

Fr John,

Just got a wonderful packet of comments from BTB. This is my first reply to them, because I need you to know - I did not get a snail mail letter from you! Today is Feb 18th, so I should've received your letter about 5 weeks ago. Nothing. Can you re-send it? The mailroom was already going to be receiving some complaints from me shortly... now this gets added to it. :- It's really all too much.

Re. Whispers and troll-type comments... I can't say the harshness from certain commenters didn't cause anxiety or raise my blood pressure. They did. But in many ways they were a blessing, too. It gave me a chance to think and write measured responses on things that needed to be addressed, as well as a chance to model what decency, or as you said, grace, can look like under fire. And they're human too, complex like you said. We all are. Finally, they also gave an opportunity to touch on some topics I find very important, but which I'd usually avoid. I appreciated that aspect, as well as getting to know a few people I'd normally not have met. Oh! Let's not forget, those "troll" exchanges also motivated a decent number of good hearted folks to chime in. That, especially, was rewarding. BTW, why do you connect whispers to my hostile commenters? They're not the same, you know. I'll have more to say to you in another comment reply, friend! Yours - Dymitri