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## Dedication to Professor David J.K. Granfield

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## DEDICATION TO PROFESSOR DAVID J.K. GRANFIELD

The Editorial Board of the CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW dedicates this issue to Professor David J.K. Granfield, whom we admire and cherish for many reasons, not least of all for the gifts he has generously shared with us. Among these, we count the breadth of his learning; the power of his thought; the constancy of his judgment; the authenticity of his spirit; the trueness of his understanding of human nature; and the steadfastness of his dedication to law as an instrument of justice. Our dedication coincides with Professor Granfield's retirement from the faculty of the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America. We believe it is an occasion for reflecting with gratitude on the contribution that David Granfield has made both to the life of the Columbus School of Law and to the CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW during the more than three decades that he has served among us as scholar, teacher, mentor, priest, and friend.

When David Granfield arrived on the faculty in 1960, the promise that the intervening years would fulfill in abundance for himself and for the Columbus School of Law was already richly in evidence. He had earned his law degree at the Harvard Law School and had been admitted to the Massachusetts bar. He came with two further graduate degrees, one in philosophy one in theology. In the latter field he would earn a doctorate. The themes he had pursued in both areas of advanced study equipped him to pursue scholarship in jurisprudence and the philosophy of law. After graduating from law school, but before commencing his teaching career, David Granfield had entered the religious life as a Benedictine monk and had been ordained a priest, preparing him to contribute to the spiritual as well as to the intellectual life of the law school community. Deeply committed to contributing to the quality of public discourse on matters related to law and public policy, David Granfield began, in 1955, a religious television program that he would continue to host for the next five years on WRC, the Washington area affiliate of NBC.

Once having joined the faculty, David Granfield made rapid progress. In the first three years of teaching, he published a Foundation Press Casebook on Family Law (with Philip Ryan), his doctorate in theology and five articles, while actively recruiting for the law school. In those years, as he taught the first of what would be many generations of criminal lawyers and family-

law practitioners, he became known among students for the penetrating analytical depth and precision he brought to the Socratic inquiry of the classroom. His participation in scholarly debate on the leading edge of public policy issues of the day began to gain fame for the Columbus School of Law. As a scholar and teacher who was also a Catholic priest, Father Granfield enriched the life of the law school by his ability to draw on the resources of the Catholic intellectual tradition and was a source of great personal strength in the lives of countless students and colleagues.

Looking back over the years that have ensued, one traces with satisfaction David Granfield's continued accomplishment in all areas of his academic activity. In the matter of his subsequent scholarship, his work has remained distinguished by its erudition, its analytical rigor, and its responsiveness to contemporary problems. A landmark in Professor Granfield's scholarly career was his volume entitled *THE ABORTION DECISION*, which was published by Doubleday in 1969 and issued in a second edition in 1971. In this book he articulated an academically sound basis for the public policy debate on abortion as it took place prior to the 1973 abortion decision of the United States Supreme Court, developing foundations with respect to the "scientific background," "historical context," "sociomedical crisis," "moral choice," "public interest," "legal implementation," and "alternatives." The book is still a standard reference and is viewed with renewed interest in the current debate precipitated by the Supreme Court's possible removal of abortion from the domain of fundamental-rights jurisprudence and the return of the issue to the forum of policy, whether at the state or federal legislative level.

In recent years, Professor Granfield's scholarly research and reflection has focused on questions related to legal philosophy and the philosophy of religion or spiritual theology. In 1988, a volume of Professor Granfield's legal philosophy appeared under the imprint of The Catholic University Press. *THE INNER EXPERIENCE OF LAW: A JURISPRUDENCE OF SUBJECTIVITY*, which appeared to excellent scholarly notice, contains Professor Granfield's original philosophical synthesis of a position in jurisprudence drawing on ancient and medieval philosophy, as well as on the contemporary work of Bernard Lonergan and others. The book's contents reflect not only Professor Granfield's academic research, but also his ongoing dialogue with students in his seminar on jurisprudence, for which he is justly acclaimed among the students at the Columbus School of Law. Last year, Professor Granfield published a work on the theology of spirituality through Paulist Press entitled *HEIGHTENED CONSCIOUSNESS: THE MYSTICAL DIFFERENCE*. Like the work preceding it, this volume presents an original synthesis of thought on the meaning and nature of spiritual awareness or mysticism and

draws on a truly exceptional fund of learning and wisdom, both theological and philosophical.

In his teaching, Professor Granfield is known to challenge his students of today as readily as he did those of thirty years ago to see the existence, nature, and meaning of the multiplicity of analytical distinctions underlying the definition of criminal offenses, the steps foreseen in criminal procedure, and the allocation of penal sentences. Now as then, his calm and reasoned exposition of material and his patient and yet often spirited engagement of students in socratic exchange has the effect of inspiring students in the confidence that will sustain them in the successful pursuit of the mastery they require.

The years of David Granfield's service to the Columbus School of Law have been ones that have seen great growth and change in the law school. David Granfield's contribution to the law school in this period has been immense not only to the generations of students who have passed under his instruction, but also to what the Columbus School of Law has become as an institution. In the course of the law school's experience of growth and change, Professor Granfield's dedication and his employment of his many gifts for the benefit of others have provided a measure both of what the law school is and of what we hope it is called to be.

If there is a secret to the capacity which Professor David Granfield has demonstrated for enriching his students, his law school, his university, his profession, and himself, we believe it is well to search for this in the Benedictine spirituality which David Granfield exemplifies. As Jean LeClerq unfolds the *leitmotif* of Benedictine spirituality in the classic *THE LOVE OF LEARNING AND THE DESIRE FOR GOD*, the underlying theme is one of humility. Quoting St. Bernard of Clairvaux, LeClerq concludes his book to the effect that "Yes . . . it is great and sublime, the virtue of humility which obtains the reality of what cannot be expressed, which alone teaches what cannot be taught."<sup>1</sup> David Granfield seems to us to have taught well what can be taught, because he knows through humility so much that cannot be taught. It would seem that his greatest gift to us has been the humility proper to his Benedictine spirituality, since through this one gift all his other gifts have flowered, and, in emulating it, we shall be rendered the most likely to realize in our own professional lives what David Granfield has accomplished in his own.

The CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW, on behalf of the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, dedicates this issue to

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1. JEAN LECLERQ, *THE LOVE OF LEARNING AND THE DESIRE FOR GOD* 329 (Catherine Misrahi trans., Fordham U. Press 1961) (1960).

Professor David J.K. Granfield, O.S.B.,<sup>2</sup> in grateful remembrance and acknowledgment of the lasting contribution he has made to us and to all those who in time to come will teach and study law at The Catholic University of America.

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2. Professor Granfield has previously been honored by The Catholic University of America's JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY HEALTH LAW AND POLICY. 4 J. CONTEMP. HEALTH L. & POL'Y vii (1988).