

## **SECRETARY’S REPORT THE SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The Catholic Theological Society of America held its seventy-ninth Annual Convention from June 12 to June 15, 2025, at the Portland Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The theme of the convention was “One Baptism: Evolving Visions of Catholicity from Nicaea to Vatican II and Beyond.” Registration for the convention was conducted electronically in the months leading to the meeting. The Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology met on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., PDT. The 2025 Ann O’Hara Graff Award was presented to Dr. Christine Firer Hinze, Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at Fordham University. At 7:00 pm, PDT, CTSA President Nancy Pineda-Madrid formally opened the convention, starting with a Land Acknowledgement Statement. Dr. Robert D. Kelly, President of University of Portland, led convention participants in prayer and offered welcoming words.

CTSA President Nancy Pineda-Madrid introduced the plenary speaker for the evening, Dr. Nicholas Denysenko from Valparaiso University. Dr. Steven Battin from the University of Notre Dame offered a response to the keynote plenary. The evening concluded with a reception. The CTSA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions and individuals supporting this year’s convention: Herbert & Phyllis Anderson; Anonymous Donor via Fidelity Charitable Giving; The Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation, Inc.; Rev. Edward Foley, O.F.M. Cap., Vice Postulator, Cause of Fr. Solanus, Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order; James L. Fredericks; Gonzaga University; Loyola Marymount University; University of Notre Dame, in Honor of Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P.; Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University; Saint Paul University; and Youngpa Kwon.

On Friday, June 13, the convention resumed with the second plenary session and a Memorial Service to remember and honor CTSA members who passed away during the previous year. The second plenary session was delivered by Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar of the Oregon Synod of the ELCA. Two Business Meetings held online preceded the convention. One of them dwasedicated to discern and welcome new Active and Associated members. Minutes from these meetings with supporting documents can be found after the convention program in this report. Toward the end of the day, Dr. Susan Abraham, CTSA President-Elect, and Dr. Catherine Clifford, CTSA Vice-President presided a community conversation followed by the CTSA President’s Reception for New/Newer Members.

After Morning Prayer on Saturday, June 14 Dr. Jakob Karl Rinderknecht from the University of the Incarnate Word led an interactive session on the topic “The Baptismal Call of the Theologian: A Synodal CTSA Conversation.” Convention participants proceeded to a full day of sessions and conversations. The CUERG Luncheon took place between 1:00 pm and 2:15 pm, PDT. During this luncheon, Dr. Kathleen Dorsey-

Bellow, Associate Professor in the Department of Theology at Xavier University of Louisiana and Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies, received the CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award.

At 5:00 pm, PDT convention participants gathered in the same hotel to celebrate the Eucharist. Rev. Richard Lennan presided the celebration and Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid offered the reflection. After the liturgy, all gathered at 6:15 pm, PDT for a reception, followed by the convention banquet at the Portland Marriott Waterfront Hotel. During the meal, Flora x. Tang received the Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award. Subsequently, President Nancy Pineda-Madrid read the citation and presented the John Courtney Murray Award to Rev. Stephen Bevans, S.V.D. It was an opportunity to honor an early-career scholar and one whose work has enriched the life of the CTSA for several decades.

On Sunday, June 15, after morning prayer, Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid delivered her Presidential Address. After this, she formally concluded her term as CTSA President and introduced the new President, Dr. Susan Abraham.

Dr. Layla A. Karst from Loyola Marymount University served as the Liturgical Aide. During the convention several special receptions, breakfasts, sessions and other meetings took place. See the convention program below for more details.

## CONVENTION PROGRAM

## Concurrent Sessions At-A-Glance

**I. Friday Morning**

1. Asian Theology Consultation
2. Church / Ecumenism Topic Session
3. Karl Rahner Consultation
4. Liturgy & Sacraments Topic Session
5. Moral Theology I
6. Public Theology Interest Group
7. Christian theologians on Storied Lands
8. Disability Theology Interest Group
9. The Least of These Selected Session
10. Historical Theology Topic Session
11. Thomas Aquinas Consultation

**II. Friday Afternoon**

1. Christianity and Judaism Consultation
2. Embodiment, Trauma, and Illness Interest Group
3. Spirituality Topic Session
4. Black Catholic Theology Consultation
5. Moral Theology II Topic Session
6. Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church
7. Reconfigured Finitude and Christian Belonging in the Thought of Emmanuel Falque Selected Session
8. Deepening Christian, Hindu, and Bud-dhist Praxis for the Care of the Planet and People Invited Session
9. Latinx Theology Consultation
10. Hope, Health and the Nature of Healing Invited Session
11. Christ topic Session

**III. Saturday Morning**

1. Gun Cultures and Gun Violence Interest Group
2. Catholicity within the Constructs of Colonialism and Place Invited Session
3. Catholic Social Thought Topic Session
4. American Exceptionalism Selected Session
5. Fundamental Theology / Method Topic Session
6. Bioethics / Healthcare Topic Session
7. Theology and Science Topic Session
8. Lonergan Consultation
9. Hans Urs von Balthasar Consultation
10. Creation / Eschatology Topic Session
11. The Disruptive Agency of Baptism Selected Session

**IV. Saturday Afternoon**

1. Reimagining Ecclesial Unity Invited Session
2. Walking Together as a Synodal Church Selected Session
3. One Baptism - One Church? Selected Session
4. Catholicity and Mission Topic Session
5. Comparative Theology Topic Session
6. Practical Theology Topic Session
7. Theologies of Peacebuilding and Nonviolence Interest Group
8. Anthropology Topic Session
9. Johann Baptist Metz Interest Group
10. God / Trinity Topic Session
11. Ecumenical Reflections on the Synod on Synodality Interest Group

**Pre-Convention Events, Thursday, June 12, 2025**

<b>CTSA Board Meeting</b>	9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. <b>Medford</b>
<i>Theological Studies Board Meeting</i>	1:00–5:00 p.m. <b>Salem</b>
<b>Registration</b>	1:00–4:30 p.m. and 6:00–7:00 p.m. <b>Salon Foyer</b>
<b>Exhibits</b>	1:00–7:00 p.m. <b>Salon ABCD</b>
<b>Women’s Consultation on Constructive Theology</b>	3:00–5:30 p.m. <b>Salon H-I</b>

Administrative Team:

Cristina Lledo Gomez, Margaret Mary Moore, Stephanie Edwards,  
Taylor Ott

Co-Conveners: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI-The Australian Institute of  
Theological Education

**Margaret Mary Moore**, Theology & Life Institute

Moderator: **Melicia Antonio**, Anahuac University

Presenter: **Zara Surratt**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Paper Title: “Ugly Baptisms and Child Welfare: Histories of Non-consensual  
Baptisms at Indigenous Boarding Schools and the Catholics Who  
Performed Them”

Presenter: **Julia Canonico**, University of Notre Dame

Paper Title: “Baptismal Identity and Indigenous Experience”

Respondent: **Doris Kieser**, University of Alberta

**Ann O’Hara Graff Memorial Award**

4:30–5:00 p.m.

*The 2025 Ann O’Hara Graff Memorial Award will be awarded to*

**Christine Firer Hinze**

*Professor, Theological and Social Ethics*

*Fordham University*

**Business Meeting**

5:15–5:30 p.m.

WCCT Steering Committee Members:

Conveners: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI-The Australian Institute of  
Theological Education

**Margaret Mary Moore**, Theology & Life Institute

Treasurer: **Stephanie Edwards**, Boston College

Secretary: **Vacant**

Award Convener: **Taylor Ott**, Leuven University

Members: **Annie Selak**, Georgetown University

**Elissa Cutter**, Georgian Court University

**Melicia Antonio**, Anahuac University

**Thursday Evening, June 12, 2025****Opening and First Plenary Session**

7:00–9:00 p.m.

**Salon E-F**

Presiding: **Nancy Pineda-Madrid**, Loyola Marymount University  
President, CTSA

## Land Acknowledgement

**We, the Catholic Theological Society of America**, acknowledge and recognize that we are on the ancestral and unceded homelands of many Indigenous nations in Portland, Oregon. In particular, we give thanks for the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and reverentially recognize:

- **The Burns Paiute Tribe**, which is primarily comprised of the descendants of the Wadatika Band of Northern Paiutes;
- **The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians**, who trace their ancestry back to the aboriginal inhabitants of the South-Central coast of Oregon;
- **The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon**, that include over 30 Tribes and bands from Western Oregon, Northern California, and Southwest Washington;
- **The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians**, which include Clatsop, Chinook, Klickitat, Molala, Kalapuya, Tillamook, Alsea, Siuslaw/Lower Umpqua, Coos, Coquille, Upper Umpqua, Tututni (including all the lower Rogue River bands and those extending up the coast to Floras Creek and down to Whales Head), Chetco (including all of the villages from Whales Head to the Winchuck River), Tolowa, Takelma (including the Illinois Valley/midRogue River and Cow Creek peoples), Galice/Applegate and Shasta;
- **The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**, which is a union of three Tribes: Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla;

- **The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**, which includes the Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute Tribes;
- **The Cow Creek Tribe**, which has a rich history in southern Oregon that reflects hard work, perseverance and the desire to be self-reliant;
- **The Coquille Tribe**, which covers Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and Lane counties; and
- **The Klamath Tribes**, which consist of the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin peoples.

Mindful of Pope Francis' repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery in March 2023, and in a spirit of repentance and reconciliation, we acknowledge complicity in historical and ongoing systems of oppression and resolve to work for healing and reparation in the face of the unjust experience of violence, enslavement, displacement, and dispossession of Indigenous peoples here in Portland, and in the many communities where we live and teach.

We hope against hope that this prayer and land acknowledgment inspires us to learn from the Indigenous stewardship of our environment and from their struggle for identity, freedom, and self-determination. Amen!

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

**Robert D. Kelly**  
President, University of Portland

Address: **Nicholas Denysenko**, Valparaiso University

“Echoes of Nicaea: Ministry of the  
Baptized in the Twenty-First Century”

Respondent: **Steven Battin**, University of Notre Dame

**Opening Reception**

9:00 p.m.

**Mount St. Helen and Mount Hood**

*The CTSA is grateful for the support of the following Donors*

Herbert & Phyllis Anderson

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The Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation, Inc.

Rev. Edward Foley, Vice Postulator, OFM CAP Province of St. Joseph of the  
Capuchin Order Cause of Fr. Solanus

James L. Fredericks

Gonzaga University

Loyola Marymount University  
 University of Notre Dame in Honor of Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, OP  
 Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
 Saint Paul University  
 Youngpa Kwon

**Friday Morning, June 13, 2025**

<b>von Balthasar Society Breakfast</b>	7:00–8:15 a.m. <b>Willamette</b>
<b>Mentorship Breakfast:</b> Transitioning into Careers in Theology <i>Prior registration required</i>	7:00–8:15 a.m. <b>Mount Hood</b>
<b>Schillebeeckx Breakfast</b>	7:00–8:15 a.m. <b>Sunstone</b>
<b>Comparative Theology Reading Group Breakfast</b>	7:00–8:15 a.m. <b>Laurelhurst</b>
<b>Centering Prayer</b>	8:00–8:20 a.m. <b>Mount St. Helen</b>
<b>Exhibits</b>	8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. <b>Salons ABCD</b>
<b>Registration</b>	9:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. <b>Salon Foyer</b>
<b>Second Plenary Session &amp; Memorial Service</b>	8:30–10:45 a.m. <b>Salons E-F</b>

Presiding  
 Memorial Service: **Nancy Pineda-Madrid**, Loyola Marymount University  
 President, CTSA

Presiding  
 Second Plenary: **Christine Firer Hinze**, Fordham University  
 Past President (2021-2022), CTSA

Address: **Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar**, Oregon Synod, ELCA

“That They May Be One: The Baptismal  
 Call for Radical Transformation”

Respondent: **Ish Ruiz**, Pacific School of Religion

**Coffee Break**

10:45–11:15 a.m.  
**Salons ABCD**

**Concurrent Sessions – Friday Morning**

**11:15 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

1. Asian and Asian American Theology Consultation

**Salon G**

Administrative Team: Min-Ah Cho, Fiona Li, Cecilia Francisco Tan

- Convener: **Min-Ah Cho**, Georgetown University  
 Moderator: **Fiona Li**, St. Mark's College at the University of British Columbia  
 Presenter: **Linh Hoang, O.F.M.**, Siena College  
 "Baptism in Asian Theology in Light of the Climate Crisis: Water Accessibility and Scarcity"  
 Presenter: **Victoria Basug Slabinski**, University of Virginia  
 "Re-Narrating 'One Baptism' towards the Healing of Colonial Wounds"  
 Presenter: **Zachary R. Dehm**, Loyola University Maryland  
 "'One Baptism' in the Vision of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences"

