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Devotion, Loyalty and Faith

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Dedication

DEVOTION, LOYALTY AND FAITH

HAROLD GILL REUSCHLEIN*

FOR the heroic summary of Bob Garbarino's career in professional life outside the immediate environs of the Villanova University School of Law, you will undoubtedly refer to Arthur Kania's contribution to this testimonial. I, for my part, will simply refer to his very first days in the service of Villanova.

I was extremely blessed to have Bob with me in my first days at the new Villanova School of Law, and it is those very early days of which I write. If Bob ever felt put upon in those early days, he must charge his fate to Father Fidelis O'Rourke, O.F.M., his teacher at Saint Bonaventure College.¹

Father O'Rourke had been a most successful lawyer in Manhattan and Brooklyn before joining the Franciscans. Following his becoming a Franciscan, he notably filled an important role in the School of Business at Saint Bonaventure College where he was affectionately dubbed "The Judge."

His stellar student was Robert Garbarino and Father O'Rourke, who had come to know me from visits to Saint Bonaventure, persuaded Bob Garbarino to cast his lot with the brand new law school and its determined dean, who vowed to set records in the speed with which American Bar Association (ABA) approval was obtained (and he did).

I was blessed to find Bob on my doorstep. I had appointed Villanova Professor Francis Eugene Holahan, who had been Editor-in-Chief of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, to inaugurate efforts at once to launch a *Law Review* at Villanova. But when Bob Garbarino presented himself at my office in the University library

* Founding Dean, Villanova University School of Law, 1953-72; Dean Emeritus, Villanova University School of Law, 1972 to present.

1. Saint Bonaventure College is now Saint Bonaventure University.

where the incipient law school and its ambitious dean were housed, little did he realize what would be expected of him.

I was indeed blessed. Bob was willing and able to fulfill every duty that was heaped upon him. No sooner had he reported when I told him he was to arrange a team to argue against Penn, Temple and Pitt in a regional Moot Court before a bench of judges headed by Chief Justice Horace Stern of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Bob promptly assembled Arthur Flores, James Garland and Thomas Brady. They won the argument with the vigorous approval of the bench, especially Chief Justice Stern. Justice Stern's approval of the result proved invaluable in obtaining the permission of our graduates to take the Pennsylvania Bar Examination despite the lack of ABA accreditation at the time.

Bob also assembled an able staff to launch the *Law Review*. He had the members write "Case notes" for Volume 0 and 00 which appeared in mimeographed form preparing for the publication of Volume I, No. 1 in January 1956 with a delightful introductory essay by Judge Charles S. Desmond of the New York Court of Appeals. The new *Villanova Law Review* had as its initial editorial board, Robert P. Garbarino, Editor-in-Chief, Thomas J. Brady, Case and Comment Editor, and Joseph R. Glancey, Articles Editor. With the approval of Volume I, No. 1 came congratulations from Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter, Supreme Court of the United States, Chief Justice Horace Stern of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt of the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

So what do we say Bob Garbarino gave us in those first months at Villanova Law School? To Bob we owe just about everything. To him we are indebted for almost all the many institutions we now enjoy: our system of practice courts, our *Law Review*—the first of several law journals, and our honor system—the concept of student contribution to law student government. When Bob appeared in my office, I asked him to do what? In short, I asked him to do everything that needed doing and he did it. To him we owe the launching of what is today a great law school.

Bob has been the near perfect exemplar of devotion to duty, loyalty to his dean and faculty, and faith in the inevitability of Villanova's success. In short, but for Bob Garbarino, Villanova Law School would not and could not have happened, but it did happen—and that is pretty much Bob's achievement.

Vivat, floreat, crescat.