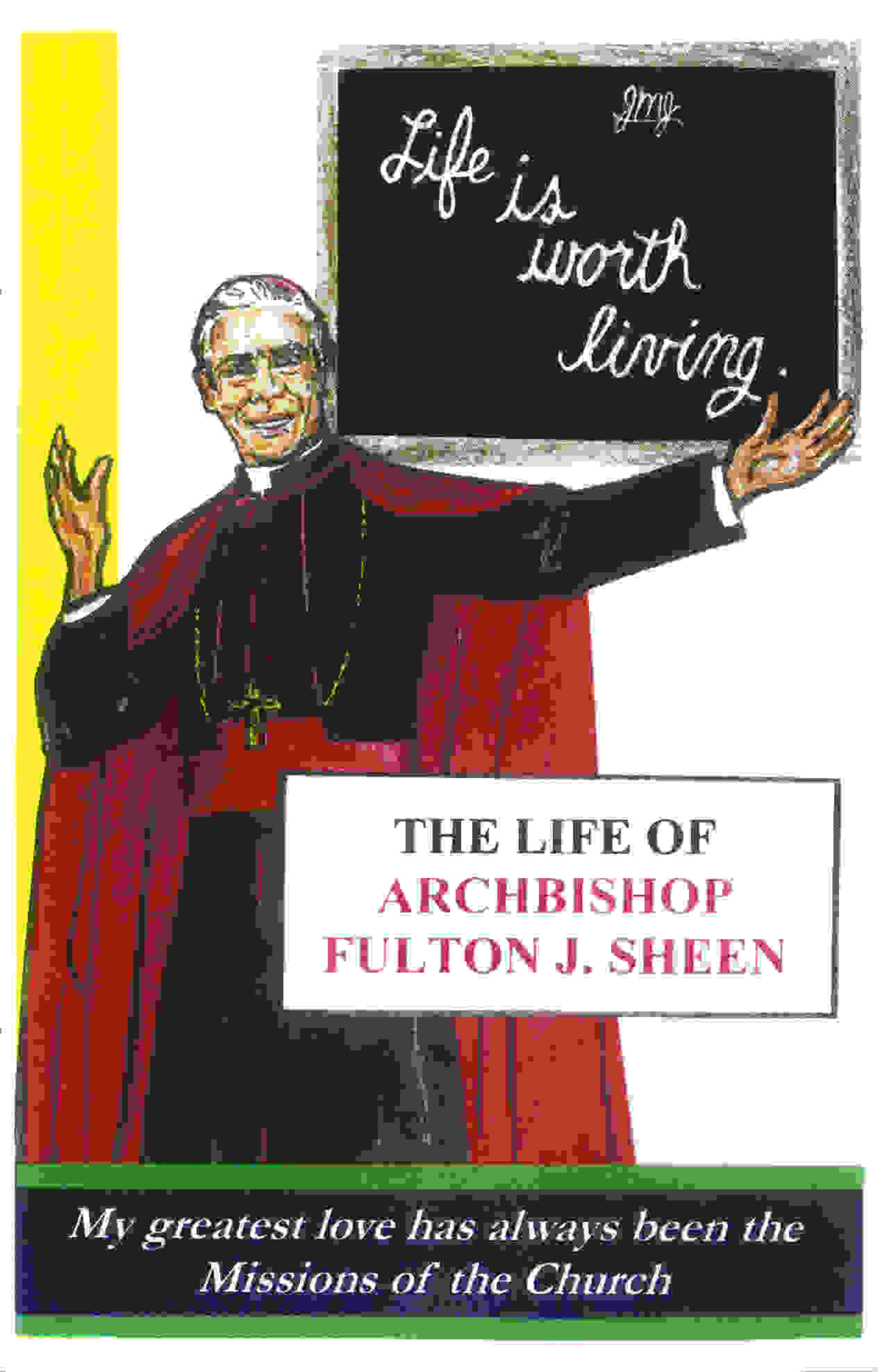
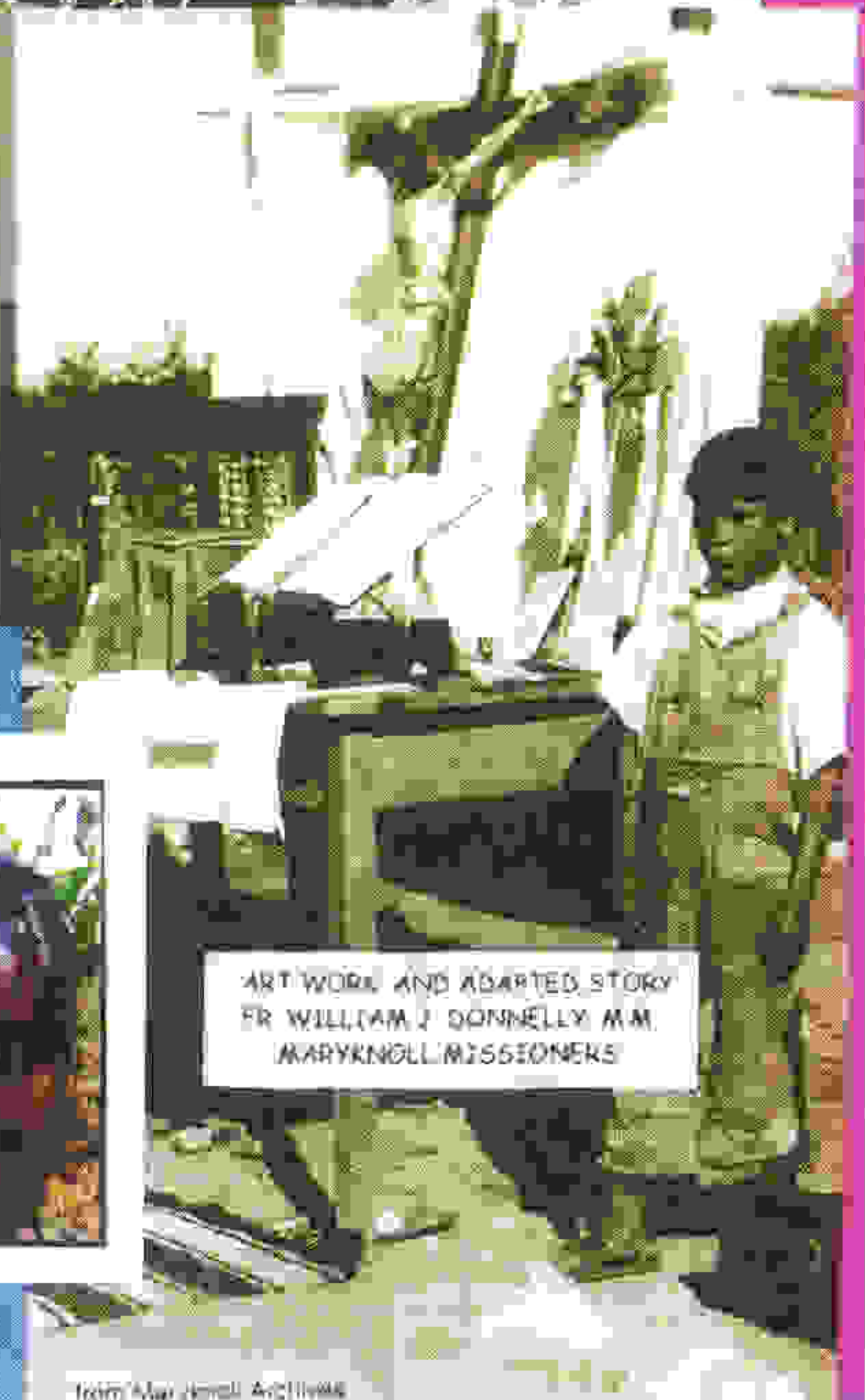




