

Volume Dedication to Honorable Francis X. Swietlik

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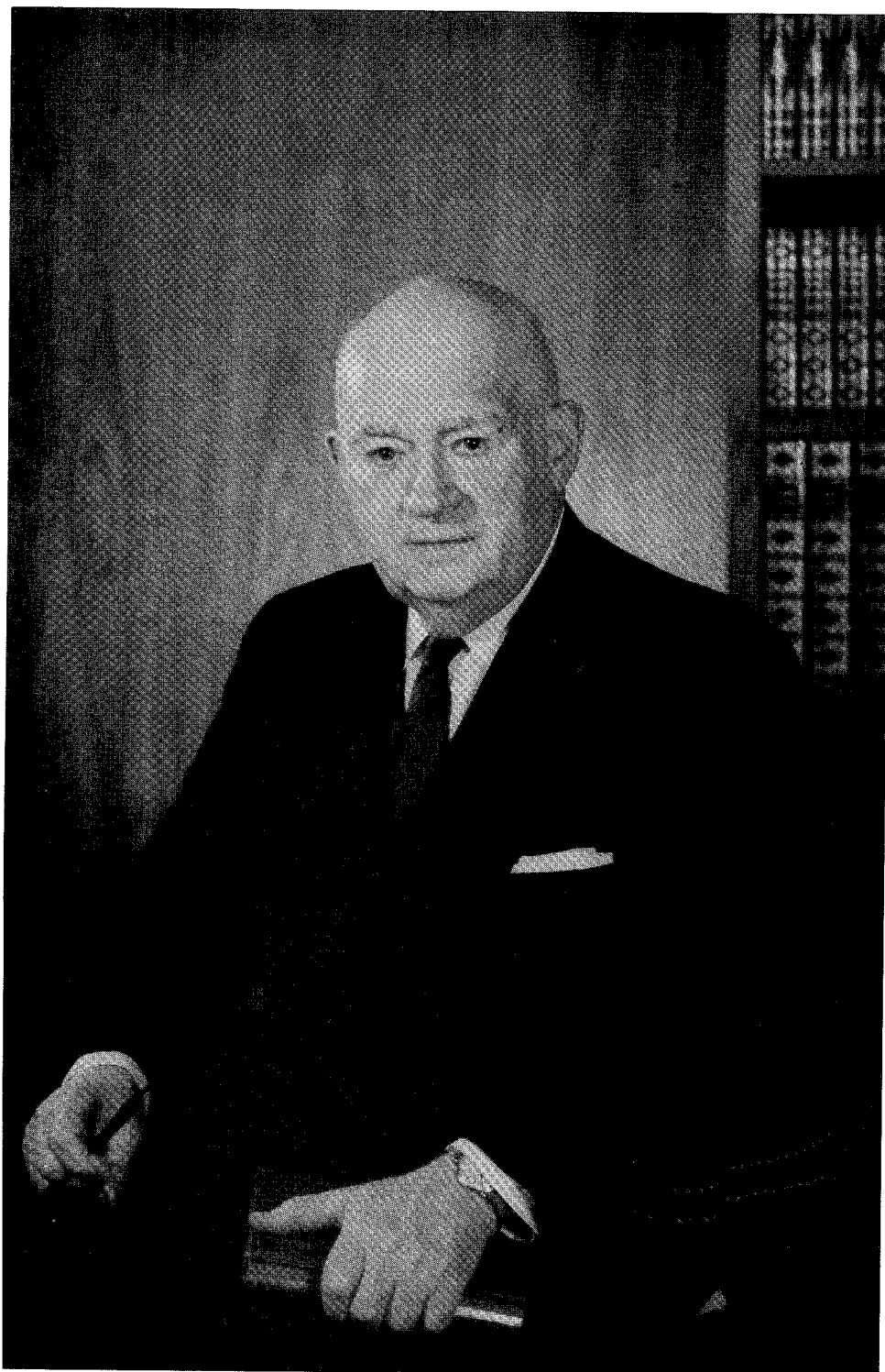
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(Photo by B. Artin Haig)

Hon. Francis X. Swietlik

HONORABLE FRANCIS X. SWIETLIK

In *A Man For All Seasons*, the hit play by Robert Bolt, concerned with the martyrdom of the lawyer-saint, Sir Thomas More, a scene at the opening of the play has More counseling with young Rich concerning the latter's future, and More suggests that he might consider a career as a teacher. Rich objects that little fame can come to a teacher and that, after all, who would ever know if he would be a successful teacher, to which More replies: "You, your pupils, your friends, God. Not a bad public that."

