

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

The twenty-second annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America took place at the Pick Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, June 19-22, 1967. The distinctive character of the convention's program was found in its theme: *The Church's Teaching Authority and Theology as a Science*. The Current Problems Committee and the Board of Directors had decided to offer a re-evaluation of the teaching authority of the Church in the light of current theology. Against this background which was presented on the first day of the program, three theological topics were pursued: Original Sin, The Sacrament of Penance, and Divorce.

The Board of Directors of the Society held the first session of their semi-annual meeting at 10:30 A.M., June 19, and the business sessions continued throughout the convention, with Rev. Paul E. McKeever, President, presiding. The business of the board centered around planning the 1968 convention (which will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.) and procedures in elections and nominations. The following significant motions were passed by the Board of Directors:

1. The Catholic Theological Society of America shall establish a committee to be called the Committee for Liaison with the Bishops' Committee on Doctrine. Its members shall consist of the President of the Society, the immediate ex-President, the Chairman of the Committee on Current Problems (who shall serve as secretary of this committee), and two more members of the Board (who are neither ex-Presidents nor officers) who shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

2. That the Catholic Theological Society of America request that the exact text of the Bishops' reply to the Ottaviani letter be communicated to the members of the CTSA through its officers and board of directors.

3. A motion of formal thanks was extended to Father George Malone for being the Chicago liaison man in making many preparations for this convention, such as Mass arrangements.

Registration for the convention began at 7:00 P.M., Monday, June 19. Arrangements had been made for two concelebrated Masses to be offered in the hotel daily.

The first general session of the convention was convened on Tuesday, June 20, at 10:00 A.M., and was called to order by Father Paul McKeever, the President of the Society, who then presented Rt. Rev. Msgr. Harry C. Koenig, who extended greetings to the members of the Society in the name of His Excellency, Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago.

The first speaker of the convention was Rev. Eugene M. Burke, C.S.P., who spoke on *The Role of Ordinary Papal Teaching in Contemporary Theology*. A new feature of this year's convention, as a result of a poll of the membership taken by Brother Luke Salm, was the admission of the press to all the sessions of the convention. The second speaker to address the general session was Very Rev. Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, whose topic was, *The Role of the Ordinary Magisterium of the Universal Episcopate*. The third and final paper on the magisterium was delivered in general session by Rev. Robert L. Richard, S.J. His paper, which was entitled, *Changeable and Unchangeable Elements in Conciliar Teaching*, was well received by the members, who were later chagrined to learn of his untimely death shortly after the convention, on August 28. The first day of the convention was concluded with the traditional buffet dinner at 5:30 P.M.

The second day of the convention opened with concelebrated Mass for the intention of the repose of the souls of those members who had died during the past year. The morning sessions offered the following elective seminars between 9:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.:

1. *Original Sin in Ecumenical Perspective*, by Dr. Warren F. Groff
2. *The Social Aspect of the Sacrament of Penance*, by Rev. Bernard J. Cooke, S.J.
3. *The Biblical Theology of Divorce*, by Rev. Bruce Vawter, C.M.

The membership assembled for a general session at 10:45 A.M. and heard the presidential address of Father Paul McKeever on

Development of the CTSA in the Post-Conciliar Church. The business meeting followed immediately, presided over by Father McKeever. Brother Luke Salm, F.S.C. gave the Secretary's report (in the absence of Father Warren Reich, M.S.S.S.T.) and the Treasurer's report. Reports were made by the chairmen of the various regions of the Society. The report of the Committee on Admissions was read by Brother Luke Salm, F.S.C., who noted that all applications for membership were reviewed by the Committee with the following recommendations:

- 92 applications for active membership approved;
- 16 applications for associate membership approved.

Brother Luke Salm made the motion that these applications be accepted and that the applicants be formally notified of their membership in the Society. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the assemblage.

The newly approved Active Members are:

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| Rev. Francis H. Agnew, C.M. | Very Rev. Msgr. Harold P. |
| Rev. David L. Balas, S.O.Cist. | Darcy |
| Rev. Hilary Bender | Rev. Richard J. deGrood |
| Rev. Robert G. Boisvert | Rev. Chester R. Delaney, |
| Rev. Robert R. Bond | O. Carm. |
| Rev. Robert J. Braus, S.J. | Rev. Emile J. DesRosiers, |
| Rev. Edward F. Breen | C.J.M. |
| Rev. Dennis J. Burke | Rev. Edward J. Dillon |
| Rev. Philip P. Callaghan, S.J. | Rev. Ramon A. di Nardo |
| Rev. Gerald P. Cohen, C.S.C. | Rev. John E. Doll, S.J. |
| Rev. Raymond F. Collins | Rev. Walter J. Edyvean |
| Rev. Peter V. Conley | Rev. James L. Empereur, S.J. |
| Rev. Alfred J. Connick | Rev. James C. Esposito |
| Rev. James M. Connolly | Rev. John M. Farnik, C.Ss.R. |
| Mr. Robert A. Connor | Rev. Aquinas M. Ferrara, |
| Sr. St. Agnes Cunningham, | O.F.M. |
| S.S.C.M. | Rev. Joseph C. Fitzpatrick |
| Rev. Rocco A. Cuomo | Rev. Leonard R. Foisly, S.S. |
| Rev. Vincent D. Cushing, | Rev. Thomas J. Foley, S.J. |
| O.F.M. | Rev. Daniel F. Ford, O.F.M. |

