

SECRETARY'S REPORT

THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The theme of the twenty-sixth convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America, held June 14-17, 1971 was, *The Impact of American Culture and Experience on Theology*. His eminence, Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, welcomed the convention to the city. He stressed the problems of communication which frequently exist between members of the hierarchy and theologians. The need for continuing clarification of the message of revelation calls for efforts toward more effective dialogue between bishops and those engaged in the theological enterprise in the Church. If the Church is to proclaim the gospel to persons in our society, methods must be found to make this possible for those who share in the teaching mission of the Church, at all levels.

Richard A. McCormick, S.J. acknowledged this welcome. Honorary membership in the society was conferred on Cardinal Shehan by acclamation, following the motion made by the President.

The opening presentation of the convention program was made by Joseph Sittler of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Dr. Sittler's paper, *An Aspect of American Religious Experience*, was a brilliant articulation of the situation of religious man in contemporary American society. An insightful companion keynote address, *Meaning and Characteristics of an American Theology*, was delivered by John H. Wright of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. David W. Tracy of the University of Chicago Divinity School gave a challenging reaction to this second paper.

Following the convention Eucharist, during which the deceased members of the CTSA were remembered, the remainder of the first day of the convention was spent in elective group sessions. The traditional buffet supper was held that evening.

The following elective groups met on Tuesday afternoon:

2:30 P.M. Elective Group One: *Christology and the Contem-*

porary American Experience, by Christopher F. Mooney, Woodstock College, N.Y.

Elective Group Two: *The Use of Scripture in Moral Theology*, by Charles E. Curran, Catholic University of America.

Elective Group Three: *The Meaning of Revelation within a Pluralism of Religious and Ethical Experience*, by Gabriel Moran, President, Christian Brothers.

4:00 P.M. Elective Group One: *American History and the Theological Enterprise*, by James Hennesey, Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

Elective Group Two: *Is There a Distinct American Contribution to the Future of Religious Life?* by Luke Salm, Manhattan College, N.Y.

Elective Group Three: *The Relationship of Empirical Sciences to Moral Thought*, by James M. Gustafson, Divinity School, Yale University.

A concelebrated Eucharist began convention activities on Wednesday, June 16. The morning was reserved for further meetings of the elective groups:

9:30 A.M. Elective Group One: *American Youth and the Problem of God: A Theological Reflection*, by Michael Novak, State University of New York at Old Westbury.

John E. Burkhart (Reactor), McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

Elective Group Two: *American Youth and the Process of Social Change: A Sociological Reflection*, Victor Ferkiss, Georgetown University.

John F. Cronin (Reactor), St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore.

Elective Group Three: *American Youth and the Institutional Church: A Pastoral Reflection*, J. Whitney Evans, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Campus Ministries Department.

Daniel L. Lowery (Reactor), Provincial, Redemptorists.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the society took place at 11:30 A.M. Wednesday, June 16. The meeting was called to order by Richard A. McCormick, S.J., President. Joseph Nearon was parliamentarian. The report of the Committee on Admissions was read by Agnes Cunningham, who stated that all applications for membership were reviewed by the Committee with the following recommendations:

- 40 application for active membership approved;
- 24 applications for associate membership approved.

Sister Cunningham moved 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 assembly.

The newly approved active members are:

Rev. Kenneth Baker, S.J.	Rev. Michael A. Fahey, S.J.
Rev. Ralph L. Besendorfer	Rev. Adrian R. Fuerst, O.S.B.
Rev. Leonard J. Biallas, C.S.C.	Dr. Jacques Goulet
Rev. Joseph A. Bracken, S.J.	Rev. John F. Hotchkin
Rev. Harold B. Bumpus, S.J.	Rev. John F. Kinney
Sister Sara Butler, M.S.B.T.	Rev. J. Leo Klein, S.J.
Sister Mary Francis Regis Carton, S.S.N.D.	Rev. Ronald D. Lawler, O.F.M., Cap.
Sister Josephine Marie Cavanaugh, C.S.J.	Sister Francis Assisi Loughery, O.P.
Rev. Joseph L. Charren, C.P.P.S.	Rev. Gerard H. Luttenberger, C.M.
Rev. Lawrence R. Connors, S.J.	J. A. Ross MacKenzie
Raoul F. Dederen	Rev. Ernest R. Martinez, S.J.
Rev. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A.	Edward John McCarthy
Sister Dorothy Donnelly	Marie Alexis Navarre, I.H.M.
Dr. Kenneth D. Eberhard	

