

036 FULTON

Oh, and maybe we bring these bookshelves closer to set? So the audience can feel like they're in my study. I am a Bishop, yes, but also a doctor of philosophy. Let them know I have studied immensely to be worthy of their time.

037 MARSHALL

I love that.

(then, yelling out)

You heard the man! Bring the bookcases forward!

(back to Fulton)

We haven't gotten your notes for the cue cards yet, Bishop. We'll need those as soon as possible.

038 FULTON

Oh, cue cards won't be necessary.

039 MARSHALL

Won't be necessary? You're planning to just speak? With no notes?

040 FULTON

That's right. All I need is a chalkboard and a camera. And perhaps a clock, somewhere I can see it from my position on stage.

041 MARSHALL

We can't just-

PRODUCERS JIM AND MONSIGNOR BRODERICK ENTER.

042 JIM

Marshall, if the Bishop says he does not need cue cards, the man does not need cue cards!

043 FRANK

Ah, the producers are here.

(announcing)

Crew, please welcome the DuMont Network producers. You all know Jim, and this is Monsignor Broderick, from the, uh-

044 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK

The Catholic Apostolate for Radio, Television, and Advertising.

START >>

045 FRANK
Right. That.

TEPID APPLAUSE FROM CREW.

046 FULTON
If nothing else is needed from me,
I'll be in my office for prayer.

047 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK
Have a great show, Bishop Sheen.
We're all very excited! Cardinal
Spellman said he will be watching!

048 FULTON
Of course he is. I'll do my best
not to disappoint the man who made
all of this possible!

049 JIM
This is gonna be great!

FULTON WALKS OFF CALMLY. JIM TURNS ON A DIME.

050 JIM
This is gonna be a disaster!
Monsignor? No cue cards? Has he
lost his mind?

051 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK
Have a little faith, Jim. Bishop
Sheen is the man for this job.

052 JIM
That's what you said when you
pitched the show and yet we've
barely sold any tickets. How can we
have a *live studio audience* when no
one is buying tickets?!

053 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK
Don't fret, Jim. Leave that to me!

HE EXITS. HURRIED MUSIC TRANSITIONS US TO...

8 EXT. BOX OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

SFX: THE LOUD, BUSTLING STREETS. CARS ZOOM BY.

054 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK
Free tickets to a new television
show! Bring the whole family! You
won't want to miss this!

055 PASSERBY

I'm sorry... is this church or
Broadway?

056 MONSIGNOR BRODERICK

(ignoring the passerby)

FREE TICKETS TO A TELEVISION SHOW!
LIVE TONIGHT! FREE TICKETS!

◀ END

CUT TO:

9 INT. FULTON SHEEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A QUIET ROOM. SFX: FULTON SCRIBBLES ON PAPER.

057 FULTON

Lord Jesus Christ. Before these
cameras roll, let me remember that
I am here for souls. Let me speak
not to impress the world, but to
reveal Your truth within it. Bless
those who tune in tonight. Enter
their homes as only You can. And if
even one soul comes closer to You,
let that be enough. Amen.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

Edith Gloria enters. Fulton's longtime assistant and friend.

058 EDITH

Bishop Sheen.

059 FULTON

Edith!

060 EDITH

Are you ready?

061 FULTON

I have rehearsed every word in
English, Italian, and French. Any
mistakes from this point forward
will be entirely original.

(a smile and a pause)

I am ready.

062 EDITH

I am certain you are. I'd recommend
English tonight, though.

FULTON LAUGHS.