

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Transcendence of God in the World of Man was the theme for the twenty-third annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America which was held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., June 17-20, 1968.

The first general session of the convention was convened Tuesday, June 18, at 9:30 A.M. by Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., President of the Society. Father Burghardt presented Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, the Archbishop of Washington, who extended greetings to the members of the Society.

The first major address of the convention was *The Transcendence of God and Biblical Hermeneutic* by Paul S. Minear of Yale Divinity School. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J. of Woodstock College delivered the annual Presidential Address under the title *Towards an American Theology*—a stirring call for a re-study of the purpose of the CTSA in an age when the needs of society are demanding a theology which the American Catholic theological community is not providing. The address provoked a dynamic interest on the part of the membership present and led the Board of Directors to take immediate action in studying the aims, purposes and contribution of the CTSA.

The second major address of the convention was given by Edward M. MacKinnon, S.J. of Boston College whose topic was *The Transcendence of God and Linguistic Analysis*. The following Elective Theme Seminars were offered on Tuesday afternoon:

1. Systematics: *Theistic Evidences in Contemporary Protestant Theology*, by Edward H. Schroeder of Valparaiso University
2. Moral: *The Transcendence of God and the Value of Human Life* [Catholic], by Leo O. Farley of the Catholic University of America

3. Sacramental-Ascetical: *God's Initiative toward Man the Symbol-maker*, by Matthew J. O'Connell, S.J. of Fordham University

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 session was taken up with the final two major addresses delivered to the full assembly. William J. Richardson, S.J. of Fordham University spoke on *The Transcendence of God and Existential Phenomenology*, and John Ratté of Amherst College had as his topic *The Transcendence of God and the Modernist Crisis*.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Society took place at 12:00 noon. Before calling the meeting to order Father Burghardt introduced Most Rev. Alexander Zaleski of Lansing, Michigan, who spoke on the Bishops' Committee on Doctrine, of which he is chairman. He explained that the purpose of the episcopal committee is not to be a "watch-dog" committee, but to render service to the bishops with the help of theologians particularly in reference to pastoral situations. They have already responded to problems presented to them, and have made unofficial recommendations. The Bishops' Committee on Doctrine is also cooperating with the Pastoral Committee of the Bishops' Conference on the question of the "Ministry and Life of the Priest." Bishop Zaleski emphasized that the bishop-members of his committee are eager to benefit from the help of the theologians of this country. They have already turned to the CTSA, through its Committee for Liaison with the Bishops' Committee on Doctrine, for help in theological questions, and they have invited the CTSA to request assistance by the bishops in particular theological problems in this country.

Father Burghardt called the business meeting to order. By unanimous vote of approval the prescribed order of business was changed to facilitate the conducting of business. The report of the Committee on Admissions was read by Brother Luke Salm, who

noted that all applications for membership were reviewed by the Committee with the following recommendations:

- 81 applications for active membership approved;
- 11 applications for associate membership approved.