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| Rev. John B. Freund, C.M. | Sr. Michael Michels, O.L.V.M. |
| Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anthony N. Fuerst | Rev. Joseph P. Mullin, S.M. |
| Rev. Lawrence P. Goldschmidt, O.S.A. | Rev. Gerald J. Murphy, S.M. |
| Rev. Sidney Griffith, M.S.SS.T. | Rev. William F. Murphy |
| Rev. John J. Heaney, S.J. | Rev. Richard M. Nahman, O.S.A. |
| Rev. Raymond E. Hirt, O.F.M. | Rev. Edwin B. Neill |
| Rev. Paul J. Hritz | Rev. Robert E. O'Brien, S.J. |
| Rev. Edward J. Hughes | Rev. Hugh F. O'Donnell, C.M. |
| Rev. William C. Hunt | Rev. Ladislav Orsy, S.J. |
| Rev. Michael A. Hurley, S.J. | Rev. Gilbert W. Ostdiek, O.F.M. |
| Rev. Thomas P. Joyce, C.M.F. | Rev. Thomas M. Pucelik |
| Rev. Robert T. Kennedy | Rev. Norbert J. Rigali, S.J. |
| Mr. Noël A. Kinsella | Rev. Robert J. Scherer, C.M. |
| Rev. Francis N. Korth, S.J. | Rev. John M. Shea |
| Rev. Allan R. Laubenthal | Rev. Walter M. Shea, S.J. |
| Rev. Boniface Lautz, O.S.B. | Rev. Dennis F. Sheehan |
| Rev. James Lawler | Rev. DePaul L. Stallkamp, O.Carm. |
| Bro. Charles J. Leahy, F.S.C. | Sr. Jane Stier, O.S.U. |
| Rev. Augustin P. Léonard, O.P. | Rev. Patrick G. Thompson |
| Rev. Gregory T. Leville, O.M.I. | Rev. James V. Thuline, O.P. |
| Rev. John F. Macfarlane | Rev. Donald W. Trautman |
| Rev. Gerald L. Malboeuf | Rev. James W. Varty |
| Bro. William J. Martin, F.S.C. | Rev. Walter J. Waldron |
| Rev. George C. McCauley, S.J. | Rev. Thomas H. Weber |
| Sister Mary Peter McGinty, C.S.J. | Rev. Morris F. Wells, O.Carm. |
| Very Rev. Robert E. McGrath, O.M.I. | Rev. Eric Williams, M.S.SS.T. |
| Rev. Kevin F. McMorrow, S.A. | Rev. Joseph F. Wimmer, O.S.A. |
| Rev. Charles J. Mehok, S.J. | Rev. Alfred H. Winters |
| Rev. Robert L. Meyer, S.C.J. | Rev. Richard J. Wojcik |

The newly approved Associate Members are:

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| Rev. Declan Bailey, O.F.M. | Rev. Frank H. Ebner |
| Rev. Benjamin Cueto | Very Rev. Roger Elliott, C.P. |
| Rev. Philip M. Dahnken | Rev. Vincent J. Hagan |

Rev. John C. Hergenrother	Rev. Gerald L. Mischke
Rev. William P. Mahedy, O.S.A.	Rev. Frank J. Murphy
Rev. Andrew M. Malizia, O.P.	Rev. Robert F. Pfeiffer
Rev. Michael J. McManus	Rev. Bertrand J. Rapp
Rev. Walter D. Miller	Rev. Marc P. Salm

Father McKeever announced that the following members had been designated to serve on the *Committee on Admissions* for the coming year:

Rev. William F. Hughes, *Chairman*
Rev. Warren Reich, M.S.S.S.T., *ex officio*
Rev. Charles R. Amico
Rev. John W. Cousins
Rev. George A. Kanoti, C.R.
Rev. Michael J. Scanlon, O.S.A.
Rev. Damian J. Blaher, O.F.M.
Very Rev. Joseph J. Farragher, S.J.
Rev. Earl A. Weis, S.J.

