

An Open Letter to Father Oscar Huber

(Who administered the last rites to President John F. Kennedy)

Oh, Father, I am so sorry you don't remember my children and me. Richard Warren Lewis, author of "The Scavengers" (New York World Journal Tribune, 1/22/67) writes:

"The priest (the Very Rev. Oscar Huber, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Dallas) denies ever meeting Mrs. Martin or having any knowledge of such a wound (over President Kennedy's left eye)."

Yet, I and my children (Victoria 21, Teresa 15, Steven 12, Mike 11) interviewed you on November 22, 1964, at which meeting you detailed for us what you thought to have been a bullet hole over President Kennedy's left eye on November 22, 1963. (A story quoting you in this regard appeared in the 11/24/63 Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin.) The children and I had gone to Dallas for the purpose of honoring President Kennedy at Dealey Plaza on the first anniversary of his death. We attended mass that day (a Sunday) at your church; I introduced myself to you as Mrs. Mark Martin from the parish of Father John Ceffi, Hominy, Oklahoma. You led us into a study which was to the left of a fairly long hall where we sat and talked for at least twenty minutes. On a desk you had a number of copies of an article you had written called "President Kennedy's Final Hours, November 22, 1963," and you told us you wanted very much to send a copy to Mrs. Kennedy, but that you were hesitant about approaching her. "Do you think it would be a good idea?" you asked. You were concerned about mailing to her in time to have the anniversary postmark on the envelope. We assured you that with Mrs. Kennedy's sense of history, your thoughtfulness would be appreciated. (You then gave us a copy of your article which we still have.)

At this point you described for us what you thought to have been a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye.* "I took the sheet down to his nose," you said, "and I saw what I immediately thought to be a bullet hole on his forehead, above his left eye. I told a number of people when I got back that this must have killed him, but that night I heard that the man was behind him in the building, so I knew what I had seen was a blood-clot." "No; no one has come to see me about it. No one."

We also talked at length about your boyhood. You told us the sight of the President's blood had not bothered you because as a young man you had participated in the slaughter of pigs and were accustomed to seeing blood "all over the place." You then described an accident you had once attended, concluding: "No, no. The sight of blood never bothers me at all."

How can you deny, Father, that you met us or that you described for us what you thought was a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye? Richard Lewis (a sophisticate with a blind faith in the priesthood?) has used your denial of us to slander all my efforts on the Oswald case. He writes: "The graying Agatha Christie fan (has) conveyed her frequently misleading reports to fellow investigators..."; and I am told that Mr. Lewis plans a book (Dell, 300,000 copies) in which he will persist in his libel against the investigators.

Consequently, Father, your denial of the children and me may lead to trouble yet. We are not accustomed to being called liars, either by a priest or a Hollywood "journalist."

(Mrs.) Shirley Martin
Owasso, Oklahoma
cc: 500
2/14/67

*A number of witnesses, including Dr. McClelland, Parkland Hospital, testified to seeing a bullet wound over President Kennedy's left eye. Thus the pertinence of Father Huber's story.