

❖ Ad Veritatem ❖

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RED MASS: May 5, 1996

The first recorded Red Mass, a special Mass for the Bench and Bar, was celebrated in Paris in 1245. For many centuries it was held in the chapel of the Order of Advocates, La Sainte Chapelle, which was built by Louis IX. In certain localities of France, the Red Mass was celebrated in honor of St. Ives, the patron Saint of Lawyers.

In England, the tradition began about 1310 during the reign of Edward I. The entire Bench and Bar attended the Red Mass together at the opening of each term of Court. The priests and judges of the High Court wore red robes thus the Eucharistic celebration became popularly known as the "Red Mass".

The tradition of the Red Mass has continued in the United States. In Washington D.C., the members of the United States Supreme Court join the President and members of Congress in the celebration at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Red Mass is also celebrated in Sacramento and most other state capitals and major cities throughout the United States.

The first Red Mass in Orange County was celebrated in 1988 and was well attended by the Bench and Bar. It is our hope that the celebration of the Red Mass will become as much a tradition in Orange County as it is in the United States and other parts of the world.

This year the Red Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5, 1996, at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Family Cathedral in Orange. The Santiago de Compostela choir, under the direction of Linda Gatlin, will provide the music accompanied by a brass quartet. A reception will follow in the Holy Family Cathedral Hall. It is hoped that scheduling the celebration on a Sunday afternoon will make it easier for the members of the Orange County Bench and Bar to attend with their families.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Dave Belz at 347-0447.

A Message from Our Chaplain: Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem

In the last edition of *Ad Veritatem*, there appeared the text of very beautiful as well as challenging prayer which is recited each day by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. The prayer, called the "Litany of Humility", was attributed to Mother Teresa's pen. This false attribution was a felix culpa ("happy or fortunate mistake") since it provides the opportunity to say a few words of interest to members of the legal profession about its true author.

Cardinal Rafael Merry Del Val was Secretary of State to Pope Saint Pius X from 1903 to 1914. From a family which was by various twists of fate, Irish, Spanish, and English, he was such a promising student of canon and civil law that Pope Leo XIII made him a monsignor at the age of twenty-two, before he was even a priest. Before he was thirty years old, he had been sent on diplomatic missions to England, Canada, Ireland, Spain, Bohemia, Germany, and Austria. At thirty-eight, he was made Cardinal and Secretary of State for St. Pius X. Until the end of his life at sixty-five in 1930, he held the highest offices in and fulfilled the most delicate diplomatic tasks for, the Holy

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*"I die His Majesty's
good servant, but
God's first."*

*St. Thomas More's
last words prior to
his death.*

*Editor's Note:
"Ad Veritatem" is Latin
for "toward the truth".*

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FEBRUARY DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Law Practice and the Christian Ideal

At last month's meeting, Greg Weiler of Palmieri, Tyler, Wiener, Wilhelm & Waldron gave a beautiful and deeply felt summary of his life, including admissions of his own failings and a moving testimonial as to the profound influence of Christ in his life.

Greg is a cradle Catholic including 12 years of Catholic school education but adolescence and adulthood found him fully integrated into the secular world. A symptom of this secularism was evidenced by the "I" disease: *I want this, I need this, I accomplished this, I have this talent, I don't like this.* Greg candidly admitted that he never let his Catholic faith interfere with his work, political views, or his recreation. His faith was neatly compartmentalized into Sunday Mass and selected times of charity. Greg compared his life at that time to being like the Hubble telescope before the fix: a fuzzy unusable image of what he was trying to see and be. Through young adulthood, he felt a certain anxiety - an ill-defined but surely present uneasiness in his life.

Greg's conversion to a true Christian life was gradual but was nonetheless by revelation from the hand of God. Although he was not born in Tarsus and never travelled the Damascus Road, over a ten year period of marriage, exposure to a holy man, and the influence of the Christian community at the Mission San Juan Capistrano culminating in a "Cursillo" retreat, Greg came to dedicate himself to the Christian ideal and Christ.

What is the Christian ideal? The Catechism of the Catholic Church ("CCC") describes a vocation in Christ in terms of the Beatitudes (CCC Section 1716):

"The Beatitudes are the heart of Jesus' preaching. They take up promises made to the Chosen People since Abraham..."

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be

called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven." (Matthew 5:3-12)

"The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray His charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of His Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the Saints.

"The beatitudes we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches that true happiness is not found in riches or well being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement - however beneficial it may be - such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love."

The bottom line is that each of us must place Christ as our ideal, the ultimate, irreducible standard, which we must apply to every aspect of our life. We must become a martyr for Christ, not by giving up our life, but by the more difficult task of sacrificing our life for Christ day in and day out, week in and week out, year in and year out.

If we all know the ideal, why don't we practice it? If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is our Creator, if we truly believe in His love and His promises of eternal life with Him, then why don't we **"Just do it"**?

St. Thomas More stated that it would be wholly illogical and, in fact, nonsensical to accept in a conscious trade the benefits we derive from this short temporal life, for all eternity. Unfortunately, the answers to the above queries are all too evident. Notwithstanding the degree of dedication to the Christian ideal, we apparently are unwilling to dedicate the resources necessary to live the ideal. We cannot do it alone, but only from the grace of God. We must seek that grace - it can be acquired in many

See WEILER (Continued on page 3)

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(Continued from page 1) **CHAPLAIN**

See. In the context of such a life, one can better appreciate the spirituality which produced such an extraordinarily incisive prayer as his "Litany of Humility". With all the temptations offered by power and influence from such an early age, he countered the attack by the keenness of the eye of faith which sees every work in the light of the example and grace offered by Christ. In this he was a lawyer's lawyer, a man of justice, whose honesty began with himself in his deepest core, with Christ the Judge. Rafael Merry Del Val's prayer shows as well the stark difference between the psychology of success, self-esteem, and self-affirmation and the genuine, authentic, and powerful force of an inner life lived under the eye of a loving, but demanding God, who has given us our talents for His glory and the good of our neighbor. That Mother Teresa should recite everyday this prayer of a powerful diplomat and jurist shows the real genius of the Christian life, which is able to unite persons of such different paths in life in the same supernatural ideal, while preserving the unique vocation of each.

