

Catholic Information

No Sabbath Observance for Catholics

No Sir! We don't believe in it. We work all day, and keep our stores open, and shop, and do everything else, just like on Monday. We've been doing it that way for almost 1900 years.

Sabbath Day observance? That was all right in Old Testament times, but we're different. We're followers of Jesus Christ. We've made a break with the Jewish religion. There's the Old Law; ours is the New.

The Apostles knew that and that's the very reason they decided to switch from the Sabbath to Sunday. No, you won't find much about it in the New Testament — hardly any mention of Sunday as the Lord's Day. It's mostly a part of what we Catholics call tradition, that body of customs and teachings brought down to us from the time of the Apostles, and it's as much a part of God's word as the Holy Bible. Everyone admits that — everyone who works on the Sabbath and goes to Church on Sunday.

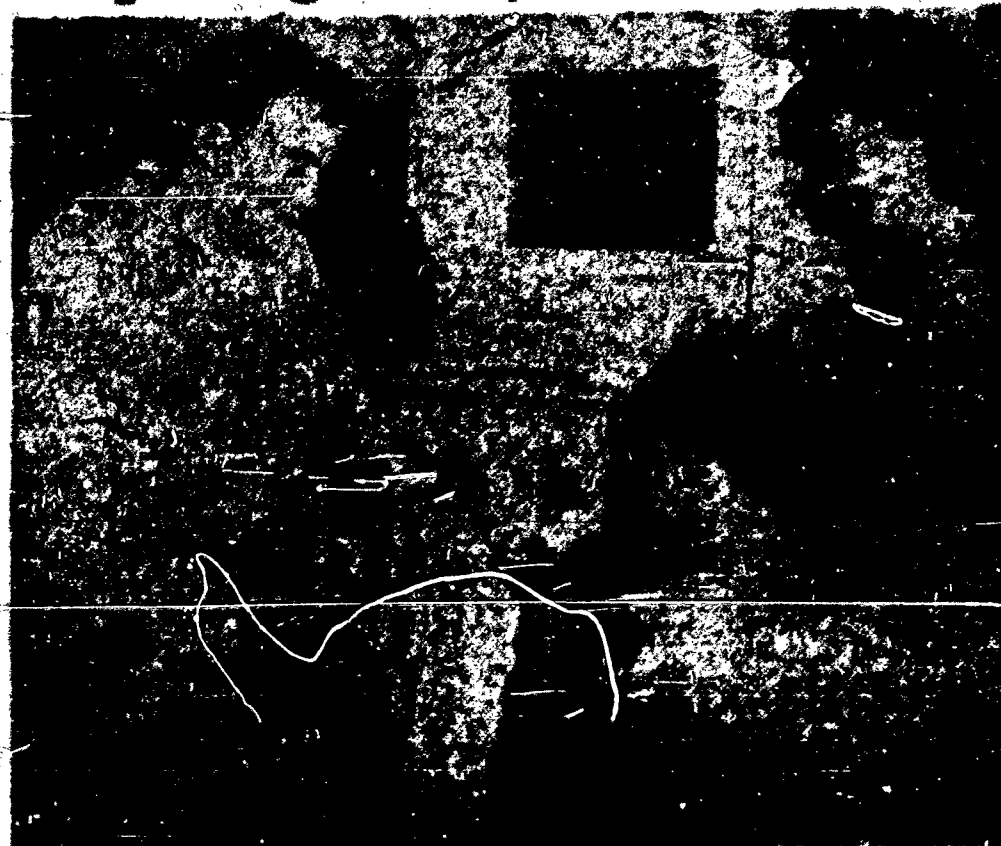
Mind you, God commanded Moses to keep Saturday holy. The Jews of today, with no faith in Jesus, are absolutely logical in clinging to the Sabbath. But our Apostles, believing simply that Jesus was God and that He

had given them the power to loose and bind in heaven and on earth, decided to break with the age-old Law — a matter in which they had complete authority. Had it been a question of permitting theft or perjury, then they would have been helpless; but this was a question, simply, of transferring a weekly observance from one day to another.

Why to Sunday? Because it had been a Sunday when Christ rose from the dead. That miracle gripped their minds for eternity. It had been a Sunday when Jesus gave them the authority to hear confessions. It had been a Sunday fifty days later when the Holy Ghost came down from Heaven in the form of fiery tongues and filled them all with the spirit of Truth for the preaching of the Gospel. All these things made Sunday a day especially honored among the Christians.

It is Sunday, then, that we observe by hearing Mass and by keeping away from manual labor. The Sabbath, Saturday, is no different from any other day, excepting that on that day we get our marketing done, and everything made ready for the following day of rest. (Catholic Information Society of New York.)

