

Canon Fanin's Apology · *George Starbuck*

"It is the right of the faithful not to be troubled by theories and hypotheses that they are not expert in judging . . ."

—John Paul II, Washington, October 1979

John Paul, you are a lovely man, a lovely man.
And I'm heartily sorry, heartily sorry I am
to see you be troubled now, to see you be seriously troubled
by all this theory-and-hypothesis, theory-and-hypothesis if I do say.

You have the right of it, Father, you have the right.
I cannot think what mischief it was that possessed us.
And sometimes it seems no end to the number of teachings.
And teachers beyond all reason it can sometimes seem.

And what can be quicker to break your heart and quicker
to pull down pride in a man than to see these faithful
lost in the terrible toils and the implications.

They worry a worry to death and they will not let go.

Woe be to the worrier of them then, the pernicious teacher.
Child against father he sets them, father against child.