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Dearest Nell,

I am wondering if by any chance Lili Kraus played this Schubert Fantasy while she was in that area. I thought you would like to see this write-up and perhaps pass it on to Erica.

Things are overwhelmingly busy here - much as they are for you: a thousand messy interruptions that I do not yet know how to avoid: friends whose marriages are breaking up, alienated priests and nuns. I am full of sympathy for all of them, but am almost desperate to find some way to put a stop to it and get my own work done. Piedy is down with some sort of back ailment, muscular spasms, I think; so I am making her rest as much as possible - and in fact will use that as the excuse today to turn away callers.

The new book, The Church and the Black Man, will be out October 15th. It is a sad book, one I do not like because I could find little hope that institutionalized religion will ever come to the light in time.

What is our Frank's last name? I saw in the NCR last week that Frank de Roche and his brother, also a priest who married F.de R. were excommunicated by, of all people, Bishop Primeau. I hope this is not our Frank - not that this kind of excommunication means much, but because it will only be another instance where the church has acted cruelly to one of its children. What a pity.

Dear Nell, people flock to you and to me wanting things we cannot give them. The only valid thing I can do is pray for them - but they want more, they want words and actions and solutions. I become more and more mute in the face of their tragedies.

Next Sunday is Piedy's birthday. I leave Monday the 15th for another week's work at Gethsemani, then from there to Canada to teach for a week at the Divine Word Institute - a course for priests and nuns.

All for the moment. I hope you got the little booklet on Mandag that Father George made. What a marvelous joy she is to us.

Best, best love to you.

John