

This article is a condensation of a pamphlet also entitled "The Lesson of President Kennedy's Death" available from OUR SUNDAY VISITOR Book Department, Noll Plaza, Huntington, Indiana 46750. 10c per copy, generous discounts for bulk orders. Father Sheridan is Director of the Catholic Information Center, Los Angeles.

WHY didn't the President develop a cold that morning? Why wasn't it raining so his car's protective bubble top would be in place? Why wasn't there even some international emergency that would have kept him in the White House? Why did he have to change his route through Dallas? Why? Why was President Kennedy murdered?

Why was Lee Oswald on the loose that morning when he had been recognized by so many as having Marxist tendencies, an antisocial background, a psychoid personality and a dangerous hostility towards authority? Why wasn't he seen carrying a gun, or noticed meandering around the route of the President's motorcade?

There are, of course, simple answers to those questions, but they cannot bring back the President, nor can they even begin to explain why a man who symbolized to an almost unique degree the hopes and dreams of America should be cut down in the bloom of his manhood by an armed madman.

Viewed merely as the unfortunate act of a gun-toting maniac, President Kennedy's death would be an unrelieved tragedy. But there is something deep in the human heart that forbids us to believe ourselves to be playthings of Fate, and there is the Faith, the Faith in God and in God's Providence, that assures the believer that God's eye is upon us and His ear attentive to us in all our ways, and that there is a reason, a reason sometimes beyond our comprehension, but a merciful and good reason why He permits what may seem to us even the most meaningless horror.

National soul searching

In the atmosphere of agony, grief and frustration that followed in the wake of the President's death there began, spontaneously, a national examination of conscience. The most prominent men in the country instinctively thought of the moral breakdown that seems to be going on apace among us. They spoke openly and bluntly about the hate, dishonesty, violence and domestic infidelity that are clearly a part of contemporary America. They condemned extremism in all its forms, malicious gossip and the crude, irreverent and dangerously sensationalist character of some of the reporting in the American press.

LA FOI EST UN RAYON DU CIEL
QUI NOUS FAIT VOIR DIEU
EN TOUTES CHOSES
ET TOUTES CHOSES EN DIEU.
St François de Sales.

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