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Letter to Arnulf Esterer from David Petry, 1985

Brother David Petry
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Nov. 12 - Monday
(Two days before he died!)

Dear Arnie,

It's mid-morning in So. Indiana on a sunny but windy day. I've been sitting here watching the leaves sail past my window. It's not that I haven't anything to do, but sometimes it's good to just sit & watch things happen. Besides, the leaves dance so beautifully - they surely deserve an audience.

Several weeks have passed now since my trip "back East" & gradually I'm getting the loose ends gathered up. Amazing how many things seem to need attention after a person has been away for even just a short time.

Tho it was brief & not under the best conditions, still it was a joy to see you & your wife again. Perhaps it's not the length of a visit that is important, but how it is that people are together. The appreciation of values is strengthened, the pursuit



of quality is encouraged, we sense the grace of God at work in our lives, & we go on supported in our efforts to respond wholeheartedly.

As you know, I stopped in Hammondsport before going on to visit brothers & sisters on Long Island. I knew Dr. Frank had grown feeble with the years, but it was still a little sad to see him almost helpless. But Mama, that strong & wonderful woman, takes good care of him.

By the time I returned to St. Meinrad I had traveled 2500 miles & was more than a little tired from all the driving. Sometimes I think of how good it was to work the way I used to. If I am able to do that again, I'll be grateful. If not, I'll try to give thanks just the same - God's gifts come in many forms.

And thank you for the gift of wine. The brethren will enjoy it on Thanksgiving eve - our annual wine tasting party.

May God's joy be in your heart.
Br. David