

October 18, 1968

Mr. Francis Tunny  
U.S. Probation Court  
Post Office Building  
Calvert and Fayette  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Tunny.

I asked Brother David Darst if I could write to you on his behalf and he gave me your address. I suppose this is in the way of a character reference.

When Brother David was on trial here in St. Louis (before charges against him were dropped), I put up my house for bail for him. I certainly would not have done this if Brother David were a person who could not be trusted and would jeopardize the residence of my wife and six children if I thought the slightest risk were involved.

Frankly, I think Brother David has made the point that he has tried to make and a long jail sentence would obviously be retributed rather than rehabilitative. I certainly hope our legal system isn't based on revenge.

Professor Gordon Zahn has showed that in World War II conscientious objectors were sentenced to terms that were on the average twice as long as those of draft dodgers. This seems incredible that men who turn themselves in because they love all mankind (including the judge and jurymen who sentence them) should be so treated in relation to those who run and hide from the system. David Darst, a teacher and man dedicated to the work of God, would better share his talents with society, it seems to me, if he were free to operate within that society.

Peace in deed,

Harry J. Cargas,  
Director

] HJC:mob