Mr. Ray R. Noll, S.J.	Sister Mary Jude Redle, S.C.L.
Sister Catherine R. O'Connor, C.J.S.	Rev. Paul E. Schrodt, C.P. Rev. Martin Semple
Sister Maria O'Connor, R.S.M.	Rev. William B. Smith
Daniel J. O'Hanlon, S.J.	Rev. Jack L. Stotts
Webster T. Patterson	Rev. Joseph Supa
Rev. Quentin Quesnell, S. J.	Mr. Leonard J. Swidler

The newly approved associate members are:

Mr. Leland Tyson Anderson, Jr.	Rev. Matthias L. Neuman, O.S.B.
Mr. John V. Apezyński	Rev. Timothy E. O'Connell
Mr. James E. Biechler	Rev. Andre Primeau, O.P.
Rev. T. Paul Broadhurst, C.S.B.	Rev. Anthony J. Prosen
Mr. Venard A. J. Chanski	Rev. Adrian A.C. Riemslog, O.F.M., Cap.
Rev. Patrick W. Collins	Rev. William J. Ruhl, O.S.F.S.
Rev. Msgr. Paul G. Cook	Rev. Francis W. Sacks, C.M.
Rev. Francis Gunther Gessinger, S.V.D.	Rev. Thomas F. Schindler
Rev. Otto H. Hentz, S.J.	Rev. J. Peter Schinelier, S.J.
Rev. Frederic Joseph Kelly, S.J.	Rev. John A. Sherlock
Rev. Joseph M. Mills	Michael A. Taylor
Richard F. Morrisroe	Rev. Gordon E. Truitt

The secretary then reported on the activities of her office for the year.

Luke Salm, representative of the CTSA to the Council on the Study of Religion, gave a report on the May 5, 1971 meeting of the CSR. This report included items concerning the growth and continued development of the Council, evidenced by the regular publication schedule of the BULLETIN, among other facts. Harry Orlinsky is the chairman of the Committee on Travel Grants. CSR is now incorporated and has received a grant of \$10,000 from ACLS. A Task Force on Scholarly Communication has been established, in view of determining the use of data access and informational retrieval systems, as well as methods of dissemination of research, such as journals, out of print, primary source material, and so forth.

Proposed development of the organization envisions various stages of services, including a full-time executive secretary. Finances seem to indicate progressive growth through stages to full achievement of the entire program. Brother Salm moved: That the CTSA continue to support the CSR to the extent authorized until now and that the treasurer be authorized in consultation with the president to provide funds as required for full participation in further projects. The motion carried unanimously. Current advantages to CTSA members from affiliation with CSR are computerized membership lists, as a basis for more effective directory service, and five annual issues of the CSR BULLETIN, as an organ of communication for constituent member societies.

Results of the annual elections were announced at this time:

John H. Wright, S.J. was elected vice-president by 84 ballots. Richard McCormick, S.J. thanked the outgoing board members in the name of the society: Luke Salm, F.S.C., Eugene Van Antwerp, S.S., and Austin B. Vaughan. Carl Armbruster, S.J. was elected to the board by 75 ballots on the first balloting; Daniel V. Flynn was elected to the board on the third balloting.

Philip D. Morris gave the annual Treasurer's Report (see below). Monies received by the society in response to an appeal made by the CTSA President to the American bishops are to be used for purposes of theological research at the national level. Details of the collaboration of the CTSA with CSR in the 1972 Congress, to be held in Los Angeles, September 2-5, 1972, were explained.

