Dearest Mother,

I am so glad to finally write to you and that these horrible days are now behind us. We have lost so many of our brothers from the monastery and I weep for little Maria and Phillip. I thank God that you have survived the pestilence. Many are saying that it will be back soon but I know it is now gone.

God has sent us this pestilence. Our people had become too corrupt and greedy. There has even been evil within the church. We failed God in the Crusades. He commanded us to regain the Holy Land and we did not. Our weak faith has brought this on us.

I know many say it was caused by the miasma, the bad odors, but that cannot be. If that were true then where has the pestilence gone now? The stench of death still hangs in the air. Why are no more getting sick? Simple. God, who brought this disease, has seen to forgive us and has now taken it away.

Many have asked me why God would allow monks like me to die. They do not see the true miracle. Our Pope has not shown even a hint of sickness even as those around him did. God protected him. There is no other way to explain the perfect health of God’s representative than to understand that this was from God.

We must learn to serve God always. His love has taken this pestilence away. We must work to make sure it never returns.

Sincerely,

John Smythe