

Canon Law Society of America

December 2013

A quarterly eNewsletter from the Society

PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS



Very Rev. Phillip J. Brown, SS

It is hard to believe it is already two months since our wonderful convention in Sacramento, and two months into a new administration of the CLSA. A lot has happened during those two months that I'd like to touch on. First, however, I want to say thank you to many people.

Thank you to Rev. John Vaughan for his outstanding service as President, and for his continuing service as Past President. Thank you to Mrs. Rita Joyce for her service as Past President and the many ways