My
Life is
worth
living.

**THE LIFE OF
ARCHBISHOP
FULTON J. SHEEN**

*My greatest love has always been the
Missions of the Church*



Knollys Band MNLMI

ART WORK AND ADAPTED STORY
FR WILLIAM J. DONNELLY M.M.
MARYKNOLL MISSIONERS

THE SERVANT OF GOD

ARCHBISHOP FULTON JOHN SHEEN

1895-1979



ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN WAS BORN IN THIS
HARDWARE STORE OWNED BY HIS PARENTS, NEWTON
SHEEN AND DELIA FULTON, IN EL PASO, ILLINOIS, ON
MAY 8, 1895.



HE WAS BAPTIZED PETER JOHN, ON MAY
12, AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN EL PASO. AS
A BOY HE BECAME KNOWN AS FULTON, HIS
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME.



AT HIS BAPTISM HIS MOTHER CONSECRATED
HIM TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. BISHOP
SHEEN LATER SAID THAT HE FELT HER
CLOSENESS TO HIM ALL THROUGH HIS LIFE.



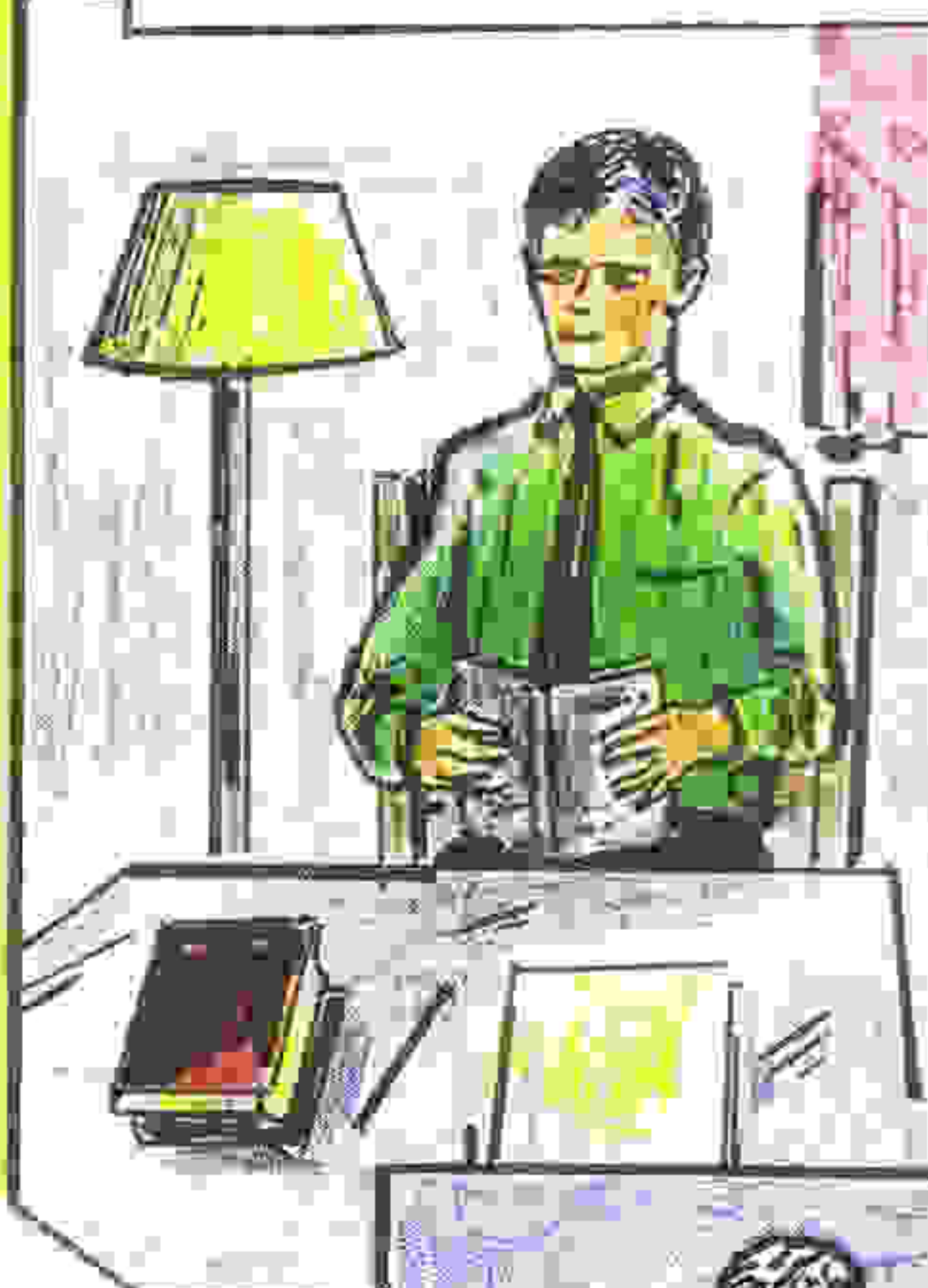
OUT OF BUSINESS, THE SHEEN FAMILY HAD TO MOVE TO THEIR FARM IN THE COUNTRY.

