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Letter from Fr. Leonard Amrhein to Catherine Amrhein, Al, and Tom.

Fr. Leonard Amrhein C.P.

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Huki - March 16, 1947.

Dear Mom - Al - Tom.

It seems ages since I wrote to you last. I feel very much ashamed of myself. But I know that you know I haven't forgotten you - even if I don't write regularly.

How is everybody at home? And you Mom, how is your arm? I hope and pray every day that it will be as good as before your fall. You are very lucky. First, because it was not worse than just a broken shoulder. And secondly, because it healed up so quickly. Thanks be to God for both.

I was up to Ywanling a couple weeks ago. While there, February 24 to be exact, Tom's package arrived. It was battered up a bit, with corners sticking out, etc. but everything was there. We have to pay an "inland postage" on all packages - from Shanghai to Ywanling and also duty. But this package was duty free. I suppose it was because there were books in it and declared. So when you send packages, put some books in them and emphasize the books on the declaration. Seems all packages with books in them are duty free. Also pack the parcel in a strong box - cardboard or even wood. They get a good kicking around before they reach us. Thanks for everything: wax savers are fine. The ligones are the right size. The candy & chewing gum were a treat. The dictionary, a dandy. And the reading matter invaluable. Again, thanks.

Huki is just shaking off the last vestiges of winter. It was the worst winter I ever experienced. It wasn't cold enough to freeze. But it was a damp cold. We had charcoal fires in the house. But the church cannot be heated - too many draughts. If I went into the church without

a hat on, it was like putting my head into a vice. The way to keep warm here, is to put on all the clothes you have. Last week it was quite hot. So I up and takes three layers off. The next day the weather changed. And I up and put two on again. Today I put another layer on. I suppose tomorrow it will be hot again. I don't care. I'll never complain about the heat again, as long as I live.

Tomorrow is Frank's birthday - and Magdalen's in a couple weeks. Happy birthdays to both.

I have a big assignment on hand at present - a Sunday morning and a Wednesday sermon. Lenten courses. But I'll fool myself. I just worry about one, till that one is preached. Then I start on the next one. But this week I have three. Wednesday, the Feast of St. Joseph is a holiday of obligation over here. That means two sermons on Wednesday - one in the morning and one in the evening. St. Joseph will have to help me out on Wednesday.

Wednesday is Joe's Feast-day. Give him my best greetings for his Feast-day. It will be long since passed by the time you receive this letter. But tell him I remembered him. I'll offer Mass for him.

Happy Easter to all at home. I'll offer Mass on Easter Sunday for everybody at home.

Best regards to all my friends - relatives - benefactors - enemies (3) and anybody not included in these classes.

God bless all of you.

Leonard - Bill Lake.



Mrs. Catherine Amrhein,
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