

Please return Sargent's
Life of St. Thomas More
to the Cavanaugh Library.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
May 19, 1939

The Novena Is On.

IN THE SPIRIT OF
SAINT THOMAS MORE.



People, including students for the law, too often assume there is bound to be conflict between the lawyer's profession and the Catholic Faith.

In fact, people have assumed this so long that many good Catholic young men have steered themselves away from the law; and others, in the face of the assumption, have taken up law, half-hoping that by God's grace they may perhaps come through good Catholics and good lawyers both.

It is like the confidential exchange of remarks between a sharp shyster and a worthy gentleman whose primary love was the law and justice:

"A good lawyer can't be honest today."

"Well, I'm not very good."

Obviously the struggle is not between the ideal Catholic (who practices law) and his Faith. It's between the shyster lawyer and the Catholic Faith.

The conclusion you want to draw, particularly if you're a Catholic lawyer-to-be, is this: "My first love must be, not money nor a 'shark' reputation in this life (the topflight divorce or criminal lawyer here and abroad) but The Law."

Of lay professions none is more noble than the practice of law. For, if it means anything, it means the pursuit of Justice.

One point that needs to be stressed perhaps more than any other is the special function of the Catholic lawyer today as always. His is the duty of promulgating, defending and applying God's law-- that is, God's mind as expressed in the nature of things (the natural law) and His mind as expressed in revelation (divine, positive law).

That means, whether it's "on the books" or not, is not his primary concern (though that is important) but whether this matter-at-hand, this case, this client's proposition can be defended before God as well as before the bar of the State.

Take divorce-- not separation-- but the so-called "splitting of the marriage bond" with the "right" to re-marry. God's law is precise. "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." Hollywood (and other places) live outside God's law.

It's no cinch for a Catholic lawyer to practice his profession in full accord with his Faith. But "no cinch" doesn't mean "conflict" or "impossibility." It means "difficulty" and "sticking to the Law," not yielding to "expediency," not selling his soul for a fee.

It is better for you to lose your head St. Thomas More's way than to lose it, in vain, for the love of Mammon.