

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
UNIVERSITY PARK
LOS ANGELES 7, CALIFORNIA

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

3 January 1962

Dear José,

Many thanks for your letter and for your essay on man. The essay came timeously (to use a Scots legal adverb), for I had been working on something that made me read it immediately and with special interest. I may quote some points you make. I like your way of putting the repentance-irreversibility question; also your definition of man, not least because it leaves the agnosticism where this ought to be, with an acknowledged freedom-puzzle. I'm not sure what "worthy of being called a human being" means, since we can't know what the "unceasing march toward oneself is." Still, I see no reason why an intelligent Demini canis shouldn't bark happily enough at such an anthropology, and all you need to do to make it virtually the official thought of the Church is to get H. E. of Los Angeles to ban it. He is so stupid that I'm told he was banning a book in New York at the very moment when the author was having a private audience with H.H. in Rome, who was cordially congratulating the author for having written a "beautifully Catholic" book!

As for computers, please note one difference: they are apparently members of a much better Trade Union than are we. I have the privilege of hiring one (a very fine mathematician, I understand) for a cut rate of \$300 an hour. So far I have happily waived my privilege.

My secretary went to the printers one day to tell them they had put an acute for a grave accent. "Lady," she replied, "all our accents go the same way." Rebuked, she went to the printers and emerged saying sullenly, "Okay, he says he can make them go any way you want." Thank goodness I'm not a Spanish logician trying to get them to write "no tilda"!

We are having Paul Henry, S.J., for a lecture on March 1st. You might like to grab him for something while he is making up his itinerary. This is just an idea - you may forget it or take it up as you like, of course.

I heard of your visit to Santa Barbara and I should certainly have contacted you but for the fact that we were on a very brief vacation in northern California at the time. I hope it won't be long till you're here again and that you will visit us.

Best remembrances to all your family and a happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

