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

Louis H. Burke

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REVEREND JOSEPH J. DONOVAN, S.J.

1891-1977

—IN MEMORIAM

*Louis H. Burke**

“Hello, Luigi!” Father Donovan had special names of his own for many of his friends, and I was no exception; this is the way that he used to greet me, always with great personal warmth and joyful enthusiasm. The door to his heart, like the door to his office, was always open to everyone who had any connection past or present with his beloved law school.

To be counted among his friends was a great privilege; there was nothing within reason that he would not do to advance the cause of a friend. Many of us who knew him never ceased to wonder at the breadth of his list of acquaintances; it extended from persons in the highest positions in public life down to the ordinary man in the street. The mention of his name was a magic key to enter almost any office.

Father Donovan was forever plugging not only for the Law School but for every friend and graduate. His enthusiasm, broad interests and loyalties were infectious and left their mark on all who knew him.

Father Donovan’s annual Loyola Law School “Symposiums” at each State Bar Convention were star-studded gatherings. They were presided over by Father Joe with great joy as he greeted State Bar officers, past and present members of the Board of Governors, government officials, judges and justices, alumni and students. The amount of good will for the Law School which these joyful occasions generated was substantial. In later years, although his eyesight was dimmed and his strength impaired, his handshake remained firm and his broad smile warm and personal. When failing health finally made it impossible for him to attend, the affairs lost much of their charm and luster. Obviously, he was sorely missed and inquiries as to his health continued to be voiced by all who had known him.

* Associate Justice, California Supreme Court (1964-74).

Some men leave behind them lasting monuments of brick and stone, but few are privileged to leave a law school as a living memorial, or the deep affection, esteem and respect which Father Donovan has left in the hearts of his associates, students and friends. We will always remember him in our hearts and prayers.