

SECRETARY’S REPORT THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Catholic Theological Society of America held its seventy-eighth Annual Convention on June 13-16, 2024, at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the convention was “Social Salvation.” Registration for the convention was conducted electronically in the months leading to the meeting. The Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology met on Thursday, June 13 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., EST. The 2024 Ann O’Hara Graff Award was presented to Lisa Sowle Cahill, J. Donald Monan Professor at Boston College. At 7:00 p.m., EST, CTSA President Kristin Heyer formally opened the Convention, starting with a Land Acknowledgement Statement. Reverend Tyler George Kline, priest-secretary to the Most Reverend William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore gave a word of welcome to all convention participants on behalf of Archbishop Lori and led the opening prayer. President Kristin Heyer introduced the first plenary speaker, Dr. Carlos Mendoza-Álvarez, O.P., from Boston College. The evening concluded with a reception. The CTSA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions: Boston College’s Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences; Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation; Center for Catholic Studies, Fairfield University; Georgetown University; Loyola Marymount University; Loyola University Chicago; Loyola University Maryland’s Masters in Theological Studies Program and the Office of Mission and Identity; Pacific School of Religion; Regis St. Michael’s Faculty of Theology, Toronto School of Theology (in the University of Toronto); Saint Louis University’s College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Theological Studies; St. Mary’s Seminary and University; and University of Dayton.

On Friday, June 14, the Convention resumed with the second plenary session and a Memorial Service to remember and honor CTSA members who passed away during the previous year. The second plenary session was delivered by Dr. Susan Abraham from Pacific School of Religion. After a day of sessions and conversations, the Business Meeting was held in the afternoon from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., EST, presided by Dr. Heyer. Active members at the Business Meeting welcomed the new Active and Associate members presented to them by the Admissions Committee. The president’s reception for new and newer members followed the business meeting.

After morning prayer on Saturday, June 15, Dr. Vincent Miller from the University of Dayton delivered the third plenary session. Convention participants proceeded to a full day of sessions and conversations. The CUERG Luncheon took place between 1:00 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., EST. During this luncheon, Dr. C. Vanessa White, Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union, received the inaugural 2024 CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award.

At 5:00 p.m., EST, Convention participants gathered at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Baltimore, Maryland to celebrate the Eucharist. Rev. David Hollenbach, S.J., presided the celebration and Dr. Kristin Heyer offered the reflection. After the liturgy, all gathered at 6:30 p.m., EST for a reception and the convention banquet at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel. Toward the end of the meal, President Kristin Heyer read the citation and presented the John Courtney Murray Award to Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.

On Sunday, June 16, after morning prayer, Dr. Kristin Heyer delivered her Presidential Address. After this, she formally concluded her term as CTSA President and introduced the new President, Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid.

Dr. Layla A. Karst from Loyola Marymount University served as the Liturgical Aide. During the convention several special receptions, breakfasts, sessions and other meetings took place. See the convention program below for more details.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Concurrent Sessions At-A-Glance

I. Friday Morning

1. Keeping Faith with Our Interreligious Partners in a Time of War
2. Fundamental Theology/Method
3. Comparative Theology
4. Practical Theology
5. Disability Theology
6. Creation/Eschatology
7. Catholicity and Mission
8. Hans Urs von Balthasar
9. Lonergan
10. Journeying Together (Synodality)
11. Contemplating Creation, Resurrecting Time

II. Friday Afternoon

1. Bioethics
2. Catholic Theology & the Contemporary University
3. Church/Ecumenism
4. Catholic Social Thought
5. Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation: Sound, Spirituality & Social Salvation
6. Baltimore & the Black Catholic Experience
7. Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church
8. Christianity and Judaism
9. Dispatches from the Synod on Synodality
10. Peacebuilding and Nonviolence
11. Decolonizing Social Salvation

III. Saturday Morning

1. Theology and Science
2. Spirituality
3. Historical Theology
4. Moral Theology II
5. Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation: Social Salvation and Institutional Hospitality
6. Eucharistic Revival and Social Salvation
7. Dissent as a Means of Salvation
8. Liturgy/Sacraments
9. Christ
10. Sanctifying Social Structures
11. Laudate Deum and the Future of Catholic Theology on Ecology

IV. Saturday Afternoon

1. Moral Theology I
2. Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation: Reclaiming Our Roots
3. The Enduring Gift and Theological Challenge of Johann Baptist Metz
4. Rahner
5. Public Theology
6. The Moral Theology of Pope Francis
7. Gun Cultures and Gun Violence
8. Historical Theology II
9. Decolonizing Catholic Theology
10. Thomas Aquinas
11. Anthropology

Pre-Convention Events, Thursday, June 13, 2024

CTSA Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Guilford Room
<i>Theological Studies</i> Board Meeting	1:00–5:00 p.m. Federal Hill Room
Registration	1:00–4:30 p.m. and 6:00–7:00 p.m. Baltimore Foyer
Exhibits	1:00–7:00 p.m. Baltimore Foyer
Rev. Dr. Heber Brown Black Church Food Security Network <i>Pre-registration required to participate in the tour. Group will meet in hotel lobby.</i>	10:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Offsite
Women's Consultation on Constructive Theology	3:00–5:30 p.m. Baltimore Ballroom

Administrative Team:

Margaret Mary Moore, Cristina Lledo Gomez, Stephanie Edwards
Julia Feder

Co-Conveners: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI-The Australian Institute of
Theological Education

Margaret Mary Moore, Theology & Life Institute

Moderator: **Margaret Mary Moore**, Theology & Life Institute

Presenter: **Phyllis Zagano**, Hofstra University

Paper Title: "Deliverance, Women, Church, World"

Presenter: **Taylor Ott**, KU Leuven

Paper Title: "It Was the Husband: Women's Social Salvation and Our
Fascination with True Crime"

Presenter: **Joy Ann McDougall**, Candler School of Theology

Paper Title: "Rising with Mary: Vocation as Conversion to the Future"

Ann O'Hara Graff Memorial Award

4:30–5:00 p.m.

*The 2024 Ann O'Hara Graff Memorial Award will be awarded to****Lisa Sowle Cahill****J. Donald Monan Professor**Boston College***Business Meeting**

5:15–5:30 p.m.

WCCT Steering Committee Members:

Conveners: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI-The Australian Institute of
Theological Education**Margaret Mary Moore**, Theology & Life InstituteTreasurer: **Stephanie Edwards**, Boston CollegeSecretary: **Vacant**Award Convener: **Julia Feder**, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, Indiana)Members: **Rosemary Carbine**, Whittier College**Elissa Cutter**, Georgian Court University**Mary Jo Iozzio**, Boston College**Nichole M. Flores**, University of Virginia**Jessica Coblentz**, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, Indiana)**Annie Selak**, Georgetown University**Thursday Evening, June 13, 2024****Opening and First Plenary Session**

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Maryland Ballroom C-FPresiding: **Kristin E. Heyer**, Boston College
President, CTSA

Land Acknowledgement

We, the Catholic Theological Society of America, acknowledge and recognize that we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands of many Indigenous nations. When Catholic settler colonizers arrived on the Ark and the Dove ships in 1634, they came into contact with the Iroquoian-speaking Susquehannock peoples and the Algonquian-speaking Piscataway peoples. As have their descendants, members of these nations have cared for the land and waterways on this portion of Turtle Island for millennia. We also recognize the Lumbee peoples who migrated to this territory in the mid-twentieth century, along with many other Indigenous peoples, to pursue work opportunities and to escape the increasing restrictions of Jim Crow segregation in North Carolina. Along with enslaved Africans from the Kongo, Angola, present-day eastern Nigeria, and the rice-growing Windward Coast that stretches from Senegal down to Sierra Leone and Liberia—these

Indigenous and displaced nations stewarded the land and waterways that nourish and sustain us today.

We give thanks for the land and the waterways. We admire the delicious singing of the Atlantic coastal plain's numerous tributaries, especially the open-mouthed hymn of the Patapsco River. This great river's tidal portion forms the harbor for the City of Baltimore. It empties into the Great Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, the second largest on Turtle Island, and the third largest in the world. The Indigenous nations named this great river "Patapsco," which derives from the Algonquian potapsk-ut and translates to "backwater" or "tide covered with froth." As guests in these overdeveloped backwaters, we are mindful of our responsibility to practice good relations with the land and water as elders and ancestors—past, present, and emerging—have done. We confess our complicity in historical and ongoing systems of oppression that render Indigenous peoples displaced and disenfranchised. Especially here in the former Catholic colony of Maryland, the Church internalized settler colonial and racist ideologies. We have adopted lifestyles that ignore Indigenous cultures and sustain Indigenous dispossession. Mindful of Pope Francis' repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in March 2023, and in a spirit of repentance and reconciliation, we resolve to work for healing and reparation in the face of the unjust experience of violence, enslavement, displacement, and dispossession known by Indigenous peoples here in Baltimore, and in the many communities where we live and teach.

We hope against hope that this land acknowledgment opens us up to learn from Indigenous cultural traditions that inform good stewardship of our environment and about various Indigenous movements for identity, freedom, and self-determination. Amen!

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Reverend Tyler George Kline

Priest-Secretary to the Archbishop of Milwaukee

on behalf of the

Most Reverend William Lori

Archbishop of Baltimore

Address: **Carlos Mendoza-Álvarez, O.P.**, Boston College

“Social Salvation as Re-existence: The Resistance of Survivors,
Theological Imagination and the *Potentia* of Sacramentality”

Opening Reception

9:00 p.m.

Maryland & Baltimore Foyers

The CTSA is grateful for the support of the following Donors

Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Boston College

Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation

Center for Catholic Studies, Fairfield University

Georgetown University

Loyola Marymount University

Loyola University Chicago

Master's in Theological Studies Program and the Office of Mission and Identity,
Loyola University Maryland

Pacific School of Religion

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, Toronto School of Theology
(in the University of Toronto)

College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Theological Studies,
Saint Louis University

St. Mary's Seminary and University

University of Dayton

Friday Morning, June 14, 2024

von Balthasar Society Breakfast	7:00–8:15 a.m. Watertable Ballroom A
Mentorship Breakfast: How to Publish <i>Prior registration required</i>	7:00–8:15 a.m. Watertable Ballroom C
Schillebeeckx Breakfast	7:00–8:15 a.m. Homeland
Comparative Theology Reading Group Breakfast	7:00–8:15 a.m. Watertable Ballroom B
Zen Meditation	7:15–8:15 a.m. Federal Hill
Exhibits	8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Baltimore Foyer
Registration	9:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Baltimore Foyer

Second Plenary Session & Memorial Service

8:30–10:45 a.m.

Maryland Ballroom C-F

Presiding
Memorial Service: **Kristin E. Heyer**, Boston College
President, CTSA

Presiding
Second Plenary: **Francis X. Clooney**, Harvard University
Past President, CTSA

Address: **Susan Abraham**, Pacific School of Religion

“Saving (Catholic) Higher Education: Critical Pedagogies
of Hope and Resilience”

Respondent: **Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier**, Loyola Marymount University

Coffee Break

10:45–11:15 a.m.

Maryland & Baltimore Foyers

Concurrent Sessions I

11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

I.1 Keeping Faith with Our Interreligious Partners
in a Time of War – Invited Session

Baltimore A

Convener: **Elena Procario-Foley**, Iona University
Moderator: **Elena Procario-Foley**, Iona University

Panelists: **Heather Miller-Rubens**, Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish
Studies
W.G.B.M. Pim Valkenberg, Catholic University of America
Philip Cunningham, Saint Joseph's University

I.2 Fundamental Theology/Method – Topic Session

Baltimore B

Administrative Team: Ryan Duns, S.J., Nicholas Olkovich, T. Derrick Witherington

Convener: **T. Derrick Witherington**, Loyola University Chicago
Moderator: **Jack Pappas**, Fordham University

Presenter: **Sara Hulse Kirby**, DeSales University
Paper Title: “The Social Aspects of Dogma: Henri de Lubac's Catholicism in
Trinitarian Perspective”

Presenter: **Chris Cimorelli**, National Institute for Newman Studies
 Paper Title: “The Fate of Original Sin in an Age of Social and Ecological Awareness”

Presenter: **Joseph Ogbonnaya**, Marquette University
 Paper Title: “*Dei Verbum* and Contextual Reading of the Bible in Africa”

I.3 Comparative Theology – Topic Session

Maryland A

Administrative Team: Stephanie Wong, Julius-Kei Kato, Laurel Marshall Potter

Convener: **Stephanie Wong**, Villanova University
 Moderator: **Julius-Kei Kato**, King’s University College

Presenter: **Andrew Massena**, Loras College
 Paper Title: “Social Salvation in the Gospel Parables: Rereading Matt. 21:33-46 and Matt. 25:31-46 Through Rabbinic Accounts of the Messiah”

Presenter: **Katie Mahowski Mylroie**, Boston College
 Paper Title: “Ecological Salvation in the Gospel Parables: Rereading Matt. 21:33-46 and Matt. 25:31-46 Through *Advaita Vedanta*”

Respondent: **Bede Bidlack**, St. Anselm’s College
 Paper Title: “Toward a Welcome Eschaton: Thinking Through Universal Salvation as Renewal”

I.4 Practical Theology – Topic Session

Maryland B

Administrative Team: Ish Ruiz, Susan Reynolds, Cynthia Cameron

Convener: Ish Ruiz, Emory University
 Moderator: Cynthia Cameron, University of Toronto

Presenter: **Brett Hoover**, Loyola Marymount University
 Paper Title: “Stories that (Don’t) Save: Cultural Narratives of Migration as Operative Soteriologies”

Presenter: **Benjamin Durheim**, College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University
 Paper Title: “Country Heaven: Toward a Rural Aesthetic of Salvation”

Presenter: **John Allen**, Duquesne University
 Paper Title: “Narrating the Sacred: “Thin Places” of Recovery Spirituality and Ethics”

I.5 Disability Theology – Interest Group**Kent**

Administrative Team: Mary Jo Iozzio, Miguel Romero

Convener: **Mary Jo Iozzio**, Boston College
 Moderator: **Stephanie Edwards**, Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium

Presenter: **Anne Masters**, Archdiocese of Newark
 Paper Title: “Disability, Freedom, and the Growing End of Human Dignity: Challenges of Co-Responsibility for Social Salvation”

Presenter: **Mari Rapela Heidt**, Notre Dame of Maryland University
 Paper Title: “Profit and Loss: Disability and the Minimum Wage”

