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# DE PAUL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

ROBERT Q. KELLY\*

**D**URING THIS YEAR it is appropriate to introduce into the gallery of Catholic law schools a sketch of De Paul University College of Law, Chicago, Illinois, because this is the 300th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent De Paul, from whom that institution derived its name and spiritual heritage. At his death on September 27, 1660, Saint Vincent bequeathed to his followers, the priests of the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians, as they are popularly known, a philosophy of educating leaders of the people. The Vincentian priests, who now fill administrative and teaching posts in De Paul University College of Law, are perpetuating the philosophy of their great founder.

The scene of Saint Vincent's earliest labors was France, but his followers multiplied and extended the apostolate into other lands until, in 1816, four Vincentians sailed to the United States to establish a community in Missouri. In 1875, priests of that community traveled to Chicago to build a parish on the present site of the Northside Campus of De Paul University. The Secretary of State of Illinois issued a certificate of incorporation to the University in December, 1907.

Late in 1910, Howard N. Ogden, President of the Illinois College of Law, petitioned Father Francis X. McCabe, C.M., the second president of De Paul University, for affiliation of the College of Law with the University. The president and trustees of De Paul authorized a committee to visit the Illinois College of Law and to report to the president its findings. One member of the committee, Father Daniel J. McHugh, C.M., presently Historian and Archivist of De Paul University, described his impression of the College of Law as follows:

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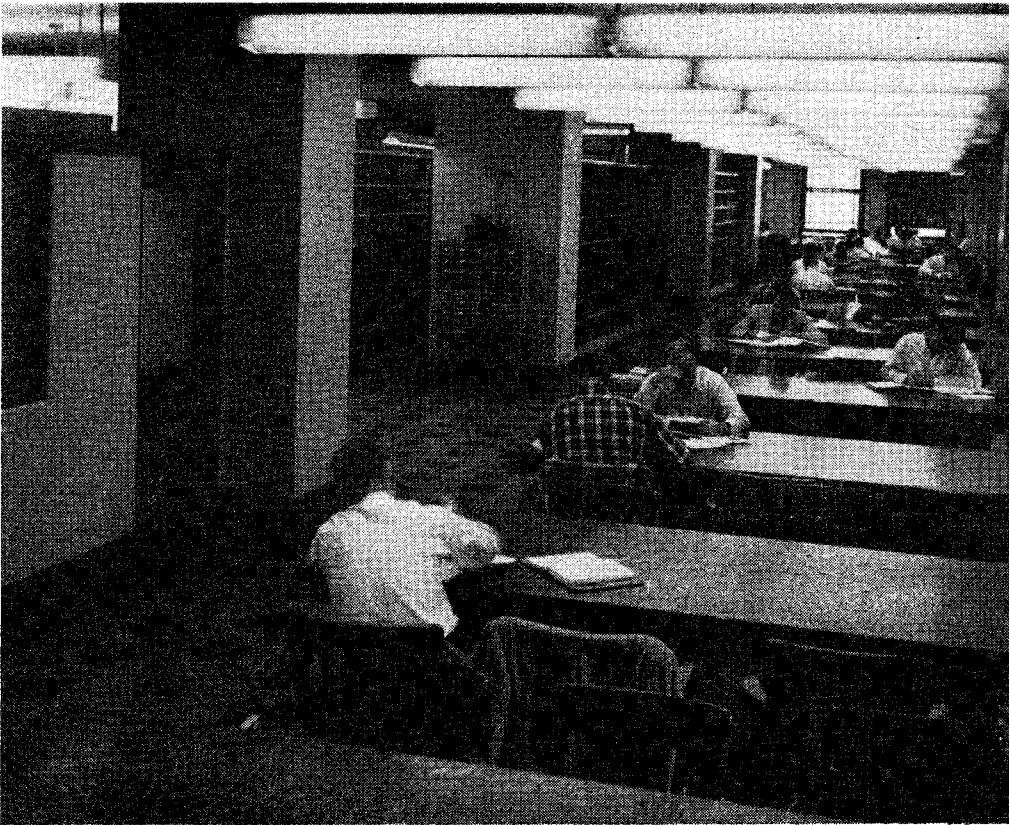
\*Librarian and Assistant Professor of Law, De Paul University College of Law.

The front wooden stairs, leading to the upper floors of the building, were badly worn and splintery. . . . While the library was supposed to have about two thousand volumes, many of these were badly worn, greatly in need of rebinding. Nevertheless, there was quite an appeal, a living appeal, in the framed pictures along the stairways: "Class of 1898," "Class of 1899." Here were valuable assets, living men (and a few women), some of whom were destined to become professors, instructors and strong supporters of the school for many years to come.

On February 21, 1912, an agreement of affiliation was executed between the officers of the Illinois College of Law and De Paul University. In 1915, De Paul succeeded to

the entire interest of its affiliate.

In the intervening years, the location of the College of Law was changed several times, and in August, 1957 it commenced occupancy of present quarters, the Frank J. Lewis Center, in Chicago's Loop. This site was named after the man who gave to De Paul University the skyscraper of eighteen stories, into which the College of Law was moved. The administrative offices of the College of Law and its classrooms are located on the eighth floor, and the law library, surrounded by faculty offices, occupies the seventh floor. Within the rare book section of the law library is a treasure of Saint Thomas More's writings: "The



*A wing of the DePaul University Law Library.*

Workes of Sir Thomas More Knyght, Sometyme Lorde Chancellour of England. Printed at London at the Coste and Charge of John Cawood, John Walley, and Richard Tottle, Apryll, 1557." Saint Thomas More is also represented in one of the six stained



*Dean Daniel P. Ward*

glass windows which enshrine the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, on the first floor of the Frank J. Lewis Center.

An annual custom at De Paul University is the celebration of the Red Mass, accompanied by a sermon on the natural law, given by Father Comerford J. O'Malley,

C.M., S.T.D., President. For several years, Father John T. Richardson, C.M., S.T.D., Executive Vice President, has conducted a course in philosophy of law for all law students. Moreover, the *De Paul Law Review*, published by the College of Law semi-annually, has featured many articles and reviews devoted to philosophic aspects of the modern practice of law.

True to the Vincentian philosophy of educating leaders for the people, the four thousand law alumni of De Paul practice in jurisdictions throughout the United States. Twenty-five graduates serve as judges in various courts: the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the United States District Courts and in state, county and municipal tribunals throughout the Midwest. The present Law Dean, Daniel P. Ward, had served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for seven years before assuming his present office. Assistant Dean Philip Romiti has had more than a decade of experience as a local magistrate. For forty-eight years, De Paul University College of Law has educated her graduates to become "valuable assets" of their communities, formed and fashioned in the twin traditions of Saint Thomas More and Saint Vincent De Paul.