Brother Luke 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. Bert Akers, S.J. | Rev. Lawrence E. Mattingly,
O.F.M. Conv. |
| Rev. Gerard J. Arella | Rev. Francis X. Meehan |
| Rev. Carl J. Armbruster, S.J. | Rev. Thomas A. Meger, C.S.V. |
| Rev. John J. Begley, S.J. | Rev. Jude J. Mili, O.F.M. |
| Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J. | Rev. Julian J. Miller |
| Rev. Robert J. Bryan | Rev. Robert Molyneaux, C.P. |
| Mr. Thomas Patrick Burke | Rev. Kenneth R. Morris, C.S.V. |
| Rev. James C. Chereso, O.P. | Rev. Paul F. Morrissey, O.S.A. |
| Rev. Donald G. Clifford, S.J. | Rev. William A. Newman, O.P. |
| Dr. Arthur C. Cochrane | Sr. M. Suzanne Noffke, O.P. |
| Rev. Patrick R. Cooney | Rev. Jon O'Brien, S.J. |
| Rev. Bruno J. Coughlin, O. Carm. | Rev. Joseph J. O'Brien |
| Rev. George L. Coulon, C.S.C. | Rev. John J. O'Callaghan, S.J. |
| Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S. | Rev. Richard F. O'Halloran |
| Rev. Anthony M. De Cesare,
C.S.S. | Rev. Thomas F. O'Meara, O.P. |
| Rev. Donatus A. Doino, O.F.M. | Rev. Harry S. Otterson, O. Carm. |
| Rev. Gerald M. Dolan, O.F.M. | Rev. Francis E. Peluso, O.A.R. |
| Rev. Thomas Francis Donovan | Rev. Valentine J. Peter |
| Rev. Vincent Dwyer, O.C.S.O. | Rev. John F. Porter |
| Rev. Arthur J. Ennis, O.S.A. | Rev. Thomas R. Potvin, O.P. |
| Mr. Paul D. Felton | Rev. James M. Reese, O.S.F.S. |
| Rev. David L. Fleming, S.J. | Mr. Robert F. Rizzo |
| Rev. John T. Ford | Rev. John J. Ruef, C.S.S.R. |
| Dr. Robert T. Francoeur | Rev. Herbert J. Ryan, S.J. |
| Rev. Michael F. Glessner, O.S.A. | Rev. Patrick J. Ryan |

Mr. Donald P. Gray	Rev. Thomas H. Sanks, S.J.
Rev. Frederick W. Gunti	Sr. Madeleine Sauve, S.N.J.M.
Rev. James F. Halpin, S.J.	Rev. Augustine J. Schmitz, O.S.B.
Rev. Philip M. Hanley	Rev. Thomas L. Sheridan, S.J.
Sr. Carol Frances Jegen, B.V.M.	Rev. David W. Stinebrickner
Rev. Martin D. Keely, O.F.M.	Rev. William J. Sullivan, S.J.
Rev. Stephen J. Kelleher	Rev. Eugene F. Sweeney, T.O.R.
Rev. James F. Kogler	Frank M. Sweeney, C.S.P.
Rev. Richard M. Liddy	Rev. Jerry E. Thurman, C.M.
Rev. John G. Lynch, C.S.P.	Rev. David W. Tracy
Miss Charlene B. McCarthy	Rev. William A. Wallace, O.P.
Rev. Joseph S. McDonald, S.M.	Rev. William J. Walsh, S.J.
Rev. Richard K. Malone	Rev. Howard G. Weil
Rev. Robert P. Maloney, C.M.	Sr. Rose M. Wilker, S.N.D.DeN.
Rev. Robert M. Maloy, S.M.	Rev. Raymond O. Wicklander

The newly approved Associate Members are:

Rev. Thomas J. Barrett, S.S.
 Rev. Nelson A. Belizario, O. Carm.
 Rev. G. James Brady, C.S.C.
 Rev. Richard A. Cashen, C.P.
 Rev. John E. Corrigan
 Rev. Donald J. Fitzsimmons, C.S.V.
 Rev. Robert E. McCall, S.S.J.
 Rev. Norman C. McLaughlin
 Rev. Ronald E. Modras
 Rev. Anton P. Morgenroth, C.S.Sp.
 Rev. Henry H. Scarborough
 Rev. James H. Schulte

Father Burghardt announced that the following members had been appointed to serve on the Committee on Admissions for the coming year.

Rev. Thomas P. Joyce, C.M.F., *Chairman*
 Rev. Warren Reich, S.T., *ex officio*
 Sr. St. Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M.

Rev. Berard L. Marthaler, O.F.M., Conv.
Very Rev. Msgr. Daniel V. Flynn
Sr. Jane Stier, O.S.U.
Rev. Thomas Gilbride
Very Rev. Joseph J. Farragher, S.J.
Rev. Willis J. Egan, S.J.