2. Church /Ecumenism Topic Session

**Salmon**

Administrative Team: Elyse Raby, Jaisy Joseph, Mary Kate Holman

- Convener: **Elyse Raby**, Santa Clara University  
 Moderator: **Mary Kate Holman**, Fairfield University  
 Presenter: **Amanda Osheim**, Loras College  
 "Born into Vulnerability, Baptized into Kenosis: Towards Ecclesial Examinations of Conscience"  
 Presenter: **Flora x. Tang**, University of Notre Dame  
 "Baptism on the Potawatomi Trail of Death: An Ecclesiology of (Limited) Solidarity for a Decolonizing Church"  
 Presenter: **Carol George**, KU Leuven  
 "Unity in Diversity: Reciprocal Dynamism of Synodality and Receptive Ecumenism"

3. Karl Rahner Consultation

**Eugene**

Administrative Team: Brandon Peterson, Jakob Rinderknecht, Michael Rubbelke, Grace Agolia, Mark Fischer

Convener: **Grace Agolia, Boston College**  
 Moderator: **Madeline Jarrett, Boston College**  
 Presenter: **Youngpa Kwon, Sogang Institute for Theology**  
 "Bridging Bei-sich-sein and Prehension:  
 Toward a Metaphysical Theology of Evolution"  
 Respondent: **Michael Rubbelke, St. John's University, Colledgeville**

#### 4. Liturgy/Sacraments Topic Session

**Belmont / Hawthorne**

Administrative Team: Benjamin Durheim, LaRyssa Herrington, Megan Effron

Convener: **Benjamin Durheim, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University**  
 Moderator: **Kayla August, Boston College**  
 Presenter: **Anne McGowan, Catholic Theological Union**  
 "Baptized in One Church? Capacities and Challenges of Multi-Church Collaborative OCIA Processes"  
 Presenter: **Christopher O'Brien, Catholic University of America**  
 "Reintegrating Baptism and Eucharist: A Case for Communing Baptized Infants in Roman Catholicism"  
 Presenter: **Lauren Warner, Boston College**  
 "Harmonizing the Waters: Music as a Celebration of Baptism and Unity in Catholic Liturgy"

#### 5. Moral Theology I Topic Session

**Medford**

Administrative Team: David Kwon, Marcus Mescher, Leocadie Lushombo

Convener: **David Kwon, Seattle University**  
 Moderator: **Megan McCabe, Gonzaga University**  
 Presenter: **Marc V. Rugani, Saint Anselm College**  
 "Capax Dei: Living Out Christian Hope Through Capabilities Expansion"  
 Presenter: **Federico Cinocca, Emmanuel College**  
 "Boundless Grace: Exploring Sacrament's Sucedanea from Baptism to Marriage for Same-Sex Couples"

#### 6. Public Theology Interest Group

**Salon H**

Administrative Team: Rosemary P. Carbine, David DeCosse

Conveners: **Rosemary P. Carbine, Whittier College**  
**David DeCosse, Santa Clara University**  
 Moderator: **Rosemary P. Carbine, Whittier College**

- Presenter: **Nicholas Hayes-Mota**, Santa Clara University  
 “Forming the People: Towards a Baptismal Theology of Citizenship”
- Presenter: **Ramon Luzarraga**, St. Martin’s University  
 “Why Roman Catholics Cannot Vote for a Dictator (Including Aspirational Ones), Ever.”
- Presenter: **Byron D. Wratee**, Loyola University Maryland  
 “One Baptism, One Vote: Public Theology and the Call to Black Political Participation”

### 7. Christian Theologians on Storied Lands

**Salem**

#### A Dialogue on Portland with LaCugna Award Winner Invited Session

Administrative Team: Antonio Sison, Cristina Lledo Gomez, Kevin Considine

- Convener: **Reid B. Locklin**, St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto
- Moderator: **Megan Hopkins**, Boston College
- Panelists: **Craig A. Ford, Jr.**, Saint Norbert College  
**Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI—The Australian Institute of Theological Education  
**David Turnbloom**, University of Portland

### 8. Disability Theology Interest Group

**Medow Lark / Douglas Fir**

Administrative Team: Mary Jo Iozzio, Miguel Romero

- Convener: **Mary Jo Iozzio**, Boston College
- Moderator: **Susan McElcheran**, St. Michael’s College
- Presenter: **Rosemary Garland-Thomson**, Emory University  
 (Co-author Andrew Walker-Cornetta, Georgia State University)  
 “Thinking with Catholic Theology, Imagining Disability”
- Presenter: **Kevin Timpe**, Calvin University  
 (Co-author Blake Hereth, Western Michigan University)  
 “Catholic Faith and Intellectual Disability:  
 A Mere-Difference Response to Gould”
- Presenter: **Ben Parks**, Mercy College of Ohio  
 “Martyrdom and Disability”

### 9. The Least of These: People Suffering from Mental Illness, Law Enforcement, and Innovative Responses Selected Session

**Salon I**

- Convener: **Cathleen Kaveny**, Boston College
- Moderator: **Shaun Slusarski**, Boston College

- Presenter: **Peter Fay**, Villanova University  
"Catholic Social Teaching and the Mentally III"
- Presenter: **Tobias Winright**, St. Patrick's Pontifical University  
"Just Policing and the Mentally III"
- Presenter: **Meg Kaveny**, Behavioral Response Team, Portland Police Bureau  
"An Innovative Partnership: Social Workers and Police Officers"

10. Historical Theology Topic Session

**Pearl**

Administrative Team: Joshua Brown, Trent Pomplun, Grant Kaplan

- Convener: **Grant Kaplan**, St. Louis University
- Moderator: **Grant Kaplan**, St. Louis University
- Presenter: **Justin Coyle**, Mount Angel Seminary  
"Eucharistic Debates at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"
- Presenter: **Michael Petrin**, Mount Angel Seminary  
"Grace, Imitation, and Transformation:  
The Baptismal Theology of Gregory of Nyssa"
- Presenter: **Joseph Flipper**, University of Dayton  
"Black Catholicity: Universalism and African American  
Catholicism in the Mid-Twentieth Century"

11. Thomas Aquinas Consultation

**Columbia**

Administrative Team: Gregory LaNave, Andrew Hofer, John Meinert

- Convener: **Gregory LaNave**, Dominican House of Studies
- Moderator: **Dominic Langevin**, Dominican House of Studies
- Presenter: **Zane Chu**, Saint Mary's College of California  
"Common Baptism, Common Doctor:  
The Basis of the Order of Theology in Aquinas"
- Presenter: **Scott Roniger**, Loyola Marymount University  
"The Soul of the State in Catholic Political Thought"

**Friday Afternoon, June 13, 2025**

**Women's Consultation on Constructive Theology Luncheon**

1:15–2:30 p.m.  
**Mount Hood**

**Concurrent Sessions – Friday Afternoon**

2:45–4:30 p.m.

1. Christianity and Judaism Consultation**Salon G**

Administrative Team: Carol Ann Martinelli, Mia Theocharis, Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski

Convener: **Carol Ann Martinelli**, Independent Scholar  
 Moderator: **Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski**, Boston College  
 Presenter: **Matthew Tapie**, St. Leo University  
 “Christology and the Mystery of Israel after *Nostra Aetate*”  
 Respondent: **Mary Doak**, University of San Diego

2. Embodiment, Trauma, and Illness Interest Group**Salmon**

Administrative Team: Elizabeth Antus, Jessica Coblentz

Convener: **Elizabeth Antus**, Georgetown University  
 Moderator: **Victoria Basug Slabinski**, University of Virginia  
 Presenter: **Emma McDonald Kennedy**, Villanova University  
 “Trauma and Reproductive Loss in Fertility Clinics Contexts:  
 How Social Forces Frame Reproductive Futures”  
 Presenter: **Ashley Theuring**, Xavier University  
 “Baptism and Clergy Sexual Abuse:  
 Reimagining Forgiveness in a Compromised Church”  
 Respondent: **Flora x. Tang**, University of Notre Dame

3. Spirituality Topic Session**Eugene**

Administrative Team: Michael Rubbelke, Theodora van Gaal, C. Vanessa White

Convener: **C. Vanessa White**, Catholic Theological Union  
 Moderator: **Michael Rubbelke**, Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary (Minnesota)  
 Presenter: **Simeiqi He**, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology  
 “One Baptism, One Life, and One Love:  
 Spiritual Convergence between the East and West”  
 Presenter: **Emmanuel Osigwe**, Mount St. Mary's University  
 “African Indigenous Initiation Rituals and the Sacrament of  
 Baptism: Exploring Elements of Communion Toward an Effective  
 Inculturation”  
 Respondent: **Hansol Goo**, Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary (Minnesota)

4. Black Catholic Theology Consultation

**Belmont / Hawthorne**

Administrative Team: Craig A. Ford, Jr., Chanelle Robinson, Nicole Symmonds

- Convener: **Nicole Symmonds**, Columbia Theological Seminary  
Moderator: **John Barnes**, Fordham University  
Presenter: **Jeannine Hill Fletcher**, Fordham University  
"Enslaved and Enslaving Catholics in the Waters of Renewal"  
Presenter: **Kayla August**, Boston College  
"Give Me that Ole Time Religion: What the Slave Preacher  
Teaches Us About Effective Lay Preaching Today"  
Presenter: **Paulinus Odozor**, Notre Dame University  
"Environmental Degradation in Africa:  
Issues, Implications, and Solutions"

5. Moral Theology II Topic Session

**Medford**

Administrative Team: David Kwon, Marcus Mescher, Leocadie Lushombo

- Convener: **Leocadie Lushombo**, Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara  
University  
Moderator: **Barbara Anne Kozee**, Boston College  
Presenter: **Hilary O. Nwainya**, Saint Thomas University  
"Towards a National Ethos of Recognition:  
Leveraging 'One Baptism' to Address Ethical and Social  
Fragmentation in Nigeria"  
Presenter: **Amanda Rachel Bolaños**, Duke Divinity School  
"The Virtue of Solidarity:  
A Baptismal Account of Reclaiming Charity"

6. Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church Consultation

**Salon H**

Administrative Team: Cristina Traina, Megan McCabeStan Ilo, Daniel Horan, Julia  
Feder

- Convener: **Cristina Traina**, Fordham University  
Moderator: **Megan McCabe**, Gonzaga University  
Interactive Session

7. Reconfigured Finitude and Christian Belonging  
In the Thought of Emmanuel Falque Selected Session

**Salem**

- Convener: **Anthony Godzieba**, Villanova University  
Moderator: **Anthony Godzieba**, Villanova University

- Presenter: **Colby Dickinson**, Loyola University Chicago  
 “Emmanuel Falque and the Psychology of Theology”
- Presenter: **Trevor B. Williams**, Villanova University  
 “The Ruptured Alliance: Emmanuel Falque’s Interpretation of Pascal and Kierkegaard in La chair de Dieu (2023)”
- Presenter: **Rohan Abraham**, KU Leuven  
 “Baptism, Incarnation and Metamorphosis: Emmanuel Falque’s Phenomenological Theology and its Significance for an Embodied Conception of Baptism”

8. Deepening Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist Praxis for the Care of the Planet and People Invited Session **Medow Lark / Douglas Fir**

- Conveners: **Rosemary P. Carbine**, Whittier College  
**Rosina H. Simon**, Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore
- Moderator: **Sarah Robinson**, Dominican University of California
- Presenter: **Rosemary P. Carbine**, Whittier College  
 “Sacramentality in Soil and Seeds: Catholic and Hindu Ecofeminist Imaginaries and Communities”
- Presenter: **Rosina H. Simon**, Catholic Theological Institute of Singapore  
 “When Buddhist Mindfulness Meets Christian Watchfulness”
- Presenter: **Michelle Voss**, Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto  
 “A Comparative, Trauma-Informed Soteriology for Interfaith Praxis”

9. Latinx Theology Consultation

**Salon I**

Administrative Team: Mauricio Najarro, Ish Ruiz, Natalia Imperatori-Lee

- Convener: **Mauricio Najarro**, UC Berkeley
- Moderator: **Ish Ruiz**, Pacific School of Religion
- Presenter: **Xavier Montecel**, St. Mary’s University  
 “Not Being for Others: An Exploration of Sin and Baptism Latinamente”
- Presenter: **Benjamin Groth**, Tulane University  
 “One Baptism, Many Races: How Baptism Created Race in the Americas”
- Respondent: **Natalia Imperatori-Lee**, Fordham University

10. Hope, Health, and the Nature of Healing  
Insights from Disability and Trauma Theology Invited Session

**Pearl**

- Convener: **Megan Heeder**, University of Scranton  
 Moderator: **Berit Guidotti**, Boston College  
 Presenter: **Stephanie Edwards**, Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium  
 "Hope in the Darkness: Trauma Healing beyond the Colonial Curative Model"  
 Presenter: **Miguel Romero**, St. Louis University  
 "Aquinas on Disability, Original Sin and the Healing Ministry of Christ"  
 Presenter: **Madeline Jarrett**, Boston College  
 "Disabled Agency and the Contours of Healing"

11. Christ Topic Session

**Columbia**

Administrative Team: Eugene Schlesinger, Robert Lassalle-Klein, Ligita Ryliskyte

- Convener: **Eugene Schlesinger**, Santa Clara University  
 Moderator: **Robert Lassalle-Klein**, Santa Clara University  
 Presenter: **William Orbih**, Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary  
 "The Risen Christ is the Resisting Christ: From Nicaea to Postcolonial Africa"  
 Presenter: **Brandon Peterson**, University of Utah  
 "One Gospel, Many Nations: The Torah, The Covenant, and Christian Supersessionism"  
 Presenter: **Michael Costas**, Boston College  
 "Living Up to Our Baptism"

**Friday Evening, June 13, 2025**

**CTSA Conversation**

4:30–6:00 p.m.  
**Salon EF**

Presiding: **Susan Abraham**, Pacific School of Religion  
 President-Elect, CTSA

**Catherine Clifford**, Saint Paul University  
 Vice President, CTSA

**President's Reception for New/Newer Members**

*Prior registration required/  
 ticket provided in registration packet*

6:15–7:45 p.m.  
**Mount Hood**

**CTSA Vision Statement**

The CTSA advances inclusive theological scholarship and reflection for an evolving Church, academy, and wider world.