I HOPE YOU WILL LIKE LIVING ON THE FARM.
DELIA.



ONE DAY A BOY WHO WORKED IN THE STORE CARELESSLY THREW A LIT CIGARETTE ON A CAN OF GASOLINE. THIS CAUSED A FIRE THAT DESTROYED THE STORE.

WHEN YOUNG FULTON AND HIS THREE BROTHERS REACHED SCHOOL AGE, THEIR PARENTS MOVED TO NEARBY PEORIA SO THAT THE BOYS COULD GET A GOOD EDUCATION.



ONCE WHILE SERVING MASS AS AN ALTAR BOY FOR PEORIA'S BISHOP SPALDING, YOUNG FULTON DROPPED A WINE CRUET ON THE MARBLE FLOOR.

OH BOY, I'M IN TROUBLE NOW!



BUT AFTER MASS, THE BISHOP SAID:

YOUNG MAN, GO HOME AND TELL YOUR PARENTS THAT SOMEDAY YOU WILL GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN IN BELGIUM. AS I DID, AND YOU WILL BE A BISHOP AS I AM.



SHEEN LATER DID GO TO STUDY AT THE LOUVAIN AND DID BECOME A BISHOP

DURING THE SUMMERS, FULTON AND HIS BROTHERS WERE SENT TO WORK ON THE FARM.

IT IS BEAUTIFUL TO SEE GOD'S HAND IN THE EARTH AND THINGS GROWING BUT I KNOW I WANT TO BE A PRIEST MORE THAN A FARMER



YOUNG FULTON'S FAME AS A STUDENT PROMPTED A FARMER FRIEND TO SAY TO HIS DAD...

NEWT THAT OLDEST BOY OF OF YOURS WILL NEVER BE WORTH A DANG HE'S ALWAYS GOT HIS NOSE IN A BOOK!



SHEEN GRADUATED AS VALEDICTORIAN FROM SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL IN PEORIA. HE THEN WENT ON TO ST. VIATOR COLLEGE. IN HIS SENIOR YEAR HE TOOK PART IN A NATIONAL COMPETITION AND WON A THREE YEAR POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP.



HE CONSULTED HIS DEAR FRIEND, FR. WILLIAM J. BERGAN.

WHICH UNIVERSITY SHOULD I GO TO, FATHER?



TO HIS SURPRISE

TEAR IT UP AND GO TO THE SEMINARY. YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A VOCATION. YOU CAN GET THAT EDUCATION LATER.



YOUNG FULTON AGREED AND PROMPTLY TORE IT UP.

EDMUND DUNNE, THEN BISHOP OF PEORIA, SENT A JUBILANT FULTON J. SHEEN TO ST. PAUL'S SEMINARY IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1919, HE WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST IN THE CATHEDRAL OF PEORIA.

SHEEN'S PARENTS HAD NEVER SAID A WORD TO HIM ABOUT BECOMING A PRIEST. ON THE DAY HE WENT TO THE SEMINARY THEY SAID:

WE ALWAYS PRAYED THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME A PRIEST. IF IT IS YOUR VOCATION, BE A GOOD ONE!



ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER IN FRONT OF THE BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL OF PEORIA IS A MONUMENT DEDICATED TO THE GREAT JESUIT MISSIONARY AND EXPLORER, PERE JACQUES MARQUETTE. IN ITS OWN WAY IT FORETELLS ARCHBISHOP SHEEN'S MISSIONARY ZEAL. MARQUETTE WRITES: "WE PASSED THROUGH THE ILLINOIS OF PEORIA (PEORIA) AND DURING THREE DAYS I PREACHED THE FAITH IN ALL THE (INDIANS) CABINS. WHILE WE WERE EMBARKING A DYING CHILD WAS BROUGHT TO ME AT THE WATER'S EDGE AND I BAPTIZED IT BEFORE IT DIED." JUNE 17, 1673.





ON THE DAY OF HIS ORDINATION YOUNG FR. SHEEN MADE TWO PROMISES: 1. TO OFFER MASS EVERY SATURDAY TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR HER PROTECTION AS A PRIEST. AND 2, TO MAKE A HOLY HOUR EVERY DAY IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT HE KEPT THOSE PROMISES ALL OF HIS LIFE.

ORDAINED A PRIEST, SHEEN WAS SENT ON TO STUDY AT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES. HE QUICKLY BECAME A RENOWNED THEOLOGIAN AND WON MANY PRIZES AND DISTINCTIONS.

UPON COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES IN EUROPE, FATHER SHEEN RECEIVED TWO INVITATIONS TO TEACH, EITHER PHILOSOPHY AT OXFORD IN ENGLAND OR THEOLOGY AT COLUMBIA IN NEW YORK. HE SENT THE LETTERS BACK TO HIS BISHOP IN PEORIA

WHICH SHOULD I CHOOSE?



TO HIS SURPRISE THE BISHOP WROTE BACK:

NEITHER ONE. COME HOME. I AM ASSIGNING YOU TO ST. PATRICK'S PARISH IN PEORIA!



ST. PATRICK'S WAS A POOR PARISH BUT SHEEN SPARKED A RENEWAL AMONG THE PARISHIONERS WITH HIS SERMONS AND HARD WORK.

BUT AFTER A YEAR, SHEEN RECEIVED A SUMMONS FROM THE BISHOP

WHY DID YOU WAIT UNTIL NOW TO SEND ME TO TEACH?

I AM SENDING YOU TO TEACH AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON.



BECAUSE OF ALL THE SUCCESS YOU HAVE HAD IN YOUR STUDIES, I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WOULD BE OBEDIENT. GO NOW. YOU HAVE MY BLESSING.

FR SHEEN LOVED TEACHING, ESPECIALLY SEMINARIANS. HE WANTED TO MAKE ONE THING CLEAR WITH FUTURE PRIESTS

UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE, OUR LORD CAME ON EARTH NOT TO LIVE, BUT TO DIE. WE PRIESTS ARE VICTIMS WITH HIM.



