



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan



Sheen Collection

The personal working library of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, containing some 16,000 volumes, has arrived at St. Bernard's Seminary. Father Jasper Pennington, director of the archives and library at the seminary, and his staff seem to have their work cut out for them as they begin to separate and file the various materials. Along with the library, St. Bernard's also received personal and public papers, manuscripts, correspondence, clippings, photographs and memorabilia. Above, Father Pennington studies, among other items on the table, the consecration papers appointing the late prelate as ordinary to the Rochester Diocese. Right, Father shows off Skippy, the angel that mysteriously erased the archbishop's blackboard on his television series, Life Is Worth Living.

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

On the Nature Of the Sunday Obligation

Dear Father Hohman,

I just read the Courier Journal announcement from the Pastoral Office. Two Churches are not affiliated with our diocese. Fine. We should know this.

But the last statement is Fr. Hohman puzzling: "No one can fulfill the Sunday Obligation by attending these services." In these days of ecumenism, Father, I was led to believe that when we worship, in any church, we give glory and honor to God.

If occasionally I decide to worship and enjoy fellowship in other denominations with Christ and friends and relatives, I didn't realize I still had to attend Mass at my own church.

Please shed light on this as I'm sure many are anxious to know what to do.

(Signed) D.C.

Dear D.C.,

Your question has multiple facets. I shall try to take them one at a time. First of all, the obligation to worship God on a regular basis is a universal obligation. The obligation perceived as every seven days came to us from the Old Testament observance of the sabbath. That Commandment, to observe the sabbath, did not designate any specific mode of worship. It did, however, designate Yahweh as the object of that worship. The obligation to worship God as translated into the Christian era designates not the last day of the week (sabbath) but the first day of the week (the day of the resurrection). In the Catholic faith, the

Eucharistic sacrifice is designated as the central form of Christian worship, and therefore the appropriate form for fulfilling the obligation. From this thinking arises a specific church law which requires attendance at the Eucharistic sacrifice on Sunday. The Church has the right under that law to designate which Churches would satisfy the obligation. I'm sure you appreciate that this is a legalistic approach to the matter.

I don't know where you heard it stated in any official way that one could fulfill this specific obligation of worship in a protestant service. Obviously the protestant service is divine worship and it is worship of the one true God but does not fulfill the obligation specified by the Church to make the Eucharistic sacrifice which we call the Mass the specific kind of worship required to fulfill the obligation.

In a certain sense it boils down to a logic based on your faith. If you believe that you must worship God and if you believe that the most perfect form of worship is the Mass then you would be required by your faith to worship God in that way. If you were to regard all modes or forms of worship as equal then of course it would not make any difference in the fulfillment of your obligation.

Olympic Games Of Other Years

Movies made at the Olympics during the past 12 years will be shown at Rochester Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium on five consecutive Monday evenings, Feb. 4-March 3. The first film is from the Winter games at Grenoble, France, in 1968. The rest of the series deals with Summer games. Showtime is 8 p.m.

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