Presenters: **Megan Hopkins**, Boston College
 Paper Title: “Conversion through Convalescence: Recovering the Disabled St. Ignatius of Loyola”

I.6 Creation/Eschatology – Topic Session**Federal Hill**

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Groppe, Daniel Schied, Paul Schutz

Convener: **Elizabeth Groppe**, University of Dayton
 Moderator: **Daniel Scheid**, Duquesne University

Presenter: **Christopher Hadley, S.J.**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: “Doxological Contrition, *Theosis*, and *Apokatastasis*”

Presenter: **Kathleen McNutt**, Marquette University
 Paper Title: “Deep Deification: Ecotheology and *Theosis*”

Presenter: **Axel Marc Oaks Takacs**, Seton Hall University
 Paper Title: “Who Saves Whom? Nishaaberg Grounded Normativity and *Creatio ex Nihilo* for a Practice of Deep Reciprocity”

I.7 Catholicity and Mission – Topic Session**Fells Point**

Administrative Team: Antonio Sison, Cristina Lledo Gomez, Kevin Considine

Convener: **Antonio Sison**, Catholic Theological Union
 Moderator: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI- The Australian Institute of Theological Education

Presenter: **Leo Guardado**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: “Social Healing and Salvation in New York City”

Presenter: **Wilson Angelo Espiritu**, Ateneo de Manila University
 Paper Title: “Popular Piety and Social Salvation: Lived Soteriology in the Grassroots”

Presenter: **James Adeoye**, Duquesne University
 Paper Title: “‘Missionary Spirituality’ in the Light of *Redemptoris Missio*: A Theological Appraisal for a Pluralistic World”

I.8 Hans Urs von Balthasar – Consultation

Guilford

Administrative Team: Charles Gillespie, Jennifer Martin, Christopher Hadley, S.J.,
 Anne Carpenter

Convener: **Charles Gillespie**, Sacred Heart University
 Moderator: **Catherine Yanko**, The Catholic University of America

Presenter: **Kristen Drahos**, Baylor University
 Paper Title: “The (Im)Possibility of Social Salvation in Hans Urs von Balthasar and Gabriel García Márquez”

Presenter: **Brian Bajzek**, Molloy University
 Paper Title: “Form, Face, and Otherness: Cruciform Church as ‘Event of Intersubjectivity’”

Presenter: **Henry Shea, S.J.**, Boston College
 Paper Title: “Balthasar, Social Salvation, and Vatican II”

I.9 Lonergan – Consultation

Gibson

Administrative Team: Jennifer Sanders, Jeremy Blackwood, Erica Siu-Mui Lee

Convener: **Jennifer Sanders**, Saint Louis University
 Moderator: **Cecille Medina-Maldonado**, Marquette University

Presenter: **Zane Chu**, Saint Mary’s College of California
 Paper Title: “‘By a More Difficult Good’: The Social and Practical Significance of the Law of the Cross”

Presenter: **David Budiash**, *Review for Religious*
 Paper Title: “Three Contemporary Challenges to the Ecclesial Good of Order”

Presenter: **Giadio De Biasio**, Boston College
Paper Title: "Salvation of Man, Salvation of Cosmos: Soteriological Comparison between Bernard Lonergan and Elizabeth Johnson"

I.10 Journeying Together: Synodality and the Path
Towards Social Salvation – Invited Session

James

Convener: **Kevin Ahern, Manhattan College**
Moderator: **C. Vanessa White**, Catholic Theological Union at Chicago

Panelists: **Maria Cimperman, RSCJ**, Catholic Theological Union
Victor Carmona, University of San Diego
Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University

I.11 Contemplating Creation, Resurrecting Time: A Symposium
of Brian D. Robinette's *The Difference Nothing Makes* and John
E. Thiel's *Now and Forever* – Invited Session

Pride of Baltimore

Convener: **Brian D. Robinette**, Boston College
Moderator: **Chelsea J. King**, Sacred Heart University

Presenters: **Jennifer Newsome Martin**, University of Notre Dame
Andrew Prevot, Georgetown University

Respondents: **Brian D. Robinette**, Boston College
John E. Thiel, Fairfield University

Friday Afternoon, June 14, 2024

Women's Consultation on Constructive Theology Luncheon 1:15–2:30 p.m.
Watertable Ballroom B & C

Hearing of the Resolutions Committee 1:15–2:30 p.m.
CTSA procedure: <https://ctsa-online.org/Resolutions> **Maryland Ballroom C-F**

Concurrent Sessions II

2:45–4:30 p.m.

II.1 Bioethics – Topic Session**Baltimore A**

Administrative Team: Stephanie Edwards, Dan Daly, Kate Jackson-Meyer

Convener: **Stephanie Edwards**, Boston Theological Interreligious ConsortiumModerator: **Marc Rugani**, St. Anselm CollegePresenter: **Emily Reimer-Barry**, University of San Diego

Paper Title: “Can an Institution Have a Conscience? Sticky Questions in Catholic Health Care”

Presenter: **Michael Jaycox**, Seattle University

Paper Title: “Autonomy and Medical Racism: Rebalancing Bioethics in a Secularizing Society”

Presenter: **Nicholas Kockler**, Providence St. Joseph’s Health

Paper Title: “Generating Insights from Catholic Social Teaching: Ethical Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare”

II.2 Catholic Theology and the Contemporary**Baltimore B**University – Interest Group

Administrative Team: Edward Hahnenberg, Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos

Convener: **Edward Hahnenberg**, John Carroll UniversityModerator: **Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos**, Seattle UniversityPresenter: **Jonathan Heaps**, Seton Hall UniversityPaper Title: “*Servus Servorum*: A Lonerganian Theory of Theology in the University and the University in Society”Presenter: **Christopher Vogt**, St. John’s University

Paper Title: “Building Communities of Encounter for the Common Good”

Presenter: **Jaisy Joseph**, Villanova University

Paper Title: “Catholic Higher Education Sixty Years after King’s ‘I Have a Dream Speech’: Black Dignity and the Telos of Catholic Universities”

II.3 Church/Ecumenism – Topic Session**Maryland A**

Administrative Team: Kathryn Reinhard, Elyse Raby, Jaisy Joseph

Convener: **Kathryn Reinhard**, Christ Church BronxvilleModerator: **Elyse Raby**, Santa Clara UniversityPresenter: **Daniel Minch**, Ruhr University of Bochum

Paper Title: “The Persistent Problem of Institutional Ecclesiology: Absolutist Theopolitics as a Stumbling Block for Social Salvation”

Presenter: **Meg Stapleton Smith**, Fordham UniversityPaper Title: “Queer Soteriology: The Effects of *Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus* in the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Church”II.4 Catholic Social Thought – Topics Session**Maryland B**

Administrative Team: William George, Kate Jackson-Meyer, Kevin Ahern

Convener: **William George**, Dominican UniversityModerator: **Katherine Tarrant**, University of VirginiaPresenter: **Marcus Mescher**, Xavier University

Paper Title: “‘No One is Saved Alone’: Evaluating Pope Francis’ Vision of Social Holiness”

Presenter: **Simeiqi He**, Independent Scholar

Paper Title: “Social Salvation as Universal Love: From Teilhard, Berry to Francis and Beyond”

Presenter: **Thomas Massaro, S.J.**, Fordham University

Paper Title: “Imagining Social Salvation: The Potential Contribution of Utopian Thought”

II.5 Black Catholic Theology – Consultation**Kent**(Joint Session with Asian and Asian American TheologyConsultation And Latinx Theology Consultation*Sound, Spirituality, and Social Salvation*

Administrative Team: Craig A. Ford, Jr., Nicole Symmonds, Chanelle Robinson

Conveners: **Craig A. Ford, Jr.**, St. Norbert UniversityModerator: **Ish Ruiz**, Emory University

Presenter: **Min-Ah Cho**, Georgetown University
 Paper Title: “Embracing Silence: Sharing Struggles and Fostering Transformation for Women of Color”

Presenter: **Rufus Burnett, Jr.**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: “Blue Notes on Flesh: A Blues Reading of Afro-Christian Soteriological Imaginings of Flesh”

Presenter: **Antonio Alonso**, Emory University
 Paper Title: “*Mi Luz y mi Salvación*: Singing as a Salvific Practice in Latine Communities”

II.6 Baltimore and the Black Catholic Experience – Invited Session **Federal Hill**

Convener: **Kathleen Dorsey Bellow**, Xavier University of Louisiana
 Moderator: **Kathleen Dorsey Bellow**, Xavier University of Louisiana

Panelists: **Therese Wilson Favors**, ed., *What We Have Seen and Heard: Essays and Stories of Black Catholic in Baltimore*
Ralph Moore, St. Ann Church, Baltimore
Michael G. Middleton, SB7 Coalition, Inc., Baltimore

II.7 Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church – Consultation **Fells Point** *The Power and Theology of Abuse*

Administrative Team: Cristina Traina, Stan Ilo, Megan McCabe, Daniel Horan, O.F.M., Julia Feder

Convener: **Julia Feder**, St. Mary’s College (Notre Dame, Indiana)
 Moderator: **Daniel Horan, O.F.M.**, St. Mary’s College (Notre Dame, Indiana)

Presenter: **Karen Peterson-Iyer**, Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: “Theorizing Sexual Violence”

Presenter: **Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier**, Loyola Marymount University
 Paper Title: “Coloniality, Power, and Sexual Abuse”

Presenter: **Christine Hinze**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: “The (Ab)uses of Power in the Catholic Church: Where Do We Go From Here?”

II.8 Christianity and Judaism – Consultation

Guilford

Administrative Team: Andrew Massena, Carol Ann Martinelli, Mia Theocharis

- Conveners: **Andrew Massena**, Loras College
Moderator: **Carol Ann Martinelli**, Independent Scholar
- Presenter: **Magda Teter**, Fordham University
Paper Title: “Christian Supremacy: Reckoning with the Roots of Antisemitism and Racism”
- Respondent: **Mary C. Boys, S.N.J.M.**, Union Theological Seminary

II.9 Dispatches from the Synod on Synodality – Interest Group

Gibson

Administrative Team: Martin Madar, Jakob Karl Rinderknecht, Susan Reynolds

- Convener: **Martin Madar**, Xavier University
Moderator: **Jakob Karl Rinderknecht**, University of the Incarnate Word
- Panelists: **Catherine Clifford**, Saint Paul University
Maureen O’Connell, LaSalle University
Brian Flanagan, New Ways Ministry

II.10 Innovative Theological Approaches to Integrating
Peacebuilding and Nonviolence – Interest Group

James

Administrative Team: Eli McCarthy, Leo Guardado

- Convener: **Eli McCarthy**, Georgetown University
Moderator: **Leo Guardado**, Fordham University
- Presenter: **Ki Joo (KC) Choi**, Princeton Theological Seminary
Paper Title: “Racialization: ‘Self-Gift’ and Cultural Violence”
- Presenter: **Tina Astorga**, University of Portland
Paper Title: “Laughter and Lament as Two Pathways of Resistance”
- Presenter: **Byron Wratee**, Loyola University Maryland
Paper Title: “Just Peace and Just Survival: An Exploration of Howard Thurman’s Nonviolent Theological Anthropology”

II.11 Decolonizing Social Salvation and Spirit-Based
Practices for Communal Healing – Selected Session

Pride of Baltimore

Convener: **Shannon M. McAlister**, Fordham University
Moderator: **M. Katie Mahowski Mylroie**, Boston College

Presenter: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI- The Australian Institute of
Theological Education

Paper Title: ““Believing in the Spirits is not ‘woo woo’: Christian and
Philippine Indigenous Anitist Belief”

Presenter: **Shannon M. McAlister**, Fordham University

Paper Title: “Spiritual Direction and Social Well-Being: A Decolonizing
Theology”

Respondent: **Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.**, Jesuit School of Theology
of Santa Clara University

Friday Evening, June 14, 2024

CTSA Business Meeting

4:30–6:00 p.m.

Maryland Ballroom

Presiding: **Kristin E. Heyer**, Boston College
President, CTSA

Parliamentarian: **William Loewe**, Catholic University of America

President’s Reception for New/Newer Members

6:15–7:45 p.m.

Prior registration required/

Watertable Ballroom AB

ticket provided in registration packet

Saturday Morning, June 15, 2024

Benedictine Universities and Colleges Breakfast

7:15–8:45 a.m.

Sponsored by Saint Martin’s University

Watertable Ballroom A

Breakfast Meeting: Karl Rahner Society

7:15–8:45 a.m.

Watertable Ballroom C

Zen Meditation

7:15–8:15 a.m.

Federal Hill

Morning Prayer	8:30–8:45 a.m. Federal Hill
Exhibits	8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Baltimore Foyer
Registration	9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Maryland Foyer
Third Plenary Session	9:00–10:30 a.m. Regency Ballroom

Presiding: **Nancy Pineda-Madrid**, Loyola Marymount University
President-Elect, CTSA

Presenter: **Vincent Miller**, University of Dayton
“Seeking Social Salvation amidst the Docetic Default of a World
Made Frictionless”

Respondent: **Annie Selak**, Georgetown University

Coffee Break	10:30–11:00 a.m. Baltimore & Maryland Foyers
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Concurrent Sessions III	11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
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<u>III.1 Theology and Science – Topic Session</u>	Baltimore A
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Administrative Team: Kevin Vaughan, Megan Loumagne Ulishney, Benjamin Hohman

Convener: **Kevin Vaughan**, The College of St. Scholastica
Moderator: **Megan Loumagne Ulishney**, Gannon University

Presenter: **Robert G. Elliot**, Providence College
Paper Title: “Evolutionary Anthropology, Self-Legislation, and Original Sin”

Presenter: **Joyce Ann Konigsburg**, DePaul University
Paper Title: “Artificial General Intelligence: Proponent or Opponent of Social Salvation”

Presenter: **Jordan Joseph Wales**, Hillsdale College
Paper Title: “Social Salvation Among Apparent Persons: Can We Live Our Personhood while Owning Sociable AI?”