THIS IS GOOD. THE SEMINARIANS NEED TO GET STRONG SPIRITUALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY AND PHYSICALLY. AS PRIESTS, THEY WILL BE TESTED IN EVERY WAY!

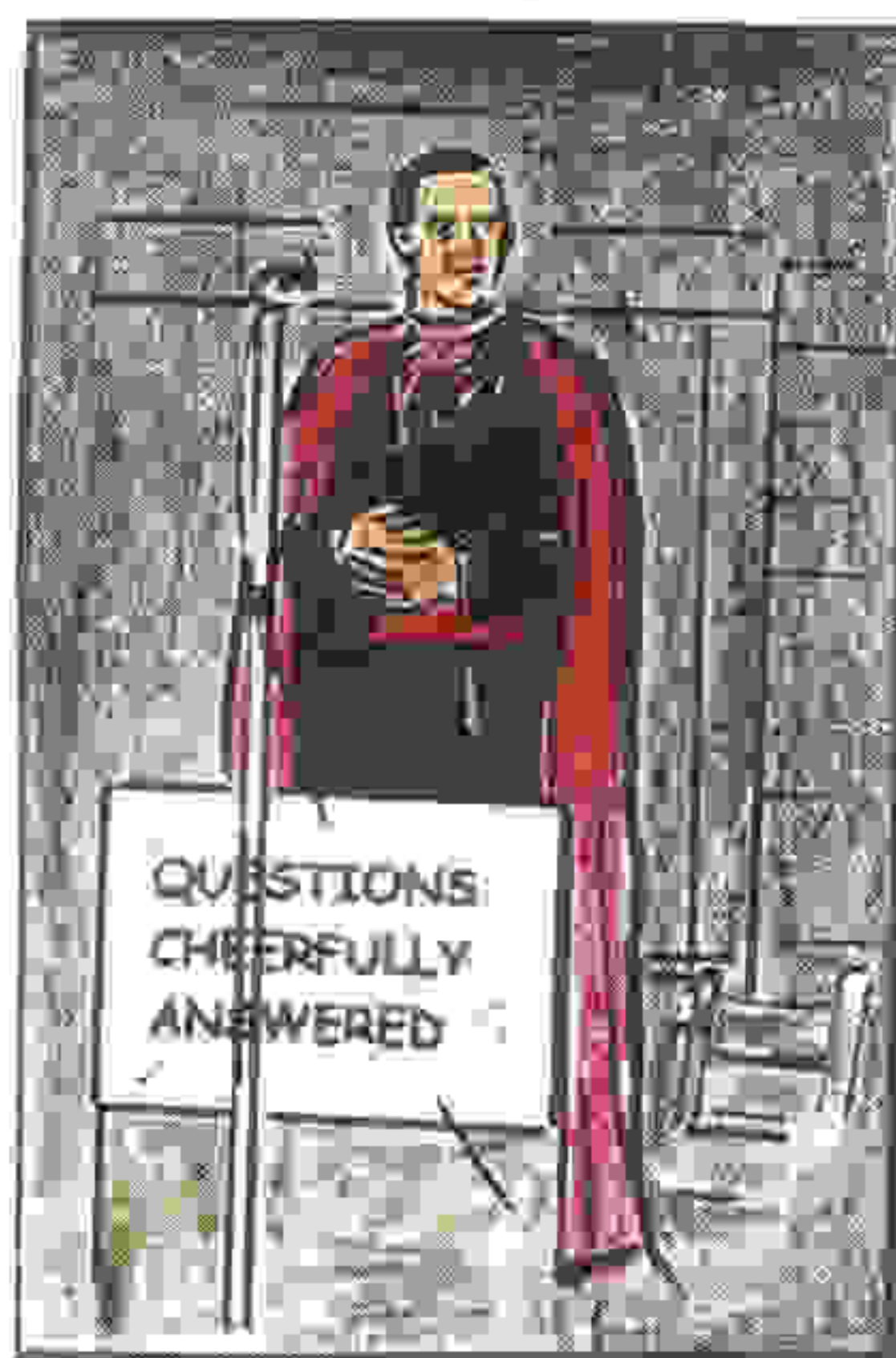
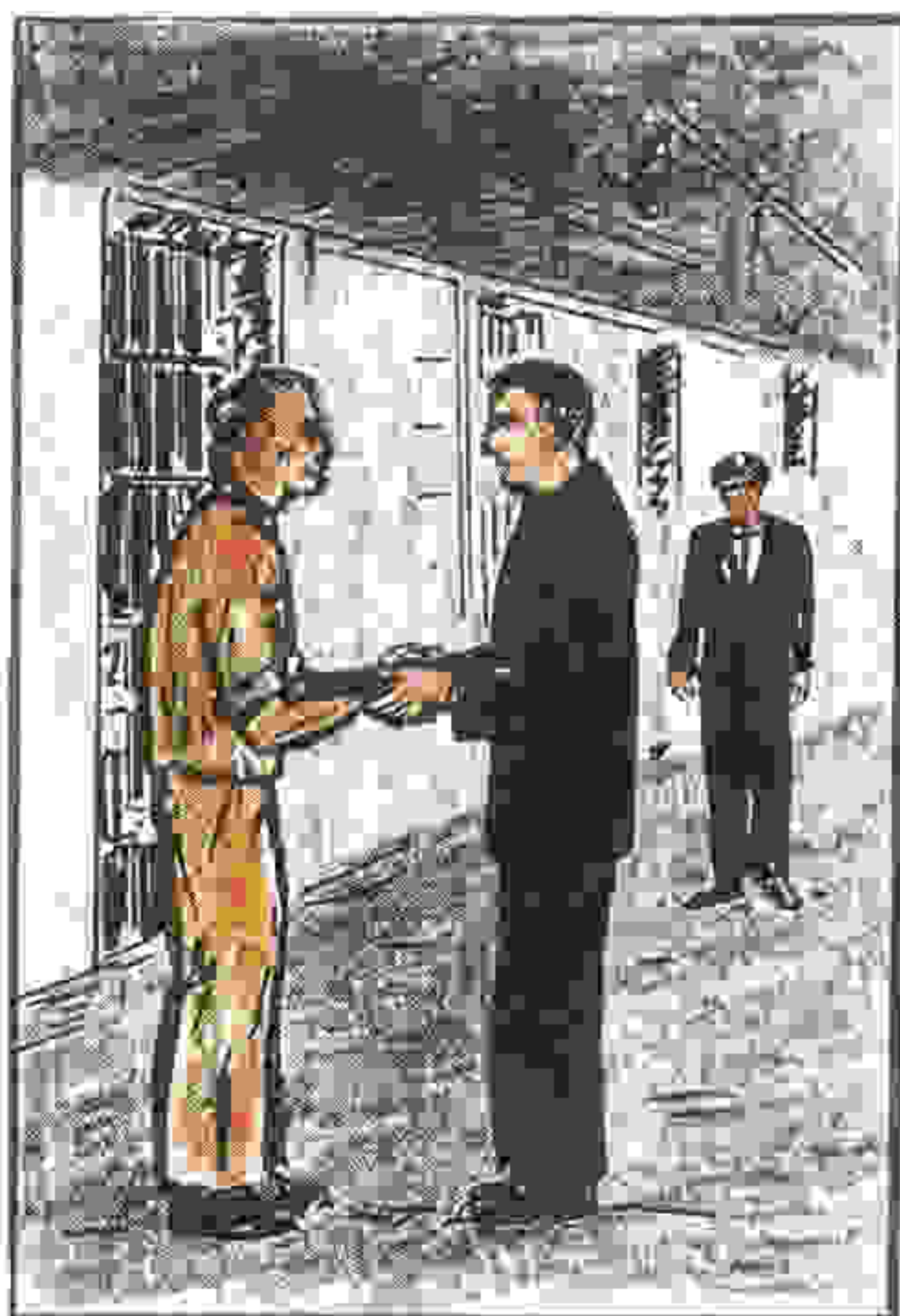