The "public" of Judge Francis X. Swietlik, Dean Emeritus of the Law School, includes three generations of lawyers practicing throughout the country and in several foreign countries. The judge's teaching career at Marquette spans 52 of the school's 60 years of existence. Indeed, his association with the Law School as student, teacher and dean includes 57 of those 60 years.

It is hard to define a "good teacher." When the University honored the Judge upon the completion of fifty years' service on the law faculty in 1966 by conferring upon him a Pere Marquette Award, the citation noted his half century of inspiring and devoted teaching, "combining skillfully theoretical and applied learning to achieve true excellence in professional instruction." There are countless numbers of us, from all three of the generations which he taught, who will testify to his accomplishments in this regard, that is, if the Judge would let us. He would probably rule that such testimony was mere opinion, or as he might more colorfully put it, "chop suey."

I should like to suggest that the Judge's greatness as a teacher rests not only upon his classroom performance, but from all that young lawyers can learn from the example he set during his long tenure at the school. The contribution to education of a great teacher extends beyond the classroom, and for more than 2700 Marquette law graduates, the Judge has set an example for them to follow. He is in every respect a gentleman and scholar of the law. His unselfish involvement in community, national and even international affairs and his concern for the future course of the law set patterns for all of us who follow him in the profession. His contributions to the profession and to the community provide a living exhibit of what is meant when we refer to the professionally responsible lawyer.

I have had the particular good fortune over the past nineteen years to know Judge Swietlik in a number of capacities. First, I knew him as one of my law teachers and came to respect him for the great breadth

of his legal knowledge. Secondly, I encountered him as a Circuit Judge before whom I had the pleasure of trying many matters. I learned in that relationship that he was not only a student of the law, but a man who could apply in practice his great understanding. These are the two capacities in which most lawyers have known the Judge.

It is a smaller group that has been fortunate enough to know him as a faculty colleague. It is in this closer relationship that one learns not only of the great warmth of the man, but also of his great enthusiasm for knowledge beyond his chosen profession. An association with Francis X. Swietlik in the academic world soon convinces one that here is a learned man in the classical sense of that term. His life-long thirst for knowledge is revealed even by an examination of the library in his home. The books a man owns and reads are a measure of his scholarship, perhaps as much as the books that he writes, and it can be safely said that the publicly known Francis X. Swietlik, the constitutional lawyer, authority on the law of evidence, and public servant, is but a small part of the total man. One must come to know the Judge as friend and colleague to appreciate the whole man, a man whose zest for learning and scholarship, and for participation in public affairs, has not dimmed even in the eighth decade of his useful life.

My fourth perspective of Judge Swietlik concerns the insights I have gained since assuming the deanship of the Law School. I had proved to me, if it needed proof, the Judge's intense loyalty to Marquette University and particularly to the Law School. To a freshman dean he has offered guidance and counsel. He has always been ready to give freely and voluntarily of his time for the sake of the school and, of course, this has been the pattern of his life. I think it can be said that concern for and service to his Alma Mater has been one of the most important factors in shaping the long life of Judge Swietlik. I, of course, suspected the same for a long period of time and in the past three years it has been proved to me that this concern is a very real one. It is a manifestation of the Judge's devotion to his church, to his country, to his profession and to his God. I am sure, because the parallels are so many, that the Judge has patterned his life after the patron saint of the legal profession, St. Thomas More, and I should like to suggest that he has successfully done so. Of him, as of More, it can be said that he is "A Man For All Seasons," and I congratulate the editors of the *Marquette Law Review* in recognizing this fact in their dedication of this volume of the Law Review to him.

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