III.2 Spirituality – Topic Session**Baltimore B**

Administrative Team: Axel Marc Oaks Takacs, Michael Rubbelke, C. Vanessa White

Convener: **Axel Marc Oaks Takacs**, Seton Hall University
 Moderator: **Michael Rubbelke**, St. John’s School of Theology and Seminary

Presenter: **Dorris Van Gaal**, Calvert Hall College High School
 Paper Title: “A Call to Social Transformation: A Reflection on Spiritual Storytelling among African Migrants to the USA”

Presenter: **Rafael Luévano**, Chapman University
 Paper Title: “The Central American Caravans: Social Salvation of the Spiritual Pilgrimage”

Respondent: **Leo Guardado**, Fordham University

III.3 Historical Theology I – Topic Session**Maryland A**

Administrative Team: Rita George-Tvrković, Joshua R. Brown, Robert Trent Pomplun

Convener: **Robert Trent Pomplun**, University of Notre Dame
 Moderator: **Joshua R. Brown**, Mount St. Mary’s University

Presenter: **Elissa Cutter**, Georgian Court University
 Paper Title: “Salvation and the Port-Royal Community: A Feminist Historical-Theological Reconstruction of the Theology of Mother Angélique Arnauld”

Presenter: **Andrew Gertner Belfield**, St. Bonaventure University
 Paper Title: “‘Worthy Acts of Penance’ in Early Franciscan Soteriology”

Presenter: **Nicole Reibe**, Loyola University Maryland
 Paper Title: “Gather Round the Font: Social Salvation and the Baptismal Font at St. Bartholomew’s in Liège”

III.4 Moral Theology II – Topic Session**Maryland B**

Administrative Team: Kate Ward, Marcus Mescher, David Kwon

Convener: **David Kwon**, Seattle University
 Moderator: **Cathy Melesky Dante**, Marquette University

Presenter: **Bridget Burke Ravizza**, St. Norbert College
 Paper Title: "Salvation and the Sacrament of Same-Sex Marriage"

Presenter: **R. Zachary Karanovich**, Mount Mary University
 Paper Title: "Universal Salvation and the Victims of History: Considering Justice, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation from the Margins"

III.5 Latinx Theology – Consultation

Kent

(Joint Session with the Black Catholic Theology Consultation
 and the Asian and Asian American Theology Consultation)
Social Salvation and Institutional Hospitality

Administrative Team: Ish Ruiz, Cesar Baldelomar

Convener: **Ish Ruiz**, Pacific School of Religion
 Moderator: **Stephanie Wong**, Villanova University

Presenter: **Jaisy Joseph**, Villanova University
 Paper Title: "Church as Leaven and Pilgrim: Interstitial Epistemologies for an Interstitial Church"

Presenter: **SimonMary Asese Ahiokai**, University of Portland
 Paper Title: "'Who Do You Say that I Am?': Making A Case for Existential Inclusive-ness at the Crossroads of Liberation, Institutionalality, and Hospitality"

Respondent: **Jeremy V. Cruz**, St. John's University (Jamaica, New York)

III.6 The Eucharistic Revival and Social Salvation – Selected Session **Federal Hill**

Convener: **Brian Flanagan**, New Ways Ministry
 Moderator: **Dorothy Grace Agolia**, Boston College

Presenter: **Lucas Briola**, Saint Vincent College
 Paper Title: "Deepening the Eucharistic Revival, Deepening Social Salvation: Eucharistic Processions in Rural Communities"

Presenter: **Brian Flanagan**, New Ways Ministry
 Paper Title: "The Eucharist, the Church, and Real Presence"

Presenter: **Elyse Raby**, Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: "Contested Bodies: The Eucharistic Revival and 'Gender Ideology'"

III.7 Dissent as a Means of Salvation: Soteriological
Dimensions of Dissent – Selected Session

Fells Point

Convener: **Travis LaCouter**, KU Leuven
Moderator: **Elizabeth M. Pyne**, Mercyhurst University

Presenter: **Travis LaCouter**, KU Leuven
Paper Title: “When Doctrine Wounds: Dissent as a Response to Feelings of Ontological Disjunction”

Presenter: **Ryszard Bobrowicz**, KU Leuven
Paper Title: “Truth or Obedience? Dissent as a Conflict between Individual and Communal Soteriology”

Presenter: **Ryan McAleer**, KU Leuven
Paper Title: “Unity as Violence: Prioritizing Dissent as an Ethical-Dialogical Approach to Truth”

III.8 Liturgy/Sacraments – Topic Session

Guilford

Administrative Team: Xavier M. Montecel, Benjamin Durheim, LaRyssa Herrington

Convener: **Xavier M. Montecel**, St. Mary’s University
Moderator: **LaRyssa Herrington**, University of Notre Dame

Presenter: **Megan Effron**, University of Notre Dame
Paper Title: “Women Preaching in the Spirit: A Dialogue Between Catholics and Pentecostals”

Presenter: **Susan Reynolds**, Emory University
Paper Title: “The Sacrament of Reconciliation Under the Gaze of the Surveillance State: An Accidental Study of Confession on the US–Mexico Border”

Presenter: **Jakob Karl Rinderknecht**, University of the Incarnate Word
Paper Title: “On Baptism into a Sacramental (and therefore Not-Final) Church”

III.9 Christ – Topic Session

Gibson

Administrative Team: Mary Kate Holman, Eugene Schlesinger, Robert Lasalle-Klein

Convener: **Mary Kate Holman**, Fairfield University
Moderator: **Eugene Schlesinger**, Santa Clara University

Presenter: **Ligita Ryliskytė, SJE**, Boston College
 Paper Title: *"In Solidum Obligari: Without Kenotic Solidarity, No Social Salvation"*

Presenter: **Michael Lee**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: *"Crucified People as Judge: Agency for a Social Salvation"*

Presenter: **Paul Schutz**, Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: *"Love of Christ, Heart of Creation: Salvation as Socioecological Flourishing"*

III.10 Sanctifying Social Structures: Interdisciplinary Resources for Catholic Theology – Selected Session

James

Convener: **Vincent Birch**, Catholic University of America
 Moderator: **Nicholas Hayes-Mota**, Santa Clara University

Presenter: **David Cloutier**, Catholic University of America
 Paper Title: *"Social Structures, Alienation, and Self-Gift"*

Presenter: **Christina McRorie**, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
 Paper Title: *"Theological Implications of the Claim that Social Contexts can Sanctify"*

Presenter: **Vincent Birch**, Catholic University of America
 Paper Title: *"Divinized via Social Construction?: A Semiotic Analysis of the Relation between Social Construction and Holiness in Revelation and its Reception"*

III.11 *Laudate Deum* and the Future of Catholic Teaching on Ecology – Selected Session

Pride of Baltimore

Convener: **Daniel Scheid**, Duquesne University
 Moderator: **Daniel Castillo**, Loyola University Maryland

Presenter: **Sara Bernard-Hoverstad**, Gonzaga University
 Paper Title: *"Laudate Deum and the Vatican's Global Climate Action"*

Presenter: **Daniel Scheid**, Duquesne University
 Paper Title: *"Laudate Deum and Hearing the Cry of Indigenous and Nonhuman Creation"*

Presenter: **Meghan Clark**, St. John's University
 Paper Title: "*Laudate Deum* within Francis' Social Magisterium"

Saturday Afternoon, June 15, 2024

Theological Studies Editorial Consultation Luncheon 12:50–2:15 p.m.
Homeland

CUERG Luncheon 1:00–2:15 p.m.
Watertable Ballroom BC

CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award
The Inaugural Award will be presented to

C. Vanessa White
Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry
Catholic Theological Union

Concurrent Sessions 2:30–4:15 p.m.

IV.1 Moral Theology I – Topic Session **Baltimore A**

Administrative Team: Kate Ward, Marcus Mescher, David Kwon

Convener: **Kate Ward**, Marquette University
 Moderator: **Jens Mueller**, Notre Dame of Maryland University

Presenter: **Kathleen Bonnette**, Georgetown University
 Paper Title: "'Saved Together'? Questioning Social Soteriology in Light of Systemic Oppression"

Presenter: **Melicia Antonio**, University of Notre Dame
 Paper Title: "Replacing Coercion with a Renewed Moral Authority: Lessons from the Spanish Experience"

IV.2 Asian and Asian American Theology – Consultation **Baltimore B**
(Joint Consultation with the Latinx Theology Consultation
and the Black Catholic Theology Consultation)
Reclaiming Our Roots

Administrative Team: Stephanie Wong, Min-ah Cho, Stephanie Puen

Convener: **Stephanie Wong**, Villanova University
 Moderator: **Craig A. Ford, Jr.**, St. Norbert College

Presenter: **Cecilia Titizano**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: "Indigenous Relational Epistemologies and a Moral Cosmos"

Presenter: **David De La Fuente**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: "Saving *Kapwa*: Investigating Decolonial Pneumatology Among Filipino-American Catholic Charismatics"

Presenter: **LaRyssa Herrington**, University of Notre Dame
 Paper Title: "Memory, Narrative, and Solidarity: Africana Marian Popular Piety as Embodied Political Theology"

IV.3 The Enduring Gift and Theological Challenge of Johann Baptist Metz – Interest Group

Maryland A

Johann Baptist Metz: Political Salvation beyond the Soteriological Spell?

Administrative Team: Kevin Burke, S.J., Julia Prinz, V.D.M.F., J. Matthew Ashley

Convener: **Kevin Burke, S.J.**, Regis University
 Moderator: **Kevin Burke, S.J.**, Regis University

Presenter: **J. Matthew Ashley**, University of Notre Dame
 Paper Title: "Do We Miss Johann Baptist Metz? Provocations on the Theme of Social Salvation Today"

Presenter: **Julia Prinz, V.D.M.F.**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: "Lament, Memory, and Healing: Johann Baptist Metz and the Inherent Politicalness of Salvation"

Respondent: **Kevin Burke, S.J.**, Regis University

IV.4 Karl Rahner Society – Consultation

Administrative Team: Brandon Peterson, Mark Fischer, Jakob Karl Rinderknecht

Convener: **Mary Beth Yount**, Neumann University
 Moderator: **David Dault**, Loyola University Chicago

Presenter: **Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M.**, Saint Mary's College (Notre Dame, Indiana)
 Paper Title: "The Cosmic Significance of the Incarnation: Karl Rahner's Supralapsarian Christology as Social Salvation"

Presenter: **Michael Rubbelke**, St. John's School of Theology
 Paper Title: "Integrating Fragmented History: Social Salvation in Rahner's Theology of Purgatory and Indulgences"

Presenter: **Andrew Vink**, Marymount University
 Paper Title: "Historical Soteriology as Social Salvation: A Synthesis of Rahnerian and Ellacurían Themes"

IV.5. Public Theology – Interest Group

Kent

Administrative Team: Rosemary P. Carbine, David DeCosse

Convener: **Rosemary P. Carbine**, Whittier College
 Moderator: **David DeCosse**, Santa Clara University

Presenter: **Kathleen Dorsey Bellow**, Xavier University
 Paper Title: "Full, Conscious, and Active Participation: In Liturgy and Life"

Presenter: **Rosemary P. Carbine**, Whittier College
 Paper Title: "Nevertheless, We Persist: A Feminist Public Theology"

Presenter: **Jennifer Owens-Jofré**, Loyola Marymount University
 Paper Title: "Pastoral Theology as Public Theology at Dolores Mission"

IV.6 The Moral Theology of Pope Francis:

Federal Hill

An Invitation to Enact Social Salvation – Selected Session

Convener: **Conor M. Kelly**, Marquette University
 Moderator: **Daniel DiLeo**, Creighton University

Presenter: **M.T. Dávila**, Merrimack College
 Paper Title: "New Sources and a Stronger Pastoral Impact: Moral Theology in Light of Francis's Social Ethics"

Presenter: **Laurie Johnston**, Emmanuel College
 Paper Title: "From Where? For Whom? Tradition and Moral Theology in Light of Francis's Ethics of War and Peace"

Presenter: **Andrea Vicini, S.J.**, Boston College
 Paper Title: "Broader Concerns and a Deeper Christological Focus: Moral Theology in Light of Francis's Bioethics"

IV.7 Gun cultures and Gun Violence – Interest Group

Fells Point

Administrative Team: Michael Grigoni, SimonMary Asese Aihiokhai

Convener: **Michael R. Grigoni**, Wake Forest University

Moderator: **SimonMary Asese Aihiokhai**, University of Portland

Presenter: **Michael R. Grigoni**, Wake Forest University

Paper Title: “American Gun Cultures as Signs of the Times: Historical and Sociological Perspectives”

Presenter: **Luis Vera**, Mount St. Mary's University

Paper Title: “Concealed Carry Culture and the Technocratic Paradigm”

Presenter: **Anna Floerke Scheid**, Duquesne University

Paper Title: “Christian Nationalism, Extremist Violence, and Guns in the US”

IV.8 Historical Theology II – Topic Session

Guilford

Administrative Team: Rita George-Tvrtković, Joshua R. Brown, Robert Trent Pomplun

Convener: **Joshua R. Brown**, Mount St. Mary's University

Moderator: **Rita George-Tvrtković**, Benedictine University

Presenter: **John Zaleski**, Loyola University Maryland

Paper Title: “How Long is Forever? Medieval Christian and Islamic Reflections on Universal Salvation”

Presenter: **Robert Trent Pomplun**, University of Notre Dame

Paper Title: “Debates about Universal Salvation in Catholic Theology from Newman to Tyrrell”

Respondent: **Mara Brecht**, Loyola University Chicago

IV.9 Decolonizing Catholic Theology – Invited Session

Gibson

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Gandolfo, Rufus Burnett, Jr., Bradford Hinze

Convener: **Elizabeth Gandolfo**, Wake Forest University

Moderator: **Bradford Hinze**, Fordham University

Presenter: **Rev. Dr. Heber Brown**, Black Church Food Security Network
 Paper Title: “From Sanctuary to Soil: Reflections on the Black Church Food Security Network”

Respondent: **Chanelle Robinson**, Boston College

Respondent: **Rufus Burnett, Jr.**, Fordham University

IV.10 Thomas Aquinas – Consultation

James

Administrative Team: David Elliott, Gregory LaNave, Andrew Hofer, O.P.

