

MINUTES OF THE OTTAWA CONVENTION

The sixteenth annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America was held at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada, from the evening of June 19 until the afternoon of June 22, 1961. The annual meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors preceded the convention on the afternoon and evening of Monday, June 19. The principal matter on the agenda for the board meeting was the advance preparations for the 1962 convention to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Members of the Society began to arrive early and registration commenced on Monday evening. Arrangements for the celebration of Mass had already been completed and all pertinent information relative to the convenience of the members was duly posted.

The activities of the first full day of the convention involved registration of members; a general session which included the invocation of the Holy Spirit and an address by the Archbishop of Ottawa, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Marie Joseph Lemieux, O.P., D.D.; the Presidential address of Father Coyle; and a paper by Father Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., Professor of New Testament at the Passionist Fathers' Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

The afternoon was set aside for the elective seminars which were as follows: *Theology and the Evolutionary Process of Life* given by Father James A. Mara, S.J.; *Patristic Teaching on the Image of God in Man* given by Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.; *Problème Théologique de l'État des Défunts Jusqu'à la Résurrection de la Chair* given by Father Etienne Borbely, S.J.; and *The Function of Merit in Christian Morality* given by the Very Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P.

The President of the Society, Father Thomas W. Coyle, C.S.S.R., called the first session of the 1961 convention to order, and then invited the venerable Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Ottawa to invoke the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon our deliberations.

Archbishop Lemieux welcomed the members of the Society to his archdiocese and expressed the hope that they would find the sur-

roundings of Ottawa congenial to their days of theological speculation. Ottawa, he said, was honored in having been selected as the site of the 1961 convention. A review of the history of this region, the Archbishop affirmed, will manifest the tremendous contributions it has made to the science of theology. Many institutions of higher learning, especially the University of Ottawa, in addition to many seminaries and houses of study, attest the interest in theology. Cited for special praise by His Excellency were the Oblates of Mary Immaculate for their work of advancing theological studies at their new Sedes Sapientiae Centre.

The Archbishop noting the importance of the role to be played by theologians in the forthcoming Vatican Council emphasized the importance of the CTSA for the good of the Church. "No other science is more indispensable to mankind and merits the attention of those who devote themselves to the salvation of mankind, than the science of theology. . . . There is, therefore, an enormous need for truly scientific theology, especially with the advances made in other areas of knowledge."

Concluding his remarks, which were made in both English and French, Archbishop Lemieux said: "Your labor and courage in facing problems of the present world have a pastoral significance. We have the great objective of making known the truths of which Christ has been the witness, and which He asks us to witness in our time. . . . May the principles of *Human Generis* ever be the guide to the theologian; and in that spirit may the Catholic Theological Society of America, by its studies and research, encourage profound theological development. Through the Society the prestige of the Church will be more esteemed and the people will profit more."

Father Coyle thanked the Archbishop for his gracious presence at our convention and for the warm and encouraging address prepared for the opening session. Following a tradition of the Society, the President asked for a motion from the floor proposing His Excellency for honorary membership in the Society. The motion was made by Father Paul McKeever, duly seconded and approved unanimously. The membership gave His Excellency a standing ovation in grateful recognition of his courtesy to the Society.

The Vice-President, Father Aloysius McDonough, C.P. then introduced Father Coyle for the presentation of the annual presidential address to the membership. Stressing the need for objectivity in the theologian, Father Coyle cited a number of significant advances made in biblical theology in recent years. The full text of the presidential address will be found elsewhere in these PROCEEDINGS.

Father McDonough thanked our President for his message and assured him of the thanks of the Society for his efforts to lead the Society to new heights during his term of office.

The first paper of the Convention was given by Father Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., on *The Concept of Death in the Early Christian Community*. The speaker, well qualified by years of study and research, presented an animated report which was enthusiastically received by the members. The period of discussion following the paper was uncommonly fruitful and spirited. Father Ahern handled both with exceptional competence. At the conclusion Father McDonough expressed his thanks for the manner in which the task had been carried out by his confrere, Father Ahern.