In the President's Report, Richard A. McCormick, S.J. spoke of CTSA projects undertaken or completed in the past year. The papers of the CTSA Symposium, *Metropolis: Christian Presence and Responsibility*, have been published. The study on the permanent diaconate has been completed and submitted to the Bishops' Commission. For a second year, CTSA will collaborate with the National Federation of Priests' Councils in conjunction with *Chicago Studies* in a study on "The Future of Ministry." A resolution was passed expressing gratitude in the name of the society to the American bishops whose monetary gifts will make possible the establishment of three theological research committees this year. The proposed committees are: Commission for a Code of Medical Ethics; Commission on Pas-

toral Activity for Divorce and Remarriage; Commission on Theological Implications of Ecumenical Dialogue. Members were urged to submit their names for these commissions. Members were also asked to suggest names and topics for future conventions of the society.

The following resolutions were made by Richard P. McBrien and passed as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED that the CTSA regrets the September, 1970, decision of the Executive Committee of the NCCB excluding priests who have been dispensed from the obligation of celibacy from serving in a staff or consultative capacity for NCCB-sponsored projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CTSA urges the Executive Committee of the NCCB to reconsider this decision.

The following motion was made by Gerard S. Sloyan and was passed by the assembled members:

The CTSA expresses its solidarity in fraternal love with the Most Reverend Bernard M. Kelly, Auxiliary Bishop of Providence, in his decision to resign from the bishopric. The Society abstains from a view on the merits or demerits of the bishop's action, simply wishing to extend to him the right hand of fellowship in a difficult hour.

This resolution is to be sent as a recorded action of the society to Bishop Kelly.

The assembly supported a resolution of the Board recommending that the CTSA, through its board, suggest to Cardinal Dearden the consideration of official theological representation at national and regional meetings of the NCCB, as well as the appointment of *periti* for the American delegates to the Synod.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

CONVENTION PROGRAM CONTINUED

During the afternoon of Wednesday, June 17, seven discussion seminars were held on the following topics: *Hans Küng's "Infallible? An Enquiry"* led by Harry McSorley of St. Michael's College, Toronto; *Sacraments and the Invalidly Married*, Stephen Kelleher,

Church of St. Pius X, New York; *The Theological Position of the State of Israel*, Monika Hellwig, Georgetown University; *Daniel Callahan's "Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality,"* Daniel Callahan, Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences, New York; *The Sociology of Religion* (Berger, Bellah, Luckmann) and *American Theology*, Patrick Burns, St. Louis University, Missouri; *The Theology of Grace: Trends and Problems*, Francis Colborn, St. John's Major Seminary, California; *The Place of the Church in Concrete Social Issues*, George Higgins, United States Catholic Conference.

At 8:00 P.M. groups sessions were again scheduled:

Elective Group One: *Is There a Distinct American Contribution to the Development of Liturgy?* Godfrey Diekmann, St. John's Abbey, Minnesota.

Elective Group Two: *Is There a Distinct American Contribution to the Notion of Church?* Richard P. McBrien, Boston College.

Anthony Padovano's presentation, *American Culture and Theology*, had to be cancelled, because of the author's illness. This paper will be included in the 1971 PROCEEDINGS.

Following the concelebrated Eucharist on Thursday morning, further discussion seminars were held: *Resurrection as Historical Event*, Bruce Vawter, DePaul University, Chicago; *Doctrinal Pluralism*, Bernard Lonergan, Regis College, Willowdale, Ontario; *Lawrence Lucas' "Black Priest/White Church"*, Lawrence E. Lucas, Church of the Resurrection, New York; *Episcopal Leadership in America: Problems and Possibilities*, Most Reverend Thomas J. Gumbleton, Archdiocese of Detroit; *Ministry and Celibacy*, Eugene Van Antwerp, National Catholic Educational Association; *A New Sexual Morality?* Anthony R. Kosnik, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Detroit; *Theology in the Contemporary Catholic Seminary*, Walter J. Burghardt, Woodstock College, New York.

The concluding general session opened at 11:20 A.M. in the Ballroom of the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Richard A. McCormick introduced the new President, Carl J. Peter. A commendation of the outgoing president was given by his successor, with a vote of thanks expressed by the assembly. Richard A. McCormick then took the floor to conclude unfinished business, the election of treasurer and

secretary for the coming year. Philip D. Morris and Agnes Cunningham were elected unanimously by acclaim, since no other names had been submitted from the floor.