Convener: **David Elliott**, Catholic University of America
 Moderator: **Gregory LaNave**, Dominican House of Studies

Presenter: **Frederick Bauerschmidt**, Loyola University Maryland
 Paper Title: “Eucharist and Social Salvation in Thomas Aquinas”

Presenter: **Monica Marcelli-Chu**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
 Paper Title: “Living With All Things: Navigating an Anthropocentric and Universal Common Good in Aquinas”

Presenter: **Matthew Dugandzic**, St. Mary’s Seminary and University
 Paper Title: “On Light Matter in the Sin of Lying”

IV.11 Anthropology – Topic Session

Pride of Baltimore

Administrative Team: Eric Daryl Meyer, Tiffany Hartnell-Howden, Adam Beyt

Convener: **Eric Daryl Meyer**, Carroll College
 Moderator: **Tiffany Hartnell-Howden**, Boston College

Presenter: **Valentina Nilo**, Boston College
 Paper Title: “The Victim’s Resistance as Salvation: A Decolonial Approach to the Reality of Imprisoned Women in Latin America”

Presenter: **Timothy Perron**, Fordham University
 Paper Title: “Human Ecology as an Approach to Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Vatican Documents”

Presenter: **Madeline Jarrett**, Boston College
 Paper Title: “Risking Resurrection: Agency, Phenomenology, and the Feminist Ethic of Risk”

Saturday Evening, June 15, 2024

Eucharist at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 5:00 p.m.
120 North Front St., Baltimore, Maryland

Walking Directions: Exit hotel and turn left onto Guilford Ave./South Street. Walk Guildford/ South Street approximately 5 blocks to E. Fayette St. Turn right onto E. Fayette. Walk E. Fayette approximately 4 blocks to East Coast Greenway / Jone Falls Trail. The church will be on the right-hand side.

Limited Transportation will be provided for those unable to walk to the church at 4:15 p.m. Two coach lines will be parked near the hotel entrance.

John Courtney Murray Award Reception 6:30 p.m.
Maryland Foyer

John Courtney Murray Award Banquet 7:00 p.m.
Maryland Ballroom D-F

Sunday Morning, June 16, 2024

Conveners' Meeting 7:15–8:45 a.m.
Homeland

New conveners (or their delegates) of Topic Sessions, Interest Groups, and Consultations will meet Nancy Pineda-Madrid, CTSA President-Elect, Susan Abraham, CTSA Vice President, and B. Kevin Brown, Editor of Proceedings, for evaluation and preliminary planning for the 2025 convention.

Zen Meditation 8:00–8:30 a.m.
Federal Hill

Morning Prayer 8:30–8:50 a.m.
Federal Hill

Exhibits 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Baltimore & Maryland Foyers

Fourth Plenary Session: Presidential Address 9:00–10:00 a.m.
Maryland Ballroom D-F

Presiding: **Susan Abraham**, Pacific School of Religion
 Vice President, CTSA

Address: **Kristin E. Heyer**, Boston College
 President, CTSA

“Heart(s) of Flesh: Structural Sin and Social Salvation”

Appointment of the New President 10:00–10:15 a.m.
Maryland Ballroom

Coffee and Pastries 10:15 a.m.
Maryland Foyer

Meeting and Luncheon: CTSA Board of Directors 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Fells Point

Catholic Theological Society of America
79th Annual Convention

**“One Baptism: Evolving Visions of Catholicity
 from Nicaea to Vatican II and Beyond”**

June 12–15, 2025
Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront
Portland, Oregon

*The CTSA would like to thank the following members for their service and assistance
 with the annual convention:*

Local Arrangements Committee

Daniel Castillo, Loyola University Maryland (Chair)
Nicole Reibe, Loyola University Maryland
Byron Wratee, Loyola University Maryland

Liturgical Aide

Layla A. Karst, Loyola Marymount University

Parliamentarian

William Loewe, Catholic University of America

Photographer

Paul J. Schutz, Santa Clara University

Program Organization Assistant

Dorothy Lee Goehring, Boston College

Registration Team

Andrea Bischoff, Harvard Divinity School

Dorie Goehring, Boston College

Christine Mellick, University of Dayton

Joseph Rosales, Harvard Divinity School

Catholic Theological Society of America
Board of Directors 2023-2024

President	Kristine E. Heyer Boston College
President-Elect	Nancy Pineda-Madrid Loyola Marymount University
Vice President	Susan Abraham Pacific School of Religion
Past President	Francis X. Clooney, S.J. Harvard Divinity School
Secretary	Hosffman Ospino Boston College School of Theology & Ministry
Treasurer	Patrick Flanagan, C.M. St. John's University (New York)
Board Members	Nancy Dallavalle (2022-2024) University of Portland
	Linh Hoang, O.F.M. (2022-2024) Siena College
	SimonMary Asese Aihokhai (2023-2025) University of Portland
	Elsie Miranda (2023-2025) The Association of Theological Schools
Executive Director	Mary Jane Ponyik John Carroll University
Proceedings Editor	B. Kevin Brown Gonzaga University

JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY AWARD 2024

Citation from Dr. Kristin Heyer, CTSA President:

The John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Theological Achievement

For the past forty years, the recipient of the CTSA's 2024 John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology has leavened and led the theological community in major academic institutions, international venues, and our guild itself. The awardee has centered the foundational role of proclamation in our craft with intellectual depth and prophetic vision. Through an integration of theological rigor, pastoral expertise, and generous mentorship, the honoree has modeled excellence and invited us into an expansive understanding of our shared vocation.

Our awardee hails from a family of ten, including one other member of this society. She attended St. Sebastian grade school and St. Vincent High School before joining the Dominican Sisters of Akron, Ohio (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace). After graduating from the University of Dayton with B.A. in English (1971) she taught English and religious studies at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron before earning an M.A. and Ph.D. in systematic theology from the Catholic University of America (1979, 1984). There her doctoral dissertation traced evolving shifts in Edward Schillebeeckx's approach to a theology of revelation, with corresponding shifts in his hermeneutics of tradition, as the basis for constructing a Catholic theological approach to the ministry of preaching. That early work served as the basis for three of her major contributions to the field in subsequent decades: first, her now-classic work on a theology of preaching as "naming grace;" second, her internationally esteemed expertise in the field of Schillebeeckx studies—indeed she earned the admiration of Schillebeeckx himself in his lifetime—and, finally, research and teaching in fields of fundamental theology, theological anthropology, and feminist theology and spirituality.

A scholarly career spanning these topics has yielded several monographs: *Naming Grace: Speaking with Authority* (1997); *Catherine of Siena and the Voices of Women Today* (2008); and, out last year, *A Time to Keep Silence and a Time to Speak*. She has also published three edited volumes, treating the thought of Schillebeeckx and William Hill, and nearly 70 articles and book chapters. Her expertise has occasioned over 60 major lecture invitations from across the United States and Rome, Fribourg, Nijmegen, Leuven, and Pietermaritzburg.

These major contributions have also been recognized with four honorary doctorates, as well as the Washington Theological Union's Sophia Award for Theological Excellence in Service of Ministry; Barry University's Yves Congar Award for Theological Excellence; and our own Ann O'Hara Graff Award. She has served on two international theological commissions of the Order of Preachers for studies related to the Order's preaching mission. Her work remains incomparable in contemporary Catholic homiletic scholarship, nourished by and shared through decades of lecturing and preaching in Catholic and ecumenical contexts in the United States, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Australia, and South Africa.

Taking deeply seriously her role as "teaching-scholar," our honoree has mentored generations of leading theologians, including many women and Latine scholars, in

particular. She taught at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis for eleven years before joining the faculty of Theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, where she has taught systematic theology for nearly twenty years. She has held visiting appointments at Radboud University in Nijmegen, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and the Catholic University of America. During her years at Notre Dame, she has directed more than twenty dissertations and has served on nearly twice that number of other dissertation committees, while also receiving two university awards for undergraduate teaching. Through her pedagogy, ministry of presence, and preaching at 10:00 p.m. lay-led liturgical services in residence halls, she has inspired and sustained the vocations of countless colleagues within our field and beyond.

Here in the CTSA, after planning our 2005 meeting on the “Resurrection of the Body,” our honoree served as president during a period of restructuring our annual conventions. Her presidential address, treating “Dialogue, Proclamation, and the Sacramental Imagination” remains most relevant for today’s polarized contexts. In reflecting recently on the enduring contributions of Catherine of Siena, our awardee wrote, “One of the major challenges of our day is...to cultivate...a contemplative vision and wise judgment[,]...the true source of the bold speech and action...so needed in the Church and the world.”¹ As her career and very way of being attest, the author is herself an exemplar in this regard.

As her identity may be now becoming more apparent, I conclude by adding that she is aptly honored with her very own namesake “society,” which gathers annually over breakfast at our convention. It is with enduring gratitude for this unfolding legacy and with sincere delight that here tonight, in Baltimore, the Catholic Theological Society of America confers the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology upon Mary Catherine Hilbert, of the Order of Preachers.

¹ Mary Catherine Hilbert, *A Time to Keep Silence and a Time to Speak* (Los Angeles: Marymount Institute Press, 2023), 8.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The membership of the CTSA met for its annual Business Meeting on Friday, June 15, 2024. Dr. Kristin Heyer, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., EST. Dr. William Loewe served as parliamentarian

Report of the Admissions Committee

Dr. Andrew Prevot presented the report on behalf of the Admissions committee. Members of the Admissions Committee for 2023-2024 were Dr. Anna Bonta, Dr. Andrew Massena, Dr. Steven Battin, Dr. Ted Ulrich, and Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Secretary, *ex officio*. The Committee advanced its work during May 2024.

Between May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024, the CTSA received a total of seventy-nine applications. There were forty-eight new Active membership applicants. Of these, seventeen corresponded to Associate members applying to Active membership. There were thirty-one new Associate membership applicants. The Admissions Committee recommended that the CTSA Active members present at this Business Meeting accept all seventy-nine applications put forward to the membership for consideration. There were no special cases this year.

The CTSA members present at the meeting approved the committee's recommendation by a voice vote. The new Active and Associate members present at the meeting were greeted with a round of applause. President Kristin Heyer encouraged them to participate actively in the life of the Society, including elections. The names and affiliations of new members are found in the appendices to the CTSA Directory contained in this volume of the *Proceedings*.

Report of the Nominations Committee

After a process of receiving, vetting, and discerning nominations from the general membership, the members of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Bradford Hinze (*Chair*), Dr. Mary Doak, and Dr. Bede Bidlack submitted the names of candidates recommended to stand for election to serve on the Board. Dr. Bradford Hinze read the names proposed by the committee:

The slate of nominees proposed by the committee follow:

For Vice-President:	Dr. Catherine Clifford Dr. Leo D. Lefebure
For board members:	Dr. Khaled Emmanuel Anatolios Dr. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M. Dr. Laurie Johnston Dr. Holly Taylor Coolman

There were no nominations from the floor.

President Kristin Heyer thanked all CTSA members standing for election. As voting results became available, they were announced to the membership.

Dr. Catherine Clifford was elected as Vice-President. Dr. Laurie Johnston and Dr. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M., were elected as Board Members. Dr. Hosffman Ospino (Secretary) and Rev. Patrick Flanagan, C.M., (Treasurer) were reelected by acclamation for another one-year term.

Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid assumes the Presidency for the year 2024-2025. Dr. Susan Abraham becomes President-Elect. The other members of the Board of Directors are Dr. Kristin Heyer (Past President), Dr. Elsie Miranda (Board Member) and Dr. SimonMary Asele Ahiokhai (Board Member).

President Heyer thanked Dr. Leo D. Lefebure, Dr. Khaled Emmanuel Anatolios, and Dr. Holly Taylor Coolman.

Report of the President

The following is the text of the report read by Dr. Kristin Heyer:

As I conclude my presidential year, I wish to extend my gratitude to the Presidential Line, Executive Director, board officers, and board members for their significant support and engagement this year. I am grateful for their ideas and collaboration as we worked to respond to members' concerns and to emerging ecclesial, academic, and demographic signs of our times. Our standing and *ad hoc* committees also helped us to adapt to new needs, for which I am grateful.

In terms of the seventy-eighth annual convention, I offer deep thanks on behalf of the entire Society to President-Elect Nancy Pineda-Madrid for planning a wide-ranging and stimulating program addressing social salvation. Thanks too to Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik, Program Assistant Dorie Goehring, the Local Arrangements Committee (Daniel Castillo [Chair], Nicole Riebe and Byron Wratee), and the Registration Team for bringing those plans to fruition; and thank you to the conveners, presenters, prayer/meditation leaders and photographer for enriching our shared time together in Baltimore. Special thanks to Christine Firer Hinze, who took the lead on drafting a Strategic Plan in the course of her service on the Centennial Committee; Layla Karst, who chaired the Ad Hoc Memorial Service Committee this year and continued her valuable service as Liturgical Liaison; and William Loewe, who extended his term as Parliamentarian through this convention. I also wish to thank the individuals and institutions whose donations support our convention and wider work: Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Boston College; Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation; Center for Catholic Studies, Fairfield University; Georgetown University; Loyola Marymount University; Loyola University Chicago; Master's in Theological Studies Program, Loyola University Maryland; Office of Mission and Identity, Loyola University Maryland; Pacific School of Religion; Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, Toronto School of Theology (in the University of Toronto); College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Theological Studies, Saint Louis University; St. Mary's Seminary and University; University of Dayton; and Villanova University. I thank members of the Society who have generously made gifts to the Society this year, as well.

I share below some general updates about the work of the Society this year:

1. The Centennial Committee, chaired by Francis Clooney, S.J., met monthly throughout the year, finalizing its work on a draft Strategic Plan and Vision Statements, which the Board will discuss at its June meeting.

2. In response to the 5-Year Convention Review Report, June 2023 resolution, October online event ("The End of the Golden Era: Theology in the Age of Academic Precarity"), and November member Job Survey, we conducted online Town Halls in February and March to gather member input on three proposals: (i) online conventions every third year, (ii) online business meetings, and (iii) fewer plenaries at the annual convention. The Board met on March 22 about the input received and decided to conduct a survey concerning the first proposal to gather broader input from the membership, particularly on whether to hold online conventions, and whether to hold them every 3 or every 4 years, if so.

Regarding proposal (i), the April survey results were as follows:

86 online meetings every 3 yrs (2027)

72 online meetings every 4 yrs (2028)

53 in-person meetings only 211 total responses

In light of the survey responses, the Board decided to bring to the voting membership at the June 2024 business meeting a ballot that asks them to vote for meeting online periodically or not, and if the former passes, to vote for whether they opt for meeting online every three or every four years.

Regarding proposal (ii), in light of Town Hall input, the Board decided to bring to the voting membership a measure to pilot conducting the business meeting and voting online for three years beginning in 2025 (preserving a block of time during the convention to serve as a forum for discussing matters of relevance to the Society's present and future). Given the Board's approval of eliminating the twenty-four-hour proviso for resolutions in March, it also decided to bring a ballot to the voting membership on this, with the related bylaws revisions. (A composite business meeting votes document was distributed to the membership on May 6, 2024.) With respect to proposal (iii), the Board decided in March to delay any change to the number of plenaries until the CTSA takes up a more comprehensive revision of the program structure in the years ahead.

