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## Editorial Comment

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# Editorial Comment

Five years ago Father Tinnelly organized the St. Thomas More Institute for Legal Research. The chief purposes he set for the Institute were to do legal research in subjects of interest or importance to Catholics, and to publish *THE CATHOLIC LAWYER* as a continuing periodical report of research, done by the Institute or by others, in such subjects.

Five years ago Father Tinnelly was one of many who perceived and declared the need for a magazine devoted to the study of those legal problems in which the law's relation to religion, philosophy and morality are particularly pertinent. Yet, among all those who perceived and declared that need, Father Tinnelly was singularly blessed by Providence. He alone possessed that combination of zeal, skill, and means which the work of translating the thought and the talk about a Catholic lawyers' magazine into the reality of *THE CATHOLIC LAWYER* required. The zeal he brought to this task compounds the fortitude which characterizes researchers in the law with the love of God's truth which has hurried the feet of St. Vincent's sons into the highways and hedges of the world for the three centuries just past. Father Tinnelly's skill is that of a man, a priest and a lawyer, who knows how to learn by both experience and study. The means, without which Father Tinnelly's zeal for this task could have had no real effect, were the resources, in personnel and in money, of the School of Law of St. John's University. From these resources, put into his hands by the University Trustees, Father Tinnelly fashioned both the St. Thomas More Institute and *THE CATHOLIC LAWYER*.

Neither Father Tinnelly's planning nor the Trustees' generosity could have borne fruit if dozens of men and women, members and advisors of the Institute and authors of articles for publication, had not contributed hard, intelligent and generous labor.

Before Father Tinnelly left the Law School last summer to assume the duties of Religious Superior at the Vincentian Fathers' House at Lewis Avenue in Brooklyn, the St. Thomas More Institute had developed,

under his planning and guidance, the full potential of continuing publication of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER. As the new editor of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER, it is my responsibility to see that the Institute's best potential is fully realized.

Whatever might be said of the success of the Institute or of the excellence of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER would be meaningless and illusory if the magazine had not interested its readers. The readers have received with special enthusiasm those issues of THE CATHOLIC LAWYER where symposia have been presented. Therefore, that format, a set of integrated studies on a single theme, will be followed in at least some future issues.

In the Winter Issue of 1960 will appear the Catholic Association for International Peace conference papers on the theme *Juridical World Order, Legacy of Pope Pius XII*. Father Drinan, Dean of the Boston College Law School, has done a very clear study of the development of Pope Pius' thinking on world organization. Specific aspects of the central theme are developed in the accompanying papers.

For next Spring's issue, a symposium on the problems of legal punishment is in preparation. The participants will state and examine the problems from the points of view of the law enforcement official, the correction official, the prosecutor, the moralist, and the sociologist.

We who are charged with continuing the St. Thomas More Institute and THE CATHOLIC LAWYER very much need, and earnestly solicit, the help of the advisors and readers of the magazine. An occasional kind word is a courtesy we appreciate, but that is not the sort of help we most urgently require. Unless we receive definite criticism of the magazine's contents, and specific suggestions of subjects for study and of approaches to those subjects, we cannot shape the magazine to the readers' needs and interests. Especially, we ask from the readers material for and comment upon the continuing departments in which are discussed moral problems in legal practice and projects for Catholic lawyers' guilds.

*William F. Cahill*

EDITOR