The Presidential Address was presented by Richard A. McCormick, S.J. The outgoing president spoke of the need for leadership in the American Church, the distinction between authority and leadership, the problems attendant upon the identification of leadership with juridical authority, and the contemporary challenge that calls for authority to become leadership through bringing about the liberation of others to be leaders according to their competence and concern.

Following the address, Carl Peter once again called for volunteers for the CTSA committees to be established this year. He again invited members to submit suggestions for the CTSA program during the 1972 CSR Congress, as well as for future annual conventions. He indicated the intention of the board to take into consideration suggestions regarding areas of theological investigation suggested as necessary by members attending the convention.

Before adjourning the 1971 Convention, Richard A. McCormick announced that the recipient of the Cardinal Spellman Award for 1971, Raymond E. Brown, S.S., will receive this award on the occasion of the November Board of Directors meeting.

Citation for the Cardinal Spellman Award

How often is it said of a man that he has published a— for the time—definitive word on his subject? How often is it said of a man that he is the first Catholic to address the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches? How often can it be said of a man that here is one who, in spite of international acclaim, has retained a warmth and simplicity which have attracted all who have met him, from his student days until the present moment? It is such a man the Catholic Theological Society of America honors today: a man of the Church, a man of persevering and fruitful scholarship, a man at home in the times in which he lives.

Our honoree's many articles in learned and popular journals, his innumerable addresses and papers before audiences of every description, have not only inspired his hearers and readers; they have also prepared his admirers for the world-

wide acclaim which greeted both the first and second volume of his *meisterstück*, *The Commentary on the Gospel of John* in the Anchor Bible Series. If this is not the *dernier cri* on the fourth Gospel, we may rest satisfied that it will be a long time until a "*dernier-er*" ever comes along. It is because of the excellence of his work—thorough yet warming, prolific yet penetrating, forceful yet modest—that scholars, and indeed the entire Christian world, await with eager anticipation the publication of his promised commentary on the Epistle of John. That, like its already standard predecessor, is assured of a permanent place in the literature on the subject.

It is because of the excellence of his work that he is one of two American Catholic scholars elected to Faith and Order. It is because of the excellence of his achievement that theologians have a clearer view of and a surer grasp on the sources of their systematic reflection and reformulation of the faith. It is because of the excellence of his work that his selection as the first Catholic scholar to hold a joint appointment to Union Theological Seminary and Woodstock College appears so utterly natural and so brightly promising. It is because he is who he is—lecturer, author, collaborating editor, man of faith, gentleman—that the Catholic Theological Society of America is honored to confer its Cardinal Spellman Award for 1971 on *Raymond E. Brown, S.S.*

AGNES CUNNINGHAM S.S.C.M., *Secretary*
St. Mary of the Lake Seminary
Mundelein, Illinois

Report on Resolutions to NCCB

After the adjournment of the convention at noon on June 17, the new President, Reverend Carl J. Peter, attempted without success to reach John Cardinal Dearden by phone, communication by telegram being prevented by the strike then in process. The purpose was to communicate, as expeditiously as possible, two resolutions adopted during the business meeting. The first dealt with official theological representation at national and regional meetings of NCCB as well as the appointment of *periti* for the American delegates to the Synod. The second expressed regret and requested reconsideration of the September, 1970 decision of the Executive Committee of NCCB whereby priests dispensed from the obligation

of celibacy were excluded from serving in staff or consultative capacities in NCCB-sponsored projects. When the call was not completed, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton kindly agreed to convey word to the Cardinal that the effort has been made and that official notification would be forthcoming by mail. This was done by two letters from the President on June 18 and 19, respectively. A reply to the President came under date of June 23. It acknowledged receipt of the letters with the resolutions. The Cardinal added, relative to the matter of *periti* for the American Delegates to the Synod, that the question was under consideration at that time; that a meeting was being arranged of the delegates to ascertain their wishes; and that when some action had been taken on the matter, he would be in touch with the President of the CTSA once again.

July 27, 1971