



The Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa

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Annual General Meeting 2012

Report of the Chairperson

The Members of the Executive Committee are:

Fr. Dr. Anselm Prior, OFM	(Chairperson)
Sr. Dr. Judith Coyle, IHM	
Dr. Nicky Luyckx	(Treasurer)
Ms. Nontando Hadebe	
(Fr. Dr. Rodney Moss	(co-opted – now retired)
Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae	(co-opted)
Fr. Wenceslaus Kwindingwi	(KZN Rep)

Except for certain occasions we have met every month throughout the past year, either at St. Augustine College, Johannesburg, or at Santa Sophia Friary, Pretoria. Our main task is the organising and preparation of the Annual Conference.

Grace and Truth

Last year our Annual Conference was part of a co-hosting with St. Augustine College of a conference entitled *Faith in the Face of Secularism*. Most of the papers from that conference are due to be published by UNISA, while some of them were published in this year's August issue of *Grace and Truth*. The latter was edited by Anselm. Many of this year's lectures are due to appear in an edition of the latter journal next year, as well as in journals accredited by South African universities.

Membership

Paid-up membership of our Society remains very low, although there are many who like to be kept in touch. They can do this by logging into our website (see below).

Finances

We need a steady, although not excessive, income to help pay for administration costs. We have sought and received a contribution from the SACBC. There will be a separate Financial Report at this meeting. Meanwhile, it is my happy duty to once again thank Dr. Nicky Luyckx for all the work he does on an honorary basis for the Society. He manages to keep the little money we have free of bank charges and is concerned with so many details which some of us probably take for granted. With Nicky, it is not only a matter of financial acumen, but

of him having his heart in the Society and what we are attempting to do for the Church and society. He is a man of deep faith.

Letterhead

We are pleased to announce that we have our own letterhead with a logo. Notice that we are linked with *Hope and Joy* Network. Thanks to the Jesuits, and especially Mr. Raymond Perrier, for inviting us. We also now have our own website: <http://www.caththeo.co.za>. Many thanks to Tom Snyman of Pretoria who volunteered to set this up, and who adds to it any data that I send him. The only difficulty is the lack of information! Much more of what is going on theology-wise in our country could be included.

For some years Fr. Anselm has been doing the secretarial work for the Society, as well as being Chairperson. I strongly advise the incoming Executive Committee to obtain the services of an honorary secretary. Meanwhile, may I thank Ms. Nontando Hadebe and Sr. Judy Coyle, IHM for handling the minute taking at meetings.

Happy Birthday!

The records inform us that this AGM marks the 30th birthday of the Society. Many thanks to our founders – among them Archbishops Hurley and Naidoo, Prof. Brian Gaybba, Fr. Albert Nolan, OP, and Sr. Marie-Henry Keane, OP. We owe our gratitude, too, to all those who have contributed to the Society's life throughout these three decades. May we continue to grow or, at least, to survive! Theology is vital to the life of the church.

Final Word

In conclusion, may I thank all of you for your attendance here this evening and for supporting the work of the Catholic Theological Society. This meeting has been the most ecumenical since I took on this position. You will agree with me that it is all the richer for that. My special gratitude goes to those of you who accepted to contribute by means of your lectures. You put a lot of work into their preparation and already have stirred up much thinking and debate which, hopefully, will continue beyond tomorrow. God bless you!

Fr. Dr. Anselm Laurence Prior, OFM
Chairperson