

CLSA Workshop on Advocacy is a Success!

Msgr. Frederick Easton

On Memorial Day, 18 canonists gathered at the conference center on the campus of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary (Mundelein) just northwest of downtown Chicago to attend a CLSA four-day seminar on the topic of advocacy in a canonical penal process. The seminar also addressed issues for those who are serving or would start serving as advisors to bishops in these matters.

The workshop presenters were Msgr.

Ricardo Bass, Msgr. Frederick Easton, Rev. Patrick Lagges, Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Rev. Paul Golden, C.M. and Rev. Mr. Gerald Jorgensen. Msgr. Bass was the coordinator for this experience and ably handled the administrative tasks with the assistance of Katie Richards from the CLSA Office of the Executive Coordinator. This team conducted a previous seminar on the same topic in late winter 2008 at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio, Texas.

*(See **ADVOCACY**, p. 5)*



Eighteen canonists attended this year's Advocacy Seminar which focused on the role of the advocate in the context of a case study.

New CLSA Website to be Launched!

Katie Richards

The CLSA expects to launch its new website by July 1, 2009. Please visit us online at www.clsa.org to explore all the new Member's Only features including: discussion boards, networking options, downloadable documents, online dues payment, online convention registration and an advanced searchable Membership Directory. While online, visit our revamped Online Book Store with newly implemented security features, real-time credit card processing and automatic membership

discounts. If you have an email address attached to your CLSA Membership Profile, you will be getting an email from the Office of the Executive Coordinator announcing the launch of the new website!

All Membership Passwords have been reset to your CLSA ID number (located above your address on this newsletter) and all spaces have been removed from Usernames (example: username Katie Richards is now KatieRichards). Unless

*(See **WEBSITE**, p. 6)*

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Hecker Center a Blur of Activity



Sr. Sharon Euart,
RSM

During the past three months the Office of the Executive Coordinator has been a hub of activity! In addition to the April meeting of the Board of Governors

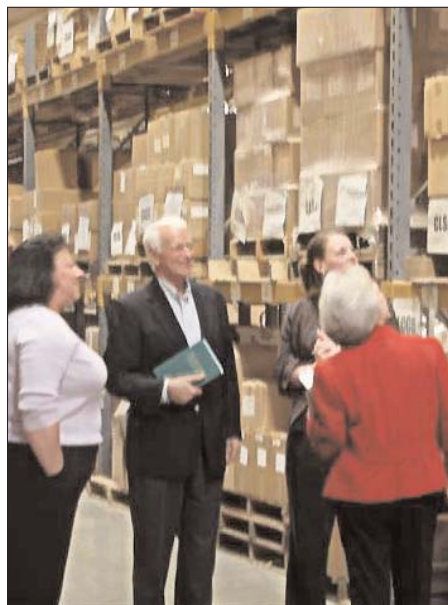
during a summer-like heat wave, the OEC sponsored CLSA book sales on discontinued publications, completed work on a new publication, and held meetings with consultants about overhauling the CLSA website. The book sales in March and June brought many interested canon law students to the Hecker Center giving us the opportunity to recruit several new CLSA members!

What's been happening at the Hecker Center?

- *Publications:* the English edition of *Inter-Ecclesial Relations Between Eastern and Latin Catholics: A Canonical-Pastoral Handbook* by George Gallaro has been completed and, following review by the Publications Advisory Board, is now available from BrightKey. In conjunction with the PAB, we met with BrightKey officials in early March to determine the inventory volumes to be destroyed, volumes to be kept at the OEC and other inventory issues in an effort to reduce our inventory costs to the distributor. PAB continues to be a valuable resource regarding CLSA publications. The advisory board will be meeting in July at the Hecker Center.
- *CLSA Inventory Sales:* The OEC sponsored Spring and Summer Book Sales of inventory that will no longer be available through BrightKey. This included back issues of *Roman Replies* and *CLSA Advisory Opinions*, CLSA

Proceedings and a few other titles. We invited the CUA canon law students to visit us for the sale. It was a success on many levels: several students became members; visitors received copies of the CLSA Newsletter and other materials; students became more acquainted with the office and staff. We plan on having similar sales at the beginning of each semester (Fall and Winter) as a service to incoming students.

- *CLSA Website:* Once again we want to update you on recent changes on our website. We have contracted with YourMembership.com for management of the CLSA website. We hope to have the new website up and running by late June. Look for Katie Richards' update elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*.



