



The Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa

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Annual General Meeting 2010 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	
Mrs. Margaret Mollett	
Sr. Dr. Jean Evans	
Fr. Dr. Rodney Moss	(co-opted)
Mr. Itumeleng Mothoagae	(co-opted)
Fr. Wenceslaus Kwindingwi	(KZN Rep)

We have met eight times since the last AGM.

Grace and Truth

Five of the lectures from last year's Conference were published in *Grace and Truth* under the title *Franciscan Theology*, and edited by Anselm. This year's lectures are due to appear in an edition of the same journal next year.

INSeCT

I have not received any correspondence for some months from the International Network of Societies of Catholic Theology. Perhaps the network is in abeyance. We are unable to communicate with them regularly as we have no newsletter to share. All the correspondence leading up to the last Conference in Chicago are now filed for the archives.

Joint Conference of Academic Societies in the Fields of Religion and Theology

Our Executive Committee did the Society proud last year when members presented no less than seven lectures under our name. The organising committee at the University of Stellenbosch handed over their responsibilities to the University of KZN. To date there has been no communication from the latter. All the correspondence of the Organising Committee has now been filed for the archives.

As a matter of record, all matters to do with the Chairperson and the Executive Committee of our Society 2008 – 2010 have also now been filed.

Membership

Membership of our Society remains very low, despite many efforts throughout the past two years to contact people personally. Many who were contacted said they were either unaware of the existence of the Society or did not know how to join. We also discovered that there is still an impression among many that the Society is for white people only.

Nicky supplied a list of 256 names of people who had either been members or had attended past Conferences. Anselm sent emails to over 80 of them with the agenda for this Conference, information about the Society and a registration form for membership. All emails were rejected by the internet server. Finding updated email addresses is a serious problem in seeking for new members.

Finances

We need a steady, although not excessive, income to help pay for administration costs and for the running of the website which will soon be set up. If membership fees are insufficient, we shall need to seek for finance elsewhere. Anselm has already asked the SACBC for a donation for next year (no response yet!). There will be a separate Financial Report at this meeting. Meanwhile, it is my happy duty to once again thank 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.

Marketing Manager

Itumeleng Mothoagae was co-opted on to the Executive Committee earlier this year to help us with marketing the Society. Despite the fact that he lost his mother during the year, he has put a lot of work into trying to get us a logo and a website. The former is in process of being decided on by the Executive. Efforts to work with Khanya House at first seemed promising. Then the Communications Officer informed us that we had no place on the SACBC website as we were regarded by the bishops on the same level as the Catholic Women's League! (I have since ascertained that the Society was inaugurated at the instigation of the Bishops' Conference, with Archbishop Naidoo playing a prominent role. Also, all past Executive Committee business is kept in the SACBC archives.) At the last Committee meeting the Executive decided to make use of a professional who had offered to do the job for us at a very reasonable rate. Once the logo has been accepted by the Executive, we shall go ahead with the website which should help us with communication in general, as well as gaining new members. Both Nontando and Itumeleng are to be thanked for the work they have put into this.

Newsletter

Now I come back to an issue which has appeared at AGMs for years, if not decades. We are still in dire need of someone who could collate items for an occasional newsletter. There is plenty of theological news around South Africa and we would be doing many a great service by communicating this them. It would also give the Society a higher profile and bring in new members.

A secretary would also be much appreciated. At the moment Anselm does the secretarial work. The exception is the minute taking by Nontando who goes about this job unobtrusively and most efficiently. Many thanks to her for that!

Conference 2011

Next year we will be "piggy backing" a Conference being organised by St. Augustine's on the

theme: "Faith in the Face of Secularism". This will be held at St. Augustine's August 29-31.

Conference 2012

2012 will mark the 30th anniversary of the Society and the Executive would like to make this a special occasion. Each conference takes up to 10 months to prepare and so we shall have to start working on this "birthday bash" very soon.

Fr. Dr. Michael van Heerden

A special word of thanks is due to the vice-chancellor, Fr. Mike, and the staff of St. Augustine's College for the cooperation and assistance we receive in hosting this Conference here. Their hospitality is second to none and they go out of their way to make our stay here comfortable. We are also indebted to Fr. Mike for helping us financially. It goes without saying that we are also happy to be associated with this august academic institution.

Final Word

In conclusion, may I thank all of you for your attendance here this evening and for supporting the work of this Society. 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 beyond tomorrow. God bless you!

Fr. Anselm Prior, OFM
Chairperson