

# A LETTER FROM WILLIAM H. SHANNON

March 19, 1988

Dear Fellow-Subscribers  
of *The Merton Seasonal*:

I am sure you know by now that in May of 1987 the **International Thomas Merton Society** officially came into being. At this founding meeting we discussed the need for a vehicle of communication with the members of the Society. We did not have to look far for an answer to that need. *The Merton Seasonal of Bellarmine College* has, since its beginning in 1976, performed the service of communicating information about Thomas Merton to those interested in Merton studies. From being a brief bibliographical listing of publications by and about Merton, it has, without sacrificing that important service, become, in addition, a journal with articles, book reviews and other items of interest to students and readers of Merton material. Because it fit so well the needs of the Society, we came to the conclusion that *The Seasonal* should, without ceasing to be a publication of Bellarmine College, become the official organ of the ITMS. Bellarmine College has most graciously agreed to this arrangement.

I feel that the time is long overdue for an expression of hearty gratitude to Dr. Eugene V. Petrik, President of Bellarmine College, and his administration for the generosity that Bellarmine College has shown in making this journal (for that is what it now is) available to the Merton public throughout the world. More than that I think the time has come to relieve Bellarmine College of the financial burden which this publication has placed on the College. For this reason the International Thomas Merton Society is agreeing to subsidize the publication of *The Seasonal*. We shall do this by assigning part of the monies received from membership dues (of \$15.00) to the support of *The Seasonal*. Receiving this journal will be one of the benefits of membership in the Society.

There may be those who do not wish to join the Society at this time, but who may wish to continue to enjoy receiving *The Seasonal*. Such persons are asked to pay a yearly subscription fee of \$8.00 (to the Thomas Merton Studies Center, Bellarmine College, Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205-0671) to help defray publication costs.



**WILLIAM H. SHANNON**  
Confers with Brother Patrick Hart

Founding Meeting, May 1987

Photo by Victor A. Kramer

Should there be persons who wish to continue receiving *The Seasonal*, but who are unable financially to pay for membership in the Society or the \$8.00 fee, we would not want to deprive them of the pleasure of being able to receive *The Seasonal*. If you find yourself in such a position, please so inform Dr. Robert E. Daggy, editor of *The Seasonal*. He will see to it that you continue to receive your copy.

Just as I want to say a word of thanks to Bellarmine College for having provided *The Seasonal*, free of cost for so many years, so too I want to express the gratitude of all who have enjoyed this splendid publication for so long a time to Dr. Robert E. Daggy, whose untiring efforts have made the actual production of *The Seasonal* possible. It has also been due to his initiative that *The Seasonal* has expanded into the fine journal it has become.

I look forward to the ongoing communication with one another that *The Seasonal* will continue to make possible both for individuals and for chapters of the ITMS.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Shannon

President

The International Thomas Merton Society

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The upcoming Summer Issue of *THE MERTON SEASONAL* (Volume 13, Number 3)

will feature

Cover Drawing: *Merton in Baseball Cap* -- by Loyola Walter

William Buchanan, *An Asian Pilgrimage*

J. T. Ledbetter, *In Search of Merton* (*Abbey Journal*, 23-27 May 1983)

J. T. Ledbetter, *Four Poems:*

*Gethsemani Abbey (Remembering)*

*Watching the Birds / The Retreatant's Library, Gethsemani Abbey*

*First Light*

*A World Away (for the Monks at Gethsemani Abbey)*

*Review of The Alaskan Journal of Thomas Merton* (Edited by Robert E. Daggy)

-- by Patrick Hart, O.C.S.O.

*Review of Victor A. Kramer's Thomas Merton: Monk and Artist*

-- by Flavian Burns, O.C.S.O.

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