Kim Confer of BrightKey; Msgr. John Alesandro, Chair of the Publications Advisory Board; Katie Richards, Administrative Assistant and Sr. Sharon Euart, Executive Coordinator, explore the warehouse where all CLSA publications are stored and distributed in March

- *Regional Meetings:* As you begin to make plans for the 2009-2010 regional meetings, please let us know the dates and sites for the meetings as well as the names of the contact persons for Regional Meetings. We will post the information on the website. We also anticipate making some of the presentations at regional Meetings available on the website. Rev. Augustine Mendonca's address to the Eastern Regional Conference of canonists is now available for members (to access this article, you must log in).
- *Canonical Consultation/Advocacy:* We continue to receive requests for canonical assistance from priests, religious and lay persons. We are grateful to those who indicated their willingness to be a contact for individuals who request the name of a canonist to assist them with a situation involving matters such as the closing of a parish, an allegation of misconduct or other issues for which they need to consult with a canonist. If you are available to serve in this capacity, please let me know either by e-mail at seuart@cls.org or by telephone at (202) 832-2350.
- *Convention:* The convention brochure was mailed to you in mid June. You will notice it has a different look this year. It is a self-mailer combining the registration information, the registration forms and the candidates' information all into one nicely designed piece. We hope you like the compact size and find it helpful in the registration process. See additional information about the convention as well as the form for submitting resolutions for the 2009 convention elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. The form for resolutions will also be available on the CLSA website. Most importantly, we encourage you to come to Louisville! ▼

Spring Travel Duties Fill President's Agenda



*Rev. Daniel
Smilanic*

The musical theme for Spring of the CLSA Presidential year might well be "On The Road Again," a song made famous by Willie Nelson. As soon as Winter

wanes, for the President there is a great deal of traveling, or perhaps better understood as 'linking.' Indeed, to travel for the CLSA is not to wander around, but rather to encourage the connect-edness and the involvement of different canonical ministries with each other.

In mid-April I attended the annual convention of the Midwest Canon Law Society. Msgr. Michael Carigilio and Msgr. Peter Polando are doing an

excellent job of refreshing the organization of this regional group. The meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio. The speakers brought together scholarship and experience in discussions of penal law, matrimonial jurisprudence, procedural matters and shared pastoral responsibility in parish life; Cardinal Maida did the same in his opening talk. This was but one example of the strength of the regional canonical gatherings. I want to thank the other members of the Board of Governors who also attended other regional meetings, and to thank Rev. Manuel Viera especially for his willingness to attend the Mexican gathering of canonists this summer.

Later in April, I chaired the Spring meeting of your Board of Governors in Washington, DC. There were several decisions made, and several items of information shared, that you should be aware of. Two of the decisions involve scholarships. The first decision concerns the CLSA scholarship fund. This year the Board of Governors voted that two awards were to be made; they were given to Mr. Geoffrey Bedford Strickland and Fr. Lawrence Rasaian. The second decision concerns the CLSA International scholarship endeavor, which was named for Fr. Valentine Schaff OFM, the first American Minister General of the order of Friars Minor and a former Dean of the School of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. This effort began in May of 2002 and was intended to assist male and/or female religious from developing nations in their pursuit of a licentiate in canon law that would then benefit their home diocese when they returned. Since its inception, this fund has accumulated \$25,000; however, the fund never developed as originally intended. The Board of Governors unanimously voted to offer the entire amount to the Faculty of Canon Law of the Antonianum in Rome. In light of its

(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 4)



Fr. Paul Counce, Past President and Fr. Daniel Smilanic, President, review documents during the April Board of Governors meeting.

UPCOMING CLSA EVENTS

- June 9** – Physical Inventory Count of CLSA Publications at BrightKey
- June 15-19** – 2009 CLSA Convention
Brochure Mailed
- June 21** – General Convention
Chairperson 2009 site visit in
Louisville, KY
- June 30** – Code of Canons
of the Eastern Churches Sale Ends (call
301-362-8197 for details of this sale)
- July 1** – Expected Launch Date for New
CLSA Website
- July 1** – 2009-2010 Membership Dues
Invoices Mailed
- July 16-17** – Publications Advisory
Board Meet in Washington, DC
- August 19** – Treasurer, Executive
Coordinator and Auditor Meet in
Washington, DC
- September 8-11** – "Out-of-Print Books"
Sale for CUA Canon Law Students
at the CLSA Office

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2009 Oklahoma and Arkansas Regional Meeting

August 4-5, 2009 Pastoral Center,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Lynda Robitaille, JCD, *presenter*
For more information, contact Toni
Nicholls at (800) 721-5651 ext. 153

2009 New Orleans and Mobile Regional Meeting

December 1-3, 2009 Diocese of
Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana

Very Rev. Anthony Bawyn, JCD,
presenter
For more information, contact the Very
Rev. Vincent N. DeLa Cruz, J.V. at
(985) 850-3126

*If you have any information regarding an
upcoming Regional Meeting, please
contact the Office of the Executive Coordi-
nator at (202) 832-2350 or
krichards@cls.org. ▼*

Announcement

The “Circular Letter from the
Congregation for the Clergy” is now
available on the CLSA Website at
www.cls.org. We anticipate pro-
viding members with an opportu-
nity for discussion of the circular
letter in the near future. Check the
CLSA website in the coming weeks
for further information.

