

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

### THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The thirty-fifth annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America was held June 11-14, 1980, at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco, California. The theme of the convention was: "Christian Orthopraxis and the Emergence of New Meaning in Theology." At the opening session of the convention, Archbishop John R. Quinn, an Active member of the Society, welcomed the convention participants to San Francisco. The convention's official Eucharistic liturgy was celebrated at 11:30 A.M. on Thursday, June 12. A cocktail hour and the convention banquet were held Thursday evening. At the beginning of the banquet the recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award was announced, and a special award was presented to Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M., for her ten years of service, first as Secretary and then as the Society's first woman President.

#### CONVENTION PROGRAM

The 1980 convention included several pre-convention seminars, four major addresses, eight continuing seminars, eight special interest sessions, and an Open Forum discussion of *Sapientia Christiana*.

##### Wednesday, June 11

8:00-10:00 P.M. - PRE-CONVENTION INFORMAL SEMINARS

1. *Present State of Theology and Religious Studies as Distinct Disciplines*. Bernard Cooke, University of Calgary.
2. *Patristics: Report on Works in Progress*. Joanne McWilliam Dewart, St. Michael's, Toronto.
3. *Pneumatology and Mariology*. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P.

##### Thursday, June 12

9:30-11:00 A.M. - FIRST PLENARY SESSION

*Can Christology be an Experiment?* Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

2:00-3:30 P.M. - CONTINUING SEMINARS

1. *Soteriological and Eschatological Dimensions of the Doctrine of the Trinity*. Joseph A. Bracken, S.J., Marquette University; Robert Sears, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology, Chicago; John H. Wright, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley.
2. *Participating in Authentic Human Projects: Some Achievements and Failures of Contemporary Theological Anthropology*.

- Cathleen M. Going, Thomas More Institute, Montreal; Frederick E. Crowe, S.J., Regis College, Toronto.
3. *Papal Infallibility: Historical Origins and Future Directions*. James Heft, S.M., University of Dayton; John T. Ford, C.S.C., Catholic University; Peter Chirico, S.S., St. Thomas Seminary, Kenmore, WA; Margaret O'Gara, St. Michael's, Toronto.
  4. *The Personal Struggle in Religion, Morality, and Life between Trust and Distrust*. J. Giles Milhaven, Brown University.
  5. *The Local Church*. Sabbas Kilian, O.F.M., Fordham University; Michael A. Fahey, S.J., Concordia University, Montreal; Patrick R. Granfield, O.S.B., Catholic University; Frederick Parrella, Santa Clara University; Bernard P. Prusak, Villanova University.
  6. *Prayer and Contemplation as Orthopraxis*. Harvey D. Egan, S.J., Boston College; Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M., Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley; Daniel J. O'Hanlon, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley.
  7. *Divorce and Remarriage among Catholics*. Richard A. McCormick, S.J., Kennedy Institute, Georgetown University.
  8. *The Uniqueness of Christ*. Bernard Cooke, University of Calgary; Mary Buckley, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY; Paul Knitter, Xavier University, Cincinnati.

4:00-5:30 P.M. – SECOND PLENARY SESSION

*Orthopraxis and Moral Theology*. Enda McDonagh, University of Notre Dame.

Friday, June 13

9:00-10:15 A.M. – THIRD PLENARY SESSION

*Orthopraxis and Pneumatology*. Edmund J. Dobbin, O.S.A., Washington Theological Union.

10:15-11:15 A.M. – SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS

1. *Spirituality: A Resource for Theology*. Ewert H. Cousins, Fordham University.
2. *Laity and Christian Community: The Orthopraxis of Church Structures in a New Testament Perspective*. Elizabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, University of Notre Dame.
3. *The Augsburg Confession: Ecumenical Prospects in Light of Contemporary Orthopraxis*. Harry J. McSorley, University of Toronto; John Elliott, University of San Francisco.
4. *Orthopraxis and Sacramental Signification*. Stephen Happel, St. Meinrad Seminary.

2:30-4:00 P.M. – CONTINUING SEMINARS

Same seminars continued from Thursday.