### **Core Values of the CTSA:**

#### **Catholic ~ Scholarly ~ Inclusive ~ Global**

**Catholic.** As a *Catholic* scholarly society in an evolving church, academy and world, we aspire to embrace Catholic traditions appreciatively, critically, and dialogically; engaging ecumenically, interreligiously, and with “the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted....” (*Gaudium et Spes* 1).

**Scholarly.** As a *scholarly* society since founded in 1945, we are committed to carrying on living into our vital and distinctive mission: to support, in its many genres and contexts, theological scholarship at the highest levels, in service to church, academy, and society.

**Inclusive.** As an *inclusive* body, we aspire to ‘catholicity,’ by supporting scholars that draw on the wisdom of theological traditions in all institutional settings and practitioners in areas of applied theology; who address and respond to contemporary challenges in our field; and actively seeking out the riches that theological diversity in dialogue (intellectual, ecclesial, cultural, gender, racial-ethnic, geographical, religious) can yield.

**Global.** As a North American society, we cultivate *global* encounters and awareness through our membership, scholarship, and network affiliations.

*This Vision Statement was collaboratively arrived at by the Centennial Committee after significant input from CTSA members. In the Centennial Committee’s and the CTSA Board of Directors’ judgment, this Vision Statement most effectively captures Society members’ and leadership’s animating vision for the CTSA at 100.*

### **Saturday Morning, June 14, 2025**

<b>Benedictine Universities and Colleges Breakfast</b> <i>Sponsored by Saint Anselm University</i>	7:15–8:45 a.m. <b>Sunstone</b>
<b>Breakfast Meeting: Karl Rahner Society</b>	7:15–8:45 a.m. <b>Mount Hood</b>
<b>Centering Prayer</b>	8:00–8:30 a.m. <b>Mount St. Helan</b>
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	8:30–8:45 a.m. <b>Mount St. Helen</b>

**Exhibits** 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
**Salons ABCD**

**Registration** 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
**Ballroom Foyer**

**Third Plenary Session** 9:00–10:30 a.m.  
**Salon E-F**

Presiding: **Susan Abraham**, Pacific School of Religion  
President-Elect, CTSA

Presenter: **Jakob Karl Rinderknecht**, University of the Incarnate Word  
“The Baptismal Call of the Theologian:  
A Synodal CTSA Conversation”

Interactive Session

**Coffee Break** 10:30–11:00 a.m.  
**Salons ABCD**

**Concurrent Sessions – Saturday Morning** 11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

1. Gun Cultures and Gun Violence Interest Group **Salon G**

Administrative Team: Michael Grigoni, SimonMary Asese Ahiokhai

Convener: **SimonMary Asese Ahiokhai**, University of Portland  
Moderator: **Eli McCarthy**, Georgetown University  
Presenter: **Christina Astorga**, University of Portland  
“Reckoning with Religion and Gun Culture in Light of Christian  
Nationalism”

Presenter: **Ki Joo Choi**, Princeton Theological Seminary  
“Asian Americans, Guns, and Belonging:  
A Case Study on Insecurity and its Root Cause(s)”

Presenter: **David Turnbloom**, University of Portland  
“Icons of Autonomy: Guns as Religious Symbols”

2. Catholicity within the Constructs of Colonialism and Place:  
Universality and Diversity in Negotiations of Religious-Cultural  
Identity Across the Indian Sub-Continent Invited Session **Salmon**

Convener: **Deepan Rajaratnam**, Saint John's University (Minnesota)  
Moderator: **William Orbih**, Saint John's University (Minnesota)

- Presenter: **Deepan Rajaratnam**, Saint John's University, Collegetown, MN  
 “Grace in the Context of Colonialism:  
 A Multi-Generational Account of Inculturating Tamil Catholicism”
- Presenter: **Akhil Thomas**, Harvard University  
 “Poetics of Displacement: Jesuit Acculturation in Early Modern  
 Malabar and its Afterlife in Contemporary Chicago”
- Respondent: **Rohan Abraham**, KU Leuven

### 3. Catholic Social Thought Topic Session

**Eugene**

Administrative Team: Kate Jackson-Meyer, Kevin Ahern, Carmen Nanko-Fernández

- Convener: **Peter Fay**, Villanova University
- Moderator: **Xavier Montecel**, St. Mary's University
- Presenter: **Jens Mueller**, Notre Dame of Maryland University  
 “Laudato Si’ and Baptismal Renewal: Embracing Ecological  
 Conversion for the Jubilee Year 2025”
- Presenter: **Shaun Slusarski**, Boston College  
 “Pope Francis, Catholic Social Teaching, and Prison Reform”

### 4. American Exceptionalism: A Theological Evaluation of a Troublesome Notion Selected Session

**Belmont / Hawthorne**

- Convener: **Thomas Massaro, S.J.**, Fordham University
- Moderator: **Timothy Perron, S.J.**, Fordham University
- Presenter: **Thomas Massaro, S.J.**, Fordham University  
 “American Exceptionalism: A Theological Evaluation of a  
 Troublesome Notion”
- Respondent: **David DeCosse**, Santa Clara University
- Respondent: **SimonMary Ase Ahiokhai**, University of Portland

### 5. Fundamental Theology / Method Topic Session

**Medford**

Administrative Team: Nicholas Olkovich, T. Derrick Witherington, Sara Hulse Kirby

- Convener: **Nicholas Olkovich**, St. Mark's College
- Moderator: **Jonathan R. Heaps**, Seton Hall University
- Presenter: **Jack Nuelle**, Loyola University Chicago  
 “One Baptism for the Forgiveness of Sins:  
 Symbolic Efficacy, Encounter, and Structural Sin”
- Respondent: **Ryan G. Duns, S.J.**, Marquette University
- Respondent: **T. Derrick Witherington**, Loyola University Chicago

6. Bioethics / Healthcare Topic Session

**Salon H**

Administrative Team: Dan Daly, Kate Jackson-Meyer, Emma McDonald Kennedy

- Convener: **Dan Daly**, Boston College  
Moderator: **Emma McDonald Kennedy**, Villanova University  
Presenter: **Michael McCarthy**, Loyola University Chicago  
"Bioethics and the Principle of Mercy:  
Baptism and the Style of Jesus' Healing Ministry"  
Presenter: **Leah Wakefield**, Marquette University  
"Harm Reduction, Catholic Medical Ethics, and Catholic Social  
Teaching"  
Presenter: **Megan Heeder**, University of Scranton  
"The Christian Baptismal Call: Shaping a Bioethical Response to  
Poverty and Race's Role in Eating Disorders"

7. Theology and Science Topic Session

**Salem**

Administrative Team: Megan Ulishney, Benjamin Hohman, Robert Elliot

- Convener: **Megan Ulishney**, Boston College  
Moderator: **Benjamin Hohman**, Salve Regina University  
Presenter: **Taylor Nutter**, Mount St. Mary's University  
"AI, Death-Time, and Baptismal Hope"  
Presenter: **Monica Marcelli-Chu**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara  
University  
"Grace-in-Flux and a Changeable Self:  
Conceiving an Ecological Theology of Grace"  
Presenter: **Alexander Klee**, Boston College  
"Original Trauma: Epigenetics as a Solution  
to the Issue of Evolution and Propagated Sin"

8. Lonergan Consultation

**Medow Lark / Douglas Fir**

Administrative Team: Jeremy Blackwood, Jennifer Sanders, Cecille Medina-  
Maldonado

- Convener: **Jennifer Sanders**, Saint Louis University  
Moderator: **Brian Himes**, Saint Louis University

- Presenter: **Joseph Mudd**, Gonzaga University  
 “Transposing Sacramental Character: Metaphysics and Meaning in an Ecumenical Theology of Baptism”
- Presenter: **John Dadosky**, Regis-St. Michael’s College, Toronto School of Theology  
 “Ecclesia, Theology, and Canon Law: Reflections on a Post-Vatican II Integration”
- Presenter: **Patrick Nolin**, Regis-St. Michael’s College, Toronto School of Theology  
 “Transcendental Infrastructure in Creating Narratives of Hope”

### 9. Han Urs von Balthasar Consultation

**Salon I**

Administrative Team: Charles Gillespie, Anne Carpenter, Christopher M. Hadley, S.J., Kristen Drahos

- Convener: **Charles Gillespie**, Sacred Heart University  
 Moderator: **Charles Gillespie**, Sacred Heart University  
 An Experimental and Interactive Session

### 10. Creation / Eschatology Topic Session

Administrative Team: Daniel Scheid, Paul Schutz, Kathleen McNutt

- Convener: **Daniel Scheid**, Duquesne University  
 Moderator: **Aristotle Papanikolaou**, Fordham University  
 Presenter: **Jack Pappas**, Fordham University  
 “‘In My End is My Beginning’: Creation and the Image of God in Gregory of Nyssa and Maximus the Confessor”
- Presenter: **Anne Carpenter**, St. Louis University  
 “‘*Creatio* is the Relation’: On the Strangeness of Thing Creation”
- Presenter: **Sarah Livick-Moses**, Gannon University  
 “The Drama of Creation: Bulgakov, Balthasar, and the Promise of Ecumenical Ecotheology”

### 11. The Disruptive Agency of Baptism: Reclaiming the Christian Call to Conversion, Dialogue, and Co-Responsibility Selected Session

**Columbia**

- Convener: **Ryan McAleer**, KU Leuven  
 Moderator: **Bradford Hinze**, Fordham University  
 Presenter: **Ryan McAleer**, KU Leuven  
 “Initiation into the Divine-Human Dialogue”

- Presenter: **Kim Mendoza**, KU Leuven  
 “Co-Responsibility and Hierarchical Communion  
 in Church Governance”
- Presenter: **Maria Cimperman, R.S.C.J.**, Catholic Theological Union  
 “Baptism and the Call to Ongoing Conversion, with Implications  
 for Communal Discernment and Healing”

**Saturday Afternoon, June 14, 2025**

**Theological Studies Editorial Consultation Luncheon** 12:50–2:15 p.m.  
**Sunstone**

**CUERG Luncheon** 1:00–2:15 p.m.  
**Mount Hood**

**CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award**

*The award will be presented to*

**Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min.**

*Associate Professor, Department of Theology, Xavier University of Louisiana  
 and Director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies*

**Concurrent Sessions – Friday Afternoon** 2:30–4:15 p.m.

1. Reimagining Ecclesial Unity Invited Session **Salon G**

- Convener: **SimonMary Asese Ahiokhai**, University of Portland  
 Moderator: **SimonMary Asese Ahiokhai**, University of Portland  
 Presenter: **Mary Follen**, Spirit of Grace Ecumenical Community, Beaverton,  
 Oregon  
 “Thirty-year Worship Journey and Struggle  
 of an Ecumenical Community”
- Presenter: **Juan Carlos La Puente Tapia**, Spiritual and Theological Mutual  
 Accompaniment International Network  
 “Spiritual and Theological Mutual Accompaniment”
- Presenter: **Thomas Mason**, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Parish,  
 Lake Oswego, Oregon  
 “Emergent Reflection Regarding Understanding of Authority and  
 Its Guiding Means for Walking Together”

2. Walking Together as a Synodal Church:  
 Ministerial and Sacramental Prospects for Communion,  
 Participation, and Mission Selected Session **Salmon**

- Convener: **Ty Monroe**, Assumption University  
 Moderator: **Megan Effron**, Notre Dame  
 Presenter: **Grace Agolia**, Boston College  
 “Proclaiming ‘One Baptism for the Forgiveness of Sins’: The Future of Ministry in a Synodal Church”
- Presenter: **Deepan Rajaratnam**, St. John’s University (Minnesota)  
 “Disciple by Baptism, Minister by Call: Reframing the Theologian’s Vocation in Light of Synodality, Locality and Catholicity”
- Presenter: **Ty Monroe**, Assumption University  
 “Synodality, Sacraments, and the Church as the Prolongation of the Incarnation in History”

