

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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We Thank The Marconis.

The visit of Senator Marconi to Notre Dame last Saturday, to receive the degree of Doctor of Laws from the University, might be passed by the thoughtless as an academic function the mention of which would be out of place in a Religious Bulletin. We see in it, however, a deep spiritual significance which has historic interest for Notre Dame, hence we chronicle the event with scrupulous care.

Guglielmo Marconi was only twenty-two years old - about the age of a Notre Dame senior - when he patented his first discoveries in wireless telegraphy. We were witnesses of humility Saturday, and the connection established by Scripture between humility and knowledge came unbidden to the mind: "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them to little ones."

Marconi is the first to acknowledge that the finger of God has been in his work from the beginning. When God willed to reveal the secrets of the air, He chose for His work a boy of good will, of good character, a boy who would not be spoiled by the adulation of the world. The boy grew into a good man, a man of character, a man who thanks God for the good that has come of his inventions.

While radio has been the means of transmission of much that is destructive in art, while it has catered to low tastes in entertainment, it has also been the means of a wider diffusion of the best in music, literature, philosophy, and religion. Its nobler uses offset the vile, its benefits far outweigh the mischief it has wrought.

Senator Marconi himself showed his appreciation of the best possibilities of this means of communication when he presented the Holy Father with the Vatican Radio Station, which has brought the voice of the Holy Father into every nook and corner of the world.

The greatest network ever established was placed at the disposal of the Shepherd of Christendom and the genius of the air when this station was presented to the Holy Father, and the whole world listens now as never before when the Holy Father speaks. For this diffusion of Catholic truth Senator Marconi is responsible under God, and he has made the Catholic world his debtor.

What this means for the salvation of the world we can only surmise. Station after station in this country has reported that the Catholic Hour is the most popular feature on its program; Father Coughlin's broadcasts have had the largest Sunday-after-Sunday audience this country has known; Catholic programs have been received with respectful attention, often with enthusiasm, in the most non-Catholic sections of the United States. Ignorance has been lessened, bigotry has been removed, misunderstandings have ceased, a friendly spirit has been engendered where hatred ruled before. The future, very likely the very near future will tell the sequel to this story.

We thank the Marconis then, the Marchese and the gracious Marchesa, for visiting this shrine of Our Lady, and lending to our charges the inspiration of their presence; and we are grateful to the officials of the Royal Italian Consulate in Chicago for arranging the visit. We like to think that our students will take a prominent part in the Catholic life of this nation; that they will be active missionaries for the spread of Christian truth and the inculcation of Christian principles in science and in literature, in industry, in art and in the professions, in the social contacts. It helps them when they see a great scientist who is at the same time a good Catholic, who has lent his discoveries to the spread of Christian truth.

PRAYERS: Deceased - the mothers of Louis Marger, 'ex-'30, and Prof. Reyniers; the grandmother of Wells Robinson. Four special intentions.