(PRESIDENT, from p. 3)

Franciscan heritage, the Antonianum would be the apt University to make international scholarships available. This fulfills the original mandate of the scholarship and the intentions of the donors. Among the items of information was one that illustrated the health of our society and the work of the Executive Coordinator’s office under the direction of Sr. Sharon Euart; it was the news that 99% of the membership dues have been paid. After the meeting, our Vice-President, Fr. Larry Jurcak, and I brought the annual greetings of our society to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. The Archbishop was most gracious in his reception of us, and the conversation was not just cordial formalities. The Archbishop is very interested in the contributions that our society can make to the life of the Church in the United States.

In early May I traveled to Aviemore, Scotland to represent our society at the annual meeting of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland. My host was Msgr. David Hogan, the President of their society. Their formal agenda also brought together scholarship and experience. Although their conference is smaller than our convention, the issues they face are similar to the ones we face. The conferences discussed, among other things, the use of the canonical institution of a public juridic person to structure an apostolate, the

merging, clustering and/or suppression of parishes, and the sacramental issues involving Latin and Oriental Catholics. At one point or another, five members of the Scottish hierarchy participated in the gathering. Also present at the conference was Fr. Ian Waters, the president of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, and Fr. Alain Guevremont, the president of the Canadian Canon Law Society. The presence of the presidents of these four Canon Law societies meant that we could further discuss different ways in which we could work together.

One of ways in which the societies could coordinate work is in responding to the invitation of the Pontifical Council for Legislative texts for the further specification or revision of Canon Law. In early March, the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland received a letter from Archbishop Coccopalmerio similar to the one we received at our convention last year. The Canadian Canon Law Society, as well as the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, also expect to receive such a letter. At our April meeting, the CLSA Board of Governors developed an initial proposal for a plan for our consultation with the Pontifical Council; I shared our proposal with the presidents of these three other societies. Naturally, any plan developed by the BOG has to be carefully thought out so that the suggestions will be helpful and the effort will not engender mistaken expectations.

In September, I will travel to Sydney

for the annual convention of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand. Besides representing our society to their society, I will deliver a formal presentation. Following a US scripture scholar who will speak on ‘St. Paul’s notion of law’, I will speak on the ideas of St. Paul that have found their way into our law. Although this will not be a long visit involving many different places, it will be an opportunity to encourage connectedness. Canonical ministry in the Church is not isolated; it entails the bonds between theology and norms, between research and practical situations, and between individuals. We are bound together in the service of others; we wear a single garment of redemption. ▼

Future Conventions

October 11 – 14, 2010:
Buffalo, NY
(Hyatt Regency Buffalo)
Theme: Renewal of Law

October 10 – 13, 2011:
Jacksonville, FL (Hyatt Regency
Jacksonville-Riverfront)
Theme: Safeguarding the Rights of
the Christian Faithful in the Church
Today

October 8 – 11, 2012:
Rosemont, IL
(Hyatt Regency O’Hare)

Update on Louisville Convention

Preparing the Harvest: Service in the Lord's Vineyard

October (11) 12-15, 2009 • Hyatt Regency Louisville (www.louisville.hyatt.com)

Rev. Michael Boccaccio

The Hyatt Regency Louisville is a mere 8 miles from the Louisville airport; a local company shuttle service is available between 7am and 8pm at \$15 per person or \$25 round trip (make reservation at www.sandollarlino.com). A taxi ride is about \$23 one way.

The downtown area has an ample number of restaurants in walking distance. The hotel has a direct covered connection to "4th Street Live," a medium size mall with eateries (www.4thstlive.com). A very large Borders bookstore is diagonally across the street from the hotel. Also near by is the Cathedral of the Assumption (www.cathedraloftheassumption.org). Using the "4th Street Live" covered connection, one needs to walk outdoors for a block to reach this beautifully and newly renovated Sacred Space. The Cathedral has wheelchair accessibility and a lovely social



hall downstairs.