## 4:30-5:30 P.M. – SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS

1. *Culture and Praxis: Charting Catholic Theology in the 19th Century*. Thomas F. O'Meara, O.P., Washington; Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, Catholic University; Gerald A. McCool, S.J., Fordham University.
2. *The Moral Theologian: Analyst or Participant?* Paul J. Surlis, St. John's University, Jamaica, NY; Timothy E. O'Connell, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein.
3. *New Modalities in the Contemporary Exercise of the Church's Teaching Office*. Avery Dulles, S.J., Catholic University.
4. *What are Catholics Seeking in the Religions of the East?* Jacob Needleman, San Francisco.

## 8:00-10:00 P.M. – OPEN FORUM

Discussion of *Sapientia Christiana*.

## Saturday, June 14

## 9:00-10:30 A.M. – FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

*Orthopraxis and Theological Method: A Dialogue*. In Behalf of Karl Rahner: Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., Weston School of Theology; In Behalf of Bernard Lonergan: Matthew L. Lamb, Marquette University.

## 10:45-11:15 A.M. – PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*Christian Panentheism: Orthopraxis and God's Action in History*. William J. Hill, O.P., Catholic University.

## JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY AWARD

At the beginning of the convention banquet on the evening of Thursday, June 12, the President read the citation for the John Courtney Murray Award for distinguished achievement in theology. This year's recipient was David W. Tracy. Since Tracy was unable to be present at the convention this year, Joseph Komonchak accepted the silver medal and the plaque for him. The text of the citation reads as follows:

The Catholic Theological Society of America is pleased to honor today one of its own members with the 1980 John Courtney Murray Award for distinguished achievement in theology.

We honor him first for his contribution to our discipline: for his study, completed over a decade ago, of the context, the meaning, and the value of the philosophical and theological method of his teacher, Bernard Lonergan; for his study, published five years ago, of the nature of our discipline and the methods by which we can meet the demands made upon us by our culture; for his recent and continuing labors to uncover the foundations of traditions of theoretical discourse; and for keeping before us, in times of piecemeal work, the ideal of a systematic understanding of the Christian witness. All his work has been carried out according to the highest standards of scholarship.

We honor him for his intellectual integrity, his learning, his inventiveness, and for his passionate articulation in theory and practice of the vision which has for centuries guided our Catholic theological tradition. We recognize and applaud his honesty in confronting the thorniest issues, his courage in espousing positions and causes at risk of public criticism, his generous service to our society as President, and his constant service to our Church as theologian and minister.

Finally, we express our gratitude to him for so well and so often representing our Society and our discipline in the dialogue between religion and culture, between theology and the human sciences, between the seminary and the university, and in conversations between Catholic and Protestant, Christian and Jew, believer and unbeliever. For all this, and with our hope that his contributions to our Society and our Church will continue *ad multos annos*, we proudly present the John Courtney Murray award to David W. Tracy, professor of theology at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago.

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At 11:30 A.M. on Friday, June 13, the President, William Hill, O.P., called the annual business meeting to order with a brief prayer. Joseph Nearon, S.S.S., served as parliamentarian. The President immediately invited Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M., to say a few words in response to her being given a special award in honor of her ten years of service on the Board of Directors. She had not yet arrived for the convention banquet Thursday evening when the award was presented.

#### *Committee on Admissions*

Doris Gottmoeller, R.S.M., the chairperson of the committee on admissions, presented the committee's report. The other members of the committee were: Francis McNulty, Mary Minella, S.F.C.C., John Morris, O.P., and the Secretary of the CTSA. The committee recommended fifty-two candidates for Active membership and fifteen candidates for Associate membership. This recommendation was accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

Of the new Active members, six had been Associate members. Thirty-eight are graduates of Catholic universities, fourteen of secular universities. Thirty-one graduated from schools in the United States, five from Canada, nine from Roman schools, and seven from other schools in Europe. Thirty-three of the new Active members have the PhD, eleven have the STD, two have the JCD and one has the SSD. Five are graduates of Marquette, and there are four graduates each from Catholic University of America, St. Michael's in Toronto, and Louvain. There are nine women among the new members.

Brief biographies of the new Active members and the names and addresses of the new Associate members are included in Appendix C of this year's *Proceedings*.

#### *Nominating Committee*

The members of the nominating committee this year were: Warren Reich (chairperson), Jane Kopas, O.S.F., and Timothy O'Connell.

