

Executive Committee

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*Regis Servus Dei Prius*

January 26, 2021

Dear Members:

Although February is (almost) upon us, I would like to wish each of you well, in mind, body and spirit, as President of the Executive Board for 2021. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the organization this year.

Although we may begin the year physically apart from one another, I look forward to reconnecting with each of you during the year. There is much in store for our members in 2021, and we look forward to expanding our membership and promoting deeper connections amongst our community of Catholic lawyers and judges.

**Recognition of Past-President Phil Kearney & New Board Member Marcus Quintanilla**

I would like to thank out-going President Phil Kearney for his steadfast service to the Society in 2020 on behalf of myself and the Executive Board. From the dinner spent at Lone Mountain, to the Red Mass honoring Fr. Coleman at St. Vincent's in San Rafael, I am honored to follow his lead and hope to carry his dedication to our members, and offer new opportunities for service, as well as professional and spiritual development throughout the year.

In addition, we welcome new board member **Marcus Quintanilla** from the Jones Day law firm.

**De Marillac Academy**

As a recap from the end of 2020, it is with great pleasure that I share with you the results of the Society's continuing support of De Marillac Academy. As we have done for the past 8 years, we

partnered with the school to provide Christmas gifts to some of the school's students and families. We are happy to report that the Society was able to provide gift cards in support of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students and their families. We look forward to continuing our connection with De Marillac throughout 2021. I encourage you to learn more about the school at the following link here.

### **Upcoming Opportunities**

In his new book, Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future, Pope Francis writes, "In a crisis you reveal your own heart: how solid it is, how merciful, how big or small." In the spirit of his words, the Society hopes to offer not only events, but opportunities of service to engage and inspire our members to share their gifts with our community.

Please consider offering pro bono legal services to Catholic Charities Center for Immigration-Legal & Support Services. The Center for Immigration Legal and Support Services needs pro bono lawyers to assist in preparing asylum cases for immigration court or guardianship cases in family or probate court. Unaccompanied minors (UAC), often simultaneously seek asylum in immigration court and Special Immigration Juvenile status (SIJS) with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. The attached flyer provides details and instruction of how best to become involved, and more information can be obtained at [www.CatholicCharitiesSF.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesSF.org) or by calling 415.972.1200. Several of our Executive Board Members are volunteering to take on representation of at least one client this year, and we hope and expect to make a strong showing of support from the Society.

### **Upcoming Events**

Although we are not currently holding in-person lunches, we are currently in the process of scheduling speakers and events for early 2021 and will update you as things are confirmed.

Our hope is that soon in-person events will be permitted, and our members can convene and celebrate together. Here's some currently calendared events to look forward to:

**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Retreat for Members of the Legal Profession** - This year's retreat will take place on **Saturday, March 6, 2021**, and is being led by Fr. Felix Just, SJ. While the initial plan of the retreat is that it will be held virtually, it is hoped that there will be an opportunity during the afternoon to walk the labyrinth at The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, and hold an outdoor Mass celebrating the man who started it, the Honorable John McInerney. Having attended the retreat in person during the past 12 years, I can attest that it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect in silence with members of the legal profession. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Prof. Dr. Massimo Faggioli, is a Church historian, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, has agreed to speak remotely on **April 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm** on a topic yet to be decided. Prof. Faggioli's primary specialization is history of Christianity and Council Vatican II, religion and politics, and the new Catholic movements.

## **Recommended Sources**

Each newsletter, I will attempt to offer some resources for the Society to explore. In addition to Pope Francis' new book referenced above, this month, I recommend Mark Thibodeaux, SJ's book, *Reimagining The Ignatian Examen*. Some of you may already know the benefits of the Examen as a daily prayer from St. Ignatius, and I encourage others to learn about it for the first time. Take a moment to put down your phones and computers, and consider the prayer as a daily exercise. Thibodeaux reduces the daily Examen to the following 5 Steps, as a Mnemonic device:

- **Relish** the moments that went well and all of the gifts I have today.
- **Request** the Spirit to lead me through my review of the day.
- **Review** the day.
- **Repent** of any mistakes or failures.
- **Resolve**, in concrete ways, to live tomorrow well.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/ignatian-spirituality/examen-and-ignatian-prayer/how-can-i-pray-try-the-daily-examen/>

## **Annual Dues**

If you haven't done so already, please consider paying your annual dues. Although our in person luncheon schedule is postponed until further notice until we can once again meet in person, we are in the midst of scheduling some online remote lectures. We hope to report our schedule for the year of these events by mid-February 2021.

Registration and payment of annual dues ensures you will receive our monthly newsletters and information about all upcoming events. It also helps us in funding events, attracting quality speakers, awarding scholarships, and supporting our community service initiatives. You can pay your dues online here or by using the attached membership form.

## **New Member Contest**

Finally, we will once again have a New Member Contest and reward the member who brings the most new members throughout the year. Feel free to join the competition by forwarding this newsletter to someone you think may be interested in joining the Society. New members can name their existing member contact on their registration form.

Thank you and best wishes to everyone as January comes to a close.

God bless,

Bryan L. P. Saalfeld

President