

Canon Law Society of America

September 2014

A quarterly eNewsletter from the Society

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS

Very Rev. Phillip J. Brown, pss



These will be my final Reflections as President of the CLSA as I prepare to hand the reins over to Msgr. Michael Souckar in October during our Annual Convention in St. Louis. It has been a wonderful year as President – a year full of activity – that flew by even more quickly than I anticipated! Most recently I attended the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Meeting in Sydney, Australia. What a wonderful opportunity to connect once again with our colleagues from the other principal English speaking Societies (Great Britain and Ireland and the Canadian Canon Law Society in which French is also a principal language) and to see a part of the world I had never visited before.

The Presidents of the four Societies (U.S., Canada, Great Britain and Ireland, and Australia and New Zealand) had an opportunity to meet together formally as we did in Canada last fall, and in England last May, to discuss ways that our Societies might be better able to collaborate and cooperate with one another. These meetings have been extremely productive and helpful. I believe, and I sincerely hope, that they will continue with my successors. As four collaborative Societies, together we can emphasize and enhance the international character of canon law, address issues of mutual concern, and initiate projects with a broader scope.

The four Presidents have developed some proposals for our respective Boards of Governors. As time goes on, you are likely to hear more about this. One proposal is particularly promising: to develop a common membership category that would allow members to attend respective conventions and order publications at member rates. We would also like to propose reaching out to the Canon Law Society of India, which is becoming more prominent, as well as to the societies in the English-speaking countries of Africa, with the hope that in the future, it may be possible to form some sort of international federation of national canon law Societies. These exciting ideas can only strengthen our individual Societies and help us to carve out our “niche” among other international canon law organizations.

The most significant event during my tenure, of course, was finding a new Executive Coordinator, Fr. Roger Keeler. I want to welcome Roger to this position and express my personal thanks - and that of the whole BOG - for applying for the position and accepting it when offered. Roger has a great deal to offer in his new role, and a great deal to build on from the contributions of his predecessors. What an exciting and hopeful time to be a member of the CLSA!



New Executive Coordinator Roger H. Keeler (left) signs his contract as President Phillip J. Brown witnesses.

There are many people to whom I owe my thanks as I come to the end of my term of office as President. First and foremost is John Vaughan, my predecessor, who did so much to smooth the transition from his administration to my own, and who was such a valuable guide and trusted advisor during my term, especially as we continued the search for a new Executive Coordinator. And, of course, Vice President Michael Souckar, who provided unfailing support and wise counsel throughout the past year. I cannot fail to mention my sincere and profound thanks to Sr. Sharon Euart, who provided such able and strong leadership as Executive Coordinator over the past five years and who was so helpful in guiding me in the operations of the office and in the Society in my role as President. She was there to help at every step ([continued, page 3](#)),

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CONVENTION UPDATE

The Unity of the Church: Challenges and Prospects

October 13-16 • St. Louis Union Station - A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The CLSA sleeping room block has been **extended and filled to max capacity**. The block is NOW CLOSED.

If you wish to stay overnight in St. Louis and have not yet booked a room, we have opened an additional CLSA block at the **Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark**.

The Hilton Ballpark is located one mile away from the Union Station Hotel, and the hotel will honor the \$125/night rate for the duration of your visit. Please phone (314) 421-1776 and identify yourself as a guest with the Canon Law Society in order to make a room reservation with the Hilton Ballpark.

The Hilton Ballpark
1 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102

LOCAL EATERIES

- ◇ Landry's Seafood House, <0.1 mi from hotel
- ◇ Maggie O'Brien's Irish Pub & Restaurant, <0.1 mi from hotel
- ◇ Hard Rock Cafe, <0.1 mi from hotel
- ◇ Lombardo's Trattoria
Italian Dining, 0.2 mi from hotel
- ◇ The Schlafly Tap Room
Microbrewery, 0.3 mi from hotel
- ◇ Pappy's Smokehouse
Memphis Style St. Louis BBQ, 1.1 mi from hotel
- ◇ Carmine's Steakhouse, 1.2 mi from hotel
- ◇ Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, 1.2 mi from hotel

From Lambert-St. Louis International Airport (STL):

How do I get to the hotel?