Acquiring Civilian Habits Again



At the USO Club, sponsored by the National Catholic Community Service in Battle Creek, Mich., wounded veterans from a nearby Army hospital get acquainted with civilian habits again, and learn to use their artificial limbs. Weekly parties are arranged at the Club and feature group singing, home-cooked food (including steak), voice recordings, penny ante, pleasant hostesses and children. Everyone helps in the club kitchen, as this photo will testify. (MC Photos.)

Pope Grooms Soldiers Liberated in Russia

Vatican City — (NC) — Several hundred former Italian prisoners of war who had returned from Russia were received in audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Addressing the men, many of whom bore marks of their long imprisonment, the Holy Father consoled them over their long absence from home and encouraged them in the resumption of normal lives.

The Pope told the former prisoners that all during the war the Holy See had made many efforts, unfortunately too often not successful, to provide communications between prisoners in distant lands and their loved ones at home, and affirmed again his paternal interest in all men who return to their native lands from captivity.

After the reception, which had been requested by the former prisoners themselves, they were presented by the Pontifical Relief Commission with shoes, clothing, food and other useful articles. All those who saw the prisoners — gaunt men, many of them in rags — were deeply touched by the enthusiasm with which they expressed their devotion to the Holy Father — a symbol of that supernatural faith which had sustained them during the trying years of war and imprisonment.

Tokyo Catholic U. Damage Told by Jesuit

Honolulu — (NC) — Hardship abounds and the winter will be bitter in devastated Tokyo. Navy Chaplain Samuel H. Ray, S.J., formerly stationed in the Lafayette (La.) diocese, writes in a letter received here.

The Catholic University, sometimes called Sophia University, is operated by 35 Jesuits with about 1,200 students, he writes. Converts are numerous and one priest baptized 12 persons since January. The university suspended classes a year ago, but hopes to reopen. One large three-story building which housed all the school furniture, was destroyed. Father Ray writes. Homeless families are living in the other buildings.

Father Ray accompanied Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York on a visit to the remains of ruined buildings of the College of the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo. No members of the community were hurt. "They have such a high reputation as holy and learned women," he writes. "that no Japanese would dare lay a finger on them. Their converts are leaders of Catholicity in Japan." Father Ray adds that the minister of education has promised full cooperation for public and private educational institutions.

Fifteen Cents Per Week!

By Rev. Richard Ginder

That comes to \$7.50 a year: it's not very much, but it's the average individual contribution toward church expenses in one little parish we know of, and you'd be surprised at what the pastor manages to do with it. He maintains his little church in good repair, keeps up a school with eight grades, pays the salaries of four nuns, supports his own dwelling-house, with a housekeeper, sexton, and organist on the payroll as well. We almost forgot to say that he's making substantial payments on the parish debt.

The Catholic Church in this country is supported entirely by free-will offerings. The basket is passed around at the offertory and each of us puts in what we feel we can afford. The pledge system isn't too general in our Church; not that there's anything wrong with it. It is, in fact, an excellent means of raising funds. It's only that, for some reason or other, we've never got around to using it as widely as our non-Catholic brethren.

Very often, though, we resort to little socials for rounding out the parish budget. We have chicken dinners, bake-sales, bazaars, lawn fetes, and the like. They help not only to meet parish expenses, but to create a good spirit and draw people together in Christian brotherhood.

So, you see, a Catholic pastor (and many a minister) has to have some little skill at stretching dollars. Our Church lays down only one general law in this matter: every Catholic must support his pastor. There are no particulars on how much one is to give. That is left to the judgment of the pastor and to the individual conscience. And we Catholics have not only our churches to support, but our schools, too.

Another curious fact is this: a pastor's salary does not depend on the size or importance of his parish. It's fixed by the bishop for each diocese and it stays the same, whether the priest be pastor in a mining town or rector of the cathedral. His salary is usually less than the wages of a postman.

In spite of all this, it may happen that you'll hear a Catholic grouching sometime about the demands made by his parish on his pocketbook. You'll do us a favor if you'll ask him, quietly, how much he gives each week. Then watch him blush; for it generally happens that those who talk most give the least.

Catholic Prelate Reassures Jews on Children in Europe

London — (RNS) — The Catholic Church will not exploit the adverse position of Jewish populations in war-affected countries to procure the conversion of children entrusted to the care of Catholic institutions, says Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York. "We have such a high reputation as holy and learned women," he writes. "that no Japanese would dare lay a finger on them. Their converts are leaders of Catholicity in Japan." Father Ray adds that the minister of education has promised full cooperation for public and private educational institutions.

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours are scheduled in the following churches of the Rochester Diocese: St. Vincent, St. Bernard, St. John, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Paul, St. James, St. Anthony, St. Francis, St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Nicholas, St. Raphael, St. Thomas, St. Timothy, St. Ursula, St. Veronica, St. Wenceslaus, St. Zenobius, St. Zeno.

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\$2.25 up

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\$5.00 up

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FATHER HUBBARD

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