3. One Baptism – One Church? Baptism, Belonging and the Contemporary Ecumenical Movement Selected Session

**Eugene**

- Convener: **Kimberly Belcher**, University of Notre Dame  
 Moderator: **Alexander Turpin**, Notre Dame Parish, Diocese of Rockville Centre  
 Presenter: **Benjamin Durheim**, College of Saint Benedict / Saint John’s University  
 “Actions Matter: On the Liturgical (Mis-)Recognition of a Common Baptism”
- Presenter: **Tom McLean**, KU Leuven  
 “A Personal Matter: Autoethnographic Reflections on Crossing Denominational Lines”
- Presenter: **Theresa Rice**, University of Notre Dame  
 “Dialoguing with the Past: Reflections on the Role of History in Ecumenism and the Reception of Baptized Christians”

4. Catholicity and Mission Topic Session

**Belmont / Hawthorne**

Administrative Team: Cristina Lledo Gomez, Kevin Considine, Flora x. Tang

- Convener: **Cristina Lledo Gomez**, BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education  
 Moderator: **Kevin Considine**, Catholic Theological Union  
 Presenter: **Margaret Mary Moore**, Theology & Life Institute  
 “De-coding the So-called Doctrine of Discovery”
- Presenter: **David de la Fuente**, Fordham University  
 “Pentecostalizing Catholicity and Mission: Jennings and Yong on the ‘Baptism of the Multitude’”
- Presenter: **Ramon Luzarraga**, St. Martin’s University  
 “The Box Score of Baptism:”

## US Catholic Missionary Christianity in the Caribbean"

5. Comparative Theology Topic Session**Medford**

Administrative Team: Julius-Kei Kato, Laurel Potter, Domenik Ackermann

Convener: **Julius-Kei Kato**, King's University College-Western UniversitModerator: **Laurel Potter**, University of St. ThomasPresenter: **Axel Oaks Takacs**, Seton Hall University

"Tradition and Propriety of Rituals in the (Omnipresent) Face of God: Ordinary (Supernatural) and Extraordinary (Natural) Means of Experiencing the Divine Presence"

Presenter: **Joyce Konigsburg**, DePaul University

"One Baptism: From Unity in Diversity to Diversity in Unity"

Presenter: **Shinjae Lee**, Boston College

"Reimagining Spiritual Equality:

A Comparative Analysis of Dayananda Sarasvati's Vedic Reform and the Concept of One Baptism in Dalit Theology"

6. Practical Theology Topic Session**Salon H**

Administrative Team: Cynthia Cameron, Jennifer Owens-Jofre, Ish Ruiz

Convener: **Cynthia Cameron**, University of St. Michael's College, University of TorontoModerator: **Jennifer Owens-Jofre**, Loyola Marymount UniversityPresenter: **Marc Del Monico**, St. Luke Institute

"Baptismal Ministries': A Synodal Embrace of Lay Ministry ... or is it?: Synod 'Vocabulary' and the Relationship between Baptism, Lay Ministry, and Co-Responsibility"

Presenter: **Tiffany Hunsinger**, University of Dayton

"Catholicism and Indigenous Hawaiian Spirituality: Navigating a Legacy of Forced Conversion"

7. Theologies of Peacebuilding and Nonviolence Interest Group**Salem**

Administrative Team: Eli McCarthy, Leo Guardado

Convener: **Eli McCarthy**, Georgetown UniversityModerator: **Leo Guardado**, Fordham UniversityPresenter: **Sr. MaryKristel Nwuba, D.D.L.**, Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love

"A Comparative Analysis of Nonviolent Communication

and Eco-Spirituality”

- Presenter: **Joshua Snyder**, Boston College  
 “The Role of Nonviolent Education in Peacebuilding”
- Presenter: **Fidelis Olokunboro**, Villanova University  
 “Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls and Dies:  
 A Theo-Anthropological Approach to Peacebuilding”

### 8. Anthropology Topic Session

**Medow Lark / Douglas Fir**

Administrative Team: Tiffany Hartnell-Howden, Adam Beyt, Timothy Perron

- Convener: **Tiffany Hartnell-Howden**, Boston College
- Moderator: **Adam Beyt**, Loyola University-Chicago
- Presenter: **Brianne Jacobs**, Emmanuel College  
 “Infinite Generation: Relationships and Baptism in the AI Age”
- Presenter: **Arun Joseph Chakkalakkal**, KU-Leuven  
 “Relationality and Anthropology:  
 Weaving Towards a Participatory Relational Ontology”
- Presenter: **Bede Ukwuije, C.S.Sp.**, Duquesne University  
 “Memoria Christi in the Amistad Story:  
 Transforming the Memory of Race through the Memory of Grace”

### 9. The Enduring Gift and Theological Challenge of Johann Baptist Metz

**Salon I**

Administrative Team: Matthew Ashley, Kevin Burke, S.J., Julia Prinz, V.D.M.F.

- Convener: **Matthew Ashley**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara  
 University
- Moderator: **Julia Prinz, V.D.M.F.**, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara  
 University
- Presenter: **Janice Thompson**, King’s College  
 “Living as a Community of Hope in a Hope-Destroying World:  
 Johann Baptist Metz and the German Church after Auschwitz”
- Presenter: **Daniel Castillo**, Loyola University of Maryland  
 “Renouncing the Glamour of Evil: Dangerous Memory in a Time  
 of Politico–Ecological Emergency”

### 10. God / Trinity Topic Session

Administrative Team: Nancy Dallavalle, Darren Dias

- Convener: **Nancy Dallavalle**, Fairfield University

Moderator: **Robin Landrith**, Loyola University Maryland  
 Presenter: **Paul DeHart**, Vanderbilt University  
 "The Economic Trinity and the Nicene Faith  
 —Learning from Schleiermacher"  
 Respondent: **Elizabeth Groppe**, University of Dayton  
 Respondent: **Darren Dias**, University of Toronto

### 11. Synodality Interest Group

**Columbia**

*Ecumenical Reflections on Synodality*

Administrative Team: Martin Madar, Jakob Rinderknecht, Susan Reynolds

Convener: **Martin Madar**, Xavier University  
 Moderator: **Martin Madar**, Xavier University  
 Panelists: **Archbishop Linda Nicholls**, Primate of the Anglican Church of  
 Canada (retired)  
**Susan K. Wood, S.C.L.**, Regis College, University of Toronto  
**Richard Lennan**, Boston College

### **Saturday Evening, June 14, 2025**

<b>Eucharist</b>	5:00 p.m. <b>Salon E</b>
<b>John Courtney Murray Award Reception</b>	6:15 p.m. <b>Mount Hood &amp; Mount St. Helen</b>
<b>John Courtney Murray Award Banquet</b>	7:00 p.m. <b>Salon F-I</b>

### **Sunday Morning, June 15, 2025**

<b>Conveners' Breakfast</b>	7:15–8:45 a.m. <b>Salon I</b>
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*New conveners (or their delegates) of Topic Sessions, Interest Groups, and Consultations will meet Susan Abraham, CTSA President-Elect, Catherine Clifford, CTSA Vice President, and Kevin Brown, Editor of Proceedings, for evaluation and preliminary planning for the 2065 convention.*

<b>Centering Prayer</b>	8:00–8:30 a.m. <b>Mount St. Helen</b>
<b>Morning Prayer</b>	8:30–8:50 a.m.

<b>Exhibits</b>	<b>Mount St. Helen</b> 8:30–11:00 a.m. <b>Salons ABCD</b>
<b>Fourth Plenary Session: Presidential Address</b>	9:00–10:00 a.m. <b>Salon E</b>
Presiding: <b>Catherine Clifford</b> , Saint Paul University Vice President, CTSA	
Address: <b>Nancy Pineda-Madrid</b> , Loyola Marymount University President, CTSA	
“Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Eruption of Evil, and Reckoning for Theology”	
<b>Appointment of the New President</b>	10:00 a.m. <b>Salon E</b>
<b>Coffee and Pastries</b>	10:15 a.m. <b>Salons ABCD</b>
<b>Meeting and Luncheon: CTSA Board of Directors</b>	11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. <b>Willamette</b>

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**Thank you to Our 2025 Institutional Donors!**

The Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation, Inc.

Gonzaga University

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University of Notre Dame in Honor of Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P.

Saint Paul University

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**Catholic Theological Society of America  
80th Annual Convention**

**“Theology in a Synodal Church”**

**June 11–14, 2026**

**Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch  
Saint Louis, Missouri**

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*The CTSA would like to thank the following members for their service and assistance with the annual convention:*

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**David Turnbloom**, University of Portland

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### JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY AWARD 2025

Citation from Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid, CTSA President:

#### The John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Theological Achievement

¡Les deseo a cada uno de ustedes lo mejor esta noche! I wish each of you the best this evening! My great joy tonight is to recognize the colleague whom CTSA honors this year with the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology.

Our honoree was born in Baltimore on July 14, 1944, of Welsh and Irish ancestry. From County Clare, Ireland, his mother's forebearers immigrated to the United States in the 1820s. His father's Welsh forebearers immigrated here in the seventeenth century, some four centuries ago and settled in Maryland. As a child he grew up in Baltimore and Washington, DC. However, when he was thirteen, his family moved to Riverside, California where he attended high school at Divine Word Seminary. He holds a B.A. in English Literature from Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa; an S.T.B. and an S.T.L. from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, where he studied with Thomas O'Meara, O.P.

During the time of his studies in Rome, he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest. Prior to beginning his Ph.D. program at the University of Notre Dame, our honoree spent eight years teaching undergraduate and graduate courses at the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in the Philippines. Throughout his life, his teaching and many publications have transformed how missiology, contextual theology, and a global perspective are understood. He has taught at institutions around the globe; directed or served on many dissertation committees; served as editor for a number of prestigious journals; and served on several international commissions. In 1986, he began his long and celebrated work as an assistant professor at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where, in 1998, he was appointed the Louis J. Lusbetak, S.V.D. Professor of Mission and Culture, a position he held until 2015 when he retired and became professor emeritus. Over the course of his illustrious career, he has remained a dedicated member of the CTSA, delivering a plenary address at the 2001 convention, and serving as a board member from 2007 to 2009.

**Missiology** has been the bedrock of our honoree's work since he was in his twenties and began his life-long commitment to the Society for the Divine Word, the world's largest Roman Catholic order with a focus on missionary work. In 1972, three days after he arrived in the Philippines to begin teaching, a colleague and another S.V.D. professor, Leonardo Mercado, mentioned that he was in the middle of writing his dissertation on Filipino philosophy. Mercado then asked a most consequential question: "Do you plan to teach *theology* to the Filipino students, or, do you plan to teach *Filipino* theology?" "Theology" implying Roman theology or "Filipino theology."<sup>1</sup> For this newcomer to the Philippines, this question was deeply agitational.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen B. Bevans, "Becoming a Global Theologian: A Personal Journey," in *Christian Mission, Contextual Theology, Prophetic Dialogue: Essays in Honor of Stephen B. Bevans, SVD*, ed. Dale T. Irvin and Peter C. Phan (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018), 249.

In the following months, our honoree's reaction was to learn the local dialect, and to read "a good bit" of Philippine history and literature as well as the Filipino theology that was available in the 1970s. He then offered a course in Filipino theology to ten interested students. By necessity, they—professor and students alike—read and searched together. Many years later, in the acknowledgments of his 2009 book, *An Introduction to Theology in Global Perspective*, our honoree wrote,

I need to acknowledge the patience, the wisdom, the enthusiasm, and even the misgivings and disagreements with my students throughout the last thirty-five years. When the legendary Casey Stengel of the New York Yankees was congratulated for winning yet another World Series in the 1950s he is said to have remarked: "I couldn't have done it without the players." I have similar sentiments in regard to my students, and this is why this book is dedicated to them.<sup>2</sup>

Overtime the original question took root, and so began a lifetime quest to more deeply understand **contextual theology**. Left behind was the default of taking an assumed acontextual Catholic theology and merely imparting it to those situated in a different context. Rather, he came to a more reflective understanding of what *catholicity* means in our tradition, a recognition that God's grace and the movement of the Holy Spirit are present within contexts other than our own. In the early 1970s, this was still a radical idea.

This award's namesake, John Courtney Murray, S.J., in his own time, was deeply concerned with the United States' drift away from its religious roots, away from the more spiritual underpinnings of this democratic republic and, consequently, the nation's movement toward a vacuous materialism. Murray believed this trajectory was not only inconsistent with the Roman Catholic tradition but also, over time, would deeply undermine the nation's democratic institutions. He drove the development of a public theology directed at reforming American society.

Our honoree's legacy resonates with Murray's instincts by encouraging attention to the contextuality of *all* theological discourse. Yet, our honoree goes further by encouraging the expansion of theology's horizons to include the diverse populations of the globe. The result being a reforming dynamic in the way we do theology by embracing a **global perspective**. In his words, he invites theologians to know

their own context, but also to try to expand that context and avoid the blinders that their context provides by "listening to all the voices" themselves. In this way they will be introduced to doing a truly *catholic* theology in quite another sense. ... They will learn how to be faithful to their own particular culture, gender, generation, national identity while at the same time expanding their understanding beyond their own particularity to embrace, learn from, and even challenge other ways of thinking and expression. ... Theology today, I firmly believe, must be done in this global

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<sup>2</sup> Stephen B. Bevans, *An Introduction to Theology in Global Perspective* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2009), xv.

perspective. It *must* be contextual; but it must also be in dialogue, open to the other, ready to change, ready to challenge, ready to enrich and be enriched.<sup>3</sup>

For well over three decades, the Catholic Press Association has repeatedly awarded his publications. And, as they are released, his many books have been consistently recognized by the *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* as among their “best books on mission.” Dale T. Irvin and Peter C. Phan coedited a festschrift in his honor titled, *Christian Mission, Contextual Theology, Prophetic Dialogue* (2018).