Rev. Joseph Kerns, S.J., chairman, gave the report of the Committee on Nominations. The report was as follows:

for President: Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan
for Vice-President: Rev. Charles E. Curran and Rev. Thomas E. Clarke, S.J.
for Secretary: Rev. Warren T. Reich, S.T.
for Treasurer: Bro. C. Luke Salm, F.S.C.
for the Board of Directors (to serve a two-year term): Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J. (as out-going President), Rev. George Dyer, Rev. David Burrell, C.S.C., Msgr. William W. Baum, and Rev. Frank B. Norris, S.S.

Brother Luke Salm explained voting procedures. Father Burghardt asked if there were additional nominations from the floor for the office of President. Father Augustine Rock, O.P. made a motion that the present slate of officers and Board be retained in office for another year. The motion was seconded by Msgr. Oesterreicher. When the parliamentarian ruled the motion out of order, another motion was made and seconded that the order of business be so amended that the motion of Father Rock could be maintained. Father Burghardt stated that he would not be willing to remain in office another year, but that he would be willing to contribute to the revision of the Society through committee work. The two motions were withdrawn and the nominations for President were closed. Msgr. Vaughan was elected President by voice vote.

Father Burghardt asked for further nominations for the post of Vice-President, and when there were none the nominations were closed. Father Charles E. Curran was elected Vice-President by secret ballot, receiving 93 votes as compared with 54 votes cast for Father Thomas E. Clarke, S.J. Rev. Warren T. Reich, S.T. was

elected Secretary by voice vote, and Bro. Luke Salm, F.S.C. was likewise elected Treasurer by voice vote.

Father Burghardt, as out-going President, was elected to the Board of Directors by voice vote. Father Burghardt asked for additional nominations to the Board from the floor, and Rev. Thomas E. Clarke, S.J. was nominated. By secret ballot, Rev. Thomas E. Clarke, S.J. and Rev. George Dyer were elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors.

Upon conclusion of the elections, Father Burghardt read the following report which had been unanimously agreed upon by the officers and Board of Directors of the Society:

At the request of John L. McKenzie, S.J., the Catholic Theological Society of America, through its Officers and Board of Directors, took under study the charge of heresy leveled against Father McKenzie by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey in a letter of October 30, 1967, on the basis of certain passages in the book *Authority in the Church*.

After a careful study of the relevant passages, the Officers and Board of Directors of the CTSA have concluded unanimously that the charge of heresy based on these passages is unjustified.

Furthermore, we regret this charge of heresy and the use of epithets like "nonsense" and "insanity," inasmuch as (1) they condemn by implication the judgment of the Catholic Theological Society of America, which had honored Father McKenzie with its 1967 Cardinal Spellman Award for his many outstanding theological contributions, including the book in question, and (2) they stand in contradiction to the growing respect and co-operation between bishops and theologians in this country.

Father Charles Curran made the motion "that the entire CTSA go on record in support of the decision of the officers and Board's judgement in regard to the case of John L. McKenzie, S.J." The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands, 95 in favor and 35 opposed.

The annual report of the Committee on Regional Meetings, submitted by Rev. Eugene I. Van Antwerp, S.S., chairman, was read by Father Burghardt in Father Van Antwerp's absence. The New York Region (Rev. Paul J. McKeever, chairman) held Fall and

Spring regional meetings; the Baltimore-Washington Region (Rev. Wilfrid F. Dewan, C.S.P., chairman) also met in the Fall and in the Spring; and the Chicago Region (Rev. George K. Malone, chairman) met in December. The opportunity for professional dialogue and exchange was enjoyed by all the participants. Although the other regions are relatively inactive, in those geographical areas where such regional meetings can function there is every likelihood of continued growth.

