



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

“God love you!” To quote Venerable Fulton Sheen, “That is the way I shall conclude my broadcasts [lectures], and that is the way I shall begin them today. I want the first word on the air of this New Year to be God. It is *God* who makes us happy. It is *Love* which makes old things new. It is *you* who count the years in terms of God’s abiding love. Combining all three we have ‘God love you,’ which is but another way of saying, ‘Happy New Year.’”¹

If you’re like me, going home for the holidays means you will inevitably be accosted with your relatives’ demands to “prepare a full account of your stewardship” or something to that extent.² Until departing for CUA, you may be asked the same range of questions repeatedly by literally everyone and their mothers such as “How do you like college?”, “Will you change your major?”, “Do you have a girlfriend yet?”, and then the follow-up, “Are you going to be a priest?” These and the like are just some for which you will craft a standard answer to satisfy the curiosities of those at home, starting with your mother, who may constantly remind you that it’s her prerogative to know after the far-from-easy pregnancy and delivery you put her through years ago. She will not let you fully enjoy your break from school until you catch her up on every single activity you pursued, each meal you consumed (and with whom), and why you haven’t been responding to her messages.

“Prepare a full account of your stewardship.” With these words, Jesus challenged his disciples to deal with the reality of their lives and their accountability to God. To whom are we really accountable in this life? Many people recoil at the thought of being held accountable by others for practically anything in their lives. As young adults, we especially may feel this way— that each of us above all others is the ultimate architect of our own destinies— and resist any external influences on how we choose to live our lives. While asserting one’s independence is itself not a bad thing, refusing to acknowledge the well-intentioned support offered by those close to you basically amounts to slamming a door on their love. At times we may feel justified in washing our hands of those who seem to want to exercise control over us, defiantly declaring, “Leave me be. I don’t need you.”

¹ Fulton Sheen. “The Relevance of God.” Address, n.p., January 1, 1939 (emphasis added).

² Luke 16:2 NABRE.

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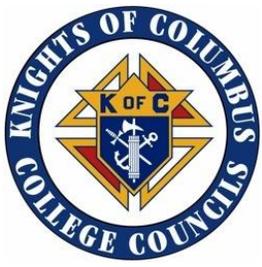


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While we may also be pressured to appease those at home with glowing reports as to how we're doing on our own, life isn't fair enough for that to always be true. Instead of worrying about how we come across as successful or comparing ourselves to others, simply recommit yourself to your work, knowing your capabilities and limits, and don't be afraid or too proud to ask for and accept the help of others. We owe it to ourselves especially to put in the effort and endure the struggles necessary to achieve success.

As Christians, our lives are not measured in awards, degrees, or other honors but simply whether we have lived our lives how God desires us to: in accordance with His will. As Venerable Fulton Sheen said, "There's only one thing to be told about a human life: do we or do we not do the Father's will? The tiny little details... [make] no difference. The details we can skip! Everything can be said about life if we did the Father's will. He did it, therefore, omit the details."³

At the start of this new year and semester, may we become ever more aware of the gifts and graces God bestows upon each of our lives that we may make use of them for our betterment, yes, but always for His glory.

May God bless you and God love you!

Fraternally,

SK Thomas Wong

³ Henry Dieterich, *Through the Year with Fulton Sheen* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2003), 78.

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