

Mar. 2, 1971

Dear Dad and Mom,

The enclosed check is to go toward a memorial for Aunt Ruth. Her church or anything else would be all right.

It was good to talk to you Sunday night.

I feel that there are times when death comes as a friend. I think this was true for Aunt Ruth.

I guess I slipped up and didn't acknowledge your sending of the \$200. We got it and deposited it and we're using it.

I'll got over the content of my year's experience for you in case Marilyn hasn't.

Last fall I took 20th Century Protestant Theologians at Aquinas Institute from Father Carlson. Most of those taking that course were doctoral students, some Catholic, some Presbyterian, and a couple of Lutherans. I would know better how to study for that course now – graduate study is tougher than undergraduate. It was a good course and I learned considerable. I also took a course in Small Group Process at Wartburg Seminary – that's the one I got honors in.

Then I took German from Mrs. Paul Leo whose husband was a professor at Wartburg Seminary until he died. She's 65 or so but she is certainly young at heart and an excellent teacher.

During the January Interim I took Ministering in a Revolutionary Age. In order to get graduate credit I had to write an extra paper – a critique of the whole course. We saw and studied all kinds of ministry in that course. We took 3 field trips: to Minneapolis-St. Paul, to Dubuque Pack, and to a rural church near here. It was the kind of course that really helps you look at your own ministry to see what can be done to make it better.

This semester I'm taking Social Reform Movements in the Twentieth Century at Dubuque Theological Seminary and a research project in the Second Helvetic Confession under Dr. Cochrane whose translation of it is in our Book of Confessions. I'm going to have to do some German translation for that course. I'm also taking another term of German under Mrs. Leo

I just got word the other day that I've been accepted for a clinical at St. Luke's Methodist Hospital in Cedar Rapids for 6 weeks this summer. It will be a laboratory in pastoral counselling in a hospital setting under the direction of the head chaplain there. What with that experience and serving the churches weekends I'll see Marilyn and the kids Friday night and Saturday. Then I'll drive to

the churches early Sunday morning, spend Sunday there and be in Cedar Rapids Mon. Through Fri at 5. Marilyn is trying to get Linda Picken to come to help take care of the kids during that time. My term here will be over May 14, so I'll have 3 weeks until the hospital experience starts June 7. I should finish there July 16. That will give a couple of weeks to get ready to travel.

We're all starting to think and talk about Bickleton. Karen saw some hills the other day and said, "Those are Bickleton hills." She told Marilyn yesterday, "I remember the good feeling of Sunday in Bickleton, after church, when it's hot."

We'll need a bigger trailer when we come home. We have to fit in our refrigerator, the beds we got for the girls, Neal's rollaway and the little TV set plus all the comics Neal has bought.

I think I'll get a degree eventually – either STM (Master of Sacred Theology) or a new degree that's being developed D Min (Doctor of Ministry). The D Min sounds more impressive, but doesn't really amount to much more than the STM. Whether I get any degree or not, the experience is really good. It's nice to be able to go to school and take just what you please.

If you run across anyone who wants a good place to put some money to work – I'm convinced that Dubuque is a good school. A good percentage of its graduates go into the pastoral ministry. It needs the help. Tell John Smircich if he'd come to Dubuque now he'd really learn how to be a good minister.

With love,
Bill