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Greetings from the Loyola University School of Law

A. E. Papale

The faculty, staff, and student body of the Loyola University School of Law join me in extending sincere greetings and congratulations to the Louisiana State University School of Law on the occasion of its golden anniversary. In so doing we are conscious that these exercises would be in vain if all we are here to venerate were merely these hallowed halls, more than ninety thousand law books, a beautiful campus and a curriculum divorced from philosophy, jurisprudence, and justice. To the contrary, we are here assembled to do honor to the men and women living and dead who now dedicate and who have dedicated their lives to the high purpose of legal education on these premises during the past fifty years. An adequate physical plant, a good legal laboratory, and a sound financial structure are, to be sure, necessary adjuncts of a good law school. However, the heart and soul, the spirit and vitality of a law school are its faculty. Without a group of loyal men and women dedicated to the highest ideals and possessed of an unquenchable thirst for truth and justice, a law school would veritably be but a hollow shell, just another trade school.

It is our contention that a law school which turns out merely trained technicians, legal plumbers as it were, though skilled in the art of advocacy, yet lacking in moral and ethical norms, fails tragically to measure up to the demands of the majesty of the law.

Were we not convinced that such is not the case with regard to the law school we honor and venerate today, I dare say we would not be here.

If you will excuse a personal reference, let me recall that this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of my entrance into the profession of legal education. Except for a short leave of absence during the war years, this quarter of a century was spent as a law teacher at Loyola University in New Orleans. During this period I have had the good fortune to observe personally the many distinguished law teachers who have served at

this institution. And of deep satisfaction to me is the fact three of them were my associates and two of them are my former students and graduates of Loyola. Thus almost one-third of the present faculty share with us at Loyola fond memories of this association. While Loyola's law school is much younger than yours, nonetheless we claim the privilege of being ranked as a sister institution of the great law school of L.S.U. And in this relationship we are happy to work towards a common goal, that of developing young men and women imbued with the best traditions of the Bench and Bar.

I would be remiss on this occasion were I not to mention the cordial and friendly relations existing with our neighbor and friendly competitor, the Tulane Law School. Time does not permit me to enumerate the many instances of friendly cooperation with this institution.

Circumstances undoubtedly unique have contributed in making the faculties of all three law schools in a certain sense one big happy family. The fact that one member from each faculty serves annually on the Board of Governors of the State Bar Association, one member of the faculty from each school serves on the Bar Admissions Advisory Committee and an equal number of faculty members from each school serves on the Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute, certainly has contributed in bringing us together and thus forcing us to share the responsibilities that the law schools owe to the bench, the bar, and the community.

We at Loyola have as our main objective the development of future members of the bar, who, in addition to being well trained in legal knowledge and procedure, are possessed of a philosophy of law enabling them in the highest sense of the word to become a credit to themselves, to their profession, to their country, and to their God. We trust and pray that you share these sentiments.

As practically everyone here is a member of the bar and as most of us have lived through two hot world wars and several cold ones, it behooves us to heed the beautiful words of the invocation just pronounced and the equally beautiful words of the invocation by the Very Reverend W. Patrick Donnelly, S.J., President of Loyola University, delivered at the Deep South Regional Meeting of the American Bar Association at New Orleans on November 28, 1955. He said, in part:

“As Americans we prayerfully thank Almighty God for the providential guidance that has made our country a land of free men dedicated to freedom — a land that serves as a beacon of light and an island of hope to enslaved nations everywhere.

“We are humbly grateful that our freedom is enshrined to a constitution that begins with an act of reverence to the Creator and an acknowledgment of the God-given rights and dignity of every human being regardless of race, creed, or color.

“Therefore, and as a consequence, we know that it is our constitution and its implementation by just laws that have made and kept us free.

“Tonight we honor and salute with pride and appreciation the members of the American Bar Association in Southern Regional convocation assembled. These are the men who make the American Constitution, the laws of the state and city live in the lives of every-day Americans, and we ask You to bless them one and all. Their lives are devoted to the majesty of the law and hence the safety and security of the nation and the protection of its citizens.”

In like manner today we honor and salute with pride and appreciation the Louisiana State University School of Law which is dedicated to the task of inculcating these principles in the minds and hearts of its law students in order that these principles might live and be transmitted to generations yet unborn.

In the words of Lincoln, the world will little note nor long remember what we say here today, but may it never forget what you, Dean Hebert, your predecessors, and your associates have done and will do here for the greater glory of the L.S.U. School of Law.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to congratulate the two distinguished honorees who by their unselfish devotion to the highest ideals of the legal profession have justly earned the honor to be conferred on them at this evening's exercises. May God bless them and be with them always.

I have already privately congratulated the chairman of the Anniversary Committee, but I cannot resist this temptation to do it again publicly. Denson, I marvel at the beauty of this

program and I congratulate you on your selection of the four distinguished principal speakers.

Two of them have already give us much food for thought. I look forward with pleasure to hear the others this afternoon and the remarks of the honorees this evening.

I know that I speak the sentiments of all my associates that are here present that it is a real pleasure to be here on this most memorable occasion. Thank you very much.