The Marquette University Law School opened for classes in September, 1935, with an enrollment of 222 students. Ninety-five students are now enrolled in the third year class, 82 in the second year class, and 45 are enrolled in the first year class. Three years of pre-law academic work are necessary for admittance to the Law School. This requirement has become effective during the current year and has affected the enrollment in the present first year class.

On June 13, 1935, fifty-six members of the graduating class of the Law School were admitted to practice before the bar of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. Chief Justice Rosenberry spoke to the graduates and advised them as to their duties and opportunities as lawyers. The text of his address is set out below:

"You stand before the bar of this Court seeking to be invested with all the rights and privileges of a member of the bar of the state of Wisconsin. Upon occasions of this kind it is customary for the presiding officer of the Court to give you certain admonitions and call your attention to certain fundamental principles relating to the conduct of lawyers in the practice of their profession. To those of you who listened to the wise and eloquent address of Father Magee at the annual banquet given by the Freshmen to the Senior Law Class of Marquette, this will seem like a work of supererogation. I have rarely listened to a more learned, sound and eloquent appeal for the observance of ethical standards than that made by Father Magee. Supported as it was by the comment of Dean Swietlik, little more is left to be said.

"This is the sixth time that the graduates of our colleges and professional schools have passed from academic halls into a somewhat dislocated world. I wish to call your attention to the fact that while there are still many elements in the situation which tend to breed discouragement, after all the final result will be greater opportunities than ever for the well prepared, well equipped, intelligent, energetic and honest lawyer. I do not use the term "honesty" in the narrow sense of financial honesty although that is included, but rather in the sense of intellectual integrity. At no time in our history has there been a greater demand for men of intellectual integrity in public affairs than at the present time. It is quite apparent that our society is in the process of fundamental change. The direction which shall be given to social energy in the future will be determined not entirely but to a large extent by the bar and bench of this country.

"In such a time as this the duties and obligations of lawyers are very great. Under present day conditions, social pressure is so great, business so dependent upon court decision, that controversies brought before the courts must be dispatched with promptness. It may well be that courts yield too much to the demand for prompt action and ready decision. However, there seems to be no alternative, for to delay decision and consideration of cases is in many instances at least equivalent to a denial of justice. In a general way courts are obligated to deal with material presented to them by members of the bar. Neither the trial courts nor the appellate courts can make that careful exhaustive examination either of the facts or of the law which can and should be made by the lawyer who prepares the
case for trial for the plaintiff or who presents the defendant’s side of the controversy. Therefore, while you will upon motion be admitted to one of the most ancient and honorable of the professions and will thereby become entitled to all the rights and privileges of the members of that profession, your duties and responsibilities will be commensurate with your rights and privileges.

“The legislature of this state has by enactment provided that before entering upon the practice of your profession you shall take a prescribed oath in open court. The oath is in and of itself a short statement of the ethical principles which should govern your conduct as lawyers. If you have not already done so, you should familiarize yourself with the canons of legal ethics prescribed by the American Bar Association and approved by the Bar Association of the State of Wisconsin. I earnestly urge you to consider carefully the principles of conduct there laid down. There you will find in the form of precepts the rules which have governed lawyers in their relation to each other, in their relation to the courts and in their relation to their clients, in the practice of the profession. These principles gain their sanction not from the fact they were adopted by the Bar Associations but because they are the crystallized experience of generations of lawyers who have preceded you. If in the course of your practice any question arises in your mind as to the propriety of your conduct as a lawyer, I suggest that you consult an older member of the bar or some judge. You will always find older practitioners willing to assist you. As a matter of fact it was in this way that the traditions of the bar were formed and the principles of ethical conduct were inculcated long before anyone thought of embodying them in a code of ethics. May I suggest that as opportunity offers you should give the public the benefit of your legal training. You can do this in many ways besides holding public office. You can render valuable service in connection with all organizations designed to better civic conditions as well as in connection with welfare organizations. The special training of a lawyer is very valuable in connection with all movements to advance the general welfare. If you expect to continue in the practice of the law, while active participation in political matters is helpful, the holding of public office other than one connected with your profession is of doubtful value. It is as true today as it ever was that a man cannot serve two masters at the same time. To keep abreast of the movements of the day in law is a full time job for any man. If he divides his energy and attention, he is almost certain to fail in one field or the other.

“Trusting that you are thoroughly impressed with the duties and high responsibilities which you assume upon your admission to the bar, the Court welcomes you to the ranks of a profession where hard labor, anxious care, laborious days and toilsome nights are the necessary prerequisites to success.”