In 2021, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society of Missiology. And very recently, the Association of Catholic Publishers awarded his newest book, *Community of Missionary Disciples: The Continuing Creation of the Church*, first prize in the category of best books in theology in 2024.

With great joy and deep gratitude for the rich legacy bestowed to us, here tonight, in the Pacific Northwest city of Portland, the Catholic Theological Society of America confers the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology on Stephen B. Bevans, of the Society of the Divine Word.

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<sup>3</sup> Bevans, *An Introduction to Theology in Global Perspective*, 5, italics in the original.

**CUERG DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-LEADER AWARD 2025**

The 2025 CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award was announced during the CUERG Luncheon during the CTSA annual meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2024 in Portland, Oregon. The award was presented with the following citation:

Siblings in Christ, let us bless the Lord God, the Source of all goodness, the Savior and Sustainer of all things, for guiding every event and inspiring the faithful to bless and praise all human works. Let us bless the Lord for the life, work, scholarship, mentorship, and witness of the recipient of the 2025 CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award: Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow.

Dr. Dorsey Bellow, a Baltimore native, grew up near the US's first Black Catholic parish, the oldest operating Black Catholic school, the first successful Black Catholic women's religious order, and the first and only religious order dedicated to the evangelization of African Americans. The historically Black Catholic parish of St. Cecilia served as her first ecclesial community, teaching her to center her life, ministry, and scholarship around the Black Catholic community.

Dr. Dorsey Bellow earned her first degrees in Spanish and business. As a member of the first class of women to complete a full four years at Baltimore's Loyola College, she was one of the first Black women to graduate from Loyola in 1975. In many respects, she was ideally positioned to break barriers, being the firstborn of Charles Dorsey, Jr., who desegregated Loyola in 1949 as its first full-time Black student. After graduating, she worked as a translator in the Social Security Administration's Division of International Operations and also taught at Holy Angels Catholic School in Chicago.

In 1977, she married Paul L. Bellow, a marine engineer, and moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she earned her Master of Business Administration from McNeese State University in 1987. She then worked as a business counselor at the local Small Business Development Center, managed a consulting firm specializing in small business planning, and served as president of the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority Board. As an active member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lake Charles, Louisiana, she has participated in parish, diocesan, regional, and national ministries. She is a former principal of Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School in Lake Charles, Louisiana. In addition to her roles in various ministries for the Diocese of Lafayette and the Diocese of Lake Charles, she also served as a team member of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

Encouraged by her pastor, she started the master's degree program at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies (IBCS), a school of theology that meets during the summer at Xavier University of Louisiana. Since the summer of 1989, she has rarely missed a session at the IBCS, which she lovingly calls her spiritual home. After earning her Master of Theology degree from the IBCS, she went on to earn a Doctor of Ministry in Liturgical Studies at the Catholic Theological Union, a post-Vatican II seminary for twenty-one religious communities and lay students focused on intercultural and ecumenical partnerships. Her research focuses on how Vatican II's liturgical theology has been received and on the role of the laity's full, active participation in Black Catholic parishes.

"I never meant to be a professor," Dorsey Bellows once said. "Academia felt too stuffy—I've always been a grassroots, 'people-in-the-pew' kind of person." Yet love has a way of calling us where we least expect. Drawn by a deep devotion to the Institute

for Black Catholic Studies, Dr. Dorsey Bellows remained rooted in the life of historically Black colleges and the Black Catholic theological tradition. Over the years, she served the IBCS in many roles—volunteer, staff assistant, and associate director. Then, in 2019, providence and irony met. Dr. Dorsey Bellow now holds the Drexel Society Endowed Professorship in Black Catholic Studies in Xavier’s Theology Department and serves as the Director of the IBCS. In addition to her work at Xavier, Dr. Bellows has served as a past convener of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS), the nation’s only theological society in the Black Catholic tradition.

Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellows is not only a guiding light within the IBCS and BCTS—she is also a vital presence in the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA). One nominator for the CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award put it best: Dr. Bellows is widely known for her “long-time dedication to support and promote the theological endeavors of underrepresented and underrecognized scholars.” The CTSA, they noted, has been deeply enriched by her commitment to Black Catholic Studies and her bridge-building across marginalized communities.

Together with her friend and colleague, Dr. C. Vanessa White, she has supported CUERG’s work and has worked tirelessly to keep Black liberation and Black Catholic theology at the heart of CTSA discourse. In addition to convening the Black Catholic Theology Consultation, she has spearheaded an invited session and a three-year interest group focusing on the liberating theology of James Hal Cone. For the 2024 CTSA gathering in Baltimore, she convened a timely and powerful session titled “Baltimore and the Black Catholic Experience,” spotlighting the struggles and hopes of Black Catholic parishes through the voices of lay catechists, organizers, and legal advocates.

Her influence extends beyond the CTSA’s annual convention. Dr. Bellows has mentored almost every CTSA early career scholar and doctoral student—Catholic or Protestant—who researches Black Catholic experiences. She has created opportunities for them at the IBCS by offering adjunct teaching roles that help emerging scholars connect their theology to the lived faith of Black Catholic communities. As one recommender so rightly said, “As a theologian, Dr. Bellow is shaping the future of the guild, Catholic higher education, and the church.”

Dear CUERG colleagues and friends, please join me in praising God for Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow and warmly welcoming her as she accepts the 2025 CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award.

**CATHERINE MOWRY LACUGNA AWARD 2025**

The members of the LaCugna Award Committee for 2024-2025 were Dr. Reid Locklin (Chair), Dr. Christopher Steck, S.J., and Dr. Rhodora Beaton. The award was announced during the CTSA annual banquet on Saturday, June 14, 2024 in Portland, Oregon.

This year, the Catherine Mowry LaCugna Award Committee received twenty-three excellent essay submissions. Each member reviewed all of the essays independently and then met to share our evaluations and come to a final decision. It was not an easy choice, as several of the submitted essays were truly outstanding, challenging committee members' assumptions and deepening our understanding of several difficult issues. In the end, we agreed unanimously to recognize Flora x. Tang with the LaCugna Award for her article, "From Ecclesial Sin to Ecclesial Han: Ecclesiology Beyond 'A Church of Sinners and Saints.'"

Every now and then, one encounters a scholarly argument that not only engages a particular question convincingly but also profoundly transforms the question itself. In the committee's judgment, Tang's essay does just this on the tangled, contested issue of ecclesial sin. Taking her start from Pope Francis's historic 2022 apology for Catholic participation in the Indian Residential School System, Tang draws attention to the various ways that debates about ecclesial culpability and ecclesial repentance function to render those who are the victims of sin invisible and without agency.

To address this lacuna, she offers, first, a nuanced reading of the theological conversation emerging from Vatican II on ecclesial sin. Among other things, this treatment brings out the strongly gendered character of the debate, exemplified not only by well-traveled metaphors of bride and mother but also by Karl Rahner's metaphor of the Church as a "chaste whore." Tang does not refute such gendered constructions; instead, she leans into them through an insightful, creative application of the Korean theological concept of han, as interpreted by Andrew Sung Park and embodied especially in the lived experiences of suffering women. Rather than a duality of sinner and saint, a robust theology of han encourages us to reflect on the mutual relations of sinners and sinned-against, in an ongoing work of reconciliation and pastoral care.

"A recognition of ecclesial han," Tang concludes, "enables ecclesial conversations to center the healing of and justice for victim-survivors, thus preventing these conversations from devolving into self-centered defenses of the church's reputation of holiness despite scandal and sin. The heart of the church, under this light, does not need to be safeguarded from the impacts of human sin, for it is already wounded by sin as its most vulnerable members have been."

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

In 2025, the CTSA membership had two business meetings online. On June 14, 2024, during our 2024 Annual Business Meeting the CTSA membership voted in favor of holding the 2025 Annual Business Meeting online. This is a three-year (2025, 2026, and 2027) experiment aiming at engaging members who cannot attend the convention and maximizing the use of time during the in-person meeting. At the end of the third year, the Board of Directors will review the practice and engage the membership to determine whether online is the best way to proceed henceforward.

### CTSA SPECIAL ACTIVE MEMBERS' MEETING TO VOTE ON NEW CTSA MEMBERS MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 7:00 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M., EDT

Only CTSA active members attended this meeting online via Zoom. Article III.3.a of the CTSA Constitution reads: "Active members alone shall be eligible to vote and to hold office. Election to office shall be by a simple majority vote of those present at the annual business meeting." Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid, CTSA President, called the meeting to order on May 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. EDT. Dr. Mary Doak from the University of San Diego served as parliamentarian.

Dr. Anna B. Moreland, Chair of the Admissions Committee, presented the report on behalf of the committee. Members of the Admissions Committee for 2024-2025 were Dr. Anna B. Moreland, *chair*; Dr. Nicole Reibe, Dr. Andrew Massena, Dr. Ted Ulrich, and Dr. Hosffman Ospino, Secretary, *ex officio*. The Committee completed its work during May 2025.

Between May 2, 2024, and May 1, 2025, the CTSA received a total of seventy-nine applications. Three did not meet the conditions to move forward. One was discussed by the active membership and did not move forward. In total, seventy-five applications were viable and eventually approved. Of these, there were seven special cases appropriately documented and moved forward. New active membership applicants: forty-three. Of these, ten corresponded to associate members applying to active membership. New associate membership applicants: forty-two. The Admissions Committee recommended that all seventy-five applications be considered for approval.

The CTSA active members present at the meeting approved the committee's recommendation expressing their unanimous approval. President Nancy Pineda-Madrid encouraged the new members to become actively involved in the life of the Society. The names and affiliations of new members are found in the addenda to the CTSA Directory contained in the appendices of this volume of the *Proceedings*.

President Nancy Pineda-Madrid thanked those attending this special business meeting and reminded all that the formal business meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. EDT online.

**CTSA BUSINESS MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025  
7:00 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M., EDT**

President Nancy Pineda-Madrid presided the meeting. Dr. Mary Doak from the University of San Diego served as parliamentarian. Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid, CTSA President, called the meeting to order on May 27, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. EDT. Dr. Mary Doak from the University of San Diego served as parliamentarian.

***Report of the Nominations Committee***

After a process of receiving, vetting, and discerning nominations from the general membership, the members of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Bede Bidlack, *chair*, Dr. Colleen Carpenter, and Dr. Bryan Massingale submitted the names of candidates recommended to stand for election to serve on the Board. Dr. Bede Bidlack read the names proposed by the committee:

The slate of nominees proposed by the committee follow:

For Vice-President:        Dr. Kevin Burke, S.J.  
                                      Dr. Elena Procario-Foley

For board members:        Dr. Ramon Luzarraga  
                                      Dr. Kathleen McManus, O.P.  
                                      Dr. Dan Scheid  
                                      Dr. C. Vanessa White

There were no nominations from the floor. President Nancy Pineda-Madrid thanked all CTSA members standing for election.

Mrs. Mary Jane Ponyik explained the process to vote electronically during the online meeting. Officers were voted one at a time and the results of each voting round was announced immediately.

Dr. Kevin Burke S.J. was elected as Vice-President. Dr. Dan Scheid and Dr. C. Vanessa White were elected as Board Members. Dr. Hosffman Ospino (Secretary) and Rev. Patrick Flanagan, C.M. (Treasurer) were reelected by acclamation for another one-year term.

After the 2025 Convention, Dr. Susan Abraham assumes the Presidency for the year 2025-2026. Dr. Catherine Clifford becomes President-Elect. The other members of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year are Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid (Past President), Dr. Daniel P. Horan (Board Member) and Dr. Laurie Johnston (Board Member).

President Pineda-Madrid thanked Dr. Elena Procario-Foley, Dr. Ramon Luzarraga, and Dr. Kathleen McManus, O.P., for their willingness to stand for election.

### ***Reports from Officers and Committee Chairs***

CTSA officers and committee chairs developed written reports and sent them to membership in advance in preparation for the business meeting. At the Business Meeting they synthesized and summarized their presentations.

### ***Report of the President***

The report of the president is supported by the reports of the Centennial Committee, the LaCugna Award Committee, the Committee on Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups, and the INSeCT representative, each of which is found below. It is also supported by reports from

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Planning, Development & Infrastructure 2024 – 2026,
- The Ad Hoc Committee on Financial Planning, Development, and Infrastructure,
- The Value of Theology in University Education Study Group,
- The Virtual Events Committee,
- The Coordinator of Relationships with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and
- The Coordinator of Relations with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops,

as well as CTSA President’s January 2025 letter to the membership. The following is the text of the report submitted by Dr. Nancy Pineda-Madrid:

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as CTSA president over the course of this year. I thank CTSA members for entrusting me with this sacred work. This past year has been one filled with many consequential matters leading many of us to feel that the ground beneath our feet is shifting dramatically, impacting the landscape of our work in theology. Yet, even amidst the sorrow of Pope Francis’ passing there is hope and excitement with the election of Pope Leo.