Also near by is the Abbey of Gethsemani (home to Thomas Merton, among others). This monastery, founded in 1848, is the oldest Trappist monastery in the USA and it is about an hour (50 miles) from the hotel (www.monks.org).

Look for the Convention brochure containing the pre-convention and convention program and schedule, slate of candidates and registration information in the coming weeks. Watch for convention updates on the website (www.clsa.org) and in the August Newsletter. ▼

NEW MEMBERS

The CLSA extends a warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS who have joined the Society since March 2009.

Rev. Ting Kwok S. Ip
Hong Kong, China
Rev. Richard F. Reidy
Worcester, MA
Sr. John Mary Fleming
Nashville, TN
Sr. Mary Pierre J. Wilson, RSM
Denver, CO
Rev. Jamin S. David
Morganza, LA
Rev. Steve Nguyen
Kaneohe, HI
Rev. Justin M. Wachs
Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. Remek Blaszowski
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

(ADVOCACY, from p. 1)

Based on the feedback and recommendations of the earlier seminar, this year's session was extended by one day but retained the same case study general format. This fictitious scenario, drawn from many different real-life situations, divided into a play format with various acts and scenes allowed the presenters to address the various canonical and practical issues raised in each section as well as to introduce relevant jurisprudential points. Although the various presenters had their prepared texts or outlines, there was plenty of interchange that involved not only the observations and practical questions of the participants but also the sharing of opinions by other presenters.

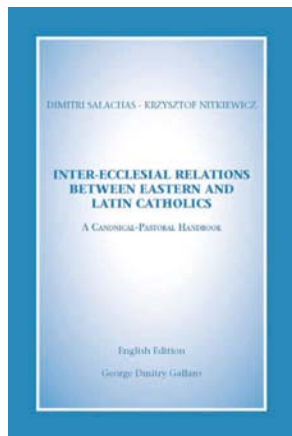
On Thursday morning, as the seminar was winding down, the participants shared how they felt the seminar went, what parts of the program were

most helpful, and offered recommendations for future seminars. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and indicated that the goals of the participants were not only met, but exceeded expectations. One of the participants, a senior canonist, stated that this was the best workshop he had ever attended! There seemed to be a general consensus that this workshop should be offered again so that others might take advantage of the opportunity to focus their study on this part of our law. ▼

Congratulations to our 2009 Scholarship Recipients!

- Fr. Lawrence Rasaan, St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Canada
- Mr. Geoffrey Bedford Strickland, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce), Rome, Italy

New CLSA Publication



Inter-Ecclesial Relations Between Eastern and Latin Churches: A Canonical-Pastoral Handbook by Dimitri Salachas and Krzysztof Nitkiewicz and translated into English by George Dmitry Gallaro **is now available!**

This handbook addresses the needs of the Catholic faithful who find themselves under the care of clergy of a Church *sui iuris* different from their own. These situations pose significant challenges to pastoral ministers, especially in light of Vatican II's decree *Orientalium Ecclesiarum* and the Eastern and Latin Codes. More and more, appropriate issues are being raised regarding the administration and reception of the sacraments. The subject of inter-ecclesial and inter-ritual disciplinary norms is not only timely but also relevant. A better mutual understanding of the various Churches will enrich ritual patrimony and also secure the valid and licit reception of the sacramental mysteries.

157pp, ISBN: 1-932208-23-2, List price: \$17.00, Member price: \$15.00

Visit us online (www.clsa.org), or call (301) 362-8197 to place an order!

For a complete listing of all available CLSA publications, please visit our website: www.clsa.org

Updated Limits for the Alienation Norms (Canon 1292 §1)

In a letter dated 21 May 2009, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), notified the bishops of the updated limits for the norms of alienation for the dioceses of the United States effective immediately.

- Maximum: \$11,408,000 for populations of 500,000 or more, \$5,705,000 for all others (raised from \$11,397,000 and \$5,699,000 respectively),
- Minimum: \$1,141,000 for populations of 500,000 or more, \$571,000 for all others (raised from \$1,140,000 and \$570,000 respectively),
- For all other juridic persons subject to the Diocesan Bishop the new maximum sum for alienation is \$5,705,000 (raised from \$5,699,000) and the minimum is \$29,000 (raised from \$28,495) or 5% of the prior year's ordinary annual income, whichever is greater. ▼

Model Letters: Suitability of Religious and Diocesan Priests for Ministry

In October 2008 and January 2009, Bishop Blasé J. Cupich, chair of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, sent three Letters on Suitability to all Bishops and Eparchies requesting that the model letters be used as a “means of having a standard form” for dioceses and eparchies in fulfilling Norm 12 of *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*.