The President gave the report of the Committee on Nominations. The report was as follows.

for President: Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.
for Vice-President: Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan and Rev. Charles E. Curran
for Secretary: Rev. Warren Reich, M.S.S.S.T.
for Treasurer: Bro. Celestine Luke Salm, F.S.C.
for the Board of Directors (to serve a two-year term): Rev. Paul E. McKeever (*ex officio*), Rev. John P. Whalen, and Rev. William G. Topmoeller, S.J.

The President asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. Msgr. James E. Rea was nominated Vice President; Rev. Francis C. O'Hare and Rev. Peter F. Chirico, S.S. were nominated to the Board of Directors. Elections were held by secret ballot, and the following officers were declared elected:

President: Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.
Vice-President: Rev. Charles E. Curran (later contested; see below)

Secretary: Rev. Warren Reich, M.S.S.S.T.

Treasurer: Bro. Luke Salm, F.S.C.

Board of Directors: Rev. John P. Whalen and Rev. William G. Topmoeller, S.J. (the latter was contested; see below).

The business meeting was not officially adjourned at this time; further election matters were taken up at another business meeting at 8:00 P.M.

In the meantime, elective seminars continued in the early part of the afternoon. Between 2:00 P.M. and 3:15 P.M. the following seminars were offered:

1. *The Council of Trent and Original Sin*, by Rev. Benedict J. Endres, O.P.
2. *Auricular Confession and the Council of Trent*, by Rev. Carl J. Peter
3. *Divorce and Psychosocial Change*, by Joseph Deuel Sullivan, M.D. (Rev. Paul M. Boyle, C.P. was regrettably unable to deliver his paper on *Divorce in the Teaching of Trent and in Greek Tradition*.)

Between 4:15 P.M. and 5:30 P.M. the following elective seminars were given:

1. *Original Sin and Christian Anthropology*, by Rev. Anthony T. Padovano
2. *The Age of First Confession*, by Rev. George S. Sloyan.

On Wednesday evening, Father Paul McKeever called to order a continuation of the morning's business meeting, making the following announcement:

The Board of Directors would like to notify the membership that, regrettably, a difficulty has arisen with respect to this morning's election. Before explaining it I would like to assure everyone how embarrassed I feel at this occurrence. I am also very sensitive to the feelings of those directly involved in this morning's election.

Like many errors, this one seems unexplainable in retrospect; however, this is what happened: after the tellers had counted the votes, I was notified that 183 ballots had been

cast; that 92 votes would constitute a number sufficient for a majority; and that Father Charles Curran had received 95 votes, Father William Topmoeller 99 votes, and Father John Whalen 123 votes. These members were therefore judged, in accordance with our Constitution, to have been elected to the Vice-Presidency and to the two vacant positions on the Board of Directors.

Immediately after the morning's meeting terminated, a member approached the chair and asked what the full vote count had been. When we checked it with the tally submitted by Father Edwin Falteisek (who had been designated, along with Father Elliot McGuigon, as official teller), it was discovered that 200 votes had been cast for vice-president. Therefore, the 95 votes received by Father Curran did not constitute a majority. There was the same difficulty with the election of Father Topmoeller. Father Whalen, however, had received 123 votes, which is clearly sufficient as a majority.

I immediately communicated this information to the Board of Directors. The Board requested advice from Father Robert Kennedy, who had been appointed parliamentarian for the convention. Father Kennedy called for the continuation of the voting for the vice-presidency and for the remaining vacancy in the Board of Directors.

As a consequence of his advice, and acting upon its own judgment, the Board of Directors voted 8 to 1 to announce to the membership that the election of officers has been challenged and is in doubt, and that it will be necessary to continue the balloting this evening, until we have a vice-president elected by a majority of those present, and a member of the Board of Directors, also elected by a majority of those present.

Following Father McKeever's announcement, there was a discussion among the members concerning the morning's official balloting and the counting of the ballots.

Father McKeever then called for the election of a vice-president and a member of the Board of Directors. 184 ballots were cast for the vice-presidency, with the following results: Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan: 94 (elected); Rev. Charles E. Curran: 85; Msgr. James E. Rea: 3; Rev. Austin Richard: 1; blank: 1. 176 ballots were cast for the member of the Board of Directors, with the following results: Rev. William G. Topmoeller, S.J.: 120 (elected); Rev. Francis C. O'Hare: 38; Rev. Peter F. Chirico, S.S.: 18.

The next item of business pertained to the Society's relation with the theological committee of the American Catholic hierarchy, and Bishop Alexander M. Zaleski of Lansing, Michigan, chairman of the committee. Father McKeever announced that the Board of Directors had established a committee to carry on these relationships in an official capacity, as noted above.

