

July 15, 1964

Dear Father Merton:

I received your very generous letter. Thank you. If I have not chosen to expand my views in letter form or writing to you before, it is because I know your work well enough to realize at least from my point of view my total agreement with your spiritual position. I very much admire that you are able to survive this position within the Church and I say this from one Catholic to another. Only that I suppose to be a Catholic outside the hierarchy is somewhat easier. Nonetheless, I feel that if I vented my views totally I would be condemned. I confess that this aspect of religion has made me withdraw from any active participation in Catholic circles. I realize only too well that many of our saints have had to face this kind of internal persecution and blindness on the part of the administrative authorities of the Church. I wonder whether in the world of today such sacrifice justifies itself. I sympathize with Kierkegaard who in his attack on christianity he suggests that the way to give testimony of our Christian faith is to be absent from Church meetings. It is far from my animus to perturb you or distress you with these considerations. Quite the contrary, I would like that whatever small strength I may have left may be shared with you since certainly the times are such that only the positive in us should be allowed expression.

I see, Dear Father, dark days ahead. Ultimately, perhaps not much darker than those that man has always had to face. It is simply the realization that the light of the spirit is a hard choice and to follow it is as the Mexican Cuauhtémoc would

put it:mildly: "Not to rest on a bed of roses".

I trust you will find time and sympathy in your heart to remember me in your prayers.

Your friend,

Rafael Squirru

P.D. I have instructed that Américas be sent to you regularly en the two editions, English and Spanish and also some of the last numbers. I would like you specially to read Marechal's Robot on page 23 of the December 1963 Américas. I would also like you to glance at my evaluation of the late President on January 1964 - Page 1.