



A Unique Experience Awaits You in Louisville

Preparing the Harvest: Service in the Lord's Vineyard

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

Rev. Michael Boccaccio, General Convention Chair

The Hyatt and the Louisville Convention Visitors' Bureau are going out of their way to offer discounts to con-

vention attendees; these discounts are so appealing that, as of this writing – 17 August 2009 – we have already secured over 50% of our minimum hotel block.

Some examples of thrift-offers: (1) the Hyatt is giving a 10% discount on any meal ordered in either of its two restaurants (does not apply to room service); (2) the Louisville Convention Visitors' Bureau has arranged a discount – ranging from 5% to 20% – at local shops, eateries, etc., most within a 5 minute walk (show your convention name tag to receive the discounts, without limit usage); (3) the hotel single/rate/night of \$120 is one of the

lowest in recent times (our convention hotel rates will increase over the next three years, cf. my report in the Convention Booklet).



I recommend taking a taxi from the airport over the airport shuttle; a taxi is about \$23 plus tip per ride. Since the shuttle is \$15.00 each way, if you share a taxi ride with one person the savings are yours. The hotel is a mere 8 miles from airport. If you prefer the shuttle, it operates 7AM to 8PM, at \$15/way, \$25/round, visit www.sandollarlimo.com. Also, don't forget American Airlines is offering a 5% discount on even the lowest fare (code: **15H9AM**).

An exciting program also awaits you in Louisville, with twelve different seminars

(See LOUISVILLE, p. 6)

Register Now!

Pre-Convention Workshops Spark Interest

Tribunal Administration

This workshop will present principles by which tribunal staff can better deal with the marriage tribunal ministry in these challenging economic times. If you answer 'yes' to one or more of the following questions, this workshop is for you!

- Have budget cuts pushed your staff to their limits?

- Are you trying to figure out how to follow the law, keep your staff sane, and still get the work done?
- Do you want to hear new and interesting ideas that could re-energize your ministry?
- Do you have something to share that would benefit other tribunals?

Join us as we explore "new ways of thinking" about our ministry in the

(See WORKSHOPS, p. 4)

IN THIS ISSUE

2 Presidential Reflections

3 Proposed Resolutions

5 From the Office of the Executive Coordinator

7 Available Soon: Electronic CLSA Publications

CLSA and the Development of Law



Rev. Smilanic

of Australia & New Zealand and to being with everyone at our annual convention.

Our annual convention's theme, 'Preparing the Harvest: Service in the Lord's Vineyard' focuses on the canonical features of an issue that is much discussed today in parishes, pastoral centers, academic environments and ecclesial gatherings. The program has been carefully developed and balanced; it brings together our thinking and our situations. It will be well worth the time invested in it. I urge you to read the other articles in this *Newsletter* about it.

While at the Australian meeting, I am giving an address that involves additionally two workshops; another major address will be given by a Scripture scholar from the United States who has been active in his scholarly society, the Catholic Biblical Association of America. In Australia, the presidents of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain & Ireland, the Canadian Canon Law Society, the Canon Law Society of Australia & New Zealand and I have scheduled an afternoon and an evening to talk. There is no fixed agenda for our conversations, but there is a sincere interest in inter-societal cooperation. I imagine that during the course of our conversations, our letter from the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts will be discussed; the Canon Law Society of Great Britain & Ireland received a similar one in March of this year.

In assessing the letter we must be both creative and realistic; in fact, to be doable, creativity must be realistic. As we develop our responses to the letter,

These reflections look forward to my representing our Society at the 43rd annual conference of the Canon Law Society

we also have to be prompted by concerns that are felt in more than one location. At this point a wholesale change in the Church's legal structure is not envisioned. We have come to know that attention is focused on specific issues in the law and its practice. An illustration would be the recent faculties granted to the Congregation for the Clergy and to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. These faculties reflect a situation that the Church is facing in a world much wider than the United States. These faculties also are what is able to be done efficiently within the Church's legal structure now; they are a concentrated and attentive development. Another illustration would be the instruction *Dignitas Connubii*. In a very exact manner, it addressed issues associated with the instruction of formal matrimonial trials. If our suggestions are to be helpful, they must have that same precision and focus. As well, they must address a concern that many are experiencing; these developments will only happen when a need is felt directly by many. Such focused areas in the law will arise out of practical issues we deal with: for example, because of immigration there might need to be a greater harmonization of the Eastern code and the Latin code, or because of demographic changes there could be a need for more specificity in the area of temporal goods.

