

The Rev. Ladislav Orsy, S.J., visiting professor, Georgetown Law

Let me address you in all simplicity, good people of God, friends of Robert Drinan. Here we are at this sacred place, and as the ancient and solemn prayers were unfolding and our spirit found peace and rest, we remember the faithful servant of God, Robert Drinan, our friend.

He was a priest who offered prayers on our behalf in troubled days. He was a teacher who had no fear to tell the truth in confused times. He was a voice for those who have no voice. He kept reaching for those who were in distress. In our memory he's alive. His words still echo in our minds. How shall we keep this memory alive? Powerful persons build monuments for themselves so that they may be remembered. The pharaohs built the pyramids in their quest for immortality. But a good person will be remembered for what he was. He needs no monument. He lives in the minds and hearts of those who follow him.

Now my task is to speak well of him. That's exactly what "eulogy" means. And this task is hard and easy at the same time. It is hard because he had a rich and complex personality. It is easy because what I am going to say you already know. All I can do is to articulate what is already in your spirit. So, let me say simply with no ornament — he liked that kind of speech — Father Robert Drinan was a good person and he had an immense

capacity to give. And that sums it all up. He had an immense capacity to give. Whenever his restless eyes — you knew them well — caught sight of a person (and that person could be local or a visitor, a student or a teacher, a poor soul or a rich benefactor, it made no difference), a conversation ensued. And, lo and behold, Father Drinan invariably, unfailingly was ready to help. Then, at the end, he, Robert Drinan, thanks the person deeply whom he had helped. He did not miss one opportunity to thank another. And his thank-yous still echo in the corridors of the Law Center. Just watch you when you go there later on.

Goodness dominated his personality and broke through his personality and he kept giving — assiduously, impatiently — to all and sundry. He was indeed a good lawyer. He fulfilled the perfection of the law that consists in loving all. Once upon a time he received a great gift and it was precisely this capacity to give. From then on he wanted to give to and mend a broken world. Now if you think of this capacity to give that he used in excess we understand in him the bursts of energy, the broken sentences, the impatient gestures. Also the quiet retreats that he liked to do again and again. Robert Drinan needs no monument. May his spirit live in our minds and hearts; may his spirit, the spirit of giving, be the driving force of our own lives.

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