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Reverend Joseph J. Donovan, S. J. 1891-1977—In Memoriam

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*Edmund G. Brown**

Reverend Father Joseph J. Donovan was one of the finest men I have ever met. He was a great priest, a good man, lawyer and friend, and in every sense of the word, a good politician.

He was born two doors from me in the 1600 block of Grove Street in San Francisco. I knew him then, but he was a little older, and I didn't remember him too well. However, he remembered me as the bad boy on the block. He reminded me of all these things when I became Attorney General. When he was Dean of Loyola Law School, we would meet from time to time.

The greatest thing he did for the State of California and for me was to recommend fine young men and women for appointment to the bench. He would confidentially advise me of their strengths and weaknesses. He was always gentle in his criticisms, but I could tell when he felt that a person would make a good judge.

The individual for recommendation had to come from Loyola because he believed it was the finest law school in the land.

I can only tell you that every judge who graduated from Loyola Law School during my eight years as Governor was passed on from Father Donovan. I appointed those whom he strongly recommended and never appointed any of the few about whom he had some misgivings.

Father Joseph Donovan was a cheerful, lusty and gentle man. His good works have lived after him and thousands of men and women who came to him received not only good practical advice but spiritual inspiration as well.

This world is a far better place because Father Joseph Donovan passed through it.

* Governor of California (1959-67).