Timothy O'Connell explained the procedure the committee had followed and then presented the slate of nominees:

- for *Vice-President* Bernard Cooke, Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA  
 Leo O'Donovan, S.J., Weston School of Theology
- for *Secretary*: Edward Konerman, S.J., St. Mary of the Lake Seminary
- for *Treasurer*: Michael Scanlon, O.S.A., Augustinian College, Washington
- for *Board Members*: Edward Braxton, Chancellor for Theological Affairs, Diocese of Cleveland  
 Mary Buckley, St. John's University, New York  
 Margaret Farley, R.S.M., Yale University  
 Jon Nilson, Loyola University, Chicago  
 T. Howland Sanks, S.J., Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley

There were no nominations from the floor.

The first ballot for Vice-President resulted in a tie. On the second ballot Leo O'Donovan, S.J. was elected. The Secretary and the Treasurer were both re-elected by voice-vote. Since O'Donovan, now elected to be Vice-President, had been a member of the Board, it was necessary to elect three new members of the Board, with the third one finishing O'Donovan's last year. One Board member would be elected at a time. On the first ballot no candidate received a majority of the vote. But then on the next three ballots three board members were elected: Edward Braxton, Margaret Farley, R.S.M., and T. Howland Sanks, S.J., the third to serve the remaining year in place of O'Donovan.

The Vice-President, Thomas O'Meara, O.P., automatically becomes the new President for 1980-1981.

While the various ballots were being tallied, other reports were presented.

### *Secretary's Report*

1. The Secretary thanked the members of the Committee on Admissions for their prompt response in the consultation-by-mail about the applicants for membership. With the new members this year the total membership of the CTSA is about 1,250.

2. A good number of non-members attending this convention have asked for and received application cards for membership. All members are encouraged to urge their colleagues or their doctoral students to contact the Secretary in order to become members of the CTSA.

3. If anyone has moved or has not been receiving the CTSA mailings such as the *CSR Bulletin* or the convention program mailing, please let the Secretary know about new addresses so that these can be fed into the computer system.

*Treasurer's Report*

The Treasurer very briefly summarized his financial report which is contained in this issue of the *Proceedings*.

*Vice-President's Report*

The Vice-President informed the members about next year's convention. The convention will be held June 10-13, 1981, at the Radisson Hotel in Chicago. The theme will be "The Local Church." Suggestions as to speakers and seminars and special interest sessions will be welcomed.

*Executive Secretary's Report*

1. *Publications*. The delay in the publishing of the *Proceedings* occurred again this year. Some copies have been found to be defective. These can be exchanged by contacting the Executive Secretary. The *Report on Women* has been reprinted and is available from Darlington Seminary. *Human Sexuality* has now been published in paperback by Doubleday. In the future the CTSA will charge for reprints of *Proceedings'* articles that are going to be published commercially.

2. *Tax-Exemption Status*. The CTSA is still exploring the possibility of being listed in the National Catholic Directory.

3. *The Council on the Study of Religion*. The CTSA belongs to the CSR, the federation of professional societies in the area of religious studies. Benefits that derive to the CTSA from belonging to the CSR include members-services and contacts with other disciplines. CTSA members also receive the *CSR Bulletin* five times a year; this *Bulletin* has proved itself a valuable help to the Officers in keeping the members informed. At the same time the CTSA makes a good contribution to the CSR since the CTSA is the only member society that has a special interest in systematic theology.

But there is a problem looming on the horizon. The AAR, by far the largest member in the CSR, is questioning its own continued belonging. The AAR's withdrawal could well destroy the CSR.

Finally, the CSR publishes the *Religious Studies Review*. CTSA members do not receive this automatically as a result of our belonging to the CSR. It is an excellent publication and CTSA members are encouraged to subscribe. CTSA members with suggestions concerning the *RSR* should forward them to Luke Salm.

4. *The Archives*. One other duty of the Executive Secretary is to care for the Society's archives which are kept at CUA. He recently received from the effects of Monsignor Rea, who was the first Treasurer of the CTSA, two photographs. One was of the first officers in the founding year (1946); the other was of the officers ten years later. Finally, the Executive Secretary noted among us at this meeting two "living archives," charter members: Eugene Burke, C.S.P., and Harry Corcoran, S.J. It was later discovered that Gerard Owens, C.S.S.R., another charter member, was also present. The oversight was due to the

fact that Father Owens' name is missing from the list of charter members in the 1977 Directory. This is being corrected in Appendix C below.

### *President's Report*

With all balloting for officers and new Board members finished, the President presented his report.

1. *Bishops' Appeal*. The annual appeal to the American Bishops resulted in contributions totalling \$4,500.

2. *Proposed Amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws*. The Board of Directors agreed to a suggestion by Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M., to propose amendments of the Constitution and the By-Laws in order to remove certain sexist language. The changes are minor, involving the words "man" and "men" in Article I of the Constitution and the word "he" in several sections of Article I of the By-Laws.

According to the constitutional procedures for amending the Constitution, the entire membership must be informed of the proposed amendments. This will be done through the *Proceedings* and the *CSR Bulletin*. Then the vote on the amendments will take place at the business meeting of next year's convention (2/3 for the Constitution, a majority for the By-Laws).

3. *Liaison with the JCCLSS and the NCCB Doctrinal Committee*. A second colloquium between these two groups was held last Fall. Several CTSA members were present and also gave papers. A third colloquium is scheduled for next Fall. At its meeting on Wednesday, the Board agreed to continue CTSA involvement in the JCCLSS but also to seek to improve the structures of dialogue with the NCCB committee.

4. *Publications Committee*. Richard McBrien has asked to be relieved of his involvement as chairperson of this committee. The Board decided to consider altering the guidelines of this committee. In line with this the President appointed Thomas O'Meara, O.P., the new chairperson of the committee. He will recruit some new members for the committee. Their first task will be to address the question of new guidelines. Suggestions from CTSA members as to the members of the committee and the guidelines will be welcomed.

5. *Exchanges with the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*. The President sketched briefly several exchanges he had with the CDF (and other interested parties, e.g., the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Quinn) in connection with the CDF's statement about *Human Sexuality*, the Schillebeeckx interrogation, and the Küng affair.

6. *Report of the Committee on "Sapientia Christiana."* This committee was set up last year by the Board in response to a motion passed at the business meeting. Its members, with the exception of André Guindon, were the same as those of the earlier committee that had drafted a CTSA response to Rome in the consultation process leading up to *Sapientia Christiana*. Their report, which had been circulated to all the CTSA members, was received by the Board. It will be published in the *Proceedings* and also in the *Jurist*. No other specific action is planned in

response to the report, although a number of CTSA activities, approved by the Board, address the third recommendation of the report.

7. *Report of the "O'Donovan" Committee.* During the past year the President set up an *ad hoc* committee, headed by Leo O'Donovan, S.J., to study the issue of cooperation between theologians and the hierarchical magisterium in North America. The committee's report was circulated to the membership before the convention. This report has been received by the Board of Directors. In response to the report, the Board presented to the assembled members the following proposal:

Be it resolved that the President, with the advice of the Board, set up a joint study committee with the Canon Law Society of America to develop a proposed set of norms to guide the resolution of difficulties which may arise in the relationship between theologians and the hierarchical magisterium in North America.

After some brief discussion this motion was passed unanimously. The President indicated that he would welcome suggestions as to the make-up of the CTSA membership on this joint study committee.

#### *New Business*

1. A motion was made by Harry McSorley:

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors be authorized to develop more expeditious procedures for electing members to the Board.

In the brief discussion of this motion it became clear that the motion dealt not with the constitutional procedures themselves, but with such things as the methods of distributing and collecting ballots, etc. The motion was passed in a voice vote.

2. The following motion was made by James Coriden:

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors make the strongest possible representation to the Commission for the Revision of the Code, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Canadian Bishops' Conference in order to elicit their support for the elimination of the notion of canonical mission from the section of the proposed Code of Canon Law on the Teaching Office (Canon 64).

After some brief discussion this motion was passed in a voice vote.

3. Finally, the following motion was made:

Be it resolved that inasmuch as Illinois has not yet ratified the ERA, the 1981 convention site be changed from Chicago.

After some brief discussion this motion was passed on a voice vote. There being no other new business, the President adjourned the business meeting of the 1980 convention.

EDWARD H. KONERMAN, S.J., *Secretary*  
*St. Mary of the Lake Seminary*  
*Mundelein, Illinois*