



THE CANON LAW SOCIETY

of Great Britain and Ireland

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*The Reverend Francis Bradley
President*

The Ascension of the Lord
Sunday, 24 May 2020

To the Members of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain & Ireland
To the Delegates to our Annual Conference

Dear Member/Delegate

When I last wrote to you on 8 May, I spoke of how a most esteemed life member of our Society, Frank Morrissey OMI, was ill; at the time we offered him our prayers and the support of our friendship. As saddened as we were to hear of his illness, we are now grieved to learn of his death yesterday, Saturday 23 May, at the Élisabeth Bruyère Hospital, Ottawa.

When he and I wrote to each other last, he said he was receiving superb care and was holding his own. Typical of Frank, he explained how he had connections with the Grey Nuns there, being the canonist who helped them acquire Pontifical Status some years ago. He explained too how, during his canonical adventures late last year, he had begun to feel ill. His words conveyed the sense of a man very much at peace with God and with the change which lay ahead.

Dying as he did on the eve of the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, we pray for his eternal rest and that as a faithful member of the Body of Christ which he served so long and so well, he will now follow in hope where Christ the head has gone before in glory. We pray too for and offer our condolences to his blood relatives, to his spiritual family, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and to all the many people who, like ourselves, were honoured to call him our friend. His eminent position in our Society was acknowledged when he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership over forty years ago, in 1978. Our prayer for him now is that eternal life will be his crowning gift. Our Society and Conferences, the world of Canon Law and the lives of so many people who benefitted from his sage advice and delightful company will be the poorer for his passing. We thank most sincerely those who cared for him and eased his sufferings in these final weeks and months.

He always sought the building up of the Body of Christ as a Church of Mercy and Compassion. We commend his eternal soul to our merciful and compassionate Father. In the words of the Liturgy, we pray,

May God grant him a merciful judgement, deliverance from death, and pardon of sin.
May Christ the Good Shepherd carry him home to be at peace with the Father. May he rejoice forever in the presence of the eternal King and in the company of all the saints.

St Pius X, pray for him. St Raymond of Peñafort, pray for him. Requiescat in pace cum Sanctis.

I remain yours,

The Rev'd Francis Bradley
President