

3

FATHER HUBER

Page 1 of 6

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We are at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Dallas.

Father Oscar Huber.

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, USMss, 117AN "Rush to Judgment" Box 60, Folder 1

Q. Father Huber, where were you when you heard that the President had been assassinated?

A. I had just returned from viewing the motorcade in which I saw the President. Incidentally, it was the first ~~time~~^{president} I'd ever seen ~~him~~, and - um - it affected me, and I had just finished my lunch. Father Thompson, one of my assistants, came and said that the President had been assassinated. And, of course, I did not believe it at first -/thought he was joking. And he said, "Well, come and see". And I went up to the Rectory,^{to}/the Recreation Hall, rather, and I saw/^{on}television and heard there that the President had been assassinated, and that he was being taken to Parkland Hospital. After a few moments Father Thompson and I went to the hospital. Shortly after we left - the President's wife, I ~~was~~^{was} told,/^{- uh -}had asked that a priest be told and that he might come to the hospital. We were already on our way. We had no difficulty; we arrived at the hospital. A policeman took me hurriedly to the entrance ~~in~~^{of} the emergency room and I was met by Mr. Langdon who took me into the emergency room - got in there without any difficulty whatsoever. There I saw the President lying on the emergency table. He was covered with a sheet, and his wife was standing at his right side. I walked around her to get to his head and I immediately gave him conditional absolution . I pulled the sheet down to the tip of his nose and I gave him (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)

After
holy oil on his head, giving him the sacrament~~with~~ this
This
the blessing was given. ~~It~~ was all followed by prayers, which
we read???
(xxxxxxx) with the ritual, and prayers which I said vocally
from memory and to many of these prayers Mrs. Kennedy and -
er - many other people in the room answered. After some
time, we left the emergency room and, on arriving in the
corridor, I spoke to Mrs. Kennedy and I expressed my sympath-
y to her and that of my parishioners. She thanked me very
graciously and asked me to pray for the President. I as-
sured her that I would, and she was ^{very much I know} pleased to get this an-
swer.

Reel 20 Take 83

We are at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Dallas with
Father Uscar Huber.

Q. Father Huber, where were you when you heard that the
President had been assassinated?

A. When I heard that the President was coming to Dallas
and knew that the motorcade would pass near Holy Trinity
Church, I went there to see him, and fortunately I did
get a good view of him. I was very happy at this, because
it was the first President that I had ever seen. After
this I returned to the Rectory at Holy Trinity and I had
just finished my lunch when Father Thompson, one of my
assistants, came to the Refectory and said that the Pres-
ident had been assassinated. I did not want to believe

him; I thought he was joking, and he said "Well, come
and see; it's on/^{the}television." I went to the Recreation
Hall and there I heard ...and saw that the President
had been assassinated. Shortly after this, Father Thomp-
son and I went to the Parkland Hospital, where the Pres-
ident was being taken. We had no difficulty at all in
getting there, and upon arrival a policeman asked me to
follow him, and he took me hurriedly to the entrance
of the hospital and there I was met by Mr. Lanergan,
a public relations man, who hustled me through the corri-
dors to the emergency room door, and I was admitted at
once and I saw the President lying on the emergency table.
He was covered with a sheet and Mrs. Kennedy was standing
at his right side. I walked to the head of the emergency
table and there I immediately gave the President condi-
tional absolution and I pulled the sheet down to the tip
of his nose in order to anoint him with holy oils in giv-
ing him extreme unction. And, after this, the last bless-
ing was given. These sacraments were given conditionally
because the President was apparently dead. After this I
offered some prayers,^{from} the ritual and some from memory to
which Mrs. Kennedy and many of those in the room answered.
I was very much pleased when I heard them answering the
prayers for the repose of the soul of the assassinated
President. Shortly after this, we left the emergency room
and - uh - paused in the corridor, and there I spoke to Mrs.

Kennedy. I expressed my sympathy and I thought it my privilege

(XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) loud background noise

technical conversations

Reel 20 Take 84

Shortly after this I - we left the emergency room and paused in the corridor. There I spoke to the President's wife and expressed my sympathy to her, and that of my parishioners, and she thanked me graciously and asked me to pray for the President, and I assured her that I would do so. After some time - uh - Father Thompson and I returned to the Rectory and I know that, shortly after this, the President's body was taken to the airplane, to be taken back to Washington.

Q. Father Huber, when you anointed the President's head with oil, did you notice any mark which, at that time, you believed to be a wound?

A. Well there was interrupted by background talking

Q. (Repeat) Father Huber, when you anointed the President's head with oil, did you notice any mark which, at that time, you ~~was~~ thought was a wound?

A. Well, his face was covered with blood and there was a blotch of blood on the left side of his forehead which I thought ^{could} ~~might~~ possibly be a bullet wound, but I learned later that it wasn't, certainly wasn't, that it was all a mistake on my part

(background conversation about answering too quickly)

Roll 20 Take 85

Q. Father Huber, at the time that you anointed the President's

head with oil, did you notice any mark on his head which you then took to be a wound?

A. Well, his face was covered with blood, and there was a blotch of blood on the left forehead which I, at the time, thought possibly could be a bullet wound, but I learned later that it was not, that I was entirely mistaken, because he had been shot in the back of his head. I did not see^{any} - really any wounds on him - because I only uncovered his, to his face to/the tip of his nose. I learned later that the bullets came out, perhaps at the jaw, I don't know (xxxxxxx) the papers, where they came through.

(technical conversations)

(Mr. Blake, would you repeat the question)

Reel 20 Take 86

Q. Did you offer a Mass for President Kennedy that day, Father?

A. Yes, I did -uh - I (xxxxxx) sacrifice the Mass at 5:30 that evening for the repose of the soul of the President, although my people did not know that a Mass would be offered for him. Still the Church was crowded that evening with the people who came in order to assist at this holy sacrifice of the Mass and pray for the repose of his - ~~fix~~ of the soul of the President. I thought it was a very fine gesture on their part, ~~incidentally~~ and it showed the tremendous popularity of the President.

Reel 20 Take 87

Q. Where were you, Father Huber, when you heard that the Pres-

ident had been assassinated? Did you notice any mark on the President's head when you anointed him with oil/- a mark which might have been a wound?

When you anointed the President with oil, did you notice any mark on his head which might have been the result of a bullet wound?

(Repeated)

Q. Where were you when you first heard that the President had been assassinated? Where were you, Father Huber, when you first learned that the President had been assassinated? When you anointed the President's head with oil, did you notice any mark which might have been the result of a bullet wound? Did you notice any mark on the President's head which might have been a bullet wound when you anointed his head with oil, Father?

(technical conversations -"this might have to be redone in the studio because of background noises")

Reel 23 Take 94

(see interview with Mrs. Tice)