

November 6, 1991

Sister Zacchaeus Ryan
104 2nd Avenue SE
Faribault, MN 55021

Dear Friend,

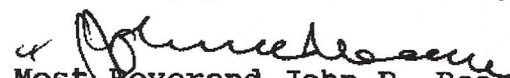
I am marking my book for August 2nd. I really hope that that date can stay clear, though it's getting threatened already by the fact that I may have to be out of the country. I'll try very hard.

The Kennedy sisters story is simply this. The Kennedy sisters lived on a farm outside of Prior Lake with their bachelor brother. A relative of mine died and I went out to the wake in Prior Lake. This was shortly after my dad died. One of the Kennedy sisters had lived in California for a period of time and was now back home in Prior Lake. My sister Virginia had gone through the line and prayed for the dead and told the bereaved that she was sorry for their troubles and was sitting in one of the chairs in a long line which was customary at funeral parlors in those days. The Kennedy sisters were sitting right behind Virginia. As I came through the line one of the Kennedy sisters said to the other, "Is that Jack Roach?" the other one said, "It is". Then the one said to the other, "He looks a little like Simon." (my father) The other one said, "He does a little, though Simon was a fine looking man." The one said, "What does he do?" and the other said, "He is a priest." And she said, "I know he is a priest, but what does he do as a priest?" The other one said, "He is in some kind of an institution". (I was at St. Thomas in those days) "What does he do there?" She said, "Somebody said he is in charge of it" And the other said, "My God, does he know that much?" And the other one said, "I don't know, but Simon was a fine man and I hope the boy is doing his best."

That's the story, but it really has to be told with an Irish brogue to make it very funny. Virginia was wonderful as a mimic and would tell the story hilariously.

It was good seeing you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis