

## MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The members of the Catholic Theological Society of America convened for their 18th annual convention at the Hotel Coronado, St. Louis, Missouri, from June 24th to the 27th, 1963, through the kindness of the Cardinal Archbishop, His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ritter. By all standards the convention was memorable—the high quality of the papers and the discussions, the number of members in attendance, and the many favorable comments passed during and after the assembly.

The Officers and the Board of Directors held their semi-annual meeting on Monday afternoon, finalizing the program for the St. Louis convention and turning their attention to the 1964 New York meeting.

Registration of members began on Monday evening and continued throughout Tuesday. Mass facilities had been set up in the hotel and also at St. Louis University, through the kindness of the Jesuit Fathers.

The first general session of the Society opened on Tuesday morning promptly at 10:00 A.M. with the opening prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit given by His Excellency, Bishop George T. Gottwald, Auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence, Cardinal Ritter, who was in Rome for the funeral of the late Pope John XXIII and the election and coronation of Pope Paul VI.

Father Ferrer Smith, O.P. the president then asked His Excellency to address the assembly in the name of His Eminence. The Bishop spoke of the honor he felt in appearing before the Society and the pleasure that our convention has given the archdiocese. Posing a question that had once been asked of him: "What do you think the Church needs today—a saint or a theologian?", His Excellency went on to state that there is need of both, or rather saintly theologians who are alive to the practical problems of the twentieth

century. The theologian of today, Bishop Gottwald stated, "must be saintly and practical, giving practical direction to the saints and the potential saints."

The president thanked His Excellency for his presence and his gracious message, which would serve as a keynote of the St. Louis Convention. In keeping with a tradition of the Society, Father Smith asked for a motion proposing His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ritter, and His Excellency, Bishop George T. Gottwald, for honorary membership in the Society. The motion was duly made and seconded by acclamation. The Society was happy to welcome these two distinguished prelates into its membership.

The Vice-president, Msgr. Richard Doherty of St. Paul, then introduced the President, Father Ferrer Smith, O.P. for the purpose of delivering the presidential address. Taking as his theme "The Task of the Theologian Today," Father Smith pointed out that in these historic days of the II Vatican Council, all the world realizes "the central role of theology and the tremendous responsibility of the theologian." The text of Father Smith's message appears in full in these *Proceedings*.

Msgr. Doherty thanked the President for his profound analysis of the responsibilities before us and proceeded to introduce the man entrusted with the first paper of the Convention, the Reverend Bernard Häring, C.Ss. R., a *peritus* of the Council and a member of the faculty of the *Academia Alfonsiana* in Rome. Father Häring took as his topic "The Moral Message as an Image of the Mystery of Christ Revealed in the Church." There was rapt attention as Father Häring developed his theme. Afterwards a considerable number of members engaged the speaker in animated and profound discussion.

The Secretary, Father Nugent, C.M., announced the assignment of rooms for the afternoon seminars and advised the membership of several items:

- (a) the deceased members of the Society for whom Mass would be offered by the President are: Rev. Aloysius C. Kemper, S.J., Rev. John J. Galvin and Rev. Michael J. McLaughlin.

- (b) All manuscripts of papers and talks should be filed with the Secretary before the convention is concluded.
- (c) Members were invited to visit the book displays that had been set up by the various publishers who take advertising space in our *Proceedings*.

Tuesday afternoon was devoted to the elective seminars, one of the highlights of the annual convention. In fundamental theology, Father Augustine Rock, O.P., led the discussion on "The Unity of Theology"; in dogma, Father William Hill, O.P., elicited discussion on the theme "Salvation of the Contemporary Non-believer"; Father John J. Lynch, S.J., was entrusted with the moral seminar on "Changing Pastoral Emphases on the Practice of Periodic Continence"; whilst the ascetical seminar on "The Role of Non-directive Counseling in Spiritual Direction" was capably handled by two leaders, Father George G. Hagmaier, C.S.P., and Father Eugene C. Kennedy, M.M. In all the seminars of the first session ample time was allotted to the membership to participate in discussion of the various points raised by the leaders.

The second session of elective seminars commenced promptly at 3:45 P.M. and centered around the discussion of several books of contemporary theological significance. In fundamental theology, Father Robert Richard, S.J., discussed the *Theological Investigations* of Father Karl Rahner, S.J.; Father J. Courtney Murray, S.J., undertook to elucidate for the members the work of Father Bernard Lonergan, S.J., *Divinarum personarum conceptio analogica*; the Very Rev. John R. Connery, S.J., took two books for the basis of his seminar in moral: *Morality and Modern Warfare* edited by William J. Nagle, and *Nuclear Weapons* edited by Walter Stein; the final seminar centered on the work of Father Hans Küng *The Council, Reunion and Reform*, which was discussed by Father Francis X. Murphy, C.Ss.R. The interest and enthusiasm of the members in the elective seminars carried over into the period devoted to the buffet supper, which is always a memorable feature of the annual convention.

The second day of the convention began with a general session which was called to order by the Vice-president, Msgr. Doherty,

who introduced the first speaker of the morning, the Reverend Joseph R. Nearon, S.S.S., of Cleveland, Ohio. Fr. Nearon's theme was "The Eucharist Taken in Its Simultaneous Totality as Real Presence, Repast and Sacrifice." Afterwards the members engaged in lively discussion of the points raised by the speaker. Msgr. Doherty then introduced the second paper of the morning on "Contraception and the Natural Law" delivered by its distinguished author, Father Gerald Kelly, S.J., a former president of CTSA and a Cardinal Spellman Award recipient in 1953. Father Kelly capably defended his thesis both in the presentation and in the animated discussion period which followed.

A brief Business Meeting concluded the morning program consisting of the following items:

- (a) Report of the Secretary
- (b) Report of the Treasurer
- (c) Vote on amendment to the Constitution: The President noted that the membership had been advised by the Secretary of a proposed amendment to Article II, Section 2 of the Constitutions of the Society: "The annual dues for members shall be six (\$6.00) dollars payable in advance on January 1 of each year. The fiscal year of the Society shall end on the 31st day of December of each year." The amendment was passed without any dissenting voice.
- (d) The Committee on Admissions, through its Chairman announced that a total of 72 applications for active membership and 15 applications for associate membership had been received, duly screened by the Committee and proposed a vote on this matter by the entire assembly. Father Smith asked that the applicants be admitted as requested.

*Active Members*

John A. Abbo	Edward C. Brennan
Ralph J. Bastian	Edward P. Brennan
Thomas J. Beary	John T. Byrne
Seely J. Beggiani	Robert T. Callahan, S.S.
Paschal R. Botz, O.S.B.	Joseph F. Conwell, S.J.

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| James J. Corrigan                  | Valentine A.G. McInnes, O.P.  |
| William F. Cummings, C.Ss.R.       | William McVeagh, M.S.Ss.T.    |
| Arnold G. Dearing,<br>O.F.M. Conv. | James J. Mulligan             |
| Angelus A. De Marco, O.F.M.        | Alfred C. Murphy, O.P.        |
| Stephen J. Duffy, S.M.             | P. Francis Murphy             |
| Edward M. Egan                     | Robert E. Murray, S.J.        |
| Anthony J. Falanga, C.M.           | James J. Megivern, C.M.       |
| John Fearon, O.P.                  | Thomas A. Moore, O.P.         |
| David E. Foley                     | Martin L. Motzel              |
| Andrew R. Fuller                   | James W. Moudry               |
| William P. Furlan                  | Thomas C. O'Brien, O.P.       |
| John F. Gallagher, C.M.            | Terence J. O'Connor, O.S.M.   |
| William R. Gannon, O.P.            | Edward T. O'Meara             |
| Thomas V. Gilbride, S.M.           | J. Emile Pfister, S.J.        |
| Patrick R. Granfield, O.S.B.       | Martin B. Pieke, O.S.B.       |
| Joseph A. Grispingo, S.M.          | Vincent D. Pulicano, P.S.S.C. |
| Gilbert G. Hardi                   | Bernard T. Rattigan           |
| Paul V. Harrington                 | Warren Reich, M.S.Ss.T.       |
| Robert G. Heffernan                | Charles J. Ring, C.P.S.       |
| Robert J. Hennessey, O.P.          | Emmanuel J. Roessler, T.O.R.  |
| Ernest C. Hepner                   | Russell G. Ruffion            |
| Thomas C. Horan                    | John B. Scorzoni              |
| J. Warren Holleran                 | James P. Scull, S.J.          |
| Robert E. Hughes, S.M.             | R. Kevin Seasoltz, O.S.B.     |
| Jude T. Jarosz, O.F.M.             | Timothy J. Shea               |
| Colman W. Jerman, O.P.             | James F. Smurl                |
| William J. Kenneally, C.M.         | Lawrence V. Stockman          |
| Edward H. Konerman, S.J.           |                               |
| Nicholas J. Landsberger            | <i>Associate Members</i>      |
| William J. Manseau                 | Richard W. Burton             |
| Dominic W. Maruca, S.J.            | Donald J. Cismowski           |
| Michael J. Marx, O.S.B.            | Clarence F. Dye               |
| Paul K. Meagher, O.P.              | John A. Gray                  |
| Bernard J. McGinn                  | Vincent F. Lucid              |
| Francis W. McGuire, O.P.           | John E. McLaughlin            |
|                                    | Patrick J. McLaughlin         |

Joseph A. O'Brien	Robert P. Soucy
J. James Offutt	Charles W. Stubbs
Roger P. Reidy, F.M.S.I.	Edward J. Toomey
David J. Scheider	John J. Wallace, F.M.S.I.

- (e) The Report of the Committee on Nominations: The committee, consisting of Revs. Bertin Farrell, C.P., Thomas Kane, O.P. and Joseph E. Kerns, S.J., reported that it wished to present for ratification the following slate:

President: Right Rev. Richard T. Doherty, St. Paul  
 Vice-president: Rev. Gerald Van Ackeren, S.J., St. Marys, Kansas  
 Secretary: Rev. Vincent J. Nugent, C.M., New York  
 Treasurer: Bro. Celestine Luke Salm, F.S.C., New York  
 Members of the Board: Monsignor James E. Rea, New York  
 Rev. John J. Ziegler, C.S.P., Washington, D.C.  
 Very Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P., Washington, D.C.

Since there were no additional nominations, the President asked for a vote and the above nominees were elected unanimously.

- (f) Committee on Nominations for 1964 was then announced, consisting of:

Chairman: Very Rev. John M. Oesterreicher  
 Rev. David T. Thomas; Rev. Ernest R. Falardeau, S.S.S.;  
 Rev. Francis L. Sheerin, S.J.; Rev. Laurence S. Vaughan,  
 M.M.; Rev. Xavier G. Colavechio, O. Praem.; Rev. Francis  
 O'Hare; Rev. John Kemper, S.V.D.; and Rev. Vincent J.  
 Nugent, C.M. *ex officio*.

- (g) Brief reports were made by Rev. John Whalen on the progress of the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, and on behalf of the Association of Catholic Broadcasters by Rev. Eugene Best.

The President announced that in the evening the informal symposiums would be conducted by the following:

Fundamental Theology: Rev. Christian P. Ceroke, O.Carm.  
 Dogmatic Theology: Very Rev. James R. Gillis, O.P.

Moral Theology: Rev. Bertin Farrell, C.P.

Ascetical Theology: Rev. Ernest E. Larkin, O.Carm.

The third day of the convention began with prayer by the President, Father Smith, O.P. In his opening announcements the President advised the members to feel free to suggest any items that would redound to the good and prosperity of the Society. Such suggestions could be transmitted to any officer or member of the Board and would be given mature consideration at future meetings.

Father Alban Maguire, O.F.M., General Chairman of Regional Meetings urged all the members to attend the various regional meetings when announced. He wished to advise the membership of the machinery set up by the Society for such regional meetings:

Boston: Msgr. Lawrence J. Riley, Regional Chairman

Chicago: Father Thomas W. Coyle, C.Ss.R., Regional Chairman

Cleveland-Detroit: Very Rev. Edward Hogan, S.S., Regional Chairman

Cincinnati: Rev. Edward J. Gratsch, Regional Chairman

New York: Monsignor James E. Rea, Regional Chairman

Montreal-Quebec: Rev. Richard P. Brosseau, S.S., Regional Chairman

Los Angeles-San Francisco: Very Rev. Eugene Van Antwerp, S.S., Regional Chairman

Washington-Baltimore: Rev. Alban Maguire, O.F.M.