The June 14, 2024, business meeting will create space for these deliberations and a more in- depth presentation on our finances by making most of our regular reports available to the membership online and having officers and representatives field questions rather than read reports.

3. Other responses to input from the 5-year Convention Review and the 2023 resolution included establishing a new "[Tutti Fund](#)" in January, covering registration and banquet ticket costs for members, whether or not they are presenting at the convention, and the commissioning of the [Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education](#) in February.
 - a. This pilot year Tutti subsidies were awarded across a range of career stages and "sources" of relative need, as hoped; priority was given to those facing programmatic or institutional closures. Funds from the Callaghan-Pierog Foundation that allowed us to launch the Tutti Fund

also helped fund our Dolores L. Christie Scholarship scholarships this year.

- b. The Centennial Committee met about the scope and shape of the Study Group, three of its members volunteered to serve, and I then recruited eight more (all of whom have administrative experience with closures or reconfigurations, academic expertise in Catholic higher education, or relevant skills). I am grateful to its members for helping us meet the needs of this urgent moment in Catholic higher education: Elisabeth Kincaid and Daniel Rober, co-chairs; Massimo Faggioli, Edward Hahnenberg, Christine Firer Hinze, Linh Hoang, O.F.M., Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, Catherine Punsilan-Manlimos, Susan Bigelow Reynolds, and Mark Yenson. On February 5, Edward Hahnenberg represented us with a panel presentation on “Changing Theology & Religious Studies Requirements” at the annual Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities convention in Washington DC (as part of the ACCU Working Group).
4. In March, I was asked to recruit delegates for a synodal conversation convened by an *ad hoc* USCCB subcommittee (Peter Casarella of Duke University, Kristin Colberg of St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and Alessandro Rovati of Belmont Abbey University). They were tasked by the USCCB Synodal Coordinating Committee with producing a report summarizing the reflections of theologians in the United States on the Synod’s Interim Stage/Synthesis [Report](#). Like the listening sessions in which our members had participated in May and June 2023 at the invitation of Bishop Daniel Flores, the subcommittee also invited members from other North American theological guilds. Upon receiving the invitation, we opened up the opportunity for CTSA members to participate, even as we (and the *ad hoc* subcommittee) regretted the last-minute nature of the notice and initial restrictions on participant numbers. I am grateful that the CTSA response rate was so high, and that the subcommittee opened a second session in response; in the end, sixty-nine CTSA members participated in the two listening sessions. The subcommittee reported that they sent the Synthesis Report on the Interim Stage’s Listening Sessions with Theologians to the USCCB and that its Synod Writing Team will consider it as it drafts a national synthesis document for the Vatican.
5. Our April 8 Virtual Event (“Is Peace Possible in a World of Violence?”) included one presenter, Lilian Ehidiamhen, a Nigerian working in London, whose participation signaled how our online offerings already make possible increased engagement of international voices through these semiannual Virtual Events. I am grateful to our other presenters, Eli McCarthy and Heather DuBois, and to Mary Kate Holman, who has chaired this committee for 2023-2024.
6. On April 19, Canadian bishops’ liaison Catherine Clifford, President-Elect Nancy Pineda- Madrid, Past President Francis Clooney, S.J., and I met with the Canadian Catholic Bishops’ Conference’s Doctrine Commission (via

Zoom). Chair Bishop Gary Franken and four other bishop members participated. After sharing fruitful examples of collaboration between theologians and bishops (at Bishop Franken's request), we discussed the precarious state of Canadian theological education as it intersects with the Synod's focus on formation. It provided a valuable opportunity to learn more about the Canadian pastoral and theological contexts and what might be of service to the Commission. Leo Lefebure met with Rev. Ronald Kunkel, Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat on Doctrine and Canonical Affairs and Rev. Michael Fuller, General Secretary of the USCCB over the past academic year. He will provide updates on the joint learned societies' meeting mentioned in my January letter as plans develop. I am grateful to Catherine Clifford and Leo Lefebure for their leadership in cultivating these relationships.

7. On May 6 and 8, we co-hosted Interguild Synodal Dialogues, based upon our meetings with leadership representatives from other English-speaking, North American theological guilds over the past year (initiated by Francis Clooney, S.J. last year). Representatives agreed that gathering wider membership for such dialogues would be a productive next step as we continue to build relationships across guilds. CTS Past President Brian Flanagan, Maureen O'Connell, and I collaborated to plan the two sessions, recruit participants and train facilitators, and conduct exit surveys. Fifty-six members across the guilds participated, and the facilitator reports and exit surveys indicated valuable fruits and a strong desire for ongoing engagement; a full report is included below. Our leadership counterparts have also been invited to disseminate the report to their members.
8. Whereas the International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology (INSeCT) global assembly was postponed until November 2024 and our World Forum on Theology and Liberation liaisons were unable to participate in the WFTL assembly in Kathmandu as planned, the reports from each liaison and President-Elect Nancy Pineda-Madrid offer updates.
9. At the June 2024 Convention we are implementing the Memorial Service changes agreed upon in October and announced in my January letter: inclusion of the memorial service within the second plenary session; inclusion of a petition for those who have died during the previous year at the convention Eucharist; inscription and display of a bilingual book of remembrance; and the inclusion of the names of those memorialized in our annual *Proceedings*. My thanks again to the *ad hoc* memorial service committee that made recommendations as we anticipate honoring growing numbers of colleagues in the years ahead. Thanks, too, to Bede Bidlack for inscribing names in our book of remembrance.
10. I have invited Emily Reimer-Barry and Byron Wratee to address attendees at the 2024 "New and Newer Members Reception," as well as Stephanie Wong as CUERG chair.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve the Society this year as it faces new opportunities and challenges, welcomes new voices, and plans for a new “era” already underway.

Report of the President: Appendix A

Interguild Synodal Dialogues Report

Participating guilds that committed to participate and advertise to their members (4/15/24):

- Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS)
- Academy of Catholic Theology (ACT)
- Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS)
- Canadian Theological Society (CTS-CAN)
- Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
- College Theology Society (CTS)
- Fellowship of Catholic Scholars (FCS)

Monday May 8, 2024, 2:00-3:30 p.m., EDT

Twenty-nine member participants with seven trained facilitators

Wednesday, May 10, 2024, 7:00-8:30 p.m., EDT

Fifteen member participants with 5 trained facilitators

We met in April with longtime CTS member Maureen O’Connell, Ph.D., to plan the two events in light of our cross-guild bridge-building goals. She is an ethics professor at LaSalle University and works with Discerning Deacons to animate synodality among higher education populations. She recruited the trained, volunteer facilitators for both sessions, who have been involved in the synodal process in different communities across the United States. We sent out the central prompt for the conversations in the Spirit in advance to all those registered (fifty-six total): *Reflect on a concrete experience when you served the church as a theologian, directly or indirectly. What did you learn through that experience about being a theologian in the church?*

We framed the experience for participants in light of the aims of the interguild meetings over the past two years, so that it was clear that the encounter across guild differences rather than “official outputs” for submission was the primary goal. We had participants indicate their guild affiliation(s) to facilitate “mixed” breakout rooms upon arrival, recruited members from different guilds to lead us in prayer at the sessions’ beginning and end, and incorporated silent reflection opportunities. The hour-long small group conversations treated the initial prompt, with subsequent rounds asking participants to share *In light of what you have heard, what resonates with you?* And, in the third round, *What is our conversation revealing about the contribution of theologians to the process of becoming a synodal church?* Finally the facilitators took anonymized notes to gather the fruits of our conversation with participants sharing points of convergence and divergence from the discussion.

We maximized time in small group conversation rather than having each group report back in the main session, opting instead to have participants drop a word or short phrase in the chat reflective of the fruits of their conversation, and then building in time for participants to complete a brief online [survey](#) about the experience, including what they would like to see in terms of interguild opportunities in the future (results below). (Words dropped in the chat included humility, wisdom, inclusivity, deep listening, hope in community, and theologians are bridge people, e.g.) We debriefed with the facilitators at the end of each session and they submitted their notes (themes below) thereafter. We were struck by their gratitude for the opportunity to get a window into theologians' experiences, gifts, and struggles as a byproduct of their participation. No doubt it was valuable for theologian participants to have an experience of non-theologians actively engaged in the Synod, as well (pastoral associates, community organizers, pastoral life coordinators).

Facilitators' Notes' Themes

One theme that many small groups converged upon was theologians' commitment to the church, what one report named as a "common love for the church" and a "common love for the people of God." Theologians expressed commitments to their students, to the church, and to the synodal process. Groups expressed a sense of the identity of theologians as "bridge-builders," both in the classroom and in the church. They converged in their experience in creating communities that allow for conversation, nuance, and deep listening, and a desire to help share that experience and those gifts for a more synodal church.

A second theme of conversation was the relation between bishops and theologians. Some groups expressed frustration at what they perceived as a lack of closer working relationships with bishops and other church leaders. One participant commented, "Theologians have a hard time being heard by church leaders," and another, more strongly, "Theologians are not valued and consulted to the extent that they could and should be." Another stated, "Our own pastors are often not interested in what we could offer our communities; many of us chose to be theologians because the vocation gives us life and we want to share that with others, yet it sets us outside our communities."

At the same time, this was a point of divergence among the theologians, with differences in experiences with their local bishops and other leaders leading to different perceptions. One facilitator commented, "Some expressed close relationships with bishops. Others expressed they had never had a conversation with a bishop. This appeared a little bit to be a male-female divide in our group. The women longed to be at the table of diocesan leadership. The men were there already." Another group noted that "the ability [of theologians] to contribute to synodality depends on the receptivity of the bishops." There were also other differences rooted in different contexts; one group noted that the US church seems much more polarized than in Canada. One report indicated that a participant asked, "What do our bishops want from us? What do they think of me individually, of fellow theologians in general? How do they see the role of theologians? How could we be in dialogue with them?"

A third theme was a mixture of hope for the future of theology, and concern for the future of theology. Many groups asked questions about how theologians could and should act as leaders in the church and in the synodal process, in partnership with their bishops. One facilitator reported questions like, "Who is really at the table for the

synod? What will become of this after October; what are the next steps? What do we need to let go of as a church? How can theologians help to move this forward?" Theologians also expressed concern for the place of theology in Catholic higher education, where theology courses, programs, and therefore positions, are being reduced, and for a felt disconnect between the theologians of the guilds represented and seminary education.

A final shared theme was the desire to continue these conversations in a variety of ways. Many groups expressed the desire to continue having such conversations among theologians from the various theological guilds in North America. Many groups also expressed hopes for opportunities for continuing engagement in the Synod on Synodality and on further synodal initiatives, as well as other ways in which theologians and bishops together might use the Conversation in the Spirit method and other synodal practices to enter into deeper dialogue and closer collaboration.

Survey Results

Participants were invited to complete a survey at the completion of the session, which provided additional data on their engagement in the process. Many of the comments reflect the themes listed above, offered in a more personal manner. Some comments focused particularly upon the participants' positive experience of dialogue itself, and the realization of the commonalities theologians share across their contexts and guilds beyond perceived polarization or ideological differences.

For instance, in response to a question about what the fruits of the experience were for them, participants noted:

"It was just so tremendous to connect—so simply and yet deeply—with theologians from around the world. We shared! We listened! We acknowledged differences. We dreamed. It was edifying. The facilitated conversation made it possible for us to focus on being present—and not policing ourselves or each other."

"The sense that while we are often prisoners of polarization and think of each other as very different, true collaboration is possible."

"There is much common experience among theologians regarding the direction of our work within the church, formation of the church and the directions we could take going forward."

Additional comments highlighted the theme noted above regarding a shared love for the church and commitment to its flourishing:

"We all share a love for the church and its people and we can truly help each other live out our vocation as theologians who are servants of what Christ wants to do in the life of the church at this particular moment in history."

"Listening to fellow Catholic theologians express their love for their faith communities, the people of God, and their faith."

“Seeing how many ways theologians are engaging the people of God even outside the classroom”

Further comments, both regarding the fruits of the experience as well as possible future initiatives emphasized further collaboration, including ways to creatively engage with local church communities, with their bishops, and with the wider synodal process. Participants called for:

“Reflection on ways in which theologians need to do more (with all humility) to make their voices heard in parishes and other local church communities, and to collaborate together to think through those.”

“Additional opportunities to listen to one another and to discern our possible contributions to a church that is exploring what it means to be synodal”

“I think it would be good to continue bringing together theologians who are interested in the pastoral engagement of their work together.”

“Is it possible to build Conversations in the Spirit into our annual conventions? Can we prime the pump for those conventions by bringing people together—virtually—in advance to reflect on the themes in our own lived experience? Can we figure out how to have one of these conversations—privately and well facilitated—with some of our bishops, to see what we might be able to do with them (perhaps those in the committee on higher education, for example, who have already done some good work with college students)?”

“Continue these interguild conversations and also propose to the USCCB structured and ongoing ways for the guilds to collaborate with the episcopal leadership. We are entering a stage of discernment in the synodal journey when theological expertise and conversation are urgently needed.”

Among the (few) critical comments, some theologians suggested a need to “be more substantive in these conversations,” and/or to contribute to future “collaborations, projects, works, that encourage a deeper, different level of dialogue” or “a variety of contents—e.g., a theological topic; a teaching topic; a topic related to experience of local church,” as well as provide wider access to these kinds of conversations.

Finally, there was overwhelming support for continuing these kinds of initiatives—to have what one participant named “more of this!” Thirty-three out of thirty-four respondents (96.9 percent) indicated they would participate in an online interguild dialogue like this again; twelve out of thirty-four (35.3 percent) indicated they would be willing to help design and plan such an event; and seventeen out of thirty-four (50 percent) indicated interest in in-person, regional gatherings toward similar ends. Other suggestions on the exit surveys included linking to the other

theological guilds on each guild's home website; continuing online conversations on an ongoing basis, but centered around texts for discussion (e.g., *Ad Theologian Promovendam*); and partnering with Catholic journalists (via a related Zoom session) to be of service.

–submitted by Brian Flanagan, Past President, College Theology Society
and Kristin Heyer, President, Catholic Theological Society of America

Convention Policy Proposal and Bylaws Change Votes

The CTSA membership considered several policy and Bylaws changes. Materials related to this vote were sent to the membership in advance. The following were the votes taken and the results:

Changes to CTSA business meeting, voting, and convention practices:

The first two items follow from the input offered in the 5-year Convention Review Survey, the February and March Town Halls, and the April online survey:

Vote Item 1: *The CTSA will pilot conducting the business meeting and voting online for three years, beginning in 2025 (preserving a block of time during the convention to serve as a forum for discussing matters of relevance to the Society's present and future).* Active members to vote in favor or to oppose.