The remainder of the morning session was given over to a few matters of business. The President called upon the Secretary, Father Nugent, to brief the members on some of the arrangements made on their behalf for the Ottawa sessions. The Secretary thanked Father Roger Guindon, O.M.I., Dean of Theology, Sedes Sapientiae Centre for his detailed and characteristically kind plans to facilitate the offering of Masses by our members. During the days of the convention members would be able to use a specially scheduled shuttle bus to and from the hotel for Mass at the Sedes Sapientiae Centre.

The annual Mass for members who died during the past year would be offered by the President on the following morning. The deceased members reported for the past year were as follows:

The Very Reverend Edmond D. Bernard
The Reverend Adolph Tymczak
The Reverend Charles A. Boyd
The Very Reverend Robert J. Slavin, O.P.
The Reverend Eugene J. Moriarity
The Reverend Richard C. Law, S.J.

The Secretary then announced that he had received a total of 101 applications for membership in the Society. This, he noted, was a heartening response to his appeal for additional members to the Society. A meeting of the Committee on Admissions was announced to screen and approve these applications for admittance at this convention.

Tuesday afternoon was given over to the ever-popular elective seminars. Judging by the numbers in attendance, it was evident that the matters under discussion were of more than passing interest to the members. An innovation of the Ottawa Convention was the programming of one seminar for the French-speaking membership. Hence, the contribution of Father Etienne Borbely, S.J., appears in the PROCEEDINGS in the language in which it was presented.

Following the tradition of many years, the members concluded their theological discussions and repaired to the Grand Salon of the Chateau Laurier, where there was a happy fusion of the useful with the agreeable. This portion of the theological discussion must go unrecorded, but it was universally agreed that many theological problems were aired and solutions set in motion. The tastefully prepared buffet supper provided all with the necessary strength to take up additional cudgels.

Wednesday, June 21st, the second day of the convention, was taken up with one general session, which began at 10:00 A.M. and concluded at noon. Father William F. Cahill, former Dean of the School of Law, St. John's University, Brooklyn, New York, and presently working in the diocese of Albany, presented a very provocative paper on *Civil Law and Guarantee of Religious Freedom*. Much discussion ensued and only with the greatest reluctance did the President, Father Coyle, bring it to a halt in order that the business meeting might be held as scheduled.

Father Coyle presented the Vice President, who made a detailed report on the legal incorporation of the Society. Father McDonough reviewed the early history of the CTSA and its often-discussed desire to incorporate as a legal entity. Meeting on several occasions with the other members of the Committee, Father Nugent and Brother Luke, the Vice-President drew up the necessary documentation and made the formal presentation to the Regents of the

University of the State of New York. After due consideration of the request, the Regents notified Father McDonough that on April 28, 1961 the Catholic Theological Society of America was granted an Absolute Charter of legal incorporation. Father McDonough made mention of the many benefits that would accrue to the Society from such incorporation, but he stressed the primary benefit, namely, the educational dignification of our Society and the influence that it exerts in America. The original copy of the Charter was laminated and presented to Father Alfred Rush, C.S.S.R., the Archivist of the Society.

The President thanked Father McDonough and the members of the Committee for their zeal and expressed the gratitude of the whole Society for the success that attended their labors.

The Secretary, Father Nugent, made his report to the membership and called attention to the following points:

- (a) It is the task of the Secretary to collect all manuscripts of papers and seminars given at the Conventions; he wished to thank all who worked cooperatively with him during the past year in the fulfillment of this mission. At the same time, he urged the speakers of the Ottawa Convention to provide him with their manuscripts before they left the Convention, or as soon as possible during the summer, in order that he might hasten their publication in the annual PROCEEDINGS.
- (b) The question of promoting a membership drive in the Society must not be left entirely to the Officers and members of the Board of Directors. All names of worthy candidates for membership should be sent to the Secretary, who will then send out the necessary literature and forms. It was pointed out that we have less than 900 members in the United States and Canada—a number hardly commensurate with the theological potential of America.
- (c) The Office of the Secretary was able to assist two area Editors of the New Catholic Encyclopedia, seeking information relative to prospective writers and contributors.
- (d) The Secretary prepared the first formal Index to the CTSA PROCEEDINGS which was included in the 1960 edition. It is hoped that this Index can be kept up to date.

