Family Courts Urged Here

Catholic Lawyers Hold Panel Discussion

Destruction of individuals and society, marriage partners and their children, cries out for remedial legislation, Civil District Judge Fred J. Cassibry told a group of lawyers at Notre Dame Seminary.

He called for prompt action by the Louisiana Legislature to set up general rules throughout the state for establishment of Family Courts. He recommended that in New Orleans the institution be a division of Civil District Court.

Concurring with Judge Cassibry, Associate Justice Joe W. Sanders, of the Louisiana Supreme Court, explained to some 50 members and guests of the 1st Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association establishment and functions of the Family Court in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The judges and the Rev. John A. Tomasovich, director of the Archdiocesan Family Life Bureau, were panelists Wednesday night for discussion of “The Family Court and Its Functions” at St. Joseph’s Hall of Philosophy.

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Justice Sanders, of Baton Rouge, said he sat on the first Family Court instituted in Louisiana and the South, and explained that the court has jurisdiction of all family problems, from juvenile delinquency to separation and divorce. He said the court employs not only the disciplines of law but also the services of psychiatric and social counseling to reduce the number of divorces and separations.

A constitutional amendment of 1954 created the East Baton Rouge Family Court, and two years ago a second such court was set up in Lake Charles as a division of the district court, Sanders said.

Judge Cassibry, in an address which association members urged he have published in a bar journal, cited the “crying need” for Family Courts as a means of using “all techniques available to modern society to prevent family breakups.

He said the children of broken families are those who suffer most. Statistics show that three-fourths of juveniles with big problems and half of adult prisoners come from broken homes, the judge stated.

He noted the work of the Family Court in Los Angeles, Calif. Where he said 64 of every 100

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