Results:

Votes in favor: 132

Votes against: 25

The policy change passed.

Vote Item 2a: *Given financial concerns raised in the 5-year convention review report, as well as the accessibility and new possibilities technology provides, the CTSA will begin a rotation of meeting online every few years.* Active members to vote in favor or to oppose.

Results:

Votes in favor: 102

Votes against: 49

The policy change passed.

Vote Item 2b: *If 2a passes, the CTSA shall move to meet online every three years, beginning in 2027, or to meet online every four years, beginning in 2028.* Active members to vote for one of these options.

Results:

Votes in favor of meeting every three years: 56

Votes in favor of meeting every four years: 97

The annual Convention will meet online every four years, beginning in 2028.

Proposed Amendments to the CTSA's Bylaws:

The proposed change to the CTSA's Bylaws was unanimously approved by the CTSA Board (March 22, 2024) after initial discussion in October 2023 and further consultation with Parliamentarian William Loewe, as follows:

Given the new online resolutions protocol initiated in 2024, the CTSA will no longer offer a 24-hour proviso for new resolutions.

As a reminder, January's presidential letter announced a [new online Resolutions practice](#) approved by the Board of Directors in October 2023 that did not require changes to the Bylaws.

The text of the **Bylaws, Article V.3.2** reads as follows:

Any proposed resolution which has not been received by the previously mentioned deadline, but which has been received at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the business meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Society, and which has been unanimously approved by the Committee, will be placed on the agenda of the business meeting.

Given the new online protocol for resolutions (and in light of the vote on moving business meetings themselves online) the board proposes we strike V.3.2. entirely.

If approved, Article V.3 would thus read:

1. Any member of the Society can transmit to the Committee a proposed resolution. The resolution should be accompanied by a clear account of the facts of the matter and by an explanation of the reasons for its adoption. It shall be received by the Chairperson of the Committee at least fifteen (15) days before the beginning of the Annual Meeting of the Society. If the resolution is approved by the Committee, it will be placed on the agenda of the business meeting.
2. Any proposed resolution which has not been approved by the Committee or any other resolution from a member can be placed on the agenda, if its being so placed is approved by one-third (1/3) affirmative vote of those active members of the Society present and voting at the business meeting. The motion to put the proposed resolution on the agenda shall be non-debatable.

Vote Item 3: *Given the new online resolutions protocol initiated in 2024, the CTSA will no longer offer a 24-hour proviso for new resolutions, and the bylaws will be amended accordingly.* Active members to vote in favor or to oppose.

Results:

Votes in favor: 138

Votes against: 10

The proposed change to the Bylaws passed.

Report of the President-Elect

The following is the text of the report read by Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid:

I am so grateful to many who contributed to planning and organizing this year's convention, in particular Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik, Program Assistant Dorie Goehring, President Kristin Heyer, Vice President Susan Abraham, Past President Frank Clooney, each of our board officers and members. Thank you to the local arrangements committee Dan Castillo (chair), Nicole Reibe and Byron Wratee; liturgical liaison Layla Karst; liturgical music coordinator Tony Alonso; photographer Paul Schutz; and Zen meditation coordinator Ruben Habito. I am grateful to the leadership of CUERG who assisted with the Land Acknowledgement, in particular Byron Wratee, Stephanie Wong, and Leo Guardado. I also wish to express thanks to Rufus Burnett for his help facilitating the pre-convention event, "Rev. Dr. Heber Brown and the Black Church Food Security Network." Many colleagues offered sage advice for which I am grateful: Chris Hinze, Maria Pilar Aquino, John Markey, Richard Lennan, M. Shawn Copeland, Ben Hohman, Mary Rose D'Angelo, Elena Procaro-Foley, Rosemary Carbine, among others. Thank you.

June 2024 CTSA Convention, "Social Salvation," Baltimore, Maryland

Registration for the 2024 convention is at 366 (as of May 24). Before the pandemic, convention registrations would typically range between 360–420. I am encouraged by the many members committed to gathering for our annual convention this year, particularly as the ground of theological education is shifting beneath our feet, and as the wake of the pandemic continues to have a notable yet diminishing impact.

For the annual "Sharing the Wisdom" initiative, three new/er members registered to participate. And, we had seven experienced members who volunteered. I have encouraged the experienced members who were not matched up to volunteer again next year. The number of newer members registering for this initiative fluctuates from year to year.

During May, I was in email contact with the *National Catholic Reporter and America* seeking their coverage of our Convention. Jim Keane joined us and Heidi Schlumpf, who is often with us, was not able to do so this year.

The CTSA Board is taking steps to deepen members' ownership of the financial health of our Society. In the spirit of this, I want to call your attention to two examples related to this Convention in the hope that they shed a little light on a much bigger concern. CTSA has had to face a sharp increase in hotel charges for AV use, and for our banquet meals. I am grateful to Mary Jane Ponyik for again creating a QR Code where members, using their cellular phones, can find the concurrent sessions' shared documents available until the end of the Convention. CTSA's use of a QR Code system significantly reduces our AV expenses by roughly \$7000. By way of a second example, while CTSA charges members \$65 for a JCM Banquet ticket, in Baltimore the cost to CTSA is \$116.53 per person and this price does not include the cost of your drink

during the reception prior to the banquet. Accordingly, CTSA must draw on other resources to cover the balance of \$51.53 for each member attending the banquet. This gives you a sense of two Convention related expenses CTSA faces at present.

CTSA conveners have been asked to submit their presenters' paper, outline, and/or PowerPoint so that these can be posted to a designated CTSA Dropbox account, allowing them to be accessible through the use of a QR code. This form of accessibility means that CTSA is more responsive to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Again in 2024, we will videotape the plenaries, and these will be made available to members on the CTSA website.

For this year's convention, I purposely did not schedule a Friday night event. This allows more time for members to network with their colleagues.

Last year William "Bill" Loewe let us know that the June 2024 convention would be his last as CTSA Parliamentarian. Thank you so much Bill for your superb service to the society over many years. I am pleased to announce that Mary Doak will become the next CTSA Parliamentarian beginning after the 2024 convention. We are grateful that she is willing to offer her service to the society in this capacity, among others.

Looking Ahead

There are several initiatives that continued developing or had their inception during the last year. In concert with President Kristin Heyer's report, we need to ensure continuity and follow-up regarding:

1. The most recent **5-Year Convention Review** which concluded in June 2023 generated three areas of possible changes to our convention structure and rubrics. At our June Business Meeting a vote is being taken on two possible changes and consideration of a third possible change is on hold for the present. I will move this process forward over the next year.
2. The ongoing work of the **Centennial Committee**, particularly its work on a CTSA strategic plan, is vital for our future. I have attended meetings of this committee over the last few months, and I look forward to taking on a more active role.
3. This past year, along with Edward Hahnenberg, I attended the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) annual meeting. It enabled me to become more accurately aware of the changes to departments of theology and/or religious studies on Catholic campuses across the United States. Indeed, much has changed and theology's place in Catholic institutions of higher learning requires particular attention in the moment. The newly formed **CTSA Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education** has begun this vital and continuing work.
4. CUERG and the CTSA Board began conversations on **how CTSA recognizes different forms of diversities**. I will seek input from the Board regarding how this conversation might productively move forward.
5. In May 2024, CTSA participated in **Synodal Interguild Dialogues** along with members of ACT, ACHTUS, BCTS, and CTS. I plan to continue the fruitful work of these Interguild Dialogues in the coming year.
6. CTSA continues its work **to grow our relationships with the USCCB and the CCCB**. For example, in April 2024, along with CTSA Liaison Catherine

Clifford and members of the CTSA presidential line, I met with the five bishops of the CCCB's commission on doctrine to discuss "*how to strengthen the bonds and the practices of consultation between bishops and theologians.*" I plan to continue supporting this kind of collaboration.

7. CTSA has committed itself to **the work of climate justice**, particularly with our decision to move forward with the advice we received from the Fossil Fuels Divestment Task Force. I am committed to seeing this work develop and continue.
8. I will also be discussing with the board how we might continue our CTSA Zoom Convenings this coming year and our pilot book club experience.

Looking Further Ahead

I am mindful that we need to think more deeply about opportunities and concerns on the CTSA horizon. These are some thoughts on my mind.

The make-up of CTSA has changed considerably over the years. For the first time in CTSA history, over a three-year span a theologian who is a woman will be CTSA president. In addition, this happens during a time of tremendous change in terms of the professional positions held by CTSA members. No longer can we assume that stable positions in colleges and universities are the default employment of CTSA members. We need to reimagine what the world of theological discourse looks like and where it is occurring. The reality of these changes invites us to reimagine the culture of CTSA.

Having spent the first twenty-five years of my life along the US–Mexico border, I have long mused about the name of our society, the "Catholic Theological Society of America." ". . . of America" haunts me. As we know, "America" is comprised of two continents, twenty-three countries in the North and twelve countries in the South. "America" is not simply or primarily English speaking. How might CTSA cross borders and live more deeply into ". . . of America"? I feel uneasy raising these questions, but they do haunt me.

On May 10, and at Pope Francis' invitation, ten members of the International Network of Societies of Catholic Theology (INSeCT) had a private audience with him. Because I was formerly CTSA's representative to INSeCT, I was asked to be among this group of ten theologians from around the world. The continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, South America, Europe, and North America were each represented among the ten members. I was asked to represent North America, to briefly comment on the gifts of and challenges confronting theology in North America and to present my thoughts in Spanish. Pope Francis' comments to our group signal a grace-filled opportunity and invitation to theologians. He highlighted "three guidelines for theology: creative fidelity to tradition, a cross disciplinary approach and collegiality," stating that these "are the essential 'ingredients' of the vocation of Catholic theologians in the heart of the Church." He made it clear that he sees theologians as a resource for the work of the church.

Who knows where this will lead. That said, Pope Francis is taking steps so that the conversation continues. I am heartened that Linh Hoang is now CTSA's representative to INSeCT.

With Gratitude for our Theological Ministry and Work.

Report of the Vice-President

The following is the text of the report read by Dr. Susan Abraham:

With grateful thanks to Mary Jane Ponyik, Kristin Heyer and Nancy Pineda-Madrid for help and assistance during my time as VP of CTSA.

The mentorship breakfast this year will engage the theme of “How to Publish” for new members. Nancy was kind to remind me to invite publishers who will come to CTSA to the breakfast and Mary Jane very kindly provided me with the list of emails to publishers. It is shaping up to be a very well attended event.

Many thanks to Layla Karst and generous colleagues who are able to pay tribute to the memory of recently deceased colleagues.

I am also glad that the plans for the 2025 convention in Portland are coming together. 2025 is a jubilee year: the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and also the 60th anniversary of Vatican II. Pope Francis has declared it an official jubilee year, with a focus on hope. Hence, my theme invokes this extraordinary time, drawing from one of the articles of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. The theme, “One Baptism: Evolving Visions of Catholicity from Nicaea to Vatican II and Beyond,” seeks to bring together theological reflection on what it means to confess one baptism for a global and worldwide church. I have also provided additional (and provocative) avenues for exploring what the implications of our confession of “One Baptism” might mean for the global church, for interreligious and ecumenical understanding, for understanding across ecclesial, liturgical, theological, disciplinary, theoretical, cultural, and national divides. I thank Nancy Pineda-Madrid, Nancy Dallavalle and Layla Karst for excellent help with formulating the rationale.

For the 2025 meeting, additionally, ACHTUS President-Elect Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu and I are in conversation on how to create a more inclusive space for ACHTUS members. As is known, ACHTUS members have felt alienated from CTSA for years. Cecilia and I are in conversation about overlapping the two meetings so that ACHTUS members may also stay for the CTSA meeting, especially in light of a year of jubilee and the theme of forgiveness.

To help with the meeting, I have asked Akhil Thomas, who is a doctoral candidate at Harvard University, for help with organizing the meeting. Additionally, Tina Astorga (University of Portland) has agreed to help with local plans. I do need to gather a few more willing and able people to help with event planning. Suggestions are welcome! Layla Karst is the liturgical coordinator, and all things liturgical are moving forward.

Invited plenary speakers: Nick Denysenko (Valparaiso University) will provide a reflection on the theme from the perspective of orthodox liturgical theology. The local ELCA Bishop, Laurie Carson Caesar of the Oregon Synod who is from Portland will provide the second plenary from a progressive Lutheran theological perspective. Respondents to the first two plenaries will be forthcoming. The third plenary will be an interactive session that will attempt to gather an intergenerational and intercultural group to talk about the theme of One Baptism. The fourth plenary will be delivered by President Nancy Pineda-Madrid.

As a prelude to 2025, and through the gracious kindness of Nancy Pineda-Madrid and Kristin Heyer to include this idea in the 2024 liturgical celebration, a group of CTSA colleagues from Boston College will invite people to create a mandala around

the baptismal font at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Baltimore. Members arriving to celebrate the liturgy will be encouraged to place an object of significance in the mandala that symbolizes the uniqueness of their self's journey to salvation. In addition, members can place items for the food pantry which will be collected by the church for their community. Invitations are being sent to the leadership of groups and consultations that focus on social justice issues at CTSA.

No resolutions have been presented thus far (5/27/2024). With sincere thanks to Bill Lowe for his excellent support as parliamentarian to CTSA for many years, and with warm welcome and gratitude for the expertise and generosity of Mary Doak for agreeing to step into the role of parliamentarian.

Report of the Secretary

CTSA Secretary, Hoeffman Ospino, renews his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the CTSA in this capacity. He gives thanks to the CTSA Executive Director, Mary Jane Ponyik, for her assistance with the membership database and compiling the final list of applicants. He also thanks this year's members of the Admissions Committee: Dr. Anna Bonta (2022-2025), Dr. Andrew Massena (2023-2026), Dr. Steven Battin (2021-2024), and Dr. Ted Ulrich (2022-2025).

He is glad to see new members joining the CTSA growing, which points to the health and potential of the Society. He also observes trends towards increased diversification in our society, which expands the possibilities of conversation new members bring and eventually call for creative engagement to retain these members, particularly as the theological education landscape changes. Dr. Ospino reminds the members that he is available to support all members as they navigate the life of the Society.

Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee Presentation

The Treasurer, Dr. Patrick Flanagan, C.M. provided a brief overview of the financial statements corresponding to this year's report. The financial statements are available as part of the *Proceedings*.