We must be aware of the particular perspective that we uniquely can bring to the development of law in the Church today. We have a wealth of practical experience. I often marvel at the concrete expertise of our membership. As a professional society, we offer this perspective of practical experience as either consultants in the drafting of law or as reviewers called upon to comment on suggested developments. In fact, some of our members did serve in this capacity when *Dignitas Connubii* was being developed. We

present again the observation of Cardinal Newman. When asked why he did not reside in Rome, he responded using the familiar metaphor of the Church as a ship. He said that some are more apt for the boiler room assuring the movement of the vessel; others are more apt for the bridge, watching for the conditions and the situations the ship moves in. As American canonists, we are on the bridge. We will continue to make known to the Holy See the practical concerns that we have as canonists in service to our local Church.

Our second area of expertise is developed by the first. We need to read, write, teach and discuss. One might

(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 8)

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Proposed Resolutions

Two resolutions have been submitted to be considered by the Membership; they are as follows:

TITLE: A Seminar to Recommend Changes to the *Code of Canon Law*

PROPOSED BY: James A. Coriden

DATE: July 21, 2009

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE:

Whereas Pope Benedict XVI has announced the need: to abrogate antiquated norms, to modify those in need of correction, to interpret those that are doubtful, and to fill possible *lacunae legis*¹; and

Whereas Archbishop Francesco Coccopalmerio, President of the Pontifical Council for Legal Texts, wrote to the Society on the occasion of last year's convention to invite our collaboration in this task of specification and revision²; and

Whereas in the past the Society has successfully employed a seminar format³ to highlight such special canonical occasions, stimulate and gather scholarly reflections, and make specific recommendations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Board of Governors organize a seminar to:

- 1) gather suggestions for changes in the *Code* from canonical literature and other sources,
- 2) explore and evaluate the suggestions in a systematic way, and
- 3) report its recommendations in a timely manner to the members of the Society and to the Pontifical Council for Legal Texts.

IMPLEMENTATION BY MEANS

OF: A scholarly seminar (perhaps 12-20 persons, gathered for two or three days), with papers prepared in advance and circulated before the event, with a con-

sensus statement, and a possible publication.

ANTICIPATED COST: \$10,000

COST SUPPLIED BY: the CLSA from unrestricted, general operations funds.

TITLE: Awarding Honorary Membership in the CLSA to Sister Sharon Holland, IHM

PROPOSED BY: Patricia M. Dugan, Sr. Victoria Vonderberger, Rev. John P. Beal, Rev. Msgr. Ricardo E. Bass

DATE: October 14, 2009

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE: For all canonists, but for women canonists especially, Sister Sharon Holland is a role model of extraordinary proportions. She has led canonists by example with her wisdom and her generosity in sharing it. *Please see Biography below.*

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Sister Sharon Holland, IHM, be honored for her lifelong service to the Church, to Canon Law and to Canon Lawyers, by giving her honorary membership in the Canon Law Society of America.

IMPLEMENTATION BY MEANS

OF: Membership approval during the General Meeting at the 71st Annual Convention of the CLSA in Louisville, KY.

ANTICIPATED COST: Nominal, for presentation piece commemorating the Resolution, Sister's future membership dues.

COST SUPPLIED BY: CLSA

Biography: Sister Sharon Holland, IHM

Sister Sharon Holland is a member of the community of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Her Community saw in her a capacity for leadership and this led to six years of

service to them as a Provincial Councillor. In the midst of serving in this capacity, Sister Sharon undertook studies in Canon Law and obtained a Doctorate at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1979. She has been a member of the Canon Law Society of America since that time.

