

TWO PRAYERS TO SAINT THOMAS MORE

As a consequence of the Red Mass in Nassau County, N.Y., last september 30, Justice Miles Mc Donald entered our fellowship ; through him the Supreme Court of the State of New York has a place in our addressing files. He has been a fervent devotee of St. Thomas More for a long time, and St John's University Law School owes him the pride of its More collection.

PRAYER FOR LAWYERS

St. Thomas More, be our advocate and counsel before the Divine tribunal that alone is without error. Bespeak for us the wisdom to apply the precepts of God's eternal law to the problems of our daily practice. Intercede for us that we may emulate the sense of humor which made your heart echo with the mirth of heaven. Pray that we may spurn false oaths and live as you did, faithful to our trust as members of the Bar, even though by doing so we may be called upon to sacrifice our lives as you sacrificed yours. These things seek for us through the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Nihil Obstat
Thomas W. Smiddy, S.T.L. Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR:
Thomas Edmundus Molloy, S.T.D.
Archiepiscopus-Episcopus Brooklynensis
BROOKLYNII Die xxiii Martii, 1954

THE CATHOLIC LAWYER

Overleaf is another prayer to St Thomas - is it the one by Henry Bender which appeared in *Catholic Mind* ? The handwritten sheet reproduced on p. 78 was given me, I suppose, by my Montreal cousin Judge John-J. Penverne. Mme Madeleine Bataille penned the title, but I forget, if I ever knew, who copied the rest.

A rarer achievement, he composed a prayer to the patron saint of common lawyers, which we here reproduce from a little card, complete with the 1954 imprimatur.

The text appeared in various forms ; once at least in fairly large size underneath a bearded Lord Chancellor wearing his S-S collar, with a kind of Rabelaisian glint in his eye. The artist must have remembered More's joke about his beard having committed no treason, while forgetting the point of the joke, namely that, being prison-grown, his beard was posterior to the alleged crime for which he was imprisoned. Never did More wear both a beard and an S.S. chain at the same time.

~ A LAWYER'S PRAYER

THOMAS MORE, counselor and advocate learned in the law - chancellor of charity and jurist of justice - merry martyr, scholar and canonized saint - may the LORD of all law and of all lawyers make me at your request a little more like you today than I was yesterday.

PRAY that for the greater glory of GOD and in pursuit of His justice, I may be able in argument, accurate in analysis, strict in study, correct in conclusion, candid with clients, honest with adversaries, faithful in all details to the faith. Sit with me at my desk and listen with me to my client's tales, read with me in my library, and stand beside me in court, so that today I shall not, to win a point, lose my soul.

PRAY that my wife and children may find in me what they have a right there to see - honour and humility, cheerfulness and charity, an approach to wisdom, counsel, sound consolation and a little bit of the shadow of you.

SAINT THOMAS MORE, brother lawyer who by your membership has proven our sullied profession not only honourable but also compatible with stout masculine sanctity, pray for us now engaged in the struggle to imitate our DIVINE MASTER.

LORD CHANCELLOR, stand retained by us before the Infinite LORD JUSTICE who will preside when we are to be tried.