Editorial Comment

Edward T. Fagan

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Various celebrations are being held in 1977-1978 throughout the world to honor St. Thomas More on the five-hundredth anniversary of his birth. *The Catholic Lawyer* has always demonstrated an admiration for and a devotion to this man by displaying his portrait on the front cover of each issue and by featuring, during the past twenty years, many articles dealing with his life and his works. In addition, *The Catholic Lawyer* is published by the Saint Thomas More Institute for Legal Research, which was founded to promote the principles which were championed by this Saint.

Many of our readers may be interested in also expressing an interest in Saint Thomas More and playing a part in guaranteeing that these quincentennial years will provide funds to insure that all of More's works will be permanently available to future generations.

In this connection the Yale University Press is conducting a fund-raising drive through the year 1978 which is tax deductible and which is its first, last and only request for financial aid.

Since 1958, the Yale University Press has published eight of fifteen scheduled volumes of the *Complete Works* of Saint Thomas More. Two others (vols. 2 and 6) are in press, scheduled to appear in 1978 and 1979. In addition, a series of Selected Works (with modern spelling and punctuation, in paperback) has produced four volumes, with a fifth (the Tower Works) just now going to press. Until 1973, the expenses of running the central editorial office were borne by a grant from a private foundation; since that date it has been supported by the editing program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Yale University Press has recently received word from the Endowment that its request for aid for the 1978-1979 period (Oct. 1-Oct. 1) has been approved; but, at the same time, it has been informed that all major research projects requesting renewed funding must contain, in addition to the award of outright funds, a gifts and matching component. The Press must, in consequence, raise, before July 1, 1979, $10,000. If it can do this, the Endowment in turn will match that sum, thus awarding the full request. Two hundred contributions of $50 would take the Press through this period.

The Press is at present maintaining a publication schedule of one volume of the *Complete Works* per year; if it can hold to this schedule, the edition will be complete in 1985-1986. If its fund drive can raise approximately $50,000, the Press feels that with the matching support of the Endowment, it shall be financially secure for the remainder of its work. The drive has the enthusiastic backing of the Endowment itself, which is ever-pressed to spread its limited funds among many worthwhile projects and which tries, wherever possible, to enlist private support for its public ventures. It also has the full support of *The Catholic Lawyer*.

The Yale University Press thus welcomes any contribution, be it larger or smaller than $50, and has most generously offered to guarantee a 20% discount to all major ($100 or more) contributors to the drive. This guarantee applies not only to all volumes presently in print but also to all future volumes to be published in both series of the edition. Checks should be made payable to "The St. Thomas More Project, Yale University" and sent to "1986 Yale Station, New Haven, Conn., 06520."

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Editor