Over many years, Sister Sharon has been a much sought after speaker in matters regarding consecrated life. Three times she has given seminars at CLSA conventions as well as presentations at regional conventions and for groups of religious superiors. She has written in more than one language, has published over thirty articles that have been published in *The Jurist*, *Periodica*, *Chicago Studies* and other professional journals. It is also more important to note there are two articles about consecrated life that appeared in the much-used volume, *The Code of Canon Law: A Text and Commentary*, published in 1985 by Paulist Press. She has graciously written the Introduction to two CLSA best sellers: Sister Rose McDermott's *Consecrated Life* (2006) and the Committee on Consecrated Life book, *Sponsorship in the United States Context* (2007).

In education, Sister Sharon has been a professor of Canon Law and Dean of the English Section at the Pontifical Institute *Regina Mundi*. She taught Canon Law at the Catholic University of America for four years. Sister has also taught at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, and St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. In the Archdiocese of Detroit, Sister also served as a Consultant on canonical matters and as an Auditor for that Archdiocesan Tribunal.

In June of this year, Sister Sharon Holland completed twenty-one years of service at the Vatican Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In her role as *Capo Ufficio*, Sister responded to questions on governance from religious congregations all over the world.

(See RESOLUTIONS, p. 4)

(RESOLUTIONS, from p. 3)

Sister Sharon's many contributions to the field of canon law were recognized by the Canon Law Society of America in 1999 when it awarded her the prestigious Role of Law Award. More recently, on May 1 of this year, Sister Sharon was awarded a special honor by the Catholic Health Association, citing her as "Its greatest asset in Rome." On June 26th of this year, Sister Sharon was awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Medal for outstanding service during her ministry at the Vatican. On July 15, she was awarded the International Medal from St. John's University in Rome and on August 14, she received the Leadership Award from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious for her service to women religious. The accolades for her are of the highest

caliber: "She models what is best about religious life." Hopefully, in honoring Sister Sharon with honorary CLSA membership, we have saved the best award until last.

- ¹ Discourse to the *Convegno de Studi* on the occasion of the XXV anniversary of the promulgation of the *Code of Canon Law*, January 25, 2008. *La Legge Canonica nella Vita della Chiesa. Indagine e Prospettive nel Segno del Recente Magistero Pontificio*. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008, p. 14.
- ² *Proceedings of the Seventieth Annual Convention, October 13-16, 2008, Kansas City, MO*, p. 490.
- ³ Eleven such seminars or symposia were sponsored by the Society between the years 1966 and 1984. Several were published as books, other appeared in *The Jurist*. ▼

Regional Canon Law Meetings

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

2009 New Orleans and Mobile Regional Meeting

December 1-3, 2009
Holiday Inn, Houma, LA
Very Rev. Anthony Bawyn, JCD
will present

Theme: "The Law and Pastoral Practice: An Amicable Relationship"

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

2010 Eastern Regional Meeting

May 3-5, 2010
Sheraton Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ

For more information, contact Msgr. Victor Finelli at vfinelli@allentowndiocese.org ▼



Dr. Lynda Robitaille presented at the Oklahoma and Arkansas Regional Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK August 4-5, 2009

(WORKSHOPS, from p. 1)

Tribunal. We all have much to share, which will make for an inspiring, informative, and interactive workshop.

Presenters: Msgr. Charles J. Chaffman
Ms. Lynette M. Tait

Judges in Penal Cases

Registration for the preconvention workshop for judges suggests there will be a mix of canonists with various levels of experience in penal cases. All are looking forward to the interactive format of the workshop.

The presenters will offer a review of basic concepts of penal procedure and jurisprudence, especially concerning the grave delict of an offense against the 6th commandment committed by a cleric with a minor. Special focus is on the role of the judge in a penal trial. Participants will receive lecture notes, bibliography, select readings, and sample documents. Also, discussion of a fictional case will provide participants a unique opportunity to share observations and questions.

Interested participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible before the limited seating is closed. The registration fee includes all materials, refreshments during the workshop and a reception at the end of the first day.

Presenters: Msgr. Mark L. Bartchack
Rev. Robert W. Oliver

Register Today!

Interested parties are encouraged to register for either Pre-Convention Workshop and the Convention online at www.clsa.org by clicking on the 'Future Conventions' tab located in the left-hand menu, or call (202) 832-2350. Pre-Convention workshops are only \$250. Registration begins at 5pm on Saturday, October 10th and the workshops run through 12 noon on Monday, October 12.