TAXI/CAR

- Distance: 14.8 miles
- Time (Approximate): 20 minutes
- Taxis generally cost between \$35-40 (one-way); Budget Car Rental is available at Lambert-STL.

GO BEST EXPRESS (AIRPORT SHUTTLE)

- One person, one way: \$22.00
- One person, round trip: \$39.00
- Book ONLINE and save 10%!
<https://www.gobestexpress.com/airport-transfers>

LIGHT RAIL

From Lambert Airport Terminal 1:

- Walk to Lambert **Main Terminal** Metrolink Station
- Board MetroLink [TO SHILOH SCOTT]
- Trip will be approximately 29 minutes
- Exit at Union STA MetroLink Station
- Walk to 1820 Market St: *Depart station and head west on Union Station Walkway. Turn right on S 18th Street, then turn left on Market Street.* (Hotel is 0.2 miles from station)

From Lambert Airport Terminal 2:

- Walk to Lambert **East Terminal** MetroLink Station
- Board MetroLink [TO SHILOH SCOTT]; proceed as outlined above.

MetroLink One-Ride Fare: \$2.50

(continued from page 1) even as her own tenure ended and the transitional period began. She has been a wonderful support and assistance to Roger. I am especially gratified that Sharon accepted my invitation to become the new Chair of the Publications Advisory Board, such a key committee of the Society. This role will assure her ongoing contributions to the life of the Society and her wise counsel well into the future.

I thank those who served on the BOG prior to the commencement of my presidential term. They prepared things so well for a smooth continuation of the operations of the Society: Rita Joyce, Greg Bittner, and Margaret Chalmers. I likewise thank the new and continuing members of the BOG who have proven to be such an effective team in overseeing the operations and initiatives of the Society and proposing new directions and projects for the future: Tom Cronkleton, Zabrina Decker, John Foster, Jerry Jorgensen, Patrick Cooney, Cathy Gilligan, Jim Conn and Charles Antonicelli. Deep appreciation is also due to all of the committee chairs and committee members who make such important contributions to the life and the activities of the Society and who truly represent the heart and soul of the CLSA.

I am extremely confident in the continued growth and effectiveness of the Society, and of its rising stature as the foremost canon law society in the world. The CLSA has made significant contributions to the field of canon law over the last seventy-six years and I am convinced that its greatest contributions lie ahead. The success of our Society consists not simply in its growth and development, but more particularly in the fine, dedicated canonists who make up the Society. I am extremely proud to be a member of the CLSA, and both proud and humbled to have been given the opportunity to serve the Society as your President for the past year. It is time for me to move on to other things now, but I do so confident that those who are coming into office will build upon existing accomplishments and continue to enhance the stature and effectiveness of our Society. Good luck, then, to our new leadership, and thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful opportunity to serve as your President. ♦

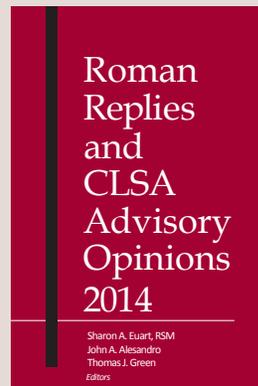
DON'T FORGET!

Active Members who wish to vote in the Board of Governors election at the 2014 Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis, MO, should remit annual dues payment by October 1, 2014.



PUBLICATION UPDATE

COMING SOON...



Roman Replies and CLSA Advisory Opinions 2014 will be available for purchase from the online bookstore in mid-October.

Member Price: \$15.30

Non-Member Price: \$17.00



“Like” us on Facebook to receive CLSA announcements and other special offers!

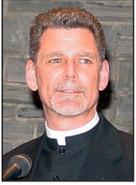
www.facebook.com/CLSAmerica

UPDATES FROM THE OEC

- Fiscal Year 2014-2015 member dues should be remitted by **October 1, 2014**, to avoid suspension of membership. Membership suspension prevents access to the online member directory, CLSA online resources, and one's personal profile. Suspension also removes you from the OEC email list serve. If you would like to pay membership dues, please log into the CLSA website with your username credentials and select “Invoices” or “Membership” on your profile home page. You may also phone the OEC at (202) 832-2350 to remit payment.
- **Evaluations** for the 2014 convention can be submitted electronically on the CLSA website. Look for the URL at the convention, and take advantage of the hotel's free WiFi!
- The next **webinar** will be announced after the 2014 convention. If you "registered" for a previous webinar in Spring 2014, you are currently on the webinar listserv. To add your name to the listserv, please email ccrawford@clsa.org.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

Rev. Roger H. Keeler



When I shared the news of my new ministry in Washington with family, friends, colleagues and others, my announcement was welcomed with hearty congratulations from many, with bewilderment from others, astonishment from a few, and even disdain from some. “C’mon,” they said, “the Church doesn’t need more lawyers. It needs pastoral care – a pastoral heart. Get over it.” From among those who share our avocation in the Church’s law there were voices who spoke of a certain malaise, some verging on disenchantment, with our specialty and its place in ecclesial life. One, in effect, said: “You know, the further we move away from the energy that accompanied the new Code in the ‘80’s the greater is the sameness. It all seems figured out and commented on. It doesn’t seem to matter anymore.” Another said, “We’re starving for canonists in our tribunals and chanceries. Where are they? Doesn’t anyone care anymore? I don’t know how much more I can do.”

I expect all of us have heard these things. Perhaps we have even wondered the same thoughts. I know all of us have felt the weight of the yoke’s burden as we have labored in a vineyard that seems increasingly rocky, steep and, oftentimes, shifting beneath our feet.

I have been exposed to all manner of things in my almost two months here in Washington. Just being in a city with so much history, where history is being made at every minute of every day is, in itself, heady in its extraordinariness. I am continually fascinated by my proximity to the very events I see unpacked on CNN, ABC and CBS.

In the Office of the Executive Coordinator, I am just beginning to grasp the enormity and complexity that is our Society. I am grateful to Father Philip Brown, *pss*, our President for his gracious hospitality and sure support in my transition. I express thanks to Sister Sharon Euart RSM, for preparing a solid administrative foundation and sound financial position upon which to build. I am especially appreciative of the patient guidance and clear direction being given to me by both Colleen Crawford and Mary DeBroeck. And, I am truly blessed by the expressions of encouragement and support that has come from so many of you.

From it all there is one thing that strikes me with a certain force: we are in fascinatingly intense times of extraordinary potency for both good and evil. Listen to the news: Syria, Ukraine, Iraq, Iran, ISIS/ISIL, Afghanistan, Ebola, teetering markets, a fraying social fabric ... It is as if we are moving into the deepening of night.

And we, as members of the Canon Law Society of America? I believe we, too, are in fascinatingly intense times of extraordinary potency. In our case, however, the horizon not one of impending night, but rather one of glimmering dawn.

Look at the “big picture” indicators. The XV International Congress of Canon Law, met in Washington just a week ago – only the second time for the Congress to meet outside of Europe. “Crime and Punishment” was the theme, a subject often seen as onerous and altogether too pervasive in our times. Yet the 250 delegates from all over the world were offered the sort of new insight and clarity that engenders fresh engagement. We heard from Francesco Cardinal Coccopalmerio, President of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, on the work being done to revise Book VI of the Code. The process is advancing solidly. We all know about the third extraordinary synod of bishops which will meet in just a few days to reflect upon the “Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization.” We have read the editorials, heard from the pundits, and listened to the hope for this meeting being expressed by so many. We also learned just a few days ago that Pope Francis has decided to establish a Special Commission to study the streamlining of the annulment process.

What about the “little picture”? There are 325 of our number registered for the 76th Annual Convention in St. Louis. Fifteen new members have joined our Society since the beginning of August. Nine of those new members are students. I have met the nine new students beginning their studies at the School of Canon Law at Catholic University of America here in Washington. I know some of the twenty-three new (19 Anglophone and 4 Francophone) students starting their studies at the Faculty of Canon Law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. I am impressed by their enthusiasm and eagerness to serve the Church.

