

# ***Foolishness and Wisdom***

*A Reflection on the Readings for Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

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Richard Gaillardetz  
Joseph McCarthy Professor  
of Catholic Systematic Theology  
Boston College

We live in an information age in which knowledge is everything. In the world of business and statesmanship, those who best control the flow and manipulation of information rule their domain. Yet St. Paul warns of the dangers of clinging to a certain kind of knowledge: that knowledge that separates us from others and makes us feel superior to others. He warns against the self-deception of thinking I have the world figured out and am in control. The “wise in this age,” deceive themselves, hiding behind academic credentials and lofty corporate or governmental positions, or appealing to age and experience as if chronological age, by itself, guaranteed insight. Paul calls us to become “fools” instead. He does not mean, of course, that we are to become clownish oafs, nor is he renouncing the value of education. Knowledge, in itself, is not a bad thing. We want our children to get a good education. We must use the intellect God gave us to understand our world.

Christian “foolishness” comes from seeing in the Cross the deepest meaning of human existence, that meaning which brings all other knowledge into proper perspective. Through the Cross we die to the dangerous illusion that we have life well in hand and can succeed on our own terms. The

foolishness of the Cross brings us to the real wisdom that comes in a life selflessly lived for others. This is our true wisdom—we need one another and we belong “to Christ, and Christ to God.”