This year the Treasurer's report included a presentation by Dr. Nancy Dallavalle and Dr. Elsie Miranda on behalf of the Finance Committee on the financial status of the Society. The highlights of that presentation are in a PowerPoint presentation used to support the analysis and is available as part of this volume of the *Proceedings* (Appendix IV).

Report of the Executive Director

The following is the text of the report submitted by Mrs. Mary Jane Ponyik:

Greetings! This year's convention attendance is 371 (as of May 29) with 73 percent attending the John Courtney Murray Banquet this year.

There are eleven publishing houses represented at this year's convention and eight program ads were purchased. There are seven additional ads within our program highlighting the universities and colleges who donated funds to the CTSA in support of our convention. These ad spaces were provided to these institutions as a token of our appreciation.

This year, fifty-one attendees reduced their carbon footprint by donating funds through Native Energy, an expert provider of carbon offsets initiatives. The project "Clean Water Project in Ethiopia" will be the recipient of the collected funds.

Daniel Castillo, Nicole Reibe, and Byron Wratee served as this year's Local Arrangements Committee. They have done a terrific job in assisting Nancy, Kristin, and me with the preparation of the convention. Dorie Geohring served as a program organization assistant and as a member of our registration team. Layla Karst is serving as the CTSA's liturgical aide. Our photographer is Paul Schutz and our videographer is Dorie Goehring. Thank you all so much for your contributions to the annual convention.

Our terrific registration team includes student volunteers from Boston College, Harvard Divinity School, Loyola University of Maryland, Notre Dame of Maryland University, and the University of Dayton. A huge thank you to our registration team members for their service to the CTSA.

Next year, the CTSA will travel to Portland. The room rate at the Marriott Portland Downtown Waterfront Hotel will be \$175 and the meeting dates are June 12–15, 2025.

CTSA Book Club

Since its formation in May 2023, the CTSA Book Club has read and discussed Susan Bigelow Reynolds' book, *People Get Ready: Ritual, Solidarity and Lived Ecclesiology in Catholic Roxbury*; John McGreevy's *Catholicism: A Global History from the French Revolution to Pope Francis*; and Dan Minch's *Pastoral Criticism, Structural Collaboration*. The group is currently reading Massimo Borghesi's *Catholic Discordance: Neoconservatism vs. the Field Hospital Church of Pope Francis over the summer*. The book club meets once a month. Please consider joining us!

CTSA Convention Housekeeping Matters

For members who attend the convention, an electronic convention evaluation will be sent to the email address you provided when you registered for the convention. Please complete and submit the evaluation within two weeks after the close of the convention. Your comments are valuable to the president-elect in the planning of the next year's convention.

Three coach lines are secured to shuttle attendees from the hotel to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church for the celebration of Eucharist. Upon return from the celebration of Eucharist, a brief reception will be held to enable everyone to return from the church. At the close of the reception, please enter banquet hall with your entrée ticket in hand. You will not be served an entrée without your ticket. Please see me if you have any questions.

For those attending the John Courtney Murray banquet, the CTSA provided the opportunity for attendees to pre-select their seats. If you have a banquet ticket and have not reserved your seat, please know that there will be a seat for everyone. Name tags will include your table number or "Open Seat" for ease of reference.

It is my pleasure and privilege to serve as your executive director. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of assistance to you.

Report of the Centennial Committee

The following is the report submitted by Rev. Francis X. Clooney, S.J., CTSA Past President and Chair of the Centennial Committee during 2023-2024:

1. In June 2022, the CTSA approved the formation of the Centennial Committee, whose charge is to work with the Board of Directors to help the CTSA attend to North American Catholic theology's evolving contours and national and international contexts, challenges, and opportunities; to help articulate a guiding vision for the CTSA at 100; and to develop, recommend, and assist the Board in carrying out strategic plans for advancing the Society's mission in light of these. Recognizing the crucial role that financial resources play in enabling the Society to carry out its mission, the work of the Centennial Committee includes a focus on financial sustainability. Its purpose, however, is broader—namely, to assist the Board and CTSA membership in engaging in long range and strategic planning that sets financial and other resourcing goals within the larger, orienting context of the CTSA's mission, and of a shared vision for the Society's next quarter-century.
2. The Centennial Committee's initial tasks have included work toward the drafting of a vision statement for "the CTSA at 100," with membership consultation, shaped in response to questions such as, What may or ought the CTSA look like three, five or ten years down the road? What may or ought the CTSA look like at its 100th anniversary in 2045? What guiding vision for The CTSA at 100 best reflects our Society's mission and aspirations within the changed and changing circumstances of the twenty-first century? What priority issues and strategic goals can most fruitfully orient our work to advance this vision?
3. So too, the Committee, working under the authority of the Board, is also responsible for developing, submitting to the Board for approval, helping to monitor progress, and periodically refreshing and updating a series of mission-driven, multi-year (three to five year) strategic plans for the CTSA.
4. The Centennial Committee (henceforth CC) is currently comprised of these members: Antonio Alonso (who joined the CC this semester), Kevin Burke, S.J., Nancy Dallavalle (also a Board member), Francis Clooney (*ex officio* chair, as CTSA Past President), Patrick Flanagan (*ex officio* as CTSA Treasurer), Craig Ford, Christian Firer Hinze, Linh Hoang (also a Board member), Jaisy Joseph, Mary Jane Ponyik (*ex officio* as CTSA Executive Director), Daniel Rober. Kristin Heyer (CTSA President) attends our meetings regularly. Nancy Pineda-Madrid (CTSA President-Elect) attended the March and May 2024 meetings of the CC.
5. The CC met seven times this year from August to May. In the August to December meetings, we focused largely on items given to us for consideration by the Board, ranging from the dues structure to widening the profile of possible membership moving forward, and other timely items the Board was considering.
6. **Strategic Plan:** In the second semester, we focused first of all on drafting a Strategic Plan, in accord with the original mandate given to the CC. After broad discussion of the need for such a plan and aspects of it, I appointed a

subcommittee (Christine Firer Hinze [chair]; Antonio Alonso; Jaisy Joseph), who drafted a full draft of the SP, which was discussed at our May CC meeting. We have asked the Board to review it and provide comments and suggested revisions for the CC to take up in the summer and fall, with the intention of sharing it with the full CTSA membership in the near future.

7. **Vision Statement Drafts:** The CC also continued the imaginative work of drafting a Vision Statement, a necessary and distinct part of the Strategic Plan. At our May meeting, we reduced the options to three, as contained in **Appendix A**, immediately below.
8. The CC enthusiastically invites all members of the CTSA to react to the three drafts, expressing preferences and proposing edits and alternatives. CC members will be available for informal conversation and comment during the Baltimore convention; input may be given to any of the CC members. After the convention, a CC member or members will be delegated to gather all responses and digest them during the summer and fall of 2024, toward a refined vision statement or statements.

Report of the Centennial Committee: Appendix A Three Drafted Vision Statements

In June 2022, the CTSA approved the formation of the Centennial Committee, whose charge is to work with the Board of Directors to help the CTSA attend to North American Catholic theology's evolving contours and national and international contexts, challenges, and opportunities; to help articulate a guiding vision for the CTSA at 100; and to develop, recommend, and assist the Board in carrying out strategic plans for advancing the Society's mission in light of these. One of the Centennial Committee's initial tasks has been to draft model vision statements for "the CTSA at 100," to share these with the CTSA members, and thus to receive feedback, toward the drafting of a single Vision Statement to serve our needs for the next few years. This is the context for the three model vision statements that follow.

At our May 24, 2024, meeting, the Centennial Committee (CC) finalized a short list of three examples of Vision Statements, modeling slightly different emphases:

1. The CTSA: Advancing theological scholarship and reflection in service of a changing Church, academy, and wider world.
2. The CTSA: Serving God's people by promoting theological wisdom, learning, and excellence.
3. The CTSA: Promoting theological wisdom, learning, and excellence in a spirit of service.

We think that they all speak to the reality and aspirations of the CTSA today and as it looks to the next decades.

The CC enthusiastically invites all members of the CTSA to react to the three drafts, expressing preferences and proposing edits and alternatives. CC members will be available for informal conversation and comment during the Baltimore convention; input may be given to any of the CC members. After the convention, a CC member or members will be delegated to gather all responses and digest them during the summer and fall of 2024, toward a refined vision statement or statements.

Report of CUERG

Dr. Stephanie M. Wong, CUERG Chair 2023-2024, presented an abbreviated version of this report. The following is the full text of the CUERG Report for the activities of 2023 through the 2024 convention:

Identity, Mission, and Key Initiatives

During the 2023-2024 year, CUERG continued to mature in its role as both an advisory committee to the CTSA Board and a support network for CTSA members from under-represented racial and ethnic groups.

In our role as an Advisory Committee to the Board, we continued to have semesterly meetings with Board Liaisons (this year, Board Secretary Dr. Hosffman Ospino, plus Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid and Dr. Susan Abraham and sometimes additional Board members). In the Fall, we discussed the importance of the Board taking responsibility for issuing clear commissions or tasks to CUERG, which the Liaisons did at several points in the year. Our subsequent Liaison–CUERG meetings then afforded opportunities for us to discuss those key issues:

- **Clarifying the scope of CUERG amid Society-wide deliberations about access and inclusion**
 - In response to the Board’s request for input on the scope of CUERG, we submitted a document recommending that the Board keep CUERG focused specifically on racial and ethnic representation while continuing (on the level of the Board and Centennial Committee) to engage larger questions of gender, disability, socioeconomic access, and social polarization that matter deeply for the health and viability of the Society going forward.
 - We also shared our perspective on CUERG’s role in the Society, framing it not only as one of pointing out dynamics of under-representation (i.e., presence or absence in the convention), but ideally also enhancing recognition (i.e., valuation in theological research, teaching, and pastoral service). Thus, CUERG focused this year on contributions of racially marginalized CTSA members, eager to frame their work as a gift enhancing the social experience and theological imagination of the academy and church.
- **Offering input on the 2024 Convention Land Acknowledgement**
 - In response to the Board’s request for feedback on the 2024 Land Acknowledgement, we offered detailed suggestions on the initial draft.
 - Our suggestions added more detail specific to the history of the Indigenous peoples and the Catholic Church and academy in the Baltimore region, and it also offered some organizational suggestions for reformulating the statement in a more liturgical or prayer-like structure, involving both repentance and gratitude.
- **Sharing feedback from the CUERG membership survey**
 - We conducted a survey of the CUERG membership in the Fall, and then shared the key results of this survey with the Board Liaisons.

In our role as a support Network for the larger CUERG membership, we worked to implement the suggestions offered by CUERG members at the 2023 Luncheon listening session.

- **Developing an e-communications system by which the CUERG leadership team might communicate with the wider CUERG membership**
 - With the agreement of the Board and facilitation by Mary Jane Ponyik, the CUERG leadership team now has an email account (cuergchair.ctsa@gmail.com).
 - The CUERG chair also has the ability to log into the CTSA newsletter system to email the CUERG members.
 - This year, the CUERG chair sent several memos to the CUERG members—offering mentorship for CTSA presentation proposals, sharing job posts, inviting nominees for the new CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award, reminding members of larger CTSA town halls, encouraging members to submit their work to be featured at the convention, and so on.
- **Responding to Scholars in Need**
 - When individual scholars reached out to CUERG for support (requesting advice on paper proposals, visa/funding issues, financial aid, etc.) we connected them to appropriate resources where possible.
- **Facilitating Joint Sessions Across Consultations**
 - After the 2023 Convention, some CUERG members expressed a desire for more cross-collaboration across the three consultations to both a) continue previous *ad hoc* efforts at building solidarity through partnerships, and b) to avoid the sense that the consultations must compete against each other for space/time at the convention.
 - Therefore, this year the leadership teams of the ethnic consultations organized three joint panel sessions which will each involve representatives from the Asian/Asian American, Black Catholic, and Latinx Theology Consultations.
 - Going forward, we anticipate the consultations will alternate between doing separate panels (to continue to have their own spaces for reflection) and coming together for joint panels of this sort (perhaps every three years).
- **Creating the CUERG Distinguished Scholar Award**
 - As part of our effort to celebrate CUERG members' contributions in teaching, scholarship, and pastoral service, we have developed a new annual CUERG award: "CUERG Distinguished Scholar Award" <https://ctsa-online.org/Awards>
 - We received several nominations in Fall 2024 and met as the CUERG Leadership Team to review them in the Spring
 - The inaugural honor will be presented at the 2024 Convention to Dr. C. Vanessa White during the CUERG Luncheon. She will give a brief address to the gathering.
- **Featuring CUERG scholarship at the convention**

- At the 2023 CUERG luncheon and in the subsequent survey, CUERG members expressed a desire for more recognition of members' scholarly work.
- Therefore, we are organizing a table at the 2024 Convention which will feature the books and articles published by CUERG members in 2023-2024.

Current CUERG Leadership Team

During the 2023-24 year, the CUERG leadership team included:

- Stephanie Wong, Villanova University (2021–2024, Chair 2023-24)
- Leo Guardado, Fordham University (2022–2025, Anticipated Chair 2024-25)
- Byron Wratee, Boston College (2023-2026, Anticipated Chair 2025-26)

Records/Organization

This year, the chair Stephanie Wong worked to recover and organize CUERG's paperwork. In the CUERG GoogleDrive and Dropbox, she collected and organized a) lists of former leadership, b) past reports, c) results of surveys, and d) minutes from meeting with the Board Liaisons. These accounts will be passed to the next chair so that future generations of CUERG leadership continue to have access to it.

Structure/Succession

In the current structure of the last few years, the CUERG leadership team has been constituted by a representative from each of the Asian/Asian American, Latina/o/x, Black/African & African American Consultations. Thus, as Stephanie Wong cycles off as the out-going chair, we will be selecting somebody to replace her from the Asian/Asian American Consultation.

