

Telephone: Victoria 6119.

THE GUILDHOUSE

(Fellowship Guild)

ECCLESTON SQUARE S.W.1.

MAUDE ROYDEN

Honorary Secretary
ALBERT DAWSON

Master of Music
MARTIN SHAW

Honorary Treasurer
NELLIE WHITE

July 30th., 1926

Dear Mr De Laszlo,

Do you remember that you once rashly promised to help us at the Guildhouse, if it were possible for you? I remember it very well, and it now gives me courage to approach you with a request.

You no doubt know that this year is the seventh centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. I enclose a leaflet showing what we are trying to do at the Guildhouse. (It is, as you will see, only a preliminary announcement.) You will see that on October 16th., we are arranging a conference on the Relation of Franciscan Ideals to Art and Learning. Is it possible for you to take part in such a conference? Father Vincent McNabb has promised to help us with the "Learning" part: would you open the discussion on Art? A great number of people have a ~~kind of~~ rather sentimental idea that "voluntary poverty" is a beautiful ideal, without realising that they must take into account its necessary connection with the creation of beauty and the advancement of learning. If no individual may possess any property at all, he cannot have paint-brushes or books! Is art ruled out altogether, or is there another solution, along the lines, for example, of ecclesiastical or communal art?

But I do not need to suggest to you the ideas

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that underlie our attempt to organise such a conference. I only ask - would it be possible for you to help us?

The conference on October 16th., is organised in two sessions, one in the afternoon - then an interval for tea - then another session after tea. At present we have not fixed the times for any of the speakers. If you would be so kind as to consent to come, will you let us know what time will suit you best?

With apologies for troubling you.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

A. Maude Royden.