SHEEN WAS ALWAYS ON THE GO. HE NOT ONLY TAUGHT AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES, BUT SECULAR ONES TOO. HE TRAVELED ACROSS THE COUNTRY PREACHING PARISH AND PRISON RETREATS, INSTRUCTING CONVERTS AND EVEN DID STREET PREACHING. HE WAS SO BUSY, MANY FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS PREDICTED AN EARLY DEATH.

AS PRIEST AND LATER BISHOP, SHEEN PREPARED EVERYTHING HE DID WITH GREAT DEVOTION.



THIS IS THE AGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE. WE TEACHERS HAVE THE MORAL DUTY TO GIVE OUR STUDENTS A JUST RETURN FOR THEIR TUITION.



SHEEN'S FAME AND INFLUENCE AS A PREACHER, WRITER AND TEACHER OF THE FAITH, GREW RAPIDLY. HE WAS A PIONEER IN RADIO AND TELEVISION. FROM THE BEGINNING HE UNDERSTOOD THE POSSIBILITIES OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS. IN 1928 HE BEGAN HIS FIRST RADIO PROGRAM FROM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY. HE LATER WENT NATION-WIDE WITH HIS WEEKLY, "CATHOLIC HOUR." THIS PROGRAM WENT FROM 1930 UNTIL 1952 AND HAD A LISTENING AUDIENCE OF FOUR MILLION PEOPLE.



IN 1950, THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES INVITED SHEEN TO BE THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH. HE HELD THIS POSITION UNTIL 1966. HIS POPULARITY HELPED HIM RAISE HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY, INCLUDING HIS OWN TV SALARY, FOR THE MISSIONS.



WOW! NOW I GO FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE WORLD. I WANT TO BE WITH THE MISSIONARIES IN THEIR WORK OF PROMOTING THE SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE.





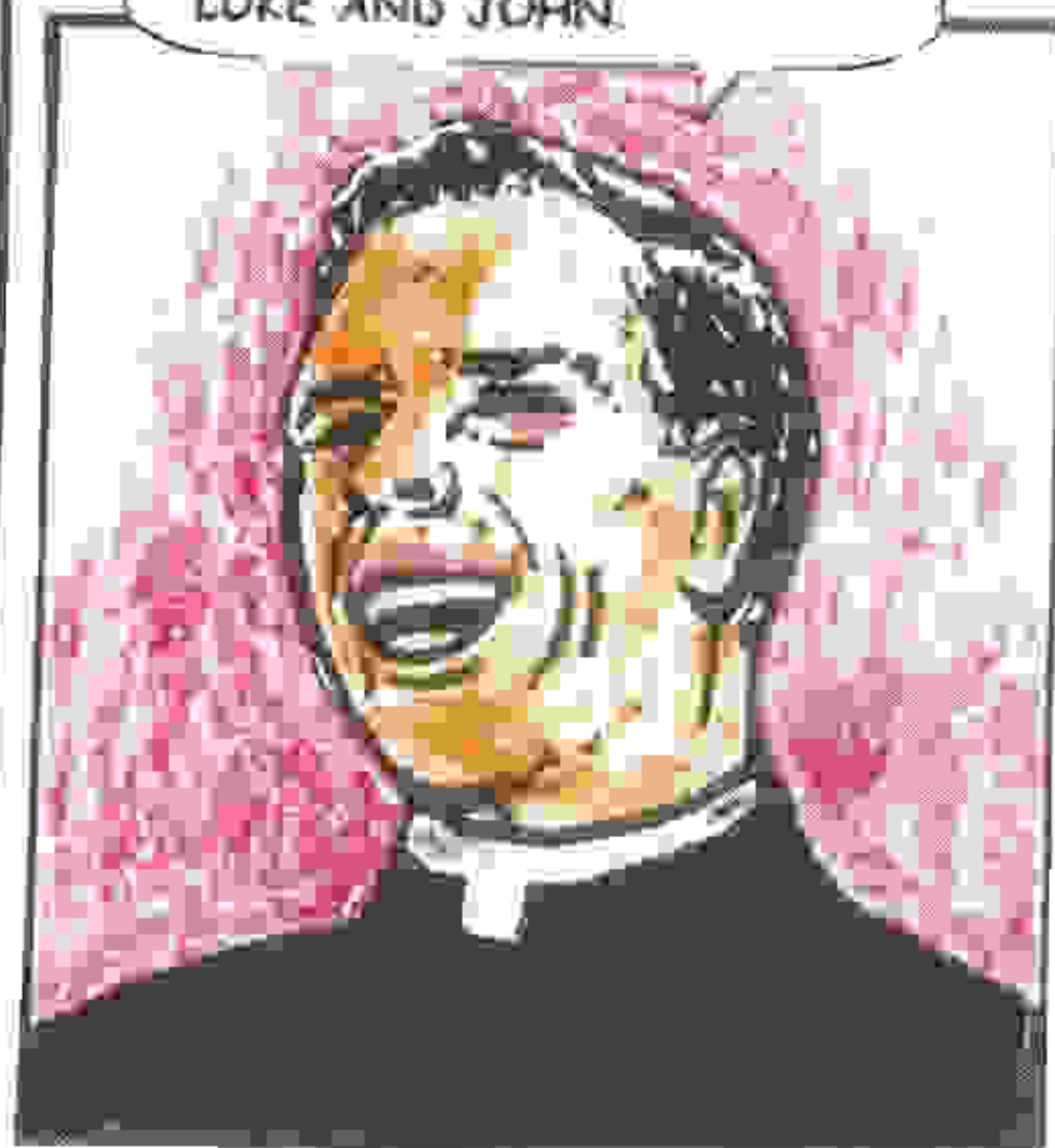
IN 1951, MGR. SHEEN WAS ORDAINED A BISHOP IN ROME. HE RETURNED TO NEW YORK TO SERVE AS AN AUXILIARY TO CARDINAL SPELLMAN, THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK. KNOWING SHEEN'S POPULARITY, HE SUGGESTED HE TRY A NEW APPROACH TO EVANGELIZATION: TELEVISION. BISHOP SHEEN THUS BEGAN HIS WEEKLY TV SHOW, "LIFE IS WORTH LIVING." THE SHOW WAS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 8:00 P.M. HE WAS COMPETING AGAINST MEDIA GIANTS MILTON BERLE AND FRANK SINATRA ON THE OTHER MAJOR CHANNELS. HE WAS NOT EXPECTED TO DO WELL. SURPRISINGLY, HE DID VERY WELL. AN ESTIMATED 30 MILLION PEOPLE WATCHED THE SHOW REGULARLY, AND HE EARNED AN EMMY AWARD FOR ITS EXCELLENCE. THE STIFF COMPETITION CAUSED BERLE TO JOKE