So what might we conclude? Well, it seems to me that times of potency like ours demand a response. We may choose to either sit in the despair of Job under his solitary broom tree, or be galvanized like Ruth in her choice to remain beside Naomi regardless of what might come. This cursory, arguably facile, reading of the “signs of the times” pulls me toward Ruth. Ours *is* a genuine ministry to the pastoral mission of the Church. We *are* needed now just as we have been needed over the march of two millennia. There *is* a great deal yet to be unpacked, learned, and commented upon in our current Code. There *are* areas where canonical legislation needs fresh insight and revamping. There *are* new, energetic, enthusiastic people engaging the study of canon law here in North America, and abroad, that will bring all of that to bear in their future canonical ministries. And, finally, in their number – and even in our midst – *are* the commentators, writers, theoreticians and practitioners, who will carry on the rich traditions of the Canon Law Society of America. ♦

NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have joined the Society since June 2014. If you wish to join the Society, or know someone who would be interested in becoming a member, please visit the 'Become a Member' page on our website (www.clsa.org).

Rev. Peter Akin-Otiko Jacksonville, FL	Rev. Richard L. Millette Houston, TX
Mr. Andrew Bartell Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. Arthur C. Mollenhauer Stamford, CT
Mr. Ferruccio Bogetti, Sr. Chivasso, Italy	Rev. Alberto Maullon, Jr. Houston, TX
Mr. Robert Brown Atlanta, GA	Rev. Michael Nguyen Jamaica, NY
Most Rev. Kurt Burnette Woodland Park, NJ	Rev. James Owolagba Regina, Canada
Rev. Peter Chifukwa Dedza, Malawi	Ms. Lori A. Peery San Antonio, TX
Rev. Oscar Coelho Albuquerque, NM	Ms. Regina E. Quinn Columbus, OH
Mr. Mark W. Dundee Los Angeles, CA	Ms. Megan Rangel Sacramento, CA
Ms. Heather J. Eichholz Owensboro, KY	Rev. Robert Rodgers Cheyenne, WY
Rev. Manuel Guevara Paterson, NJ	Rev. Adam M. Rust Memphis, TN
Rev. Justin A. Huber Washington, D.C.	Rev. Mark Rutherford Williamston, MI
Sr. Kevina Keating Houston, TX	Deacon Ronald Ryan Omaha, NE
Rev. Thomas W. Kunz Pittsburgh, PA	Mr. Eduardo Sanchez City of Industry, CA
Rev. John Lessard-Thibodeau Springfield, MA	Rev. Samuel Spiering Lewistown, MT
Rev. Jaya Rao Maddu Phoenix, AZ	Ms. Judith M. Stegman Lansing, MI
Rev. William Michael Selangor, Malaysia	Ms. Nancy J. Thompson Indianapolis, IN

NEW MEMBERS

(continued)

Ms. Cheryl M. Tholcke Sacramento, CA	Rev. Adam Westphal Des Moines, IA
Rev. James F. Wallace Park Ridge, IL	Rev. Dennis Yurochko Pittsburgh, PA

Forgot your password for the
CLSA website? Click to reset it!

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2014

For more information regarding these Regional Meetings and any other event, please visit www.clsa.org/events.

Dec 2-4: **Regional Meeting, Province of
New Orleans and Mobile**
Baton Rouge, LA

Planning a regional meeting?
Email ccrawford@clsa.org to advertise your
upcoming event on the CLSA website.

IN MEMORIAM

Scholarship Donations

Sr. Mary Anne Andrews, CSA
Rev. Dennis Burns
Joseph and Frances Feine
Rev. Lee J. Kahrs
Rev. Fr. Joseph Morrell
Rev. Kevin O'Rourke, OP
Rev. Msgr. Alex "Philly" Palmieri
Rev. Msgr. Victor Pospishil
Rev. Msgr. William Sullivan
Rev. Msgr. William Varvaro

MAY THEY REST IN GOD'S PEACE