

NEW GENERATION THEOLOGIANs & THE CTSA

- Topic: Looking Toward the Future: Challenges and Possibilities Facing the Next Generation of Catholic Moral Theologians
- Convener: Jozef Zalot, College of Mount St. Joseph
- Moderator: Christopher Vogt, St. John's University
- Presenters: Dana Dillon, Providence College
 Kathryn Getek, Boston College
 Bill Mattison, The Catholic University of America
 Jozef Zalot, College of Mount St. Joseph

In line with the conference theme "Generations," this session featured four Catholic moral theologians at the beginning of their careers who reflected on key issues, promising developments, and pressing concerns in the field of Catholic moral theology from their own generational vantage point. Each panelist addressed the implications that these themes have for the future growth and well-being of the Church and offered specific suggestions as to how they may be addressed.

Dana Dillon addressed the declining influence of a Catholic sub-culture and the impact it has had on both her faith formation and academic training. Kathryn Getek, a member of the New Scholars Committee for the second international conference of Catholic theological ethicists (Trent, Italy; 2010), offered reflections of young moral theologians in the world church. New scholars have an increased accountability to a globalized church and society, rejecting false universalisms and attending to a broad range of voices, particularly those of women. In addition, the changing role and identity of the theological ethicist tend to emphasize practical solidarity and work toward social change. Bill Mattison examined the history and characteristics of the New Wine, New Wineskins annual symposium for pre-tenure Catholic moral theologians as a lens into the broader conference theme of Generations. He described the way this cohort of theologians experiences longings common to theologians for millennia—namely, for faith formation and friendship—in a distinctive manner due to the particular characteristics of the American Church and academy in which they were formed. Finally, Jozef Zalot addressed the challenge of fostering greater collaboration between American theologians and the Church hierarchy. He spoke of how the new generation of moral theologian needs to overcome the ideological differences that have characterized their predecessors, while also suggesting "first steps" that theologians and bishops can take in order to collaboratively address the myriad social challenges facing the Church.

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