

A Candid Admission

(Extracts from a lecture delivered by Father Enright at Harlan, Iowa, December 15, 1889. Reported by the Harlan American.)

The attendance at the Catholic church on Sunday evening was unusually large, many being unable to gain admittance. The subject treated on that evening was "the Power and Authority of the Catholic Church." Father Enright claimed that the Authority and existence of his Church antedated that of the Bible. His remarks upon Sunday observance created something of a sensation. He said:

"My brethren, look about you upon the various wrangling sects and denominations. Show me one that claims or possesses the power to make laws binding on the conscience. There is but one on the face of the earth -- the Catholic Church -- that has the power to make laws binding upon the conscience, binding before god, binding under pain of hell fire. Take for instance, the day we celebrate -- Sunday. What right have the Protestant Churches to observe that day? None whatever. You say it is to obey the commandment, "Remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy." **But Sunday is not the Sabbath according to the Bible and the record of time. Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest.** It is so recognized in all civilized nations. I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money. If any person in this city will show me any scripture for it, I will, tomorrow evening, publicly acknowledge it and thank him for it. **It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week.** And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath, and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under the penalty of anathema.

"Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call us every horrible name they can think of --- Anti-Christ, the Scarlet Colored Beast, Babylon, etc., and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible; and **yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church. The Bible says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," but the Catholic Church says, "No, keep the first day of the week," and the whole world bows in obedience.**"

The Scriptures enforce the Religious Observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify.
(The Faith of our Fathers, 89th page, by Cardinal James Gibbons).