

Archbishop Sheen's tapes are sent all over the world

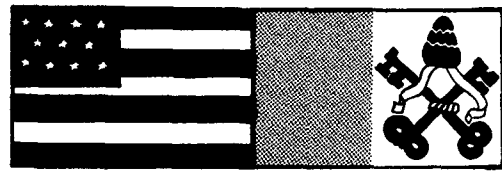
By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

From a skeptical reader: "Please send me two cassettes (re: Satan, the spirit of evil) Archbishop Sheen talks about. I am enclosing \$8 to cover the costs."

"While I don't always agree with your column, I do read it faithfully. Anyone who promotes and loves Bishop Sheen can't be all wrong!"

Response: Why Margaret, what a remark: 'Anyone who promotes and loves Bishop Sheen can't be all wrong!' However, if you continue to read this column faithfully, you may eventually become converted.

While this column is diverse, you will find that it is consistently rooted in sound ontology, which has to do with being.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Religious truths of the church are so, since God has given to the Catholic Church the responsibility of teaching what He has taught us.

Since I have written a column each week since October, 1967, it would be unreasonable to expect complete infallibility, since sometimes a subject, such as capital punishment, is debatable.

Your own appreciation of Archbishop Sheen's talks and books would indicate you are on the wave length of the Church. All honor to you. Archbishop Sheen presents Catholic teaching in faith and morals with a passionate love of Christ, Our Lady and His Church.

It pleases me to say that in the past dozen years I have sold and donated over 52,000 Sheen cassettes. In 1983, when Fathers Heisel and Wohlrab visited Bishop Raphael Ndingi and the Kenyon missions, he wrote: "I use them for conferences at our Franciscan Sisters Mother House, and for conferences for our priests and laity in our Pastoral Center. I would appreciate any more you could send me." I sent him a bundle. In addition, I sent 200 cassettes to Cardinal Otungo of Nairobi to distribute

among his priests, brothers and sisters.

Some years ago a Carmelite superior in South Africa wrote: "We are a community of Carmelite nuns, and rarely have a priest available for spiritual conferences. If you could send us some of Archbishop Sheen's conferences, we should be grateful."

Recently, Father Gerry Aman, SJ, wrote from Nigeria: "I have read two of Fulton Sheen's books and they are good. Could you send me some of his cassette conferences? They would be helpful in our work with our seminarians."

A woman from Canandaigua read of the request and gave me 30 cassettes to send to him through the Jesuit Missions in New York, where they are collecting religious goods for their missions in Nigeria. They will send them by boat. That takes more time, but air freight would be prohibitive.

People sometimes ask, "Which of the conferences do you recommend?" There are several albums of Sheen retreats, but the set I handle has 21 conferences. All the cassettes are good, but generally I recommend the following 12 tapes: the rosary; the foundation of sanctity; the meaning of suffering; prayer and meditation; Christ the center of our world; Christ the King; three kinds of love; wasting your life; the choice; the woman I love; the young and sex; Simon Peter; and, of course, the devil.

I have had many orders for "the devil" after I wrote about Satan in this column. I received letters from 16 different villages and cities, and curiously enough not one was from Auburn — the center of the Sheen Conferences Apostolate.

Anyone who might want any of the Sheen conferences, please send your name, address, and \$3 for each cassette, plus handling charges (\$1 for one cassette, less for several) to me at: 10 Lewis Street, Auburn, N.Y. 13021.

One must follow Christ because eternity is at stake

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Matthew 16:21-27; (R1) Jeremiah 20:7-9; (R2) Romans 12:1-2.

In Sunday's Gospel there are three expressions worth pondering.

The first is "Get behind me, Satan." These words were addressed to Peter. In last Sunday's Gospel, Simon was given a new name, Peter; now he is called "Satan." He was given a new role: keeper of the keys; now he is called a "stumbling-stone." He was blessed to utter words given to him by God the Father; now Jesus says he is judging by the standards of men and not of God.

Peter was a man of his times. Jews believed the Messiah would be a warrior king walking over the hated Roman, not walking to his death on a cross. So Peter tried to deter Jesus from His role of suffering servant. But Jesus was not Jeremiah, reluctant to do God's will (R1). Hence, His words, "Get behind me, Satan." He was saying, "Follow me, don't try to lead me. Walk behind me, in my footsteps; do not expect me to walk in yours."

So the second truth is just that: "Follow me; deny your self-will; for in losing your life you will find it."

In 1962, the senior class at a high school in Glen Arbor, Mich., had been saving money for a trip to Washington, D.C. The students' fund grew each day as the trip



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

came closer. Suddenly, a classmate, Duane Rich, discovered he had cancer. The treatment would be costly. What did these youngsters do? They voted to turn over their travel fund to help defray their classmate's medical expenses, even though it meant sacrificing their trip.

Word leaked out about what they had done. Donations flooded in from everywhere. The upshot was that they — and Duane with them — were able to make their Washington trip, and they were honored in many special ways.

Here was an instance in which Christ's words were verified, "Lose your life, and you will find it." Those high school students gave up part of their life, denied themselves, and even in this life they received more than they gave.

The third truth is "What profit would a man show if he were to gain the whole world and ruin himself in the process?"

In the life of Anne Catherine Emmerich, we read this incident: "One day she saw a mousetrap around which a little mouse kept running, and running, and at last it slipped in to get the bait. 'Foolish little animal!'"

Anne Catherine cried, "you are sacrificing your liberty, your life for a mouthful."

"Are men any more reasonable," asked her guardian angel, "when for a momentary gratification they endanger their soul's salvation?"

It was this thought of what does it profit to gain the whole world and lose one's soul that won St. Francis Xavier over to religious life. In our own day, it lured Blessed Katherine Drexel to leave her millions to follow Christ in religious life. Here is what she wrote: "In God's own time — shall come the Son of Man in great power and majesty to render to each according to his works."

"The reward and punishment for these will not pass away, nor does the Day, Eternity, then opening before us. An eternity of happiness infinite, or an eternity of misery infinite!"

"The question alone important, the solution of which depends upon how I have spent my life, is the state of my soul at the moment of death. Infinite misery or infinite happiness! There is no half and half, either one or the other ..."

The tripod of truths: follow Christ, no matter the cost because eternity is at stake.

Group seeks nominations for 1990 excellence awards

The Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley, Inc. is now accepting nominations for its annual Salute to Excellence Awards.

Nominees must be women who have distinguished themselves in volunteerism or business, and who, by their examples, serve as role models. The nominees must also have been Girls Scouts, or connected with Girls Scouts in some capacity during their lives.

The awards are open to residents of Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans or Wyoming counties.

The deadline for nominations is Sept. 5. For information or to obtain nomination forms, call the Girls Scouts of Genesee Valley at 716/454-7010.

Have a happy
and safe
Labor Day!

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR
Grief...
Is help available?

Grief is the name of a complex combination of physical, emotional, and spiritual experiences. It occurs when we lose someone or something very important to us.

It is a natural reaction to the realization that we are not all powerful, that we ourselves are mortal.

Everyone deals with grief in a different way.

GRIEF RESOURCE INFORMATION FORUM and the PASTORAL CARE CENTER at Rochester General Hospital jointly sponsor a monthly bereavement group called **WORKING THROUGH LOSS.**

The group provides information, education and peer support for adults recovering from the death of a significant person in their lives.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the E-4 conference room at Rochester General Hospital.

Easy-to-follow signs are posted upon entering the hospital from the parking ramp.

Open to all adults. There are no dues or fees. You may attend as long as you choose.

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