

Gaps for Tues., May 14:  
9:30-10:00; 11:30-12:00;  
2:00-2:30; 4:00-4:30.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Wise Guys.

The Rev. M. V. McCarthy, P.P., in a recent issue of "Truth", tells of a significant radio program featuring "Tom" and "Dan". Here, according to Father McCarthy, is the way a part of the program ran:

(Old Tom Talking) The first "wise guy" was Adam himself--or was it Eve? I think that we better include both. They were not so bad, Danny, as the wise guys they begot. The first wise guys wanted to know "as much" as God. But the wise guys that came after them thought that they knew "more" than God. The first wise guys learned their lesson, Danny, and did penance for their presumption. The majority of their children who joined the ranks of the wise guys play the part of the insensate unto the very end of the farce--or is it drama?

The Good Book says that "the number of fools is infinite." I think we can safely say, Danny, that the number of wise guys, in the sense that you suggest, must also be infinite, for the distance between a fool and a wise guy is infinitesimally small if indeed measurable at all. It would be rather interesting, though undoubtedly pathetic and saddening to study the pages of Universal History and jot down the careers of the wise guys who thought they knew more than God.

The pages of the Old Testament are full of such people; and in the New Testament, Danny, I think that you will have to admit that the Scribes and Pharisees pass the exams "summa cum laude" for admittance into the clan of "wise guys." It reminds me also of such names as Ananias and his spouse, the emperor-persecutors of the revealed truths, Julian the Apostate especially with his unrepentant: "Tu vicisti,"--Arius and like heresiarchs who forget that pitting their pigmy intellects against the Church divinely founded, are butting against the divine omniscience. Skipping gradually down the centuries and picking at random from memory, I do think that the bad priest Martin Luther, Voltaire and the Encyclopedists, the gentlemen who paraded the Nude on the altar of Notre Dame as "the goddess of reason"--all qualify magnificently as "wise guys" who did their best to bring about the present moral, social and financial depression.

Then, Danny, we must not forget three other categories that fit in excellently with your "wise guys" idea: they are (a) Rationalists, (b) pseudo-scientists, and (c) the gentlemen of the University lecture-halls who think that they can "say a solemn creed with a solemn sneer," and who delightfully expatiate on that "golden era" when man was wont to "run up the trees." Yes, the trouble is and has been precisely as you point out: "there are too many wise guys who think they know more than God."

There is a "wise guy" sitting at the present moment, Danny-boy, in the presidential chair at Washington, but he is a different kind of wise guy from the type of which we have been speaking. His wisdom far from being flippant, is that kind engendered by "the fear of the Lord." In all of his public addresses and notably when he attended the recent assembly of Catholic Charities workers, he has stressed his faith and hope in Divine Providence.

It is an open secret also, that his social reconstruction program has been shaped in no small measure by an intimate study of the great encyclicals "Morum Novarum" and "Quadragesimo Anno." It is rather significant that the world is focusing its eyes this instant and hoping for an avenue from the depths of despair, not on the wise guys who think they know more than God, but on "this wise guy," Franklin D. Roosevelt, who admits that he can do nothing without God.

PRAYERS: Deceased, father of George Jackobice '31; Mrs. Joseph Crantert; aunt of Bill Gibbon. Ill, uncle of Jack DeGarmo; Miss Geraldine Hagorty. One thanksgiving. Nine special intentions.