The cause for the beatification of Cardinal Rafael Merry Del Val was begun in 1953. He is buried in a tomb in the grotto under St. Peter's in Rome, near the tomb of St. Peter himself and the other popes he served.

It is good to repeat the text of this tough, unflinching prayer. What inner freedom we would enjoy if we were to receive the graces for which this prayer asks!

Litany of Humility

"O Jesus, meek and humble of heart! Hear me.

Jesus, deliver me:

From the desire of being esteemed;

From the desire of being loved;

From the desire of being sought after;

From the desire of being honored;

From the desire of being praised;

From the desire of being preferred to others;

From the desire of being consulted;

From the desire of being approved;

From the fear of being humbled;

From the fear of being despised;

From the fear of suffering rebuffs;

From the fear of being calumniated;

From the fear of being forgotten;

From the fear of being ridiculed;

From the fear of being injured;

From the fear of being suspected.

Jesus, Grant be the grace to wish:

That others may be loved more than I;

That others may increase in the opinion of the world and I diminish;

That others may be employed and I set aside;

That others may be praised and I overlooked;

That others may be preferred to me in everything;

That others may be more holy than I, provided that I am as holy as I can be."

(Continued from page 2) **WEILER**

ways, but all of them require expenditure of that commodity which lawyers value so highly but seem to always lack: **TIME!** Time to pray; time for the Sacraments; time for charity; time for all of the manifold aids to spirituality ignored by most people, and certainly by most lawyers.

We all agree that any meaningful attempt at the Christian ideal requires time. But time in the legal profession means money and, therefore, less time for work means less money! Many of us are guilty of the most base form of idolatry - we have created edifices of worldly possessions which we worship daily, ahead of Christ: our professional reputations, our practices, our incomes, our big houses, our fancy cars, our pension plans, our vacations.

We each must make a decisive moral choice as to the expenditure of our time, which choice will, by definition, require the sacrifice of some of the material items we hold so dear. Greg candidly acknowledged that he is in the midst of the struggle to

live a Christ-centered life and that struggle is resulting in many changes to his practice, including reducing the hours in his practice in order to put Christ first. He is trying to reduce and eliminate using the vernacular profanity of the modern business world. He will no longer entertain clients at boxing events or "men's clubs". He tries to treat everyone the same from the janitor to the most senior partner. He is also trying to implement an abiding fairness and equity in his practice which, under today's standards, can be deemed weakness.

In closing, Greg noted that to live the life requested by Christ, to be the face of Christ to everyone from the poorest of the poor to the biggest client, takes a decisive moral choice. It takes a commitment, a total commitment, which can only be met with faith. The gift of faith can only exist when sought out, when it is pursued through the many spiritual aids provided to us by our Lord: prayer; the Sacraments; Christian community; good works. But all of these things take **TIME!**

Where do you spend your most precious commodity?

For a framed copy of this cartoon, contact "FOR COUNSEL" 25599 SW 95th St., Wilsonville, OR 97070. For a catalog, call 800-637-0098

FRANK & ERNEST®

by Bob Thaves



Scriptural Corner:

"As Jesus was starting on His way again, a man ran up, knelt before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?'"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not accuse anyone falsely; do not cheat; respect your father and your mother.'"

"Teacher," the man said, "ever since I was young, I have obeyed all these commandments."

Jesus looked straight at him with love and said, "You need only one thing. Go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me." When the young man heard this, gloom spread over his face, and he went away sad, because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around at his disciples and said to them, "How hard it will be for rich people to enter the Kingdom of God!"

The disciples were shocked at these words, but Jesus went on to say, "My children, how hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God! It is much harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

At this the disciples were completely amazed and asked one another, "Who, then, can be saved?"

Jesus looked straight at them and answered, "This is impossible for man but not for God; everything is possible for God."

Then Peter spoke up, "Look, we have left everything and followed You."

"Yes," Jesus said to them, "and I tell you that anyone who leaves home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children nor fields for Me and the Gospel will receive much more in the present age. He will receive a hundred times more houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields and persecutions as well; and in the age to come he will receive eternal life. But many who are now first will be last and many who are now last will be first."

From The Library:

That Man is You by Louis Evely

With the devastating directness of the Sermon on the Mount, Abbe Evely shows us how to attune our minds with God's on such issues as Scriptural reading, love of neighbor, forgiveness, the life of faith, lay spirituality, and heaven. "Evely has a knack of making us perceive the full import, spiritual and human, of the truths we thought we understood and of making us see them from a different angle, under irrecusable light...He makes the Gospels come to life, so that we often seem to be ...reading them for the first time." Yves M. C. Congar, O.P. in the Preface. Available at The Paulist Press Bookstore in Costa Mesa.

Ad Veritatem

ST. THOMAS MORE SOCIETY

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NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 21, 1996

TOPIC: "Getting back to your Law School Dream: Service to the Community"

SPEAKER: Deborah Knefel, Assistant City Attorney, Anaheim

PLACE AND TIME: Rutan & Tucker, 12th Floor, 12 noon R.S.V.P. 641-3450