2024 Convention

The following events are of particular importance for CUERG members at this convention:

- **CUERG Luncheon** (Saturday, 1:00 - 2:15 PM, Watertable Ballroom B/C): At the luncheon, we will be pleased to present the inaugural CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award to Dr. C. Vanessa White, Ph.D. (Associate Professor Spirituality and Ministry and Director of the Certificate in Black Catholic Theology and Ministry, Catholic Theological Union; and Associate Director of the Master of Theology program at Xavier University's Summer Institute for Black Catholic Studies). Dr. White will offer some words of wisdom to the CUERG fellowship.
- **Joint Latinx/Black/Asian and Asian-American Panels**
Friday, June 14, 2:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.
 Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation Panel A (Room: Kent)
 "Sound, Spirituality, and Social Salvation"
 Convener: Craig Ford (Black Catholic Theology Consultation)
 Moderator: Ish Ruiz (Latinx Theology Consultation)
 Presenters:
 - Minah Cho, "Embracing Silence: Sharing Struggles and Fostering Transformation of Women of Color"
 - Rufus Burnett, Jr., "Blue Notes on Flesh: A Blues Reading of Afro-

Christian Soteriological Imaginings of Flesh”

- Antonio Alonso, “Mi Luz y mi Salvación: Singing as a Salvific Practice in Latine Communities”

Saturday, June 15, 11:00 a.m. –12:45 p.m.

Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation Panel B (Room: Kent)

Convener: Ish Ruiz, (Latinx Theology Consultation)

Moderator: Stephanie Wong (Asian/Asian American Theology Consultation)

Presenters:

- Jaisy Joseph, “Church as Leaven and Pilgrim: Interstitial Epistemologies for an Interstitial Church”
- SimonMary Aihokai, “Who Do You Say that I am? Making a Case for Existential Inclusiveness at the Crossroads of Liberation, Institutionality, and Hospitality”

Saturday, June 15, 2:30 p.m.–4:15 p.m.

Joint Asian-Latinx-Black Consultation Panel C (Room: Baltimore B)

Convener: Stephanie Wong (Asian/Asian American Theology Consultation)

Moderator: Craig Ford (Black Catholic Theology Consultation)

Presenters:

- Cecilia Titizano, “Indigenous Relational Epistemologies and a Moral Cosmos”
- David De La Fuente, “Saving Kapwa: Investigating Decolonial Pneumatology Among Filipino American Catholic Charismatics”
- LaRyssa Herrington, “Memory, Narrative, and Solidarity: Africana Marian Popular Piety as Embodied Political Theology”

- **Additional Panels of Interest**

Baltimore and the Black Catholic Experience Invited Session (Room: Federal Hill)

Convener/Moderator: Kathleen Dorsey Bellow

Panelists:

- Therese Wilson Favors, ed., *What We Have Seen and Heard: Essays of Black Catholics in Baltimore*
- Ralph Moore, St. Ann Church Baltimore.
- Michael G. Middleton, SB7 Coalition, Inc., Baltimore

Decolonizing Catholic Theology Interest Group (Room: Gibson)

Convener: Elizabeth Gandolfo

Moderator: Bradford Hinze

Presenter:

- Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, “From Sanctuary to Soil”

Respondents:

- Chanelle Robinson
- Rufus Burnett, Jr.

Report of the INSeCT Delegate

Rev. Linh Hoang, O.F.M., CTSA representative to INSeCT provided the following report:

The International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology (INSeCT) was founded on August 4, 1996 to promote the advancement of Catholic theology around the world. Its mission statement strives for a perspective of Catholic theology that fosters: collaboration among theological societies; interdisciplinary theological inquiry; and an ecumenical as well as interfaith dialogue.

There are currently nineteen participating Catholic societies and four affiliated groups included in INSeCT membership. The current executive committee consists of President Ruben Mendoza, Ateneo de Manila University (Asia-Pacific Rep.), Vice-President Judith Gruber, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Europe Rep.), Vice-President Paulo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro (Latin America Rep.), Treasurer Ramon Luzarraga, St. Martin's University (CTSA and North America Rep.), and Past-President Maeve Heaney Australian Catholic University.

Ramon Luzarraga has served as the CTSA representative. I will be representing CTSA starting in 2024. Ramon will continue to serve as treasurer of INSeCT until the next election at the General Assembly (GA) in December 2024. I appreciate the appointment to be CTSA representative to INSeCT by our President Kristin Heyer.

The late Gerard Manion (CTSA member and INSeCT president) wanted to raise the profile of INSeCT before the Vatican. This was realized when a delegation of INSeCT met with Pope Francis May 10, 2024. This was composed of the current executive committee of INSeCT as well as some past executive committee members. This included CTSA's President-Elect Nancy Pineda-Madrid. The Pope stressed the importance of theology as "a significant and necessary ecclesial ministry" in today's rapidly changing world, a service that "cannot be carried out without a recovery of the sapiential character of theology." The essential "ingredients" of the vocation of Catholic theologians are "creative fidelity to tradition, a cross-disciplinary approach and collegiality." The INSeCT audience was reported not only in *Vatican News* in various languages but also in the *National Catholic Reporter*.

This relationship with the Vatican will continue with a General Assembly to be held in Rome on December 10-13, 2024. This will include the current representatives from the different regions of the world as well as presidents of the respective societies and guilds. There will also be an invitation only gathering with the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education. The Dicastery will be hosting a conference: "The Future of Theology in the University Environment and Its Necessary Conversions," on December 9-10, 2024.

The General Assembly will welcome new members and focus on membership reports. There will be also deliberation on proposed amendments to statutes, discussion on the research projects of each of the different membership regions, election for an executive committee and plan for the next global research project. The current global research project is entitled "A People of All Nations: Decolonizing Theologies—Decolonizing the World." With the conclusion of the assembly, the membership will initiate a new global research project for all its members. The new global research

project will be an invitation for all theologians to participate in the work and mission of INSeCT.

Report of the Delegates to the World Forum on Theologies and Liberation (WFTL)

Dr. Rufus Burnett, Jr., CTSA representative to the WFTL provided the following report:

It is with enthusiasm for the future that I submit this report to the CTSA. On February 13-19 in Kathmandu, Nepal, the WFTL held its eleventh forum entitled "Religion and Politics: Critical Views from the Perspectives of Liberation and Care." This was the first fully in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. I regrettably was unable to attend this year's forum in Kathmandu, Nepal due to an unexpected family matter that prevented my travel. However, this year the secretariat provided WFTL members with a detailed report of the forum in Kathmandu. I direct CTSA board members and CTSA members to the attached detailed report on the Kathmandu forum and will focus my written report on some of the latest developments in the WFTL.

The Work of the Forum

As shared in last year's report, the WFTL continues to make adjustments to its programming to meet the challenges of climate change, economics, and political concerns across the globe all while trying to broaden its scope and impact. During the Kathmandu forum, these challenges were met by giving specific attention to local sites in Asia that embody the WFTL mission to engage the praxis of liberation with theological reflection. Presentations were given by representatives from India, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal. Conference panels and presentations included the following titles: "Introduction to the Historical and Socio-Political Context of Nepal," "Religion and Politics an Unholy Nexus," "The Church's Position Between Development, Care, and NGO Status," "The Church at the Cutting Edges: Liberative Action Through Anti-Human Trafficking Interventions," and "Concerns of Catholic Youth: Intersecting Indigenous & Gender Identities from a Generation in the Making." The sessions dedicated to these topics were followed by reflective group discussions and site visits to local organizations struggling against human trafficking in Nepal.

Participation in the World Social Forum (WSF)

In conjunction with the World Social Forum, the WFTL hosted two panels attended by WSF and WFTL participants. The first was entitled, "Palestine Under Siege in the Nexus of Politics and Religious Rhetoric," and the second was entitled, "Indigenous Spiritualities in the Nexus of Politics and Colonial Religions." These two panels have grown out of the new commitment of the WFTL to cultivate "pairing projects" in which the forum establishes ongoing relationships with projects for liberation across the planet. These pairing projects are aimed at building a global solidarity network that enriches the work of the forum beyond its regular commitment to meeting in conjunction with the World Social Forum.

Implications for CTSA Partnership:

The topics discussed during the 2024 forum offer a global network that CTSA members can continue to draw from. Actionable items toward this connection could

include: extending the CTSA's involvement beyond the two-member liaison in order that interest groups, topic sessions, and consultations might also benefit from the partnership; inclusion of the WFTL Secretariat or WFTL members from the International Committee in future CTSA meetings. Towards this end, members of the secretariat have expressed interests in attending next year's CTSA conference and offering a "Meet the WFTL Secretariat" Zoom meeting.

Programming between the Forums

This year the Executive and Methodological Committees held their first pairing project webinar focused on the Israel–Hamas conflict. The webinar, held on October 28, 2023, was entitled: "The Current Situation and Challenges for the Palestinian people and Palestinian Liberation Theology." Several CTSA members were in attendance and the event was announced on the CTSA Website.

The webinar took up the following questions:

1. What are the more urgent concerns for the Palestinian people in the current time?
2. How do these concerns challenge and enrich theological reflection on liberation?

These questions were addressed by the following panelists:

- **Mitri Raheb**, a prominent figure in Palestinian theology, founder and first president of Dar-al-Kalima University, in Bethlehem. Rev. Raheb served as the pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem from 1987 until 2017. He was elected as the President of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land from 2011-2016. Among his publications: *Bethlehem Besieged: Stories of Hope in Times of Trouble* (2004); *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible through Palestinian Eyes* (2014); *The Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christianity in the Age of Empire* (2021).
- **Varsen Aghabekian**, an expert in right-based community practice (RBCP), who has been engaged in several NGOs engaged in policy development on matters of Al- Quds/Jerusalem, education, youth, women and management. She holds a Ph.D. in Administrative & Policy Studies-Education from the University of Pittsburgh/USA (1988) and a M.Sc. in Nursing Management from Indiana University/Purdue University (1983). Among numerous positions, she served as Manager of Capacity and Institution Building at the Office of the President (2006-2009) and as the Executive Director of Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture in 2009. She also was elected the Commissioner General for the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights in January 2016. Among her publications: *Palestinian Christians: Emigration, Displacement and Diaspora* (2017); *Middle Eastern Women: The Intersection of Law, Culture and Religion* (2020); *The Saga of Survival: Armenian Palestinians, the British Mandate and the Nakba* (2023).

Implications for CTSA Partnership

As the situation in Israel/Palestine continues to be ongoing, the WFTL's commitment to pairing with scholars and activists on the ground in Israel and Palestine could prove to be an important network and resource for CTSA members interested in peace studies, just war theory, human rights, settler colonialism, decolonial theology,

transnational interpretations of liberation theology, and the intersection of theology and humanitarian crises.

Open Access Online Journal with PUM

The WFTL has secured a contract with Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal (PUM) for an online open access journal. The online journal will publish proceedings from the forums as well as articles on practices of liberation. Proceedings from the 2023 forum held in Mexico, City have been edited internally by the WFTL editorial group and is in the process of being edited by the editorial staff at PUM.

Implications for CTSA Partnership:

The open access journal will provide CTSA members with an additional resource to inform themselves about the theological perspectives that are emerging from the WFTL and its partners. It could also offer another outlet for CTSA members to publish if they are so inclined.

New Members

Ahead of the forum in Kathmandu the forum invited the following members to the International Committee:

- Cecilia Titizano, USA
- Elizabeth Isingi, Kenya
- Patrick Gnanapragasam, India
- Paul Hwnag, South Korea
- Shiluina Jamir, India
- Felicia Dian Parera, Indonesia
- Zakia Soman, India
- Marta Luzie de Frecheiras, Brazil
- Afonso Murad, Brazil
- Cesar Baldelomar, USA
- Ariane Collin, Canada
- Ángela Haager, Mexico
- Laura Matamala Lienlaf, Mexico
- Ignace Ndongala Maduku, Canada
- Marisa Noriega, Mexico
- Florence Ollivry, Canada
- Marilu Salazar, Mexico
- Gareth Rowe, United Kingdom

Concluding Thoughts

This year ends my formal participation in the CTSA liaison and I will be handing off my work to Cecilia Titizano, a newly accepted member to the WFTL International Committee and a newly elected member to the CTSA liaison. It has been a pleasure to serve despite the challenges of taking over this work primarily during the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to continuing informal service to the liaison and substantively supporting Cecilia as she takes over and we both work toward identifying a second member to the liaison.

Presentation of the LaCugna Award

Dr. Christopher Steck, S.J., read the citation for the Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award. He thanked the other members of the committee, Dr. Judith Gruber and Dr. Reid Locklin, for their work in reading the submissions and selecting this year's winner. He also thanked all who submitted essays.

This year there were twenty very fine essay submissions reviewed by the LaCugna Award Committee. Members of the committee reviewed the submissions independently, and then met over Zoom to discuss and evaluate each essay. We were finally unanimous in our choice of the winner of this year's LaCugna Award, Michael A. Grigoni, for his article, "The Christian Handgun Owner and Just War."

Dr. Grigoni's article offers a compelling ethnographic and theological analysis of the relationship between gun ownership and evangelical Protestantism. Emerging out of a broader project regarding how we might address the place of guns in the United States from a moral theological perspective, it is based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out with evangelical Christian handgun owners in central North Carolina and offers a theorization of the results through a particular strand of Catholic thought: the just war tradition. It opens with an ethnographic vignette describing Dr. Grigoni's experience of taking a concealed carry course taught from a "Christian perspective" to explore how his interlocutors characterize their firearm-related practices in terms of service, protection, and care. It then engages Augustine and Paul Ramsey to show how the just war tradition can assist in rendering these characterizations in a moral theological register. It then considers a second case, the Deacons for Defense and Justice, an African American self-defense group founded in the mid-1960s that viewed firearms as integral to the advancement of civil rights, to show the limits of the just war tradition for issuing a definitive moral theological claim about guns in the United States. It concludes by gesturing toward other possible frameworks for advancing reflection on this issue.

The essay excels, first, in disrupting many assumptions that readers may bring to the question of gun ownership. Dr. Grigoni makes skillful use of specific, sympathetic examples, from the PowerPoint slides from a training course offering a "Christian Perspective" on concealed carry to the complicated, mutually supporting relationship of the pacifist Congress of Racial Equality and the gun-carrying Deacons for Defense and Justice during the Civil Rights Movement. Second, Grigoni articulates the category of "Christian Protector" to deepen and to challenge a reading of the Just War tradition as, fundamentally, an ethic of care and distinctive expression of Christian love. Grigoni's essay does not settle many questions about gun culture and Christian theology in the US context, but it raises them in new and fruitful ways, thereby inviting further reflection. Ultimately, its ethnographically rich comparison of gun ownership traditions within the moral framework of just war makes a theologically provocative case for the inextricable entanglement of Christian God-talk into the complex matrices of power that make up the fabric of social and political life. Congratulations, Michael.

Action to Receive the Reports

All reports were received by acclamation.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Adjournment

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m., EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

HOSFFMAN OSPINO
CTSA Secretary
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts