

Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire The Seventh Day Sabbath The Worry of One Catholic

By mail I have received a note from some reader of the COURIER who is too modest or bashful to sign his (or her) name. The note is signed 'Worried Catholic' and runs:

Father, this has me worried. I have read your articles in the CATHOLIC COURIER and know you could answer this horrid man. That "this" in the communication refers to a clipping from Elmira's evening paper "The Star-Gazette." The "horrid man" is a Seventh Day Adventist "Bible lecturer" who has been lecturing here in Elmira, or rather he has been holding court here in Elmira, because this clipping from the Star-Gazette informs the public that the lecture was conducted as a trial with Mr. Fagal as the prosecuting attorney and five audience as the jury.

The culprit in the dock was clearly the old sinner, the Catholic Church of the early ages of Christianity. For the prosecuting attorney sited the case for the jury in these terms: "God did not change the Sabbath from the seventh day. Jesus did not do it. The Apostles did not do it. Then why is the world keeping another day?"

The lecturer or rather the prosecuting attorney, then read passages from the Pentateuch, the Psalms and other parts of the Old Testament to show that God speaking through Moses and the Prophets had fixed the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week and mentioned every severe penalty for those who did not observe it in all its details. It was a very clear law ordained by divine Authority. The lecturer or prosecuting attorney then quoted from the Gospels, Matthew V 7 where our Lord says, "Do not think I am come to destroy but to fulfill." As for the Apostles, they says the attorney, "observed the Seventh Day and the New Testament knows no other."

Then why is the Christian world keeping another day?

It is not recorded by the Star-Gazette whether the prisoner in the dock was allowed to give testimony in her own behalf. She was apparently invisible to the jury. But her identity was very clearly established by the prosecuting attorney and I cannot believe that the jury of Elmira was either so dull or so unimaginative that they could not see her with their mind's eye in their culpability in leading the law of God astray, even the Protestants world minus the faithful Seventh Day Sabbatharians.

PLEA TO JURY

For answering his own question clearly in his own humble opinion of himself has a very accurate knowledge of the first ages of Christianity had this "daisy" to the jury. "Facts pointed to the Church of the 4th, 5th and 6th centuries as being responsible for changing the day from Saturday to Sunday when they found it expedient, to com-

promise with pig on Sunworshipers. And Mr. Fagal's plea to the audience July was that they return a verdict of guilty against the Church for having tampered with God's law. When the votes were counted it was found that the audience with the exception of four persons was unanimous in its verdict of "guilty." Clearly you should not think up there in big proud Rochester that we have no interesting people down here in little humble Elmira.

But the prosecuting attorney did not stop at "proving" that the Sabbath of the Old Testament should be the Sabbath of the New, nor at showing by "pointed facts" that the Church in the dock had changed the day to Sunday in order to compromise with pagan Sun-worship. He went further. He read from the prophet Daniel (Chapter XII) to show that this prophecy of the early Church was "clearly foretold by the inspired writer. She was the fourth of the beasts seen in Daniel's vision and the most terrible of them all. For out of a horn of that beast will come a tyrant, mightier than the former... and he shall speak words against the High One and shall crush the saints of the most High and he shall think himself able to change times and laws." Could there be anything easier and more evident than that for an interpretation of Daniel's "terrible vision." It has puzzled many great minds but there you have its meaning plain as the nose on your face.

The conclusion of the prosecuting attorney was that in this chapter of Daniel God reveals that "the early Church would attempt to change the law of God." But while the early Church is responsible for the change, the later Protestant Churches share the responsibility of continuing to observe and practice the change. On this glooming picture one ray of bright and comforting light was thrown by the attorney's exegesis of Daniel. "The fourth beast and the tyrant spring from her horn will be broken in pieces as I perish... and the power and greatness of the Kingdom will be given to the people of the seed of the most High, who keep the Sabbath on Saturday."

WORRY UNNEEDED

No I am sorry that even one Elmira should be "worried" by the special pleading of the prosecuting attorney or by the verdict of his select jury. There is nothing in it to cause worry to any un-satisfied Catholic or indeed to any common-sense non-Catholic. For nineteen centuries the Christian Sabbath has been observed on the first day of the week, the day on which our Saviour arose triumphant from the tomb thereby confirming his claim to be the Son of God the Messiah promised to the patriarchs and prophets, all-powerful to fulfill the promises made to his apostles and to his Church to the end of time. For nineteen centuries all Christians with the exception of a few thousands in the sporadic Sabbatarian sects have observed the Sabbath on the first day of the week and will continue to do so notwithstanding the terrible consequences threatened in Mr. Fagal's interpretation of Daniel's prophecy.

To give reasons for that is not worthwhile nor space. But if the culprit in the dock had been allowed to speak she might have asked Mr. Fagal some embarrassing questions. Does he, for instance observe the Old Testament Sabbath in his cotitry? Does he refrain from doing all those things that were forbidden on the Sabbath? Does he cook or allow his food to be cooked on Saturday or does he prepare it or have it prepared before sundown on Friday? Does he feel "guilty" of the sin of the culprit in his dock if he travels more than three-quarters of a mile on Saturday? He says there is not a word in the New Testament about changing the Sabbath law where then does he "a Bible lecturer" get his authority for discarding some parts of "the law of God" and retaining another?

But I do not agree with my anonymous correspondent who says that Mr. Fagal is a "horrid man." He is on the contrary a consistent and logical man. He is a consistent Protestant theologian if we take Protestantism as very few now take it as it was understood in the 16th Century, namely that the Bible is the complete rule of faith, that in the Bible and in the Bible alone we are to find what Christ intended us to know and to do. In this matter of the Sabbath the law of God is clear and com-

plete as Mr. Fagal has shown. If the Bible is the sole rule of faith, the abrogation of the law should be found equally clear and complete in the New Testament. But as Mr. Fagal maintains there is not a word about such abrogation in the New Testament. There are indeed passages in the Acts and in the Epistles of St. Paul to show that the early Christians assembled for the Eucharistic sacrifice on the first day of the week but that alone is not enough to prove the abrogation of the Jewish Sabbath.

OFF THE BEAM

Of course Mr. Fagal is entirely astray and shows his ignorance of the early ages of Christianity when he claims that the change came in the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries when the Church became semi-paganized. From the records of the second and third centuries there is an abundance of documentary evidence to prove that the Christians of that time observed their Sabbath on the first day of the week.

Those Christians, by thousands went to martyrdom rather than compromise with paganism, long before Constantine gave Christians their freedom. St. Ignatius Bishop of Antioch is a shining example and proof. He lived in the second half of the first century and died a martyr certainly not later than 115. In a letter of whose authenticity no scholar has any doubt he wrote: "They (the Christians) no longer observe the Sabbath but live in the observance of the Lords Day, the day on which our Life arose again." I hope it is ignorance and not blind prejudice or hatred that leads Mr. Fagal to accuse such Christians of compromising with paganism.

But enough. The Sabbath law did of course require divine authority for its abrogation. It was certainly abrogated. Hence it must

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Students Mark School Year's Close

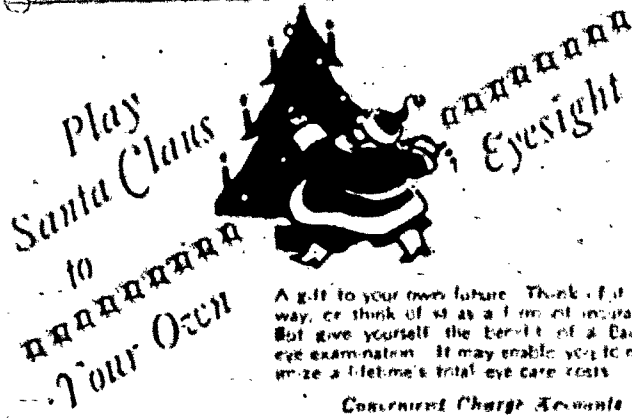
BUENOS AIRES: University professors and students in the Capital attended the annual Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Victory to commemorate the closing of the scholastic year and to offer thanks for favors received in the course of the past few months. Masses also were celebrated in other parts of the country attended by alumni, commercial, industrial and normal school students.

Tune in on the CATHOLIC COURIER News cast, Station WJHM, at 10.15 A. M. each Saturday.

Give Tabernacle To Army Chaplain

VICKSBURG: Mass A movement begun by Walter J. Cunningham a non-Catholic has provided a tabernacle for the station hospital at Camp Blanding Fla.

Mr. Cunningham asked the Rev. Peter Joseph Quinn formerly of Vicksburg who is now a chaplain at the station hospital Camp Blanding if anything could be done to make his new assignment more homelike. Father Quinn said a tabernacle would be a welcome gift as the nearest parish church is eight miles from the hospital making visits to the Blessed Sacrament virtually impossible for patients.

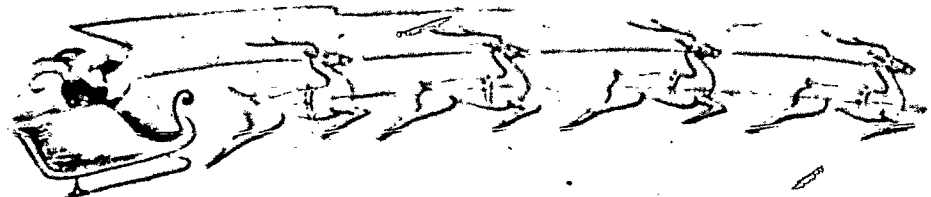


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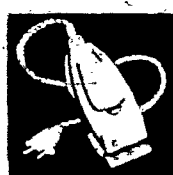
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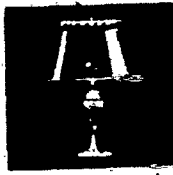


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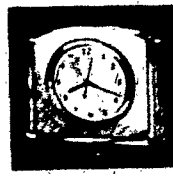
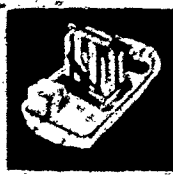


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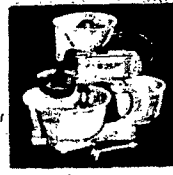


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According To The Doctor

Come winter come colds and all too frequently comes tuberculosis.

The tuberculosis that strikes down the twenty-year-old had its beginning in most cases in an unsuspected exposure to the disease when the victim was an apparently healthy youngster. Prevent those exposures and you prevent tuberculosis.

Prevent also the association of young children with grownups who are suffering from tuberculosis. Many infants have become infected in this way, and while there is a great difference between tuberculosis infection and tuberculosis disease, it has been found that some infants can throw off the infection others cannot.

Tuberculosis is much more frequent in girls than in boys as they approach the teen age. It is believed that the greater social demands upon girls, the wary eye they keep on their weight, their figure, and their clothing—or lack of it—is responsible.

One with a reasonable excess of weight is better fitted to resist the exhaustion resulting from acute infectious disease, which often terminates in T. B.

So protect the child as much as possible from early contacts with the disease. See that his general health is safeguarded. Minimize as much as possible any chance for a breakdown at the age of twenty or so. Breakdowns that can be avoided.