The three model letters address: suitability of a religious priest for a stable assignment in a diocese; suitability for temporary ministry of religious priests in a diocese; suitability for temporary priestly ministry for diocesan priests in another diocese. In his memorandum, Bishop Cupich states that the “model

letters provide the essential information that a bishop or eparch needs in order to accept a priest into the diocese or eparchy for public ministry.” The model letters can be found by logging into the CLSA website (www.clsa.org). ▼

Unsure of Your CLSA ID Number?

Members can find their CLSA ID numbers located above their name & address printed on this Newsletter. This number is primarily used when purchasing publications to verify membership status. Questions? Please call (202) 832-2350.

(WEBSITE, from p. 1)

you have previously changed your username, your default username is FirstnameLastname. Note: Members now have only one log in username and password, the Online Book Store no longer requires a second log in.

Please log in to verify and/or update your Membership Profile information; some information could be jumbled or lost due to the transition. If you do not have an email address attached to your account, please add this information as it is now required. Although we will not flood your inbox with emails, some communication from the Office of the Executive Coordinator will be sent electronically.

If you are having trouble logging in, or have any other questions regarding the new website please contact the Office of the Executive Coordinator at (202) 832-2350 or kritchards@clsa.org. ▼

Guidelines for Presenting Resolutions

Resolutions are central to the functioning of the Canon Law Society of America. A majority of the research activities and special publications of the Society are a result of proposals to the Annual Meeting of the CLSA in the form of resolutions. (Revised 1 May 2004)

Criteria for Submitting Resolutions (CLSA By-Law No. 3b)

1. Their content shall be simple, precise, direct and in language befitting a professional society; vague or ambiguous phrases should be avoided, and “whereas” clauses should be kept at a minimum.
 - Resolution wording is to be clear and specific concerning its intended outcome;
 - Resolutions generally call for some action to be taken on the part of the Society. Therefore, the following terms serve to clarify the resolution:
 - receive** – if the CLSA is asked to recognize the completed work of the group or committee;
 - accept** – if the CLSA is asked to recognize the completed work of the group or committee and to agree with the work produced;
 - endorse** – if the CLSA is asked recognize the completed work of the group or committee, to agree with the work produced and to make the work its own (*fullest commitment available*).
2. They shall be positive in nature, and in keeping with the scope, purpose and resources of the Society.
 - Resolutions should avoid criticism of persons and be worded so as to improve existing structures and serve to build and encourage the work of the CLSA;
 - Resolutions should fit within the context of the overall purpose of the Society and may not be *contra legem*;
 - Anticipated costs for implementation of the resolution should be realistic and definite (avoiding such phrases as “costs minimal”);
 - If costs are anticipated, it is requested that the author(s) contact the Office of Executive Coordinator for guidelines;
 - Resolutions should be clear about how much human resource will be needed to achieve the resolution’s intended outcome.

The Contents of the Written Resolution

1. **Proposed by** – The name(s) of the author(s) proposing the resolution;
2. **Title** – The title should focus the membership on the point of the resolution;
3. **Statement of Rationale** – (The “Whereas” clause) Should be a brief statement presenting the background and foundation for the resolution;
4. **Be It Resolved That** – This is the heart of the resolution whereby a simple, precise and direct statement proposes the intended outcome;
5. **Implementation By Means Of** – A clear statement presenting the timeline for completion, human resources required and anticipated costs.

The Resolutions Committee will review the resolution. If changes are necessary, the Chairperson will contact the author for further discussion. Clarifications, modifications and amendments, may also be made to the resolution by CLSA members, with the concurrence of the author(s), at the Resolutions Hearing and the Annual Business Meeting. Resolutions may also be presented at the time of the Resolutions Hearing or the Business Meeting. Should this be the case the “member shall read the resolution and explain it briefly and submit one copy of the resolution in writing.”

The Newsletter of the Canon Law Society is published as a service to members four times a year by the Office of the Executive Coordinator, Canon Law Society of America, The Hecker Center, 3025 Fourth Street, NE, Suite 111, Washington, DC 20017-1102. Membership in the Society is open to interested persons as active or associate members, depending on specific qualifications of training and experience in canon law. The annual membership fee is \$200.00. Application forms are available from the Office of the Executive Coordinator or at www.clsa.org.

Canon Law Society of America
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CLSA Resolution Form 2009

(this form is also available at www.clsa.org)

PROPOSED BY _____

DATE _____

TITLE

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE

(Indicate simply, precisely and directly the reasons for the resolution)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

IMPLEMENTATION BY MEANS OF
(Committee assignment, task force, report/study)

ANTICIPATED COST _____ COST SUPPLIED BY _____