



The Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa

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Annual General Meeting 2009

Report of the Chairperson

1. The Members of the Executive Committee are:

Fr. Dr. Anselm Prior, OFM	-	Chairperson
Dr. Nicky Luyckx	-	Treasurer
Sr. Dr. Judy Coyle, IHM		
Sr. Dr. Jean Evans, RSM		
Mrs. Margaret Mollett		
Ms. Nontando Hadebe		
Fr. Wency Kwindingwi	-	Representative in KZN

We have met six times since the last AGM.

2. Grace and Truth

The presentations at the last Conference were published in *Grace and Truth*, Vol. 26, No. 1, April 2009. The theme for the issue, which was edited by Fr Anselm, was **Our Catholic Heritage**.

3. Honorary Membership

In March this year, at the request of the members of the executive, Archbishop Patrick Green, the Apostolic Nuncio, accepted to become an honorary member of our Society. To my recollection, this is the first time that the Society has been thus honoured, and we thank the Apostolic Nuncio for accepting our request.

4. Stellenbosch, June 2009

The Society was well represented at the ecumenical *Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the Fields of Religion and Theology* which was held at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, June 22-26, 2009. We were one of 13 theological societies which participated. Fr.

Anselm was a member of the organising committee, though most of the enormous amount of preparatory work, which was spread over almost three years, was undertaken by Prof. Ernst Conradie of the University of the Western Cape. Our Society was represented by the following lecturers:

Sr. Dr. Jean Evans:	Contemporary Spirituality and the Thirst for God.
Fr. Dr. Rodney Moss:	The Living Tradition of the Church: Fixed and Mobile.
Prof. Aileen La Tourette:	Looking Back at Danger.
Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae:	Is the Shembe Movement an African Traditional Movement or an Indigenous African Church? A Critical Evaluation.
Fr. Dr. Anthony Egan, SJ:	Conscience, Spirit, Discernment.
Ms. Nontando Hadebe:	Ethical Challenges emerging from the HIV/AIDS Context.
Fr. Dr. Anselm Prior, OFM:	A New Leadership for a New Ecclesiology.

Ms. Hadebe also presented another two lectures under the auspices of the *Women's Forum*.

5. Franciscan Theology

We welcome the participation of the Franciscan Friars in the organisation of this year's Annual Conference. The theme of *Franciscan Theology* was chosen to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan movement in the Church. While members of the executive did the usual organisation, including advertising, the speakers were chosen by Fr. Robert Stewart, OFM, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. It is my hope that these lecturers will help many more come to know something of the richness of the Franciscan theological heritage.

6. Membership and Finances

Raising the membership fee to R100.00 seems to have stymied efforts to find new members, although Fr. Anselm personally wrote to 100 priests in the country, sending them information about the Society, including a request to join. The Executive Committee decided to reduce the fee to R50.00 again, and make a new drive for membership. The executive will discuss the possibility of co-opting a new member to help in this matter.

Fr. Vincent Brennan, Secretary General of the SACBC, after repeated requests from Fr. Anselm, gave the Society a special grant of R5,000.00. During the coming year we shall need to look elsewhere for further funding.

Once again, I wish to express, on behalf of the committee, my deepest gratitude to Dr. Nicky for the professional and efficient way in which he handles our finances, as well as the many other tasks he carries out on our behalf. One of these tasks concerns the so many necessary details concerning the booking and organisation of this Conference.

7. Final Word

In conclusion, may I thank all of you who are attending our Conference, and especially those of you present at this AGM. My special gratitude goes to those of you who accepted to contribute by means of your lectures, which have already stirred up much thinking and debate and which, hopefully, will continue. God bless you!

Fr. Anselm Prior, OFM
Chairperson