- (e) A CTSA Style Sheet was prepared during the year for the use of speakers at the annual Conventions, and as an aid in the preparation of their manuscripts for publication. In the future a copy will be sent to all Convention speakers.

The Secretary announced that the Committee on Admissions had screened the 101 applicants for membership and had passed favorable judgment upon them. The Secretary proposed to the President that the recommendations of the Committee be accepted and that the "new class" be admitted *in globo* to the society. A motion was made by Father Eamon Carroll, O. Carm., seconded by Father John Harvey, O.S.F.S., and accepted unanimously. The new members inducted, June 1961 are as follows:

Albanese, Anthony	Foley, Richard Lonergan
Alcaraz, Michael David	Franck, Bernard Theodore
Allard, Guy Germain	Friday, Robert Michael
Amico, Charles R.	Gallagher, Conan, M.S.Ss.T.
Baker, Joseph William	Gavit, James Francis
Barker, John Alfred	Gervais, Donald Joseph
Boccio, Charles Patrick	Gialdini, Gino, O.S.A.
Boland, Daniel Anthony, S.S.C.	Gormley, William James, C.M.
Branche, John Simeon	Graham, M. Bede, O.C.S.O.
Burrell, David Bakewell, C.S.C.	Guindon, Roger, O.M.I.
Burtchaell, James Tunstead, C.S.C.	Hagan, William McGee, S.J.
Cahill, P. Joseph, S.J.	Hamel, Edward Lester, O.S.A.
Connelly, James Francis	Hammond, Joseph Francis
Connor, John W.	Hanley, Richard Thomas, O.M.I.
Dentici, Thomas Francis	Hogan, Gerald J.
Dietz, Donald Leo, O.M.I.	Horrigan, Leo Richard
Dorsey, Norbert Leonard, C.P.	Hotchkin, John Francis
Dreher, Robert Edwin	Hunt, Robert Edward
Drouin, Francis M., O.P.	Hunter, Donald Eugene
Duggan, William James, S.S.J.	Johnson, Earl James, O.S.B.
Dulles, Avery, S.J.	Kane, Thomas Cornelius, O.P.
Dunn, Raymond Vincent, S.J.	Kircher, Richard Gerard, O.S.B.
Fallon, John Antoninus, O.P.	Klaas, Raymond Edward
Falteseik, Edwin, S.J.	Langevin, Gilles, S.J.
Farley, Leo Owen	Lessard, Raymond William
Farley, Philip Aloysius	Lowery, Daniel Lorne, C.S.S.R.
Fitzgerald, Aloysius, F.S.C.	McCluhan, John D.
	McDonnell, Anthony Michael

McGinnis, Edward Francis	Russell, Clarence Howard
McGuinness, William James	Russell, Robert Louis
McMahon, Thomas Francis, C.S.J.	Sande, Gerald Melvin
Mead, Jude, C.P.	Sandheinrich, Bernard Henry
Meier, Carl Anthony	Scanlon, Wilfred John, C.P.
Moell, Carl Joseph, S.J.	Schmidt, Leo Carl
Moeller, Donald J.	Shanley, Albert Joseph, M.S.
Murphy, Lawrence Francis	Shea, Richard Gregory, S.J.
Murray, John Clifford, C.S.B.	Sheridan, Gerard J.
Murray, Robert Paul	Siedlecki, Edmund Julian
North, Robert, S.J.	Skiba, Richard John
O'Keefe, Leo Patrick, S.J.	Slejzer, Ferdinand Edward
O'Rourke, William J., S.J.	Solana, Terrell Francis
Padovano, Anthony Thomas	Stransky, Thomas Francis, C.S.P.
Peter, Carl Joseph	Sullivan, Eugene Henry
Peter, Valentine Joseph	Swaner, James Joseph
Potter, Gerald Lawal	Tenhundfeld, Paul F.
Price, William J.	Theoret, Pierre-Eucher
Ramge, Sebastian Victor, O.C.D.	Thomas, David Taylor
Reardon, Charles Joseph, S.J.	Vachon, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis- Albert
Richard, Lucien, O.M.I.	Verhalen, Philip Andrew
Ring, John Kevin	Virgulin, Stephen Olindo
Roache, James Patrick	
Rowan, John Lambert, O.F.M.	

The President called upon Bro. Luke, to present the Treasurer's Report. This report highlighted the financial status of the Society, which was styled as "healthy," but asked for the general aid of the membership in securing advertisers for the PROCEEDINGS. Bro. Luke also reported on the answers to the questionnaire which he sent out with the annual dues notice to members. He noted that many members expressed their views on various questions, and especially in regard to the programming and arrangements for the annual conventions. Many of these suggestions have been accepted by the Officers and Board of Directors and will be incorporated into the forthcoming convention in Pittsburgh. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Father Coyle expressed thanks to the many individuals and groups who have aided CTSA throughout the past year. He singled out for particular mention the following: Father Gerald Van Ack-

eren and his Jesuit associates at St. Mary's, Kansas, for the outlines; the Redemptorist Fathers of Holy Redeemer College, Washington, D.C. for their warm hospitality and kindness in providing so generously for the annual meeting of the Officers and Board each November; the speakers and hosts of the Regional Meetings; the Committee on Current Problems; the 1961 Convention speakers; Father James Brennan, C.M., for the handling of publicity releases to the press and news services; Father Roger Guindon, O.M.I., for the capable and efficient manner in which he handled the physical arrangements of the Ottawa convention, especially for the offering of Masses; Father Alfred Rush, C.S.S.R., the Archivist of the Society; Father James Rigney, the Managing Editor of the PROCEEDINGS.

The President announced that Father Myles Bourke had resigned as Chairman of the New York region and would be succeeded by Msgr. James Rea of New York; Father Thomas Donlan, O.P., had resigned as Advertising Manager and would be replaced by Father McDonough, C.P.; Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., had resigned a double chairmanship, that of the important Committee on Current Problems and the Committee on Regional Meetings. With great reluctance the President accepted the resignation, but noted the splendid contributions made to CTSA by Father Burghardt. The members gave the retiring Chairman a special manifestation of their gratitude by a rising vote of thanks.

One of the most impressive moments of each annual convention is the announcement of the current recipient of the Cardinal Spellman Award. Speaking as Chairman of the Committee, Father Coyle announced that the 1961 recipient of this coveted award was the Reverend Cyril Vollert, S.J., member of the Faculty of St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Kansas. He then read the citation, prepared by two former Presidents and members of the Award Committee, Monsignors Lawrence Riley and Michael Murphy.

The Citation:

The unanimous choice of the Award Committee, ratified by the Board of Directors, as the recipient of the Cardinal Spellman Award for Theology for 1961 is Rev. Cyril Vollert of the Society of Jesus.

Rich and varied have been his contributions to the field

of theology. Lecturer, teacher, translator, author, he has distinguished himself as Professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Mary's College in Kansas for over 22 years, and as Guest-Professor at the Gregorian University in Rome and several American institutions of learning. His articles on a wide range of theological topics have enriched the pages of scholarly journals and collections. The efforts to stimulate theological interest and to coordinate theological research in America have been enhanced by his activity of many years as a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, and as a member and former President of the Mariological Society of America. Painstaking in research, lucid in presentation, with a native talent for thorough synthesis from which emerge provocative insights, for a quarter of a century he has been placing in his debt those who have shared with him his profound love for the science of Divine Wisdom.

To the general satisfaction of the members, Father Vollert was formally presented and confessed that he was "simply thunderstruck by the honor." He admitted that "secretly he cherished the ambition to receive the award," but never seriously thought it would be realized. The award, he stated, "would be a stimulus and an incentive to make an even greater contribution to the science of theology." He left the dais amid the applause of the entire membership.

