

## NOMINATION FORM

### **St. Thomas More Award**

The Lawyers Guild of  
The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

#### I. Description of St. Thomas More Award

The Lawyers' Guild sponsors an annual Red Mass to invoke the blessing and guidance of the Holy Spirit upon the Courts of the State. In conjunction with this liturgy, the Lawyers' Guild presents the ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD to honor a person of exemplary quality.

St. Thomas More (1478-1535) is recognized as the Patron Saint of Lawyers. He was born near London into a wealthy middle-class family. St. Thomas More chose martyrdom rather than betray his conscience. Famous for being, in his words, "the King's servant but God's first," St. Thomas More was executed by the order of King Henry VIII when he, as Lord Chancellor of England, refused to support the King in his break with the Church. Even without martyrdom, this brilliant statesman and witty writer would be remembered in secular society as the humanist who authored Utopia (1516). As a youth he wrote bawdy poetry; as a statesman and lawyer, he was brilliant, pragmatic, and shrewd; as a father, he favored a well-rounded education for his daughters as well as his sons. He maintained the equality of the sexes in contrast to Henry VIII. He was particularly close to his daughter, Margaret, whom he called Meg. Among other things, he knew that she understood and respected his asceticism; from the Tower of London he wrote to her frankly about his faith. St. Thomas More loved Greek literature, philosophy, mathematics, music and art. He had a keen sense of humor and provided a joyful home environment, welcoming friends to join his family in songfests and games. A Renaissance man with progressive views that he did not find in contradiction with his loyalty to the Church, he observed regular hours for prayer, praying from the heart.

#### II. Presentation of Award

Following the Red Mass on Friday, October 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in St. John Cathedral, there will be a luncheon and presentation of the 2019 St. Thomas More award. The Executive Committee of the Lawyers' Guild will select the award recipient who will be nominated by a member of the Lawyers' Guild. The award recipient is not required to be a member of the Lawyers' Guild.

#### III. Criteria for Selection

The following criteria will be considered by the Lawyers' Guild Executive Committee when determining this year's award recipient: 1. Foster spiritual growth and fellowship throughout the legal community; 2. Enhance appreciation for and observance of high ethical standards in the practice of law; 3. Encourage

attentiveness among lawyers to legal and societal issues that affect morality, justice, and faith; 4. Exemplifies the qualities of St. Thomas More; 5. Any other outstanding qualities or examples of service to the community and/or legal profession.

IV. Nomination:

I hereby nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

V. Reasons for Nomination: (Please feel free to attach separate sheet)

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VI. Name of Nominator/Guild Member:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

Colleen Rigo  
c/o The Lawyers Guild  
1404 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

*crigo@catholiccommunity.org*  
216-696-6525 Ext. 4080

**Nominations are due on or before April 1, 2019. Your prompt attention is appreciated so that we may have ample time to consider the information. Thank you!**