

In Memoriam - Chief Justice E. Harold Hallows

Edward J. Bier

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Edward J. Bier, *In Memoriam - Chief Justice E. Harold Hallows*, 58 Marq. L. Rev. xviii (1975).

Available at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/mulr/vol58/iss1/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Marquette Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Marquette Law Review by an authorized administrator of Marquette Law Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact megan.obrien@marquette.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

CHIEF JUSTICE E. HAROLD HALLOWS

REV. MSGR. EDWARD J. BIER

[Editors Note: On the fourteenth day of September, 1974, Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Bier, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Monona, Wisconsin, presented the following eulogy given at the funeral mass.]

Bishop O'Donnell, Your Excellency Governor Lucey, Your Honor Chief Justice Wilkie and fellow justices of the supreme court, members of the Hallows' family and friends. As we gather to pay our respects to Justice Hallows we offer our prayerful sympathy to those dear to him as they experience this temporary separation.

In the Book of Proverbs we read that the light of the just burns brightly, the lamp of the wicked is put out.

Some seventy years ago Justice Hallows was committed to Jesus Christ in the sacrament of Baptism. At that time, an infant, he was handed, through his sponsor, a lighted candle with the injunction that his life was to be a symbol of Jesus Christ the light of the world.

Since He had returned to His Father, His followers were to carry that light. By their example they illumine the world with the teachings of Jesus Christ, to lead other people to Him.

In the course of living that commitment the judge chose the vocation of marriage and committed himself to a way of life dependent upon another person. He would help that person share life's burdens, enjoy life's happy moments and work out eternal salvation together. He lived that commitment to its fullest and saw his promise brought to reality when he ushered Mary Vivian into eternity about a year and a half ago.

Professionally he chose a career in law. He was committed to use his talent in the service of his fellow man. He developed a sense of appreciation for God's material creation, for God's human creation and for God's gift of faith.

I got to know him quite well in the course of the last few years and that is why I think there is such an important message expressed in his life. He really leaves for every one of us a light for life.

He had a deep appreciation for the beauties of nature. He could walk in the little wooded area around his yard and discourse at

great length about a bloodroot, dogtooth violet or a trillium as they came forth to flower in spring. He could talk about Horicon Marsh as a haven for wild life, as a natural resource. He could appreciate the dimensions of ecology, relationships of living creatures to each other and to their environment, and the impact that proper relationship and balance would have for citizens.

He appreciated his fellow man. I think perhaps one of the most significant expressions of that appreciation occurred when he was stricken with his terminal illness and was a patient over at University Hospital. One day he told me that he had been spending a considerable amount of time visiting the prisoners from the state prison who were patients on the upper floor at the hospital. And he said, "Father, you know you can learn a lot from those fellows. It gives one a new insight about prison life and the need for reform of prison life where people can be rehabilitated—people who made a mistake for whatever reason. I could learn from them a different slant on this whole business." Now here is a man afflicted with a serious illness and he is still concerned about others.

He could launch off into a discourse about court reform in order to serve the needs of society, his fellow man, the protection of rights. And he was not hesitant to state very emphatically, and sometimes quite bluntly, the position that he held. It was not a matter of opinion, but a matter of conviction because it had been studied. It had been thought about. It had been prayed about.

And when he assumed the dignified role as a member of the supreme court, before he was sworn into office, he came here to St. Raphael Cathedral with Mary Vivian to share in the sacrifice of the mass. That was the point of departure in his life of faith. From the pinnacle of faith, he saw the relationship of his talents in service to men, the good of the citizenry at large. A good that is protected by laws legitimately enacted and properly interpreted and distinctly normative for the future. He wasn't afraid to make a decision of precedential impact realizing that the precedents established by the supreme court's interpretation would become the law of the land and would be referred to in the future as a basis upon which justice might be done to protect the rights of people.

His faith was the dynamic of his life. I'll never forget the Wednesday of Holy Week 1973. He came home from the hospital and I happened to stop at his home. He had just gotten word that Mary Vivian's illness was terminal. He got the additional word that he was afflicted with leukemia. Now if there is one word that would strike terror into the heart of the average person, I think the

word is cancer. The mystery. The suffering. The finality.

He didn't say a thing about discouragement. He didn't say a thing that would even hint fear. He didn't say a thing about apprehension. He said, "I have to get on with this. I have to start the treatment tomorrow morning. I have to find a nursing home for Mary Vivian. Would you look around, Father, and get me some of the details about various possibilities?" He said, "I have to go down to the court to tend to some business tomorrow morning, to finish that, before I go over to the hospital to begin my series of treatments." He said, "They tell me that the prognosis on this is somewhat doubtful." "But," he said, "I'm ready for anything."

So on to the future he went. On Holy Saturday morning when Mary Vivian was called to her eternal destiny, he looked upon it as the fulfillment of a vocational commitment. How many times he brought her in a wheelchair to share the eucharistic sacrifice. How many times when I went to their home with communion, he met me at the door with a lighted candle, the candle that he and Mary Vivian had decorated and brought to church on Holy Saturday to have lighted, during the liturgy, from the Easter Candle, a symbol of the risen Christ, a reminder of their baptismal commitment.

As a man of faith, deep, intense faith, he was unshaken by the reality of any human experience. What a beautiful way he lived that last year and a half. His courage was edifying. It was indomitable. He was always looking for an opportunity to do something more to make society better. To realize that law is a living thing, dealing with living persons. There are certain unchangeable principles. There are certain applications that have to be adjusted to the needs, the developments, the growth of society.

I think that as his successor in office stated well in the press: "He left a light that was not under any bushel but was high on the lamp-stand burning brightly." He left for others to imitate his example of faith. His deep appreciation of the Christian dignity of his fellow man. His realization that all men are made in God's image and according to God's likeness, and that if one is united with God, what is there to fear?

And so in his life he communed with God through nature. He communed with God through persons. He communed with God through faith. We pray now that he will commune with God face to face.