Brother Luke Salm, F.S.C. gave the Treasurer's report. He pointed out that rising costs of printing and mailing, administrative and travel expenses, and the involvement of the Society in cooperation with other professional associations and with the bishops all point to the need for a raise in dues beyond the annual \$6.00 required by our Constitution, such as other societies similar to ours have already effected. Accordingly, the officers and Board of Directors propose that Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution be amended to read: "The annual dues for all members shall be determined by the Board of Directors and are payable in advance on January 1st of each year. The fiscal year of the Society shall end on the 31st day of December of each year." Notice of this proposed amendment had been mailed to the entire active membership of the Society, as required by Article VIII of the Constitution. The amendment was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Brother Luke announced that the next convention of the Society will be held June 17-20, 1969, at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The 1970 convention will be at the Shelby Hotel in Detroit. It was also announced that the collection taken up during this year's convention for the benefit of the Poor People's Campaign being staged simultaneously with the convention in Washington amounted to \$519.24.

As an item of new business, Rev. Joseph H. Biltz moved:

that the CTSA cancel its afternoon program, recognizing and accepting the extraordinary and serious inconveniences entailed, and proceed forthwith as a group to participate in the "Poor People's March" and assembly which is at present underway in Washington. To give a few dollars and to make a nice statement is not enough. A world and nation in extreme crisis and locked in poverty, racism and oppression calls now,

at this hour, for personal and group action and involvement of this society with the poor of this nation to make our statement of solidarity and concern truly credible and authentic.

The motion was seconded and defeated by voice vote.

Rev. Charles R. Amico moved "that a new regional section of the Society be established, namely a Lake Erie Region." The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

CONVENTION PROGRAM CONTINUED

The Wednesday convention schedule continued with two consecutive afternoon Elective Theme Seminars:

1. Systematics: *Natural Religious Knowledge in Contemporary Catholic Theology*, by Bernard J. F. Lonergan, S.J., of Regis College, Ontario
 2. Moral: *God's Law Regarding Abortion and Public Policy*, by Life [Non-Catholic], by James M. Gustafson of Yale Divinity School
 3. Sacramental-Ascetical: *God's Action Immanent in the World of Sacraments*, by James J. Mulligan of Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland
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1. Systematics: *Transcendent Divinity and Process Philosophy*, by Eugene Fontinell, Queens College
 2. Moral: *God's Law Regarding Abortion and Public Policy*, by Robert F. Drinan, S.J. of Boston College Law School
 3. Sacramental-Ascetical: *The Transcendence of God and the Salvation of All Mankind*, by David A. Dillon of the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, Minneapolis

A public session at 8:30 P.M. featured a panel discussion on the topic of *Academic Freedom and the Theologian* with the following participants: Philip Scharper of Sheed and Ward, Inc., Robert E. Hunt of the Catholic University of America, and Augustine Rock, O.P. of Blackfriars, Chicago.

The final sessions of the convention on Thursday morning, June 20 offered the following Elective Theme Seminars:

1. Systematics: *Transcendence and the Expression of the Magisterium*, by Anslem Atkins, O.C.S.O. of Conyers, Georgia
2. Moral: *Past Church Teaching on Abortion*, by Richard A. McCormick, S.J. of Bellarmine School of Theology
3. Sacramental-Ascetical: *Transcendent God and Prayer as Encounter with Person*, by Ernest E. Larkin, O. Carm. of the Catholic University of America.

Thomas A. F. O'Meara, O.P. of Aquinas Institute, Dubuque, gave a summary of the convention theme under the title: *God's Transcendence and Man's World: The Critical Issue of This Convention*. There was wide agreement that a great deal of interest had calibre of speakers engaged for the 1968 convention.

been stimulated by the thorough range of topics and the impressive

At the official adjournment of the 1968 convention, Father Walter Burghardt announced that the Committee on the Cardinal Spellman Award had selected Dr. Martin R. P. McGuire of the Catholic University of America to be honored as the Outstanding Theologian of the Year.