The President called upon the Committee on Nominations for its report to the Society. The Committee Chairman, Father Edward O'Connor, C.S.C., said he spoke in the name of the other members, Father Gerald Van Ackeren, S.J., and Father Paul McKeever. They presented the following slate for the Officers and additional members of the Board of Directors for the years 1961-62:

- President Rev. Aloysius McDonough, C.P.
- Vice-President Very Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P.
- Secretary Rev. Vincent J. Nugent, C.M.
- Treasurer Bro. Celestine Luke Salm, F.S.C.

Replacing the three retiring members of the Board of Directors, the Committee nominated the following:

- Rev. Thomas W. Coyle, C.S.S.R., retiring President
- Rev. John C. Ford, S.J.
- Rev. Martin Healy

The President noted that the Committee had made known its selections and asked for any further nominations from the floor. Since none were forthcoming he asked for a motion that the slate be accepted as proposed; the motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Because of the lateness of the hour Father Coyle adjourned the meeting and announced that our next sessions would be held in the evening in the rooms appointed by the Secretary.

The members were free to acquaint themselves with the historical sites of Ottawa and especially the many institutions of higher learning in the area. Meanwhile the officers of CTSA called upon the Apostolic Delegate to Canada, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Sebastiano Baggio, D.D., Archbishop of Ephesus, who received them most graciously and proceeded to learn more about the Society, its aims and the history of its contributions to theology.

The usual Informal Symposia were held in the evening and attracted a large number of enthusiasts for the specialized areas of fundamental, dogmatic and moral theology. Two symposia were devoted to moral theology, one in English and a second in French, which proved to be a popular and worthwhile innovation.

The Fundamental Symposium was under the direction of Father Edward D. O'Connor, C.S.C., of Notre Dame University; Dogmatic Symposium under Father Mark Heath, O.P., La Salle College, Philadelphia; Moral Theology Symposium in English, under Very Rev. Charles Connors, C. S.Sp., of Washington, D.C.; and the French Symposium in Moral, under Father Herve Marcoux, O.M.I., Regent of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

The final day of the Convention, Thursday, June 22, consisted of the following program: in the morning general session a paper on *The Sacraments as the Continuing Acts of Christ* was read and ably defended by Rev. Bernard J. Cooke, S.J., of Marquette University. The discussion afterwards evidenced the interest and timeliness of the topic.

At the conclusion of the morning session, Father Coyle presented the newly-elected President, Father Aloysius McDonough, C.P., to the Society. No stranger to the CTSA since he functioned as Secretary for more than a decade, the President-elect expressed his appre-

ciation for the honor conferred upon him, and for the implied vote of confidence. Father McDonough promised to spare no time or effort to make 1961-1962 worthwhile in the annals of the CTSA. He referred to the many predecessors who had exemplified the office so well, adding his reliance upon the prudence and efficiency of the co-officers and Board of Directors. The President-elect then recommended that we pray for one another in our formality as members of the CTSA, intent as we are now upon our future, distinctive aureolas as theologians.

In the concluding session of the Convention the members assembled at 2:00 P.M. to participate in the Panel Discussion on *Moral Problems in Business Practice*; of particular interest to the membership was the fact that the two panelists were representative of the laity and the clergy. Mr. Arthur Hull Hayes, President of CBS Radio and a member of the Board of Directors of Columbia Broadcasting System Inc., and the Rev. Daniel L. Lowery, C.S.S.R., Instructor, Catholic Social Thought, Department of Sociology, Catholic University of America, very precisely presented the problems and attempted solutions. It was evident that the topic and the panelists were of more than usual interest to the membership, since there was a steady flow of discussion and animated analysis of many points unearthed by the presentation. With extreme reluctance the retiring President, Father Coyle, was forced to bring the discussion to a close because of the pressure of time. Before concluding, however, he pointed out that this appeared to have been the most popular panel discussion of the series and thanked all who contributed so intelligently to its success. He thanked all the members of the Society for their participation in the sessions of the convention and expressed the hope that all of us would meet for another exchange of theological views at our Pittsburgh Convention in June of 1962. The Convention closed with prayer at 3:30 P.M.

VINCENT J. NUGENT, C.M.
Secretary