I want to express my deep appreciation to the Presidential Line, Executive Director, Board Officers, and Board Members for their ongoing support, dedicated work, and insightful wisdom on behalf of the Society over the course of this year. The chairs and members of CTSA’s standing and *ad hoc* committees did a great deal to respond to the concerns of our Society’s members, to think seriously about and plan for the current and emerging needs of the Society, and to deliberate about how CTSA might best position itself during the changing climate of the church, the academy, and society. For all of these contributions, I am most grateful.

On behalf of the entire Society, I offer deep thanks to President-Elect Susan Abraham for conceiving and planning the **CTSA Seventy-Ninth Annual Convention** which addresses the timely and insightful theme of ***One Baptism: Evolving Visions of Catholicity from Nicaea to Vatican II and Beyond***. This convention’s program is indeed wide-ranging and will stretch our theological imaginations. I am grateful to Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik, Program Assistant Akhil Thomas, the Local Arrangements Committee (Christina “Tina” Astorga, Chair, and David Turnbloom), and the Registration Team for the many, many ways your efforts, energy, and dedication have brought this convention to fruition. Thank you to all the conveners,

presenters, and prayer/meditation leaders for enriching our time together. I appreciate the work and leadership of Liturgical Liaison Layla Karst, Photographers Paul Schutz and Melicia Antonio, and Parliamentarian Mary Doak. Thank you to Kevin Brown for his contribution as editor of our *Proceedings*. A special word of thanks to Christine Firer Hinze and Kristin Heyer for their continuing work this year bringing the CTSA's Strategic Plan into final form. I am also grateful to the individuals and institutions whose donations support our convention and our wider work:

- Herbert & Phyllis Anderson
- Anonymous Donor via Fidelity Charitable Giving
- The Callaghan-Pierog Family Foundation, Inc.
- Rev. Edward Foley, Vice Postulator, OFM CAP Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order Cause of Fr. Solanus
- James L. Fredericks
- Gonzaga University
- Loyola Marymount University
- University of Notre Dame in Honor of Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez, OP
- Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
- Saint Paul University
- Youngpa Kwon

I am deeply grateful that each Board Member has made a financial contribution to the Society this year and deeply grateful that a total of fifty members of the Society have made a financial contribution. Thank you.

### **General Updates on Work of the Society This Year:**

I am deeply grateful to all members listed below who have done so much to serve the Society this year.

1. Once again, the **Nominations Committee**, chaired by Bede Bidlack,<sup>4</sup> has given us a fine slate for our election. A huge thank you to all members who have agreed to run.
2. The Board voted to receive the **Centennial Committee's** draft of the **Strategic Plan** in June 2024, then the Board edited the Strategic Plan by, among other things, including several action steps in response to the goals and strategic initiatives named in the plan. Additionally, in October 2024, the Board voted to receive the Centennial Committee work on the **Vision Statement**, completing the work of the Strategic Plan's *first goal*. On March 7, 2025, the Board voted to promulgate the Strategic Plan, 2025-2030 (#3b). The Board and the Centennial Committee hosted two listening sessions (April 22, 2025 and May 7, 2025, #3c) with the goals of (1) giving CTSA members a chance to learn more about the Strategic Plan and Vision Statement and (2) allowing CTSA members to listen to one another's reactions to the Strategic Plan and Vision Statement thereby deepening our common commitment to this future.

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<sup>4</sup> Nominations Committee, 2024-2025: Bede Bidlack (Chair); Bryan Massingale; Colleen Carpenter.

3. This work is significant in that it marks the first time in CTSA's history that the Society has a *comprehensive* strategic plan that identifies *Society-wide* goals and *integrates* the various initiatives of the Society. In their reports for this meeting and the June Board meeting, I asked all standing and *ad hoc* committee chairs to reflect on connections between the work of their committee and the goals and initiatives of the Strategic Plan. The Centennial Committee, led this year by Kristin Heyer and Christine Firer Hinze,<sup>5</sup> has played the central role in bringing this work to fruition as their report makes clear (#3a).

To realize the *fifth and final goal* of the Strategic Plan, I launched an **Ad hoc Committee on Financial Planning, Development, and Infrastructure**, chaired by Dan Rober,<sup>6</sup> which began its work in December 2024 as is clarified in their report (#2c). In broad terms, this committee is charged with helping CTSA to do a comprehensive reset of its finances by planning for CTSA current and future financial needs, by creating a development plan which may lead to the creation of a CTSA endowment, and by making suggestions regarding the financial infrastructure needs of the CTSA (#2b). The vision and work of this committee build on the work of the last several CTSA presidents who have done studies identifying this need and suggesting possible future initiatives.

Beginning this year, the **CTSA's Treasurer**, Patrick Flanagan, C.M.,<sup>7</sup> has submitted, along with the financial documents he has always submitted for the annual business meeting (#9a), a narrative overview of the state of CTSA finances to assist members in understanding our financial situation (#9b). In addition, he is working to clarify the financial resources available for the implementation of the Strategic Plan. His work is integral to the *fifth goal* of the Strategic Plan.

4. To realize in part the *second goal* of the Strategic Plan, at the June 2025 Board Meeting, the Board will be continuing its deliberations on whether to expand the responsibilities of the current **Admissions Committee**, chaired by Anna Bonta Moreland.<sup>8</sup> An expansion would be done to respond to the membership strategies and tasks listed as part of this goal. Alternatively, the Board might

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<sup>5</sup> Centennial Committee Members, 2024-2025: Kristin Heyer and Christine Firer Hinze (Chairs); Antonio E. Alonso; David Cloutier; Craig A. Ford, Jr.; Jaisy Joseph; Cristina Lledo Gomez; Daniel Rober; Michele Saracino; Nancy Dallavalle (Recording Secretary); Nancy Pineda-Madrid (CTSA President & *ex officio*); Patrick Flanagan, C.M. (CTSA Treasurer & *ex officio*); Mary Jane Ponyik (Executive Director & *consultant*)

<sup>6</sup> Committee on Financial Planning, et al., 2024-2025: Daniel Rober (Chair); Elizabeth "Liz" O'Donnell Gandolfo; Linh Hoang, OFM; Daniel Horan; Brian Linnane SJ; Mick McCarthy SJ; Susan Ross; Nancy Pineda-Madrid (CTSA President & *ex officio*); Patrick Flanagan, C.M. (CTSA Treasurer & *ex officio*); Mary Jane Ponyik (Executive Director & *consultant*).

<sup>7</sup> Board Finance Committee, 2024-2025: Patrick Flanagan, C.M. (Chair); Elsie Miranda; Dan Horan.

<sup>8</sup> Admissions Committee, 2024-2025: Anna Bonta Moreland (Chair); Ted Ulrich; Andrew Massena; Nicole Reibe; Hosffman Ospino, *ex officio*.

- decide to create a new committee charged with these membership responsibilities.
5. During this past year Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik announced that the 2026 convention would be the last one she would coordinate in person and that she will retire at the end of October 2026. Obviously, it is hard to overstate the significance of this coming transition. She will be greatly missed. This year the **Ad hoc Committee on the Executive Director Transition**, chaired by Paul Lakeland,<sup>9</sup> has done substantial work to prepare CTSA for this transition, which is described in their report (#4). The work of this committee addresses, in part, some of the strategies of the *third goal* of the Strategic Plan.
  6. In response to the evaluations of last year's convention, this year's **Ad hoc Committee on Convention Accessibility and Inclusion**, chaired by Mary Jo Iozzio,<sup>10</sup> did an extensive review of the operational practices of CTSA's annual convention and submitted a report making several suggestions regarding the convention's accessibility and inclusion. This year, President-Elect Susan Abraham and Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik have taken steps to change some of CTSA's practices for our upcoming convention, improving its accessibility. Again, this work addresses, in part, the *third goal* of the Strategic Plan.
  7. During the convention last year and over the course of this year, CTSA leadership has had to address disruptive behavior during our gatherings. As a result, the Board decided that we needed a revised **Professional Standards and Code of Conduct** policy, an initiative being led by Elsie Miranda<sup>11</sup> (#5). The draft here is still a "work in progress" and it will be further discussed at the Board's June 12 meeting. This too addresses, in part, the *third goal* of the Strategic Plan.
  8. During the 2023-2024 year, then-President Kristin Heyer, launched a **Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education**, chaired by Elisabeth Kincaid.<sup>12</sup> This group just recently completed their work and submitted a report on their findings and thinking (#2d). This report makes a number of suggestions for CTSA to consider. The Board has not yet had a chance to discuss this report and to engage the Society in a conversation. This report contains novel and important ideas for CTSA to consider moving

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<sup>9</sup> Committee on Executive Director Transition, 2024-2025: Paul Lakeland (Chair); Susan Abraham; Christine Firer-Hinze; Edward Hahnenberg; Katharine Ward.

<sup>10</sup> Committee on Accessibility and Inclusion, 2024-2025: Mary Jo Iozzio (Chair); Anne Masters; David Kwon

<sup>11</sup> Board Professional Standards and Code of Conduct, 2024-2025: Elsie Miranda (Chair); Daniel Horan; Kristin Heyer; Mary Jane Ponyik, Executive Director & *consultant*.

<sup>12</sup> Study Group on the Value of Theology in University Education, 2024-2025: Elisabeth Kincaid (Chair); Susan Bigelow Reynolds; Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado; Edward Hahnenberg; Linh Hoang, O.F.M.; Natalia Imperatori-Lee; Catherine Punsalan-Manlimos; Daniel Rober; Christopher Vogt; Mark Yenson.

forward. This too addresses, in part, elements of the *third and fourth goals* of the Strategic Plan.

9. This year the **Virtual Events Committee**, chaired by Mary Kate Holman,<sup>13</sup> organized two outstanding events: (1) an October 22, 2024, event, titled “Teaching Catholic Theology in the Present Political Moment,” that featured Léocadie Lushombo, Eric Martin, and Mia Theocharis; and, (2) a March 31, 2025, event, titled “Sanctuary and Solidarity: Catholic Theology in the Face of Mass Deportation,” that featured Leo Guardado, Brett Hoover, and Tisha Rajendra. Their report has further details (#2e). This year the Board voted to make this committee a standing committee. This committee’s work addresses, in part, the *third and fourth goals* of the Strategic Plan.
10. This year our **Coordinators for Relations with the U.S. Bishops** (Leo Lefebure) and **for Relations with the Canadian Bishops** (Mark Yenson) have continued their vital work in service of the Society. An account of their work can be found in their reports (#2f and #2g). This work addresses, in part, the *fourth goal* of our Strategic Plan.
11. Each year the **LaCugna Award Committee**, chaired this year by Reid Locklin,<sup>14</sup> does significant work in selecting an awardee which their report illustrates (#2h). Normally, this award is announced during CTSA’s Annual Business Meeting. However, because this year our meeting is on Zoom, this year’s LaCugna Awardee will be announced during our Saturday evening John Courtney Murray Banquet. This committee’s work addresses, in part, the Society’s new Vision Statement, the *first goal* of the Strategic Plan.
12. Obviously, this year our **Annual Business Meeting and Voting is online**. This move online is the result of a vote taken by the membership during our last annual business meeting in June 2024. The **Ad Hoc Committee on Moving the Business Meeting and Voting Online**, chaired by Stephen Okey,<sup>15</sup> provided the Board with excellent advice on how to make this move thoughtfully. Being online is a pilot project. The Board recognizes that voting online can be done more efficiently, but this year because we are following our current bylaws, it may feel a bit clunky to the membership. In the coming year, the Board may choose to improve this process which will necessitate a change to our bylaws. This move to online meetings addresses, in part, the *third goal* of the Strategic Plan.
13. The work of **Committee on Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups (CUERG)**, chaired by Leo Guardado,<sup>16</sup> has been notable again this year as you will see in their report (#11). Of particular note, is CUERG’s Annual

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<sup>13</sup> Virtual Events Committee, 2024-2025: Mary Kate Holman (Chair); SimonMary Ahiokhai; Eli McCarthy

<sup>14</sup> LaCugna Award Committee, 2024-2025: Reid Locklin (Chair); Christopher Steck, S.J.; Rhodora Beaton

<sup>15</sup> Committee on Moving the Business Meeting and Voting Online, 2024-2025: Stephen Okey (Chair); Adam Beyt; Taylor Ott; Cynthia Cameron

<sup>16</sup> CUERG, 2024-2025: Leo Guardado (Chair); Byron Wratee; Andrew Massena.

Distinguished Scholar Leader Award which was instituted last year. CUERG's work addresses, in part, the *second and third goals* of the Strategic Plan.