For more information please visit our website (www.clsa.org) or call the Office of the Executive Coordinator at (202) 832-2350. ▼

Moving at Full Speed Toward Louisville

Sr. Sharon Euart, RSM, JCD



Sr. Sharon Euart,
RSM

While the work of

of many organizations tends to slow down a bit during the summer months, the activity in the OEC seems to pick up in preparation for the annual convention. We hosted the Publications Advisory Board for its meeting in July and the meeting of the CLSA Treasurer, Fr. Thomas Anslow, and our auditor, Mr Joseph Godbout, in August. We continued to welcome the canon law students and faculty participating in the summer sessions at the Catholic University of America. We particularly enjoy this interaction which, we hope, is a mutually enriching experience.

In the brief time since our last Newsletter...

- **Convention:** Please see Fr. Michael Boccaccio's article in the *Newsletter* regarding the upcoming convention in Louisville. We encourage you to register either online or by mail. We are aware that the economic situation in many of our dioceses affects the allocation of money for staff to attend conventions. We hope the lower rates at this year's convention hotel will make it possible for many of you to attend this meeting. Both the pre-convention workshops and the convention itself promise to be worthwhile experiences!
- **Committees:** To assist our committees in their work, especially in light of the FIP restructuring as a result of the recommendations from the Future Initiatives Project, we have developed a *Committee Handbook* which contains fundamental documents such as the CLSA Constitution and Bylaws as well as operational policies, procedures, and forms. During the Louisville Con-



The Publications Advisory Board met July 16-17, 2009 in Washington, DC to discuss all aspects of the Society's publications. (l-r) Fr. Paul Hartmann, Barbara Ann Cusack, Msgr. John Alesandro (committee chair), Fr. Kevin McKenna and Sr. Sharon Euart discuss CLSA publications with Fr. Lawrence DiNardo via conference call.

vention Fr. Larry Jurcak, CLSA Vice-President, and I will host a breakfast for CLSA Committee Chairs to review the *Handbook* and discuss the important role and work of our committees.

- **Publications:** We have made available the Compact Disc (CD) that accompanied *Jurisprudence: A Collection of U.S. Tribunal Decisions*, edited by Alesandro, Cuneo, Varvaro, and Vondenburger. The book has been out of print for some time so we are selling the CD out of the Office of the Executive Coordinator for \$15.00 for members and \$17.50 for non-members. If you wish to order a copy of the CD call (202) 832-2350 or go to www.clsa.org. At the request of the PAB, we are also working with Amazon.com to make available a few of our publications to a broader audience. In addition, we will have a

CD available for sale at the convention containing volumes 1-12 of *Canon Law Digest*. Read more about this elsewhere in the *Newsletter* and on the CLSA website.

- **CLSA Website:** Our new website was launched on July 1, 2009. Look for Katie Richards' update elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*.
- **Canonical Consultation/Advocacy:** Again, we need your help! 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 somebody to assist them with a variety of situations 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@clsa.org or by telephone at (202) 832-2350. ▼

(LOUISVILLE, from p. 1)

addressing tribunal issues, sacramental ministry, religious institutes and clergy all in light of collaborating in these challenging times. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Susan K. Wood, Theology

Department Chair at Marquette University. Other major addresses will be given by Br. Loughlan Sofield, ST, noted author and consultant and the Very Rev. Lawrence A. DiNardo, Vicar for Canonical Services for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The Wednesday evening

liturgy will be at the newly renovated Cathedral of the Assumption, which is walking distance of the Hyatt.

The convention reservation fee for CLSA members (registering prior to 9/14/09) is \$325.00, and the reservation fee for a pre-convention workshop is \$250.00. All fees increase by \$25.00 after September 14. Also, please note this correction to the recently mailed Convention Brochure: The 2009 CLSA Convention Hotel rates at the Hyatt Regency Louisville are as follows: \$120.00 single, \$145.00 double, \$170.00 triple and \$195.00 quad. For updates, more information and to register online please visit our website (www.clsa.org) and click on the 'Future Conventions' tab in the left-hand menu.

