954

SAINT MARY'S SEMINARY

RANDOLPH - VERMONT

Dear Lou: For the last three weeks, there has been a rattle in trying to get down to this matter now in hand. Each time the finger pointed at me, I managed to find something very important to do, until this very day, when I can't think of a single thing that stands in my way. — Most important of all, was a conference I had to give here at the Seminary, a study of Theology on Mary, the Mother of God. During this Marian year, we have been directed to give three such conferences, and I was given the first, for which I am grateful. When time breathes hot upon my neck, then I must

use the bean - and I do seem to have
effort in that direction. — I can't help

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but revel in your happiness at the news
that you are carrying a child, and one
that is so eagerly desired. I wonder
if you realize enough how blessed
you are to be in such a state and in
such circumstances that it is so
easy for you - comparatively speaking -
to welcome a new life. What a
boon is the Holy Sacrifice for you to
be grateful to Him who gave you
all this, and remember those who
have it not so easy. — As Scripture
prophesies, I have had to do quite
a bit of delving into the Jewish thought
which has sprung from the religious
practices given to Moses. And since
their minds are not at all philoso-
phical in their makeup, their expression

beliefs they might inwardly have held. At any rate, it meant that the

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wife was not blessed by God, who for reasons known only to himself, gave the blessing to one and not to another. Their wedding feasts were a celebration of the promise of new life - and the actual realization of the promise, was indeed an event. When the first child was born, then the religious ceremony of most beautiful significance crystallized all the themes. For the first-born - and with them, the son, for this was the greatest blessing of all - this first-born belonged to God. Just as with the harvest, the first spikes of wheat or barley, the first bit of oil, was offered at the Altar as a sign they knew God had given it, then the rest, God gave it to them to use in joy and praise of Him. So with the first born, it was God's - and when the child

was offered, they bought it back from
God with a token payment, as a perpe-

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tual reminder that without God's gift,
their joy never would have been. — At
first sight, their ideas, their beliefs, seem
childish, and yet to see through the
eyes of a child, is sometimes to see
things most clearly. — When things
get a little difficult, remember that
you are the hands of Divine Providence
in the work of creation still going on.
If you have to make sacrifices and endure
for the child, it is so that you won't
take it for granted — it is that it might
be even more dear to you.

Now that you mention the blessing
of the Mass, since you made no specific
request, but for a child, I asked God for
only that. You should have been more
precise. But then, let's not look the gift
horse in the mouth.

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The skating has been good, and I've gotten in even to some hockey. The old legs are still holding out.

Incidentally, I turned out a candle stick from the drawings & dimensions I took myself, and finally sold the boss on them. But I do want the photos Frank took before I start doing them, because I want to follow them more closely.

I've got to dash for class. So, be good to yourselves, and God be with you and keep you.

Leo