14. CTSA has had an ongoing commitment to collaborate with other Catholic theology guilds in the United States and internationally. Often **INSeCT** and the **WFTL** are at the forefront of the international collaborations as is evident in INSeCT's report this year (#12a & #12b). Indeed, CTSA's representative to INSeCT, Linh Hoang, O.F.M., was elected President of INSeCT in December of 2024. CTSA's representative to the WFTL is Cecilia Titizano. During CTSA's Board Meeting on June 12, 2025, we will be developing a process for evaluating CTSA's ongoing relationship with INSeCT and the WFTL. This relationship will be evaluated in October 2025. This work addresses, in part, the *fourth goal* of our Strategic Plan.

In addition, CTSA had a strong presence at the December 9-10, 2024, Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education's International Congress titled, *The Future of Theology: Legacy and Envisioning* held in Rome. Twenty CTSA members participated and were among the 450 theologian participants from around the world. A much more detailed description of this event is found in my January 31, 2025, letter to the Society. Four CTSA members gave public presentations at this event, including myself. This too addresses the *fourth goal* of our Strategic Plan.

15. This year I have been aware of the solemnity of serving as CTSA president during a time when it feels as if the ground is moving beneath our feet. Increasingly I ask myself if our generation of theologians is already knee deep in a "Barmen Declaration" moment. Our time has been marked by many challenges not least of which is the ongoing attacks on academic freedom on university and college campuses across the country in addition to the attacks on immigrants, on the poor, on LGBTQ+ persons, on people of color, and on women, among others. Some members have asked me to encourage the Board to issue a statement of protest in the face of these attacks. At this writing, the Board does not have a sufficient consensus on this matter. In addition, some of our international members are either boycotting the CTSA as a protest or have been advised by their universities not to attend any academic gathering held in the US. Of course, this pushes the CTSA to consider what does it mean to be "of America"? This is a question many members have asked for some time now. No doubt, we theologians will be measured by how we respond to this fraught moment. I am grateful to President-Elect Susan Abraham and Vice President Catherine Clifford who have organized a Friday afternoon conversation during the convention when we will be able to listen to one another and to have a frank conversation about where we are today.

In closing, it has been a great honor to serve as President of the CTSA this past year. Thank you.

### **Report of the President-Elect**

The following is the text of the report submitted by Dr. Susan Abraham:

As is customary, the President-Elect's Board report for the Business meeting anticipates the June Convention and provides a glimpse of the coming presidential year priorities. Before turning to those, I would like to thank several colleagues and friends who have provided generous and substantial help and support and contributed in various ways in planning and organizing this year's convention. First, I deeply thank Executive Director Mary Jane Ponyik for much advice and encouragement over the course of this year. The convention could also not have arrived at its current shape without the significant help of Akhil Thomas who served as program assistant and as a sounding-board for me. I also thank the Presidential Line—Nancy Pineda-Madrid, Catherine Clifford and Kristin Heyer—and Board Members for much help, advice and encouragement to bring the program together. Thank you to Ma Christina Astorga for coordinating the LAC (Local Arrangements Committee); to Layla Karst for coordinating liturgy; liturgical music coordinator Chris D'Silva; photographer Paul Schutz; and the registration team under the able leadership of Mary Jane Ponyik. I am also grateful to the leadership of CUERG (Committee for Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups), especially Leo Guardado, Byron Wratee and Andrew Massena for help with the Land Acknowledgement. I am particularly grateful to the Invited Sessions conveners and participants, many of whom were dealing with unprecedented delays and other roadblocks to create a unique program as we gather in Portland. To all, and to all who will gather, thank you.

### **Seventy-Ninth Annual Convention of the CTSA, "One Baptism: Evolving Visions of Catholicity from Nicaea to Vatican II and Beyond," Portland, Oregon**

This year's convention is suitably focused on a necessary call to unity in the context of partisan politics, entrenched polarization and the steady loss of academic and intellectual freedoms in the United States. As "pilgrims of hope," the members of the Society who will gather in Portland, Oregon will "build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace" as Pope Leo XIV exhorted us in his first papal address.<sup>17</sup> Registration for the convention is at 300 participants (generally West Coast conventions garner about 325-340 attendees) in comparison to 386 attendees who came to Baltimore and 359 to Milwaukee. We are also seeing lower numbers of international scholars, some of whose institutions have actively discouraged them from travel to the United States. Of the participants attending, there are a total of 128 presenters, of which thirty self-identify as a member of an underrepresented and minority group, and twenty-five as female. Thank you so very much for the wonderfully creative and inspiring proposals we received to create a truly hope-filled convention, fit for the times we live in.

This year, our welcome to Portland and our opening prayer will be offered by Dr. Robert D. Kelly, President of University of Portland. As is CTSA's custom, I extended invitations to Archbishop Alexander Sample and members of the archbishop's team. None were available. We are, however, thrilled to have Dr. Kelly greet us on Thursday evening.

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<sup>17</sup> Leo XIV, "First Apostolic Blessing *Urbi et Orbi*" (May 8, 2025), <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/urbi/documents/20250508-prima-benedizi-one-urbietorbi.html>.

For the annual "Share the Wisdom" initiative, five newer members have signed up. Thank you to the seasoned members who are generously giving of their time and energy to mentor our newer colleagues in the ways of our Society.

I have also sent invitations to the *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR), Catholic News Service, *Commonweal, America*, the local newspaper and the local diocesan newspaper, welcoming them to the convention. Since we are a month away, I do not have any responses yet and will send them another invitation in a few weeks.

CTSA session conveners have been requested to submit their presenters' papers and other materials to Dropbox to facilitate access for those who need it. Plenary speakers and their respondents will do the same.

On Friday, June 13, Vice President Catherine Clifford and I will lead a conversation on the theme of "Catholic theology in Higher Education and Public Life in 2025" given the many ways academic freedom and the work of Catholic theologians are steadily being eroded. This is an open mic conversation, where we practice the sense of "home" that Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe speaks about:

We need to renew the Church as our common home if we are to speak to a world that is suffering from a crisis of homelessness. We are consuming our planetary home. There are more than 350 million migrants on the move, fleeing war and violence. Thousands die crossing seas to find a home... Everywhere there is a terrible spiritual homelessness. Acute individualism, the breakdown of the family, ever deeper inequalities, mean that we are afflicted with a tsunami of loneliness. Suicides are rising because without a home, physical and spiritual, one cannot live. To love is to come home to someone.<sup>18</sup>

We belong together, joined by our common Baptismal calling to be Church together. In uncertain and difficult times, a commitment to be home for and with each other is no small act of courage.

To continue and deepen the call to create home, we have reimagined the third plenary on Saturday. After some guiding remarks, Saturday morning's plenary convener, Dr. Jakob Rinderknecht, will encourage conversation at individual tables on a series of pertinent questions on the theme of "The Baptismal Call of the Theologian: A Synodal CTSA convention." This will be followed by a panel discussion. I am grateful to Jakob for partnering with me in re-envisioning this plenary. We hope for wide participation of all present at this plenary.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025-2026**

There is more that we can do to deepen belonging and a sense of home with each other at CTSA. In the years I have served on the Board of CTSA, and now in my role as "president-elect," I have experienced the Board and the Executive Director practice such collegial and steward leadership. It simply remains for CTSA's language and grammar to catch up to our practice. Hence, a theme I will be exploring this year will be how we can reframe inherited languages of leadership that may cloud an understanding of One Baptism. Our language of the leadership structures at CTSA

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<sup>18</sup> Timothy Radcliffe, *Listening Together: Meditations on Synodality* (Collegeville, MN, Liturgical Press, 2024), 18.

(President, President-Elect, etc.) reflects the inherited habits of clericalism that have been internalized by laity and clergy, which Pope Francis condemned as a “scourge and a form of worldliness that enslaves.”<sup>19</sup> What “spirituality of communal discernment”<sup>20</sup> can lead to such a revisioning of our titles for steward leaders, without the toxic labels of rigid hierarchies? Hence, might we simply imagine a conciliar model of steward leaders, united in and through the One Baptism, but with different charisms and gifts, creating a welcoming home for all?

A year is not enough of course, nonetheless, I do want to collaborate with each member of the Society to raise a vision of a prophetic synodal church that takes seriously the accountability and co-responsibility of being a member of a community of equals in its language, word, and deeds. Here, truth and love together will guide our way. A catholic, scholarly, inclusive and global society<sup>21</sup> like CTSA can indeed speak in a different voice to challenge the bellows of tyrants in the world by drawing deeply from our wells, the same wells that yield the living water of our One Baptism.

### ***Report of the Vice-President***

The following is the text of the report submitted by Dr. Catherine Clifford.

#### **Planning for the Eightieth Convention of the CTSA, 11-14 June 2026, St Louis, Missouri**

In mid-April the theme of the Eightieth Convention of the CTSA, “Theology in a Synodal Church,” was announced. It invites the membership of the CTSA to engage with the calls emerging from the Final Document of the 2021-2024 XVI Ordinary General Synod, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission,” “to do theology in a synodal way,” and “to continue research aimed at clarifying and deepening the meaning of synodality and accompanying formation in the local churches.”<sup>22</sup>

The Eightieth Annual Convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America will meet from 11- 14 June 2026 at the Hyatt Regency at the St. Louis Arch, in St Louis, Missouri, to explore the theme “Theology in a Synodal Church.” Confirmed speakers include Bishop Daniel Flores (Brownsville, TX, Council of the Synod), Maria Cimperman, R.S.C.J., Kristin M. Colberg, Agbonkhamenge E. Orobator, S.J., Edward P. Hahnenberg, and Amanda C. Osheim.

#### **New Members Mentorship Breakfast**

I look forward to welcoming some of the sixty-eight new members to the mentoring breakfast at this year’s convention. The theme of this year’s breakfast

<sup>19</sup> Radcliffe, *Listening Together*, 129.

<sup>20</sup> See “Toward Centennial Year 2045,” CTSA’s Strategic Plan, Phase I document, 10: This review should include attention to ways the Society could fruitfully/appropriately incorporate forms of “synodal” decision-making structures and practices, including exploring ways of promoting a spirituality of communal discernment in our ways of proceeding.

<sup>21</sup> “Toward Centennial Year 2045,” 3-4.

<sup>22</sup> Francis and XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission – Final Document” (October 26, 2024), §67, [https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26\\_final-document/ENG---Document-o-finale.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Document-o-finale.pdf).

meeting will be “Transitioning to Careers in Theology”—a subject that is perhaps more fraught in the present context of transitions in academic and ecclesial institutions, and where more of our graduates will be obliged to consider non-academic career paths.

### **Memorial Service and Morning Prayer Services**

We are well advanced in the planning of the memorial liturgy service for Friday morning prayer during the convention. This year we will remember 13 past and present members who have contributed in various ways to the life of the Society and to the academy. They include Anne Clifford, C.S.J.; Gregory Hillis; Eileen Burke-Sullivan; M. Kathleen Flanagan, S.C.; Agnes Cunningham, S.S.C.M.; Kieth J. Egan; James A. Coriden; Lawrence Cunningham; Nathan Chase; Ladislav Örsy, S.J.; Mary Gerhart; David W. Tracy; and Wendy Wright. I am grateful to all of those who have accepted to prepare an appropriate tribute to each of our deceased colleagues. As well, I wish to express my gratitude to Layla A. Karst, of Loyola Marymount University, for her leadership of our common prayer during the convention, and to Chris de Silva, also of Loyola Marymount, who has graciously accepted to take on the role of liturgical liaison in the coming year.

### **Resolutions Committee**

To date, no proposed resolutions have been submitted, and the Resolutions Committee has not convened.

### ***Report of the Secretary***

CTSA Secretary, Dr. Hosffman Ospino, renewed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Society in this capacity during the past year. He thanked CTSA Executive Director, Mary Jane Ponyik, for her assistance with technical and organizational matters that make the life of the CTSA run effectively. He also thanked this year's members of the Admissions Committee: Dr. Anna Bonta, chair; Dr. Nicole Reibe, Dr. Andrew Massena, and Dr. Ted Ulrich. Dr. Ospino serves *ex-officio* on this committee.

He is glad to see renewed interest in the life of the CTSA among new members as well as much energy among those in the early stages of their careers to contribute to the Convention. It is good to observe that many of our new members bring strong interdisciplinary perspectives and commitments, which will enrich our interactions as a learned society. He looks forward to another year of service supporting the work of the Society and all its members.

### ***Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee Presentation***

The Treasurer, Dr. Patrick Flanagan, C.M. submitted and reviewed provided a brief overview of the financial statements corresponding to this year's report. The report narrative and financial statements are available as part of the *Proceedings*.

### ***Report of the Centennial Committee***

The following is the report submitted by Dr. Kristin E. Heyer, CTSA Past President and Christine Firer Hinze, former CTSA President, who served as Chairs of the Centennial Committee during 2023-2024:

#### **Background**

The Centennial Committee (CC) was established in 2022 to help the Board and members of the Society consider, in an ongoing way, two fundamental questions: “Who do we want to be at 100?” and “What do we need to do to get there?” Chaired by Kristin Heyer, CTSA Past President, and serving in an advisory role to the Board, the CC consists of nine appointed colleagues representing the diversity of our membership who serve staggered, three-year terms, plus the current CTSA President and CTSA Treasurer. In addition, the Executive Director serves as a consultant to the committee.