The President announced that our former president and a Cardinal Spellman Award recipient, the Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.Ss.R., was celebrating his golden jubilee of ordination to priesthood. The members were asked to give Father Connell the tribute of their prayers on this occasion and a message to that effect would be sent in the name of the CTSA.

It was also noted that this year marked the silver jubilee of ordination of another CTSA president and Cardinal Spellman Award recipient, the Rev. Eugene M. Burke, C.S.P. There was a thunderous round of applause when it was announced that Father Burke had sent the membership a cablegram from Athens, Greece, on the occasion of our annual convocation.

The first paper of the morning was delivered by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmuehler, C.P., Louisville, Kentucky. Father Stuhlmuehler took as his theme "A Christian Facing the World—Incarnational or Transcendental Approach?" The paper evoked an enormous response on the part of the members and only with great reluctance was the President obliged to terminate it in order that the next paper be presented.

Father Gerard S. Sloyan, of the Catholic University of America, read the second paper of the morning on "Faith—in the Bible, in Theology, in the Life of the Church." Father Sloyan's presentation and manner of handling the discussion period were evidenced by the response of the members during and after the session.

At the conclusion of the morning session the President, Father Smith, announced that Committee for the Cardinal Spellman Award, had made a selection and wished that it be announced at this annual convention. The citation is as follows:

*The Cardinal Spellman Award*

The unanimous choice of the Award Committee, ratified by the Board of Directors, as the recipient of the Cardinal Spellman Award for 1963 is the Reverend Francis Dvornik, Professor of Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks and at Harvard University.

Father Dvornik has united within himself unique attainments in the fields of theology and history, dedicating these tirelessly to the service of the Church. He received the Doctorate in Theology from the Theological Faculty of Olomouc and the degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of the Sorbonne. His thesis for the latter degree, *Les Slaves, Byzance et Rome au IXe Siecle*, was justly hailed as brilliant.

Until 1938 and the tragic consequences of the Munich pact for Czechoslovakia, Father Dvornik was a member of the staff of Charles University in Prague. In 1935 he was elected Dean of the Faculty of Theology there. From 1939 until 1948 he undertook research in England where his outstanding work in Byzantine questions won for him an honorary degree from the University of London. During this period he also acted as Lecturer at the College

de France in Paris and at Cambridge University. In 1948 he was invited to Harvard University as a Research Fellow in the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Center in Washington. Since then he has made his home in the United States and has become a citizen of this country.

His publications over these past fifteen years bear eloquent testimony to his prodigious scholarship. In particular, his monumental work, *Le Schisme de Photius, Histoire et Legende*, was awarded the Charles and Mary Diehl Prize by the French Academy; *The Idea of Apostolicity in Byzantium* received the Haskin's Gold Medal from the American Medieval Academy. In 1961 Rutgers University published his thorough treatment of *The Slavs in European History and Civilization. Early Christian and Byzantine Political Philosophy, Theology, Origins and Background*, like the aforementioned, a work of over seven hundred pages, is scheduled to appear shortly. Over one hundred and fifty items are included in a bibliography collected in 1963.

From the beginning of his priestly life Father Dvornik has ceaselessly promoted Christian unity. As a student in Paris he was associated with the ecumenism of Father Fernand Portal; as representative of Charles University he attended congresses concerned with reunion throughout the world. His role in such movements has continued active and vital. Principally, however, his commitment to historical truth and theological clarity and precision has yielded a firm foundation upon which all may build toward a lasting unity.

On the occasion of the golden jubilee of his Priesthood, the Catholic Theological Society of America is honored to name as the 1963 winner of the Cardinal Spellman Award a theologian standing before the world as "a fatherly, benign and priestly priest, a dedicated scholar, tireless in his quiet and painstaking research, and profound in his historical and theological insights": Father Francis Dvornik.

The announcement of the award was received with universal acclaim and enthusiasm. The presentation of the award will take place at the convenience of His Eminence in New York during the coming year.\*

\* The presentation took place at the Cardinal's residence, December 7, 1963.

The outgoing president, Father Smith, took occasion of this session to formally present the newly elected president, Msgr. Doherty, to the assemblage. Msgr. Doherty pledged himself to carry on the traditions of the *CTSA* and thanked the members for the vote of confidence in him. The meeting adjourned with prayer.

The final session of the convention was called to order promptly at 2:00 P.M. with the announcement by Father Smith that the Board of Directors was in favor of passing a resolution approving President Kennedy's declaration that segregation in the United States is a moral issue. Father Smith asked for discussion on the proposal and it was generally agreed that such a resolution should be drawn up and sent to the President in the name of the Society. It was duly drawn up:

#### *Resolution*

Resolved—The Officers and members of the Catholic Theological Society of America assembled in convention in St. Louis, Missouri, hereby go on record as approving President Kennedy's declaration that segregation in the United States is a moral issue and not solely cultural, social and economic, and as urging all men of good mind and good will to cooperate in every way possible to resolve the present situation.

The resolution was sent to the President via telegram signed by the Secretary. A copy of the telegram and the response appears in the Appendix to these Minutes.

Father Smith also announced that on the occasion of the election and coronation of Pope Paul VI, the Society had sent a congratulatory cablegram. The copy and response are printed in the Appendix.

The theme of the St. Louis panel discussion, which has become a popular feature of the annual convention, centered on the Encyclical Letter of the late Pope John XXIII "Mater et Magistra." The discussants for this panel were Father Patrick V. O'Brien, C.M., De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois and the Very Rev. Gerald

J. Rooney, C.P., former associate editor of *Sign* magazine and presently the Provincial of the Eastern Province of the Passionists. The discussion of the panelists opened up new vistas of thought and drew an unusually heavy barrage of questions, discussions and statements. It is always the difficult task of the presiding officer to draw to a reluctant conclusion the panel discussion, which must also terminate the annual Convention.

Father Smith thanked all the members who participated in the St. Louis convention, the speakers at the various sessions, and all who, in any way, made this a truly memorable and highly successful theological convocation. Noting that our next meeting would be held in New York in conjunction with the World's Fair, he asked the blessing of God upon our Society and all its members. The convention concluded with prayer and adjourned at 3.30 P.M.

VINCENT J. NUGENT, C.M., *Secretary*

APPENDIX

On the occasion of Pope Paul's election and coronation the Society sent the following Cablegram:

Pope Paul VI  
Vatican City

Officers, members Catholic Theological Society of America in 18th annual Convention, St. Louis, Missouri, offer filial greetings, pledge prayers, beg Apostolic Benediction.

(signed) Very Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P., President

*Reply*

Officers, Members of the  
Catholic Theological Society of America  
c/o Very Reverend Ferrer Smith, O.P.  
St. John's University  
Jamaica, N.Y. U.S.A.

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to express the Holy Father's sincere thankfulness for the message of felicitations and prayers, addressed to Him on the occasion of His Election, and has pleasure in conveying, as

a pledge of copious heavenly graces and favors, the paternal Apostolic Benediction of the Sovereign Pontiff.

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At the concluding session of the St. Louis Convention the Officers and Members of CTSA transmitted to the President of the United States the following resolution, via telegram.

President John F. Kennedy  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Officers and Members of Catholic Theological Society of America assembled in convention in St. Louis, Missouri, hereby go on record as approving your declaration that segregation in the United States is a moral issue and not solely cultural, social and economic, and as urging all men of good mind and good will to cooperate in every way possible to resolve the present situation.

(signed) Rev. Vincent J. Nugent, C.M., Secretary  
Catholic Theological Society of America  
St. John's University  
Jamaica, 32 N.Y.

*Reply*

The White House  
Washington

July 19, 1963

Dear Father Nugent:

The President has asked me to thank you for your message concerning his civil rights stand. He appreciates your thoughtfulness in letting him have your expression of approval.

The action of the officers and members of the Catholic Theological Society of America in formally recording their approval of the President's declaration that segregation is a moral issue is most welcome support. In recent months the very active leadership role played by clergymen of all denominations throughout the United States has had a significant impact. The President has indicated that as important and essential as it is to secure federal legislation, enduring and significant progress in this area depends upon the individual conduct and attitude of all Americans. This, of

course, is where the clergy can be the most powerful force for progress.

I hope that you will convey the President's appreciation to those who participated in the meeting and in the adoption of the resolution.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Lee C. White  
Assistant Special Counsel  
to the President

REVEREND VINCENT J. NUGENT, C.M., *Secretary*  
*The Catholic Theological Society of America*  
*St. John's University*  
*Jamaica, 32, N.Y.*