HE USES OLD MATERIAL, TOO.



WHEN SHEEN RECEIVED THE EMMY, HE JOKED:

I FEEL IT IS TIME I PAY TRIBUTE TO MY FOUR WRITERS—MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN.



BISHOP SHEEN'S PROGRAMS TOUCHED ON THE REAL PROBLEMS PEOPLE WERE FACING. COMMUNISM AT THE TIME, WAS A GROWING THREAT, SHEEN SAID.

TO UNDERSTAND COMMUNISM, I HAVE READ MARX, LENIN AND STALIN. BASICALLY THEY HOLD THAT RELIGION AND PRIVATE PROPERTY MUST BE DESTROYED.

NEVERTHELESS, HE SAW THE CONFUSION THAT BATTLING COMMUNISM OFTEN CAUSED. HE WAS AGAINST THE WAR IN VIETNAM. IN LATIN AMERICA, HE SAW WHAT COULD HAPPEN WHEN THE LABEL, "COMMUNIST," WAS FALSELY USED.



I GAVE A SERIES OF BROADCASTS IN RIO IN THE PRESENCE OF THAT APOSTLE TO THE POOR HELDER CAMARA. AS I LOOK BACK ON THAT NOW, I WISH I HAD SAID NOTHING ABOUT COMMUNISM, FOR SUCH STATEMENTS SEEMED TO COMFORT THE LANDOWNERS WHO WERE ALREADY OPPRESSING THE POOR.



BISHOP SHEEN HAD THE GREAT ABILITY TO SIMPLIFY DEEP TEACHINGS SO THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD RECEIVED LITTLE FORMAL EDUCATION COULD UNDERSTAND.

ALONG WITH TV, RADIO AND OTHER COMMITMENTS BISHOP SHEEN WROTE MORE THAN SEVENTY BOOKS AND COUNTLESS ARTICLES AND PAMPHLETS.

LOOK, BILLY, THERE'S BISHOP SHEEN!



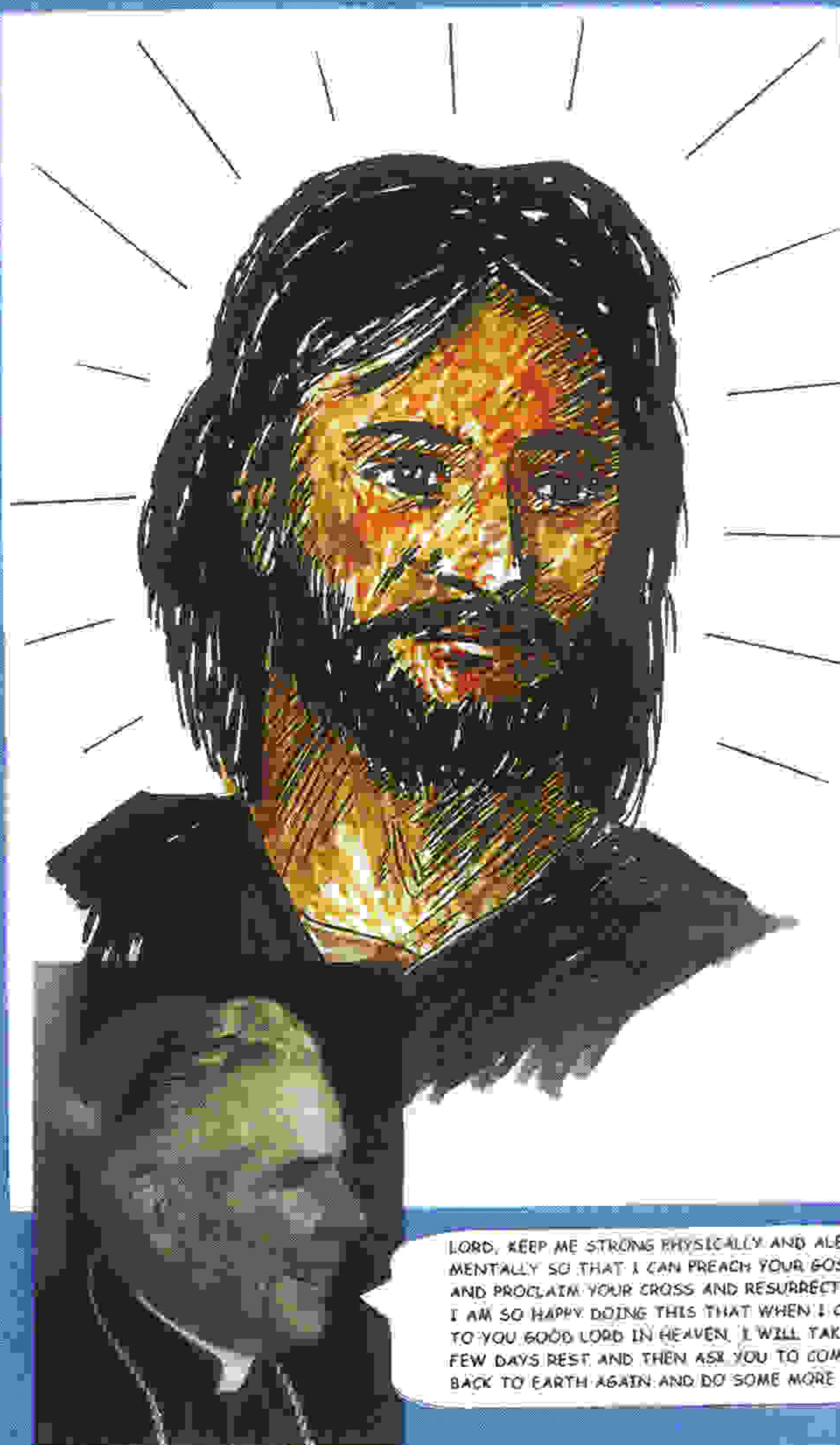
NOW THAT YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED, HONEY, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A BOOK BY BISHOP FULTON SHEEN THAT HELPED ME TO BE A BETTER MOM AND WIFE. IT IS CALLED, "THREE TO GET MARRIED."