The CC’s broad charge is to help the Society’s leadership and members attend to North American Catholic theology’s evolving contours and national and international contexts, challenges, and opportunities; to **help our membership articulate and operationalize a guiding vision for the CTSA at 100**; and, to that end, to develop, recommend, and assist the Board in carrying out a process of **comprehensive strategic planning for advancing CTSA’s mission and shared vision for the Society’s next quarter century**.

The CC is responsible for drafting **a series of vision- and mission-driven, 5-year strategic plans for the CTSA from 2025 to 2045**. The Centennial Committee is also responsible for helping to **monitor and evaluate CTSA’s progress toward realizing the goals of each iterative strategic plan**. The establishment and work of this committee mark the first time the CTSA has developed a comprehensive strategic plan inclusive of all its endeavors and initiatives in light of our evolving contexts and, significantly, with an intentional focus on financial sustainability.

#### **2024-2025 Report**

In 2024-2025, the CC built on its work in [2023-2024](#) to bring to completion two major tasks:

1. First, helping to create, following extensive member, Board, and committee consultation, a **vision statement** that captures the Society’s core values and guiding vision for the next quarter century.

After soliciting member input on proposed vision statements at the June 2024 Baltimore convention, in July, the committee circulated to the Society membership the three proposed vision statements to invite further input. In late August, all received member input was collated and disseminated. Following thoughtful discussion at its September meeting, the committee crafted a new version of the vision statement to capture better the committee’s conversations as well as concerns raised last year on the committee, member input in June and July on initial sample statements, and in the Friday night convention-wide session in June 2023 (Milwaukee). The resulting vision statement (along with the two most upvoted sample statements) was submitted for the Board’s consideration at its October 2024

meeting, where a final version was approved by the Board and incorporated into the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan:

**Vision Statement:** The CTSA advances inclusive theological scholarship and reflection for an evolving Church, academy, and wider world.

**Core Values of the CTSA:**

**Catholic.** As a Catholic scholarly society in an evolving church, academy and world, we aspire to embrace Catholic traditions appreciatively, critically, and dialogically; engaging ecumenically, interreligiously, and with “the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 1).

**Scholarly.** As a scholarly society since founded in 1945, we are committed to carrying on living into our vital and distinctive mission: to support, in its many genres and contexts, theological scholarship at the highest levels, in service to church, academy, and society.

**Inclusive.** As an inclusive body, we aspire to ‘catholicity,’ by supporting scholars that draw on the wisdom of theological traditions in all institutional settings and practitioners in areas of applied theology; who address and respond to contemporary challenges in our field; and actively seeking out the riches that theological diversity in dialogue (intellectual, ecclesial, cultural, gender, racial-ethnic, geographical, religious) can yield.

**Global.** As a North American society, we cultivate global encounters and awareness through our membership, scholarship, and network affiliations.

2. Second, collaborating with the Presidential Line and Board as it finalized and approved **the CTSA’s Strategic Plan**, “Toward Centennial Year 2045: CTSA Strategic Plan Phase I, 2025-2030,” for which the CC had developed the draft in 2023-24.

In addition, the following tasks and initiatives were undertaken in accordance with the CC’s charge and designated responsibilities:

1. Mindful of its charge to serve as a site for more sustained reflection on issues facing the organization and its membership, in September, the committee brainstormed and reached consensus on priority issues deserving further reflection during the upcoming year. Based on topics most frequently surfaced, two subcommittees were formed that reported at the CC’s November meeting: one on “ensuring hospitality across vocational, generational, ideological, racial/ethnic divides,” and another on “promoting the vibrancy of the guild and deep listening amid headwinds.” In light of ensuing discussions, a list of recommendations for Board consideration was compiled, refined, and presented to the Board by CC Chair Kristin Heyer in December.
2. In the spring, 2025, heightened concerns about general and specific threats to the health of theological higher education also drew the CC’s reflection.
3. At the request of the Board, the CC also studied members’ wide-ranging feedback concerning recommended improvements or alterations to the

convention structure. CC Chair Past President Kristin Heyer<sup>23</sup> composed a report to the Board on considerations for revising the convention structure in light of input received last year not yet captured in the first increment of changes voted on in June 2024.

4. Under CC responsibilities delineated in the Strategic Plan promulgated in March 2025, the committee's later-spring work focused on developing a process whereby progress on the goals and strategies of the Strategic Plan can be fruitfully and collaboratively monitored. Two drafts have been discussed, with an updated draft focused on a timeline and initial way of proceeding for 2025-2026, only to be refined and discussed by email following the committee's final meeting in May.

### **Conclusion**

Abundant thanks are due to the leadership and members of this important committee, particularly for the patient and collaborative work the CC has done to get underway, get its footing, and to do the heavy lifting of researching, developing, gaining member input on, and delivering for Board deliberation and approval what are now our Vision Statement and Phase I Strategic Plan. What the CC has accomplished to date augurs well for the committee's potential to effectively serve both the Board and wider membership to advance both the reflection and action needed to address the challenges and opportunities the Society will encounter over the next two decades, moving toward our centennial year and beyond.

### **Report of CUERG**

The following is the report submitted by the CUERG leadership (2024-2025), Dr. Leo Guardado, Dr. Byron Wratee, and Dr. Andrew Massena:

#### **2024 CUERG Luncheon**

The 2024 luncheon was a celebration marking the inaugural CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award recognizing Dr. C. Vanessa White for her decades of work with underrepresented groups in the academy and her involvement in establishing CUERG at CTSA. The luncheon drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, creating a vibrant celebratory atmosphere.

Dr. White's remarks at the luncheon were a historical narrative of the struggles and aspirations that led to CUERG's founding. These remarks have been transcribed and are being uploaded to the CUERG website.

#### **CUERG Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award**

The recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award is Dr. Kathleen Dorsey Bellow. Dr. Bellow will be honored at the 2025 luncheon. The text of the citation for Dr. Dorsey Bellow is found above, within this Secretary's Report, and in CUERG submission in this volume *Proceedings*.

Nominations for the Distinguished Scholar-Leader Award are due by December 15 of every year.

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<sup>23</sup> Due to health reasons, Christine Firer Hinze chaired the committee in Kristin Heyer's stead from January to May 2025.

### **CUERG Bibliographies**

CUERG leadership has decided to standardize the format for the bibliographies of all three underrepresented communities and implement an online system for keeping them updated. To accomplish this goal, the following tasks will be carried out starting this summer:

1. After the CTSA annual convention, CUERG members will receive a google form that will ask for basic contact information and for their respective affiliated community. In the form members will be able to paste from their CV the publications they want included in the respective CUERG/CTSA bibliography.
2. Bibliographies of all three underrepresented communities will appear on the website in portable document format (PDF).
3. The committee will update the bibliographies annually.
4. The annual deadline for submitting updates will be December 15.

### **CUERG & the CTSA Strategic Plan**

The strategic plan seeks CUERG's advice to "review and monitor how hospitable CTSA is toward historically marginalized groups." This task will be a priority for the fall 2025 CUERG agenda, which will require feedback, perhaps anonymous, from CUERG constituents. CUERG is committed to working toward the creation of a CTSA community where underrepresented racial and ethnic communities can contribute their knowledge and wisdom and where it can be received.

### **CUERG Pioneers**

As the Catholic Theological Society of America approaches its centennial, CUERG aims to contribute to the ongoing reflections on its history and future by gathering the insights of those who have shaped its commitment to racial and ethnic inclusivity. We have begun a process of identifying the CUERG pioneers whose theological expertise and lived experiences are vital for capturing the memories and momentum of underrepresented racial and ethnic communities within CTSA. We are inviting pioneers to offer a written reflection that speaks to the two dimensions of memories and momentum of CUERG. Drawing from their personal recollections, we ask: How did CUERG come into being? What were the key moments, challenges, or breakthroughs that shaped its mission? Looking ahead, what challenges remain for CUERG and CTSA for including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups? What momentum is needed to ensure that the work of CUERG continues to shape the CTSA's future? We envision these reflections as contributions to the broader centennial conversations already taking place at CTSA. These reflections will be edited, compiled, and disseminated through digital and written form.

### ***Report of the INSeCT Delegate***

The following is the report submitted by Dr. Linh Hoang, O.F.M., CTSA representative to INSeCT.

The International Network of Societies for Catholic Theology (INSeCT) was founded on August 4, 1996 to advance Catholic theology in the world by promoting collaboration between regional theological societies. There are currently twenty-three

member societies and twelve affiliated groups included in the network membership. The goal of INSeCT is to foster academic theology and theological research in various continents through communication among the member societies, particularly concerning information about projects and works in progress, results of academic research, and theological congresses, conventions, and meetings; encouragement of research within the theological disciplines and stimulation of interdisciplinary work in the interest of academic theology; an ecumenical orientation and dialogue with other religions and worldviews. The network is eager to meet its mission by supporting and responding to the needs of each society through improved communication between member societies.

Since the last report to the CTSA membership in June 2024, there has been many changes at INSeCT. The network held its General Assembly in Rome to coincide with the Holy See's Dicastery for Culture and Education conference on the future of theology in December 8-13, 2024. The Dicastery conference was the first two days of the general assembly that included an audience with the late Pope Francis who welcomed and encouraged the work of Catholic theology by academics, scholars and anyone who values the importance of theology in the world. Many INSeCT members were included in the conference as speakers, facilitators and reporters. It was a time to bring awareness to INSeCT as well as the deep contributions of theologians to the church and the larger society. From this conference, the network has created a better relationship with the Holy See and will continue to cultivate this solid relationship in the future.

After the conference, member societies met at the Australian Catholic College in the Trastevere area of Rome for their assembly. The General Assembly gathered twenty-five representatives from the five regions of the world (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America and South America). The board and past-president engaged the members in a discussion of the statutes and bylaws of INSeCT. The members deliberated on proposed amendments to the statutes and voted on implementing them. There was an in-depth discussion about the network stimulated by the discussion on statutes, bylaws, and implementations.

Following the deliberation on the statutes, the assembly held elections for a new executive committee. The process involved members of the five regions meeting separately to choose a regional representative. After the five regions elected their representative, the newly elected representatives formed the new executive committee. The new executive committee among themselves elected board officers.

After the regional elections and committee selection, a new board of INSeCT was formed: President **Linh Hoang O.F.M.**, Siena College (CTSA, North America); Vice-President **Gusztav Kovacs**, Episcopal Theological College of Pecs, Hungary (European Society for Catholic Theology); Treasurer **Stephanie Ann Y. Puen**, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines (Asia-Pacific); **Jean Bonzo Kouassi** (Cellule de reflexion et de propositions des theologiens Ivoiriens, CREPTI, Africa), **Isabel Corpas de Posada** (Asociacion Colombiana de Teologas, ACT, South America) and Past-President **Ruben (Sonny) Mendoza**, Ateneo de Manila University (Asia-Pacific). They will serve in this capacity for the next three years.

The board accepted their responsibilities and endorsed keeping the current executive secretary Marnie D. Racaza from the Ateneo University in the Philippines.

Marnie is a doctoral student. She was hired in early 2024 and immediately established connection with the board and the wider network. She was instrumental before, during and after the General Assembly. Marnie took notes at each of the meetings which eventually contributed to the final report of the General Assembly of INSeCT. This is available on the INSeCT website and included in the report to the CTSA.

After the election, the network heard reports from member societies on their finding from the global research project of 2021-2024: "A People of All Nations: Decolonizing Theologies–Decolonizing the World." There was an open meeting that included invited guests to hear presentations by members on their research projects. A summary from these reports is included in the final report of the general assembly.

The new executive board initiated a discussion about the next global research project. There was not ample time left during the General Assembly to engage thoroughly in a new research project. The board decided to table the discussion and move the discussion online to give the membership time to weigh in on the initial discussion about a research project.

After several months of email exchanges and online conversation, the committee decided on a new research project theme: "The Future of Theology: Disrupting the Past and Generating a New Vision." This theme was inspired by the late Pope Francis and the Vatican's Dicastery on Culture and Education conference emphasis on the future of theology. The subtitle was part of the informative and lively discussion of the network on disruption and new possibilities. The coupling of both the pope and the network provide support to the network membership on the importance of working together so shape the future of theology. The network now invites and encourages all theologians in their respective societies to participate in this new research project and to advance the work of Catholic theology in their local community, the church and the wider world. The mission of INSeCT thrives because the membership continues to work and to support one another to engage in Catholic theology and to share it with all people. The network anticipates working with all member societies, invite new members, and to engage with the newly elected Pope Leo XIV, especially as much energy is being given to the Catholic faith.

### ***Action to Receive the Reports***

A motion was put forward to receive all reports. All reports were received by acclamation.

### ***New Business***

No new business was introduced.

### ***Adjournment***

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m., EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

HOSFFEMAN OSPINO  
*CTSA Secretary*  
*Boston College*  
*Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts*