

Dom Bede Griffiths, OSB
Saccidanda Ashram
Shantivanam
Tannirpalli (Po).
Kulithalai, Tiruchy.
Tamil Nadu-639 107
17 April 1990

Dear Father Bede,

Thank you for the splendid answer to the Vatican document. I sent it immediately to Fr. Keating to study. He was away. When he returned he returned the document to me w\o corrections. Sr. Pascaline also had the opportunity to see it. We considered as publishers America, National Catholic Reporter, and Pascaline said that you favoured "Commonweal". Thomas Fox of NCR with whom I spoke by telephone was most eager to publish it. Although they have done little with the Vatican Document in the past he realized its relevance and the relevance of your response. He knows your work well. After consultation with Pascaline, I sent it to NCR with the promise of an early publication date. He said possible within two weeks. I will make certain that you receive a copy of it.

Sr. Pascaline tells me the news: that you had a serious heart attack, have recovered, and have received some very special graces of prayer. I rejoice in all of this. I recall well that you were looking forward to Fr. Amaldas coming there when you retired. Let us pray that the transition goes well.

When I was at Shantivanam in November and December I felt called to request being received as an oblate of the family of Shantivanam. The experience there was a great experience of my life. You will recall that the "Golden String" was instrumental in my entering the Catholic Church. But I would definitely like to be associated with Pere Monchanin, Abhishiktananda, yourself and the community. I have discussed this several times with Sr. Pascaline. She writes: "...why not Sannaysi Diksa?...am not pushing, just wondering why not go all the say?" She is thinking that I might receive this from you when you come to North America in the fall. I would like to pray about this.

In the meantime, would it be possible for me to be received as an oblate. Sr. Gill, OSB, prioress of the Benedictine Retreat Centre at Nanaimo which is near Black Creek, could be delegated by you to carry out the investiture. Please consider this and let me know.

Sr. Pascaline is keen that your response appear before the end of April when the North American EW Board will meet with John

Borelli, director of interreligious relations of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and interreligious Affairs. I think that it might meet this deadline. Fr. Thomas says it (your response) is the best theological response he has seen yet.

Thank you again for replying. Fraternal greetings to the community.

In union of prayers,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Charles A.E. Brandt
R.R. 1, Site 22,
Black Creek, B.C.
VOR 1CO
Canada

Dom Bede Griffiths, OSB
c/o Wayne Teasdale
Hundred Acres Monastery
New Boston, New Hampshire
030070, USA
October 18, 1990

Dear Fr. Bede,

Today, in the chapel of the Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo, B.C., Sister Gill, OSB, the superior, received me as an Oblate of the Community of Saccidananda Ashram, Shantivanam. This was done of course with your previous permission.

This is a true privilege as I dedicate myself more fully to the service of God and His people, living out the values of the Rule of St. Benedict with the support of Saccidananda Ashram. Thank you.

May I ask you to sign the enclosed form which contains my promise. And return it to me. Thank you.

Would you, on your return to Shantivanam, send me the Saccindanda Ashram insignia which is worn around the neck. Thank you.

You are difficult to track down. I telephoned Sand Springs (Pascaline was away) and they did not know your whereabouts. Finally I tracked you down through calling Hundred Acres Monastery.

Thank you again for the wonderful two months I spend at Shantivanam. And thank you again for your fine response to the Vatican Letter on Eastern Meditation. It was a great help to many people. You spoke from your heart and from the scriptures.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Charles A.E. Brandt (Yde)
R.R.1, Site 22, Black Creek, B.C.
VOR 1CO Canada (604) 337-8525