The Cardinal Spellman Award

The man we honor today, the man who honors us, is a remarkable layman. Not primarily a theologian, he is nevertheless competent and productive in patristic literature and theology. Perhaps his field of specialization is classical life and literature, but he has put the classical mind and milieu in confrontation with the Christian "thing" that suffused it, has helped to show that early Christianity is incapable of being understood apart from the classical air it breathed once it overleaped the bounds of its birthplace. He is a historian, but in an uncommon sense: he has a remarkably detailed grasp of universal history and a discouragingly rich knowledge of Christianity's development.

This scholar has fired four decades of priests, sisters, and laity with a vision of solid scholarship in the service of the Church and of mankind. His own career is a splendid example of the type of scholarship towards which the CTSA is hopefully moving: interdisciplinary co-operation.

He is the idea-man behind the one significant work of American Catholic theological collaboration in the past half century: the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*. He, more than any

one man, planned it, organized it, guided it from its first moment, almost a decade ago, when as a layman he had to be extraordinarily diplomatic to get the NCE off the ground. And right now, ageless and dauntless, he is the center of the emerging *Catholic Theological Encyclopedia*.

He has lived in the shadow of many lesser men—because this is the way he wants it, this is the way he lives.

The Catholic Theological Society of America is privileged to grant its 1968 Cardinal Spellman Award to a scholar to whom American Theology is deeply indebted—perhaps the last of our encyclopedic humanists, a splendid Christian gentleman, who through suffering and joy has enriched all of us beyond our knowing: Martin R. P. McGuire.

Father Burghardt then thanked all those who had been responsible for a successful convention, particularly the speakers and Fathers Ramon di Nardo and John McQuade, S.M. for having made arrangements for concelebrated Masses to be offered daily in the hotel. Father Burghardt asked for a motion for adjournment and declared the 1968 convention formally adjourned.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The purpose of this section of the report is to publish some of the significant recent actions of the Society's Board of Directors.

1. By a decision of the Board, representatives of the following learned societies and institutions were invited to attend the 1968 convention: The Faith and Order Department of the National Council of Churches, The American Association of Theological Schools, The Religious Education Association, The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, The North American Academy of Ecumenists, The American Theological Society, The American Academy of Religion, The American Society of Christian Ethics, and various Jewish organizations and theological schools in the Washington area. Some of the non-Catholic guests who have attended the CTSA convention in recent years have joined the Society.

2. At the June, 1968 meeting of the Board, as a result of the Presidential Address of Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., the Board unanimously approved the following motion: "The Board of Directors and the Officers recommend to the new president, as a matter

of high priority, that he appoint a committee to (1) study the structure and purpose of the CTSA and (2) present to the Board at its November meeting, if possible, concrete proposals to implement these purposes."

3. Concerning the request made to the Board by Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J. relative to the charge of heresy made against him by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey, the Board agreed upon the response which has been printed above. It was decided to make the Board's statement public, preceded by letters to Archbishop Lucey and Father McKenzie.

4. Prompted by a letter written by Archbishop O'Boyle to the faithful of the archdiocese of Washington, dated June 13, 1968, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

The Catholic Theological Society of America meeting this day in Washington, through its officers and board of directors, endorses the objective of the Poor People's Campaign to eradicate hard-core poverty in this country and the non-violent methods being used to achieve this goal. As a concrete expression of our solidarity with the Poor People's March we offer a contribution collected from those members who are present at the convention.

5. The topic of *Ministry* was decided upon as the theme for the 1969 convention to be held in San Francisco.

6. The resignation of Msgr. Daniel V. Flynn as editor of the *Proceedings* was announced to the Board. By unanimous vote the Board resolved to express the deep appreciation of the CTSA, its officers and Board members to Msgr. Flynn for his ten years of dedicated service as editor of the *Proceedings*. Msgr. Raymond T. Powers, of St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, New York, who offered to assume this post, was confirmed in this position by the Board.

Warren T. Reich, S.T., *Secretary*