

Dedication to Rev. James F. Orford, S.J.

Robert F. Boden

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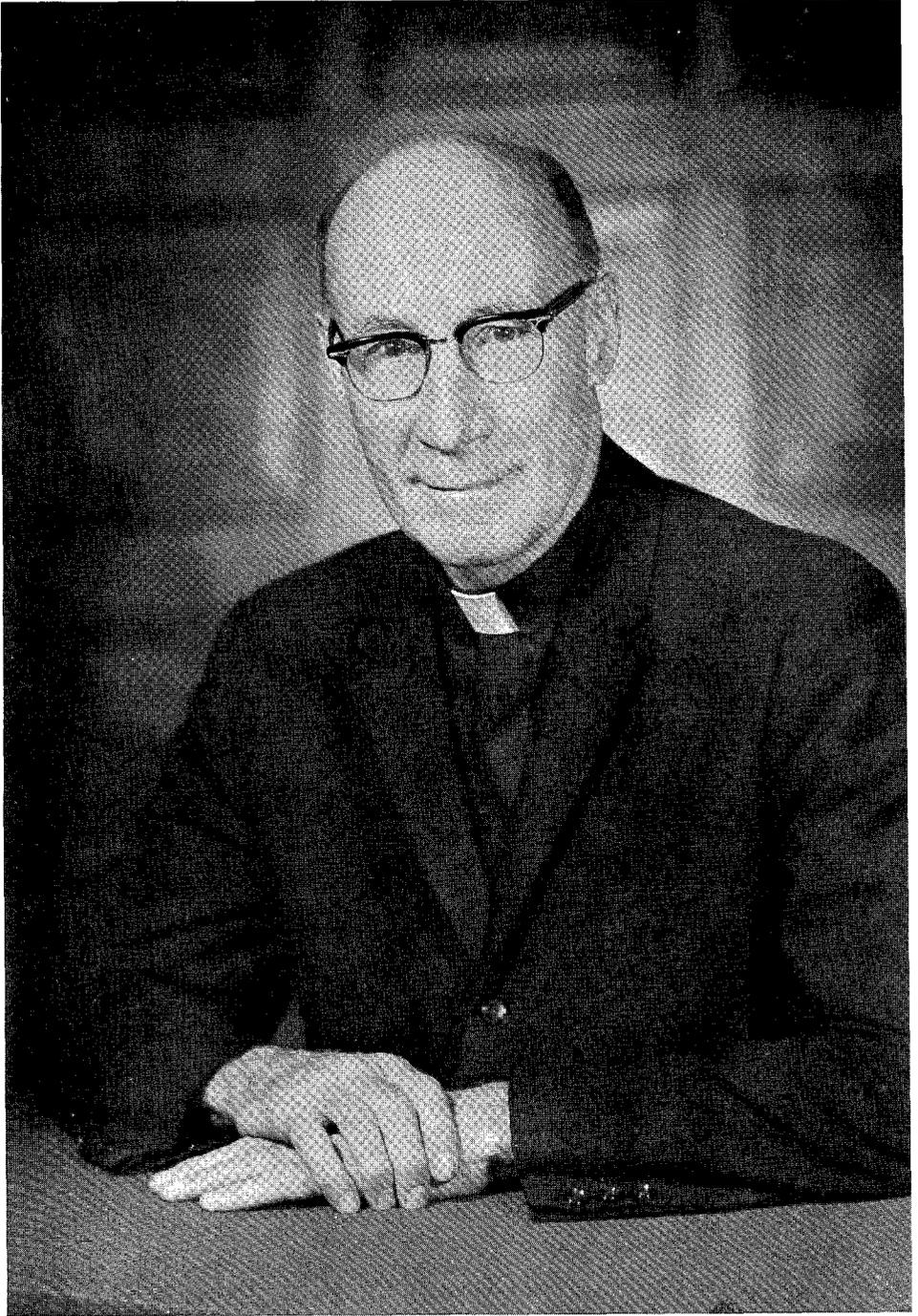
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Just as it has been said that the concept of a Catholic university is a contradiction in terms, so it has been argued that there is no such thing as a Catholic law school. Those who subscribe to this proposition point to the fact that there is very little difference between a law school administered as part of a public or private university not church-related and a law school which is part of a Catholic university. Those of us who disagree concede, of course, that a law school attached to a Catholic university must have a professional curriculum little different from other law schools, a lay faculty and a student body most certainly not selected on the basis of religious belief. But beyond that, we argue, there is something about a law school connected with a Catholic university which is different and which stamps the institution as such. Most certainly this is not just a course in Jurisprudence with a natural law or Thomistic flavor, nor the presence of crucifixes in the classrooms. It is, more broadly, a "Christian presence" which characterizes a Catholic law school. The roots of the Anglo-American common law system are deep in the Judeo-Christian ethic and in the philosophy built upon it. The "Christian presence" in a law school, therefore, compliments a purely professional program and enriches it. It truly forms the base for the study of a legal system grounded in the concept of the responsibility of man for his conduct and its consequences.

At those institutions, such as Marquette University, fortunate enough to be a part of the great educational system founded in this country by the Society of Jesus, the "Christian presence" is refined into a "Jesuit presence." And speaking more narrowly and in terms of persons, the "Jesuit presence" at our law school has been, for the past seventeen years, the Reverend James F. Orford, S.J., who since 1953 has served as spiritual counselor and Professor of Jurisprudence in the law school.

It is entirely fitting and proper that the Board of Editors of the Marquette Law Review should dedicate this volume to Father Orford. For almost a generation he has served the hundreds of young men and women who have gone out from the school. Not only has he taught them Jurisprudence, but he has been their friend, confessor, confidant, and counselor.

It is a pleasure for me to be asked to write this brief introduction to the volume dedicated to Father Orford. His entire life has been devoted to the cause of Catholic higher education, in Philosophy at Creighton and Marquette Universities, and in Jurisprudence at this

law school. Father Orford, in many ways, is the prototype of a Jesuit priest, full of Irish wit and humor, appreciative of the taste of good bourbon whiskey, and yet deadly serious in his loyalty to the Society, to his vows and to the university and Church he serves.

His educational background of fifteen years' study for the priesthood, culminating in a Ph.D. from the Gregorian University in Rome, attests to his scholarship. Twenty years of further study and teaching in Philosophy, coupled with graduate work in Jurisprudence at New York University, equipped him to undertake the teaching of that important subject in this law school in 1953. Until ill health forced him, in 1967, to give up teaching the large freshman classes in Jurisprudence, he skillfully handled his teaching assignment. During all of this time he served as spiritual counselor to the student body and since 1966 he has been the chairman of the Law School Admissions Committee handling an ever-increasing number of applications for admission.

The dedication of this volume of the Law Review to Father Orford is particularly timely since in 1969 he celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of his entry into the Jesuit order. I know that the readers of the Review will join with the faculty and students of the law school in wishing for Father Orford many additional fruitful years in the service of the law school and the University, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam."

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