So, here's hoping to see you at our 2009 Convention in the "Holy Land" which, by the way is, in fact, our first convention in the "Bluegrass State"! ▼

CLSA Website Q&A

With the launching of the new CLSA website (www.clsa.org) the Office of the Executive Coordinator has received several repeated questions and comments. These questions have enabled us to formulate a Frequently Asked Questions page on the website (called the 'Help Desk') where website users can hopefully find answers. Listed below are three of the most common questions asked.

As a CLSA member, how do I log in?

All CLSA members can log in to the new website by using their Username and Password. *Please do not 'Register' if you are already a CLSA member: log in using the appropriate log in information.* The log in box is located on the right-hand side of the website.

The default username is firstname-lastname (i.e. KatieRichards - with no spaces) and the default password is your CLSA ID number. You can locate your CLSA ID number above the address label on this CLSA Newsletter. Members can change this information after logging in by clicking on the 'Edit My Profile' link located in the right-hand 'My Profile' menu.

If you are still having trouble logging in please call (202) 832-2350.

How do I pay my dues online?

Members who are interested in paying for dues online must use a Visa or MasterCard. After logging in, click on the 'Membership Info' link located in the right-hand 'My Profile' menu. Then click 'Securely renew your mem-

bership now' and follow the instructions provided for online dues payment. You will automatically receive an email to the email address on file as acknowledgment of payment.

What does 'Your current membership expires on 9/30/2009' mean?

'Membership Info' is the information regarding the status of your dues. The CLSA Fiscal year runs from June 30 to July 1 of each year, and members are given a three month leniency period to pay each year's dues. Therefore, if your dues are up-to-date your information should read: "Your current membership expires 9/30/2010." If you have not yet paid this year's dues you should read: "Your current membership expires 9/30/2009." If you haven't paid your dues by the 'expiration date', your online account will be 'suspended' and you will not be able to access any of the members only online services. If this happens and you would like to remain an 'Active' member, you will need to contact the Office of the Executive Coordinator at (202) 832-2350 or send in a check for your dues payment to 3025 4th Street, NE, Suite 111, Washington, DC 20017.

For answers to more Frequently Asked Questions, please visit the 'Help Desk' located at the bottom of the left-hand menu on the CLSA website (www.clsa.org). If you do not see the answer to your question, please contact Katie Richards in the Office of the Executive Coordinator at (202) 832-2350 for more assistance. ▼

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)

Publication News

The *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Latin/English Edition* has dropped in price from \$60.00 to \$30.00 for non-members and \$25.00 for members. Order online at www.clsa.org or call (301) 362-8197.

Now Available: Electronic CLSA Publications

The following CLSA publications now available in electronic form (either as a CD for purchase or as a membership benefit online). Please check the CLSA website (www.clsa.org) for updates and availability of these products.

The Canon Law Digest: Volumes I-XII

The CLSA owes many thanks to Fr. William H. Woestman, O.M.I. for compiling the first twelve volumes of *Canon Law Digest* onto a CD. The *Canon Law Digest* is a compilation of official documents relating to canon law in the Catholic Church. The entries are arranged according to the sequence of

canons. This compilation CD features volumes I-XII, all appendices and indices, the *Canon Law Digest* Volumes I-X Index and a comprehensive search function. The CD is a valuable research tool for canonists and those interested in the history and development of canon law.

List Price: \$60.00; Member Price: \$50.00

Jurisprudence: A Collection of U.S. Tribunal Decisions

This text is a collection of complete sentences from tribunals in the United States that show not only the legal principles but the way such principles were applied in specific cases through judicial reasoning. The collection is divided into

five general categories: (1) traditional grounds; (2) mixed traditional and psychological grounds; (3) strictly psychological grounds; (4) cases of formal process; and 5) non-matrimonial cases. Since published in 2002, this text has proved to be a valuable resource and is now out of print. The Publications Advisory Board has approved reproducing the text in electronic form on a compact disc (CD). The CD is now available on our website.

