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## Editorial Comment

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# EDITORIAL COMMENT

Featured in this issue of *The Catholic Lawyer* is the lead paper presented at the International Congress of Pax Romana held in Dublin, Ireland on August 28 to September 3, 1976. Authored by Professor Allen Sultan of the University of Detroit School of Law, it is entitled "The Constitutional Principle of Equality and Sex-Based Differential Treatment in American Law."

It has long been the hope of many Catholic lawyers in the United States and Canada, particularly those connected with the activities of Catholic lawyers' guilds, to establish an American organization to coordinate and advise the multitude of recently founded state and municipal Catholic legal groups. *The Catholic Lawyer*, from its inception, has offered its pages for the publication of articles and materials helpful to the organization and promotion of these guilds.

A national federation of Catholic lawyers' guilds may still be a long way from fruition because of the myriad problems which must necessarily be solved as a preliminary to its successful establishment. The Editors of *The Catholic Lawyer* have long felt that some impetus should be given to the promotion of the idea in this country. A step toward the accomplishment of this end is to publicize the activities of organizations in other countries which have as their purpose the same dominant theme.

In 1950, a group of Catholic lawyers met in France with the purpose of founding an international secretariat of lawyers as a part of Pax Romana, which is an intellectual and cultural international Catholic movement. In July of the following year, during the Plenary Assembly of Pax Romana in France, the International Secretariat of Lawyers was founded.

The *raison d'être* for the Secretariat is to assist in the attainment of the goals of Pax Romana and in particular:

a) to probe, according to the Roman Catholic faith and Catholic morality, the human and social problems of special concern to the legal professions;

b) to facilitate meetings and contacts among the Catholic lawyers of every country, and to establish a mutual cooperation and assistance, in order to realize Christian principles in legal science, legislative, judicial and administrative activities, especially with regard to the public and professional life of each country; and

c) to provide an international forum for the discussion of these problems and the realization of these principles.

The International Secretariat of Lawyers has its seat in Rome. Acting from this central location, it provides a link between national associations of Catholic lawyers and assists the activities of already existing organizations. It studies the fundamental principles of law according to Christian

thought and proposes Christian solutions to problems raised by the legal professions. The attainment of these ends is often accomplished through meetings and congresses organized by the Secretariat.

When a national association of Catholic lawyers is established in any country, a representative from that country can be sent to the International Committee to participate in discussions and planning. The Committee meets about every third month in Rome, Paris, Brussels, and, on occasion, in other cities, which in the past have included Rheims, Montreal, Beirut, Vienna, Louvain, Luxembourg, Bonn, Bochum, Dublin, and cities of the United States. In addition to the quarterly Committee meeting, the Secretariat has already organized seven international congresses and five regional meetings.

In 1974 the Congress met here in the United States at the University of Detroit School of Law. At that time the theme of the Congress was "the contribution of Christian principles to the promotion of social justice". The papers of that Congress were published in *The Catholic Lawyer*<sup>1</sup> as were the papers of a preceding Congress held in Spain in 1965 and which dealt with the theme of "Law and Religious Liberty."<sup>2</sup>

  
Editor

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<sup>1</sup> 20 Cath. Law. 173-232 (1974).

<sup>2</sup> 11 Cath. Law. 271-312 (1965).