

April 2016

Lawyers' Guilds, The Red Mass, Foreign Correspondence, Lawyer Priests

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Recommended Citation

(1955) "Lawyers' Guilds, The Red Mass, Foreign Correspondence, Lawyer Priests," *The Catholic Lawyer*.
Vol. 1 : No. 4 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/tcl/vol1/iss4/12>

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LETTERS

Lawyers' Guilds

To the Editor:

You mentioned that you were interested in the Catholic Italian lawyers. Hence, I enclose a notice of their program and works.

This fall, in Rome, the seventh annual meeting of the *Unione Giuristi Cattolici Italiani* will take place. This well-organized group of Italy's Catholic lawyers hopes to arrange, as in past years, for the Holy Father, himself a great jurist, to be the main speaker.

This association of lawyers (UGCI), though only of post-war origin, has already achieved many things. It publishes a beautifully edited bi-monthly magazine entitled *Justitia*, as well as a monthly bulletin *Vita Dell'Unione*. (The cost for both together for countries other than Italy is 1500 lire [\$2.50] payable to UGCI, via della Conciliazione 4 d Rome.). The local units of UGCI from Milan to Messina meet regularly and the group in Rome is especially active. Annually the whole association meets in Rome to discuss a pre-established topic. The papers and discussions at these reunions are subsequently published in full and each volume offers ideas and developments on the implications of the natural moral law which, it should be said, are a good deal in advance over the discussions of the natural law that have been held in America up to this time.

Among the topics discussed have been the function of the state, economic liberty and private property, nationalism and the

international community as well as religious liberty. These last two topics are the subject of an excellent brochure published by UGCI. Another book edited by UGCI is *Diritto Naturale Vigente*, an interesting collection of essays by well-known Italian jurists on various modern interpretations of the natural moral law.

Justitia, UGCI's periodical, has now and then a pleasant literary exchange of ideas with *Jus, Rivista di Scienze Giuridiche*, a quarterly published by the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. *Jus* is outstanding for its contributions on natural law jurisprudence. An example of its high quality can be seen in an article in the June 1954 issue by G. Aceti on a re-evaluation of Giorgio del Vecchio, the gifted professor of jurisprudence in the University of Rome whose philosophy of law is metaphysical rather than positivistic but Kantian rather than Thomistic.

The editors of *Justitia* are also in close contact with the *Rivista Internazionale di Filosofia del Diritto*, a quarterly now in its 32nd year, edited at Rome by Del Vecchio. Naturally the editors of all three of these reviews are interested in the philosophy of law as it is developing in other nations and especially in the United States. Recently, for example, an article appeared reviewing the American legal literature concerning Holmes' pragmatism and showing the ever increasing interest in the United States in the problems of the philosophy of law. It should be noted, however, that European jurists seem to be a good bit ahead of Americans in their analyses of

the historical, analytical and natural law schools of jurisprudence.

One of the major tasks of the UGCI has been collaboration with the first International Congress of Catholic Jurists, a new association which, in cooperation with Pax Romana, met in Paris in October, 1953. Catholic jurists from Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Holland, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Rumania and Switzerland came to this well organized congress to discuss a topic which was rightly chosen as one of the great problems of the day — "The Family and the Juridical Order." The very worthwhile papers given at this Congress were collected and published in the March 1954 issue of *Les Cahiers Du Droit*, the quarterly of the Catholic jurists of France (Rue de Flanders, Paris 19, 800 francs, \$2.32 per year). This journal, it might be added, is well worth investigating. Some of its recent articles discuss a spirituality for the legal profession, Christianity and international law, and kindred topics, — all done with a subtlety and profundity not always found among American jurists.

UGCI, in cooperation with the International Congress of Catholic Jurists, will be represented at the international meeting of Pax Romana, the Catholic University movement, on August 17-25 at London and Nottingham, England. It is hoped at this time to make more permanent contact with the Catholic jurists of England and the United States who, even if they follow another system of law, yet face the same basic problems as do the Catholic jurists of the Continent. Indeed it is to be hoped that the example and inspiration of the Catholic jurists of Italy and France and other nations will be the last spark needed to unite

the various Catholic legal guilds and associations of the United States into a strong national unit dedicated to the study and advancement of the natural moral law.

Robert F. Drinan, S.J.

Father Drinan is admitted to practice in Washington, D. C.

The Red Mass

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

To the Editor:

Page 253 of the July issue of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER names 18 cities where the Red Mass is observed. For your information we have been celebrating the Red Mass in Paterson, New Jersey since the formation of the Catholic Lawyers Guild on January 26, 1946, the first Red Mass being held on September 23, 1946.

This year it will be celebrated on October 20 at 7:30 P.M.

John C. Wegner

The Red Mass is also celebrated in the following places:

- Bridgeport, Conn.
- Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Buffalo, N. Y.
- New Orleans, La.
- Newark, N. J.
- Northampton, Pa.
- Portland, Me.
- Rochester, N. Y.
- Rockland County, N. Y.
- Troy, N. Y.
- Yonkers, N. Y.

Foreign Correspondence

PARIS, FRANCE

To the Editor:

His Excellency Msgr. Wright, Bishop of Worcester, Mass., has sent to me the first number of your magazine: THE CATHOLIC LAWYER, Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1955.

As we work here in France in the same way I send to you the three last issues of our magazine: "Les Cahiers du Droit." I wish to receive your issues of April and July. And later, can you send to me all your numbers and I shall do the same with our "Cahiers du Droit"?

It seems to me necessary to keep in touch with all Catholic lawyers all over the world.

I am, Reverend Father, yours sincerely
in Our Lord,

Fr. Ambrose Faidherbe, O.P.
General Chaplain of the French Federation
of Catholic Groups in the Law Courts.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

To the Editor:

Our Archbishop, the Most Reverend Philip Francis Pocock, D.D., J.C.D., pointed out the beauty of your new publication, THE CATHOLIC LAWYER. I have

seen one issue and think it is outstanding.

Would you kindly put me on your subscribers list, and predate it from your first issue which I understand was this spring.

I wish you every success.

Nester Kohut

Lawyer-Priests

MANITOWOC, WISCONSIN

To the Editor:

Will you please add the following name to your list of priest-lawyers:

Rev. Basil R. Reuss, O. Praem
St. Norbert College
West De Pere, Wisconsin

Arthur M. Scheller, Jr.

Other lawyer-priests are:

Rev. Mr. James F. Bresnahan, S.J.
Weston College
Weston, Mass.

Rev. George B. Gray
St. Mary's Church
Melrose, Mass.

Rev. Roderick Hunt, C. P.
Passionist Monastery
West Springfield, Mass.

Msgr. Christopher Clark
Assistant Chancellor
31 Mulberry Street
Newark, New Jersey



THE CATHOLIC LAWYER

Attention Please!

TIME TO RENEW

The October Issue completes Volume I of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER. Subscriptions that started with Volume I, Number I will expire with this issue.

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