Father Robert Hunt then introduced the question of academic freedom, speaking of the values to be preserved in this area of concern. After a discussion on this topic, the following motion was passed:

The body empowers the Board of Directors of the Society to establish concrete plans for the handling of the problem of academic freedom, both on the short-term and the long-term basis.

In order to further clarify this new function of the Board of Directors, Father Walter Burghardt introduced an additional motion which was passed in the following form:

Short-term programs which have to be acted upon by the Board without prior referral to the whole body may be so acted upon. Short-term programs which allow for referral to the body at large as well as all long-term programs must be submitted to the membership for approval before they can be acted upon.

During the course of the discussion on this motion, Father Burghardt explained that the "programs" mentioned in the motion shall be determined by the Board.

Father Augustine Rock, O.P., made the following motion: that in future meetings, the Board of Directors hire a court reporter to assist the Secretary in the business meetings of the Society; and it is suggested that the Board of Directors provide a court reporter for its own meetings.

The members voted to refer this motion to the Board of Directors for a decision.

The 1967 business meeting of the Society was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

The final day of the convention, Thursday, June 22, began with

concelebrated Masses, and at 9:30 A.M. the following elective seminars were offered:

1. *The Biblical Doctrine of Original Sin*, by Rev. Michael J. Cantley
2. *The Theology of Devotional Confession*, by Rev. John F. Dedek
3. *The History of the Indissolubility of the Marital Bond*, by Rev. Anthony J. Bevilacqua.

A final general session was conducted at 10:45 A.M., which had as its purpose a survey of the theme of the convention. Rev. Robert E. Hunt made some summary comments under the title: *The Theologian and the Magisterium: The Critical Issues of this Convention*. A lively discussion followed, which indicated that the theme of the convention had been well received and had elicited a great deal of response.

Father Paul McKeever then gave the report of the Committee on the Cardinal Spellman Award, announcing this year's recipient of the award. The following citation was composed by Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., newly elected President:

The Cardinal Spellman Award

The man who honors us today is something of a paradox: to his friends and colleagues, a ceaseless source of head-shaking awe; to those who know him from afar, a myth and a mystery; to all, a sign of contradiction. From its 1910 beginnings in Brazil (Indiana, that is) his life has been unlikely, tempestuous, provocative—and splendidly fruitful.

The basic paradox is Pelagian: he is a self-made man. His formal education, intensively Jesuitical (bachelor of Xavier in Cincinnati, master's from St. Louis U., licentiate in theology from St. Mary's once-in-Kansas, doctorate in theology from Weston outside of Boston), gave scant promise of the top-flight biblical scholar, master of Old Testament and New, of their language, their literature, their life. He has been his own Biblical Institute.

A second paradox is his many-splendored scholarship. His *Two-edged Sword* (1956) was a Catholic phenomenon: the scholarly book without a footnote, revealing in limpid

prose the perennial relevance of Israel's God. Its companion volume on the New Testament, *The Power and the Wisdom* (1965), was still more sharply edged; for all its sober scholarlyness, it was disquieting: the professor left the podium for the pulpit, to chastise the Church and the Christian for their unscriptural abandonment of Christ. *Authority in the Church* (1966) proved more contemporary still, charismatic, prophetic: excess of authority on the one hand, the New Testament corrective on the other. And just when the world of tea and footnotes was beginning to suspect that its own Jerome was turning sheer moralist, forsaking the covenant for castigation and correction, out came the *Dictionary of the Bible* (1965) to confound them: encyclopedic (over 800,000 words), synthetic, incisive, the kind of thing one was certain no one man could do—until this one man did it.

A third paradox is his ecumenical impact. Twenty-four of his twenty-five professorial years have been spent in Catholic structures: West Baden, Chicago Loyola, Notre Dame; and still the prestigious Society of Biblical Literature chose him for its president in 1965. It was a precedent-shattering tribute to a scholar who can specialize without being straitened, to a committed Christian intelligently in love with an ageless Israel, to a priest acceptable to men because he mediates between God and *all* men.

A fourth paradox is his Catholicism. His criticism, Form and formless, is informed and informative, honest and outspoken. Whether appraising the Church and freedom, or sex and the serpent, he is at once blunt and heady; some may call him reckless, none will label him loveless. For what dynamizes his pen and his tongue is the touching confession that concludes *The Power and the Wisdom*: "The gospel lives in the Church or it does not live anywhere."

Creative and productive, encyclopedic and synthetic, critical and constructive, ever old and ever new, this is the scholar on whom the Catholic Theological Society of America is proud and pleased to bestow the Cardinal Spellman Award for 1967: JOHN LAWRENCE MCKENZIE, of the Society of Jesus.

Father McKeever thanked the speakers and all those who had contributed to make this convention a success. He asked for a motion for adjournment and declared the 1967 convention formally adjourned.