List Price: \$17.50; Member Price: \$15.00

Proceedings of the Annual Convention: Years 1983 – 2000

The CLSA is in the process of electronically archiving all *Proceedings* from 1983 to 2000. These electronic versions will be made available free of charge for CLSA members on our website (www.clsa.org). Non-members can also download individual volumes for a nominal fee (\$2.00 an article, \$5.00 a volume). Each volume will include a 'Search' function, allowing for faster researching. There will also be a comprehensive index of all 18 volumes grouped by topic. Not only will the electronic versions of these volumes prove to be great research tools for canonists, it is also a wonderful addition to our member services.

List Price: \$2.00 per article, \$5.00 per volume; Member Price: FREE ▼

NEW MEMBERS

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

Rev. Charles J. Benoit
Saint Benedict, LA

Ms. Anna Marie Danks
Memphis, TN

Rev. William A. Dhein
Eau Claire, WI

Fr. Kevin F. Donlon
Tampa, FL

Rev. Rigoberto Gamez
Chicago, IL

Mr. Federico Genoese-Zerbi
Centreville, VA

Msgr. Jason Gray
Peoria, IL

Ms. Deborah Hawks
Colleyville, TX

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Aston, MD

Rev. Anthony R. Hewitt
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Rome, Italy

Donetta K. Shaw
Kansas City, Mo

Dcn. Don Tzinski
St. Cloud, MN

UPCOMING CLSA EVENTS

September 30 – 'Due date' for 2009-2010 CLSA dues

October 11-12 – CLSA Pre-Convention Workshops in Louisville, KY

October 12-15 – CLSA 71st Annual Convention in Louisville, KY

October 19-22 – Canadian Canon Law Society Convention, Westin Hotel, Edmonton, AB, Canada

December 1-3 – New Orleans/Mobile Regional Meeting in Houma-Thibodaux, LA ▼

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.

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(PRESIDENT, *from p. 2*)

ask whether this is also not done at the Vatican, in Rome or at the Conference. True enough. But our reading, writing, teaching and discussion is grounded in our practical, local situations. That has always been one of the important reasons for our annual conventions: the opportunity to gather with peers to discuss the situations of the many local churches we come from. Our practical experience has made our writing and teaching more useful. This work, both individually and corporately, will be facilitated by the new committee structure that is being implemented. The re-organization of committees will enable us to bring our resources to bear on particular needs, while making accountability more effective. For example, the letter from the Pontifical Council has been entrusted to the Research and Development Committee for discussion and development; it is the competent committee to coordinate efforts to participate in any development in the law.

As I close, I want to say how much I look forward to being with you all at our Convention in Louisville. This once-a-year gathering provides support and encouragement that in our individual situations we may not always have. ▼

Association of Mexican Canonists Meet

Rev. Manuel Viera

During the week of July 6 through 11, I had the opportunity to represent the Board of Governors at the XXXIII Curso de Actualización of the Asociación Mexicana de Canonistas at Casa Juan Pablo II, San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco. During the curso, three presenters updated the membership on different aspects of the law. Dr. Mario Medina Belam, delineated issues concerning penal law: continuity and changes between the 1917 and 1983 codes, as well as criteria for the applications and declaration of canonical penalties. Monsignor Juan Jose Failde presented several issues regarding the human brain and general concepts of psychiatry. Reverend Janusz Kowal, SJ presented issues of jurisprudence dealing with ignorance, total and partial simulation, error, drug addiction and matrimonial consent. There were two workshops dealing with procedural law.

The Assembly passed a resolution during the annual business assembly to create a list of the Mexican Judicial Vicars and their addresses; I requested

that the list be available to the Canon Law Society of America. Also, the Association has announced a new web address: www.asociacionmexicana.decanonistas.com

Most important were the contacts made with Mexican canonists and tribunal staff. During informal gatherings some expressed their concerns and questions regarding the practice of tribunals in the United States. Among the topics raised by the Mexican canonists were issues regarding competence and gathering of evidence. The short time frame given for Mexican Tribunals to respond to requests from U.S. Tribunals was also identified as a concern. Materials and correspondence are often delayed in reaching U.S. Tribunals as a result of the Mexican mail system.

The discussion was most helpful and the Judicial Vicars indicated their willingness to cooperate with tribunals of the United States. I very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Meeting of Mexican Canonists. ▼