



Tribute to Fr Jim Esler

Dr Rodger Austin

Jim Esler will be welcomed as a good and faithful servant.

He was a founding member of the CLSANZ. In fact I took over the canon law lectures at Toongabbie in 1972 and then there was the move to Hunters Hill in 1975. We worked closely for a number of years

At the 6th CLSANZ Conference in 1972 Jim gave a paper *Introduction to Recent Thinking on Natural Law with some Reference to its Role in the Life of the Church*. In response to requests from priests, Owen Oxenham had it published as a monograph in 1973.

At the 1981 Conference eight papers constituted *An Introduction to the New Code of Canon Law* which was published as a book in 1982. Jim's paper was entitled *The Role of the Laity in the Church and the World according to the Canon Law of the Future*.

Jim was one of the eight presenters.

At the 1988 Conference Jim's presentation was on *The Heritage of Law contained in the Books of the Old and New Testaments*, taken of course from *Sacrae Disciplinae Leges*.

Jim's extraordinary scholarship was manifest in these contributions to the Society.

My condolences to the Marists and may Jim *requiescat in pace*.

Rodger Austin