THANKS MOM, I'LL READ IT.



I LIKE THAT BISHOP. HE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS!





LORD, KEEP ME STRONG PHYSICALLY AND ALERT
MENTALLY SO THAT I CAN PREACH YOUR GOSPEL
AND PROCLAIM YOUR CROSS AND RESURRECTION
I AM SO HAPPY DOING THIS THAT WHEN I COME
TO YOU GOOD LORD IN HEAVEN, I WILL TAKE A
FEW DAYS REST AND THEN ASK YOU TO COME
BACK TO EARTH AGAIN AND DO SOME MORE WORK

AS SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH DIRECTOR, BISHOP SHEEN WAS AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD TO SEE FIRST-HAND THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE CHURCH.

MY, HOW IMPRESSIVE THE WORK OF THESE GATECHISTS WHO OFTEN PUT THEIR OWN LIVES IN DANGER BY CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED



WHAT BEAUTIFUL CARE YOU ARE GIVING THESE ORPHAN CHILDREN, SISTERS.



IN SOUTH AFRICA DURING "APARTHEID" TIMES, HE TOOK TEA WITH A LADY IN THE GHETTO. HE WAS LATER TOLD THAT IT WAS A GOOD THING HE WAS LEAVING THE COUNTRY THE NEXT DAY BECAUSE OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE BY THE GOVERNMENT



BISHOP SHEEN TELLS THE STORY OF HOW HE ONCE VISITED A MISSION WHERE THERE WERE 500 LEPERS. HE WAS TO GIVE EACH ONE OF THEM A MIRACULOUS MEDAL. WHEN THE FIRST LEPER PUT OUT HIS HAND TO RECEIVE THE MEDAL, THERE WAS NO HAND, JUST A STUB. STARTLED, SHEEN DROPPED THE MEDAL AND IT FELL TO THE GROUND. DISPLEASED WITH HIMSELF BECAUSE OF THAT, HE GAVE THAT LEPER, AND ALL THE OTHERS THE MEDAL BY PRESSING IT INTO THEIR HANDS.



HERE BROTHER, GOD LOVES YOU VERY MUCH!

BISHOP SHEEN ONCE WROTE AN ARTICLE ENTITLED, "AMERICA NEEDS A SAINT." HE FELT THAT IT WAS TIME SOMEONE BORN IN THE UNITED STATES BE CANONIZED TO SHOW THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA HAD TRULY BECOME OF AGE. HE PROPOSED MARYKNOLL BISHOP, FRANCIS X. FORD, WHO DIED A MARTYR IN CHINA. FORD, THE BISHOP OF KAYING, CHINA, HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND AFTER A YEAR OF TORTURE IN PRISON, DIED IN HIS CELL ON FEB. 21, 1952.



TODAY MANY NATIVE-BORN AMERICANS ARE CANDIDATES FOR CANONIZATION. BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN HIMSELF, IS ONE OF THEM.



IN 1986 POPE PAUL VI APPOINTED SHEEN BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, N.Y. HE WAS HAPPY WITH A NEW-FOUND CAMARADERIE AMONG FELLOW PRIESTS AND BISHOPS. HE WAS SATISFIED TO ACCOMPLISH A NUMBER OF GOOD PROJECTS WITH THE POOR IN THE DIOCESE AND HE WORKED HARD TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE CHANGES COMING ABOUT FROM THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL AT WHICH HE HAD BEEN A PARTICIPANT. BECAUSE OF HIS MISSION EXPERIENCE, HE WAS CHOSEN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON THE MISSIONS IN THE COUNCIL. HE SHARED FAR-SIGHTED IDEAS ON MISSION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN A CHANGING WORLD.

AT THE AGE OF 75, SHEEN RETIRED AS BISHOP OF ROCHESTER. POPE PAUL VI NAMED HIM ARCHBISHOP IN HONOR OF HIS LIFE'S WORK.

I AM NOT RETIRING, ONLY RETREADING. NOW I CAN DEVOTE MY FULL TIME AGAIN TO WRITING AND PREACHING.



IN HIS LATER YEARS, ARCHBISHOP SHEEN, SUFFERING SERIOUS ILLNESS, UNDERSTOOD MORE AND MORE, HIS OWN LIKENESS TO THE SUFFERING CHRIST. AS HE ONCE WROTE, "WAS NOT CHRIST THE PRIEST A VICTIM?"



ON OCTOBER 3, 1979, IN NEW YORK'S ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, POPE JOHN PAUL II ASKED TO GREET ARCHBISHOP SHEEN, WHO WAS SEATED IN THE LADY CHAPEL IN THE BACK OF THE CATHEDRAL HIS FAVORITE PLACE TO PRAY. BROUGHT TO THE CENTER OF THE SANCTUARY, THE POPE EMBRACED THE ELDERLY ARCHBISHOP AND GAVE A PERFECT SUMMARY OF HIS LIFE AND WORK.

"YOU HAVE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WELL OF THE LORD JESUS. YOU HAVE BEEN A LOYAL SON OF THE CHURCH!"



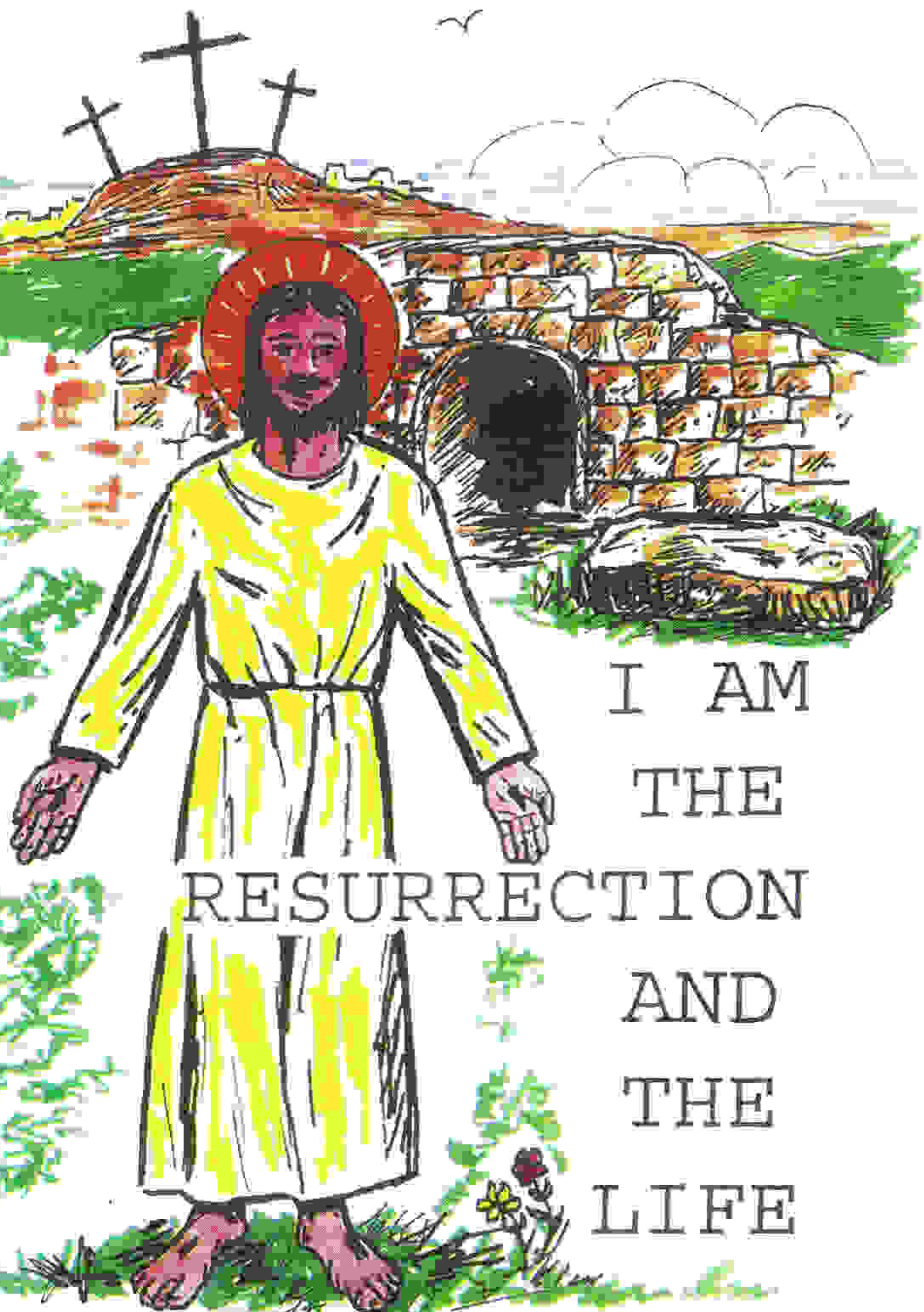
ARCHBISHOP SHEEN DIED ON DEC. 9, 1979

ARCHBISHOP SHEEN WAS DEVOTED TO THE VIRGIN MARY ALL OF HIS LIFE. HE MADE MANY VISITS TO LOURDES AND SAID THAT THE ROSARY WAS "THE GREATEST PRAYER EVER COMPOSED BY MAN." HE WAS ALWAYS CONFIDENT THAT UPON ARRIVAL IN HEAVEN AFTER HIS DEATH, JESUS WOULD SAY TO HIM, "I HEARD MY MOTHER SPEAK OF YOU."





IN 2002, RECOGNIZING ARCHBISHOP SHEEN'S MID-WEST ROOTS, BISHOP DANIEL JENKY, CSC, OF THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA, IL, OFFICIALLY OPENED THE CAUSE FOR SHEEN'S BEATIFICATION AND CANONIATION. WITNESS AND DOCUMENTATION TO HIS LIFE AND SANCTITY WERE GATHERED FROM AROUND THE WORLD. IN FEBRUARY 2008, 22 VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE WERE SENT TO THE CONGREGATION FOR THE CAUSES OF THE SAINTS IN THE VATICAN, CONCLUDING THE DIOCESAN PHASE OF THE BEATIFICATION PROCESS. THESE DOCUMENTS JOIN THE TESTIMONY OF TWO ALLEGED MIRACLES ATTRIBUTED TO SHEEN'S INTERCESSION SENT TO THE VATICAN IN 2006.



I AM
THE
RESURRECTION
AND
THE
LIFE

THE ARCHBISHOP FULTON JOHN
SHEEN FOUNDATION

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