

Prayers: (Dec.): Ed Walsh,
University employee. (Ill):
friend of Don Carbone (F);
friend of Dick Weiler(Cav);
2 special intentions.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 11, 1949

OSCAR KNOWS HOW

SUNDAY SERMON: Prayer of
Petition Father Fagan at
7 & 9. Fr. R. Davis at 8,
10:10 and 11:10.

Oscar C. Whitenack died last week, His passing to judgment made the headlines of the nation's press--not for anything that Oscar did, but for his great omission during a long and fruitless life. A beneficent and long-suffering Creator, Whom Oscar denied and blasphemed down through the years, gave Oscar an intellect and more than three score years to find out the why and whither of life. It is regrettable that even during that long lifetime Oscar failed to realize the answer to a fundamental question: "Why did God make me?" Most any American child, Protestant, Jew or Catholic could have supplied the answer: "God made me to know, to love and to serve Him in this life in order to be happy with Him forever in the next life."

You see Oscar was a self-styled atheist. He belonged to that very small minority of American species who think that the other 95% of us are the victims of delusion because we see the unmistakable footprints of God in the sands we daily tread through life.

At his funeral out West a few days ago they played a recording of the funeral eulogy that Oscar composed and recorded himself a few years ago. The message Oscar left must have shocked his friends and relatives.

"We are thousands of years behind in science and medicine because of the clergy and religion.....The bible and religion have done nothing but spread ignorance and impede the progress of the human race....Miracles are the product of imagination.... Lightning will strike a Y.M.C.A. building or a church as soon as it will strike a pool hall...."

Oscar's line was as old as mankind. It is typical too of the modern Communist cant: "Religion is the opiate of the masses." The long list of God-believing and God-fearing scientists, medical men, authors, editors, artists and statesmen down through the ages gives the lie to the anti-Goder's charge that religion and science are incompatible.

Oscar C. Whitenack who knows now that there is a God, taught high school in our local community and in other communities before most of us saw the light of day. During his own schooling somewhere along the line Oscar must have been victimized by other atheists, perhaps in college. All of which proves that a man may have as many degrees as a thermometer and still remain an ignoramus.

The real tragedy in the class-room Oscars is the damage they inflict upon the souls of innocent youngsters whom good Protestant, Jewish and Catholic mothers and fathers have taught in their childhood to love and respect their Creator.

Another Teacher Whom Oscar scorned during his own lifetime and something to say about the antics of the anti-Goders: "He that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depths of the sea.....it must be that scandals come: but nevertheless woe to that man by whom the scandal cometh!" (Matt. 18:6ff.)

"Won't it be a joke on all you believers in God, if after all your restraint and moral living, in the end there is no God or Heaven or Hell?" Thus speak the No-Goders in their melancholy ravings. The reply universal rings down through the ages: "But won't it be a joke on you, Mr. Atheist, when after all your unbelief and blasphemy and scandal, won't it be a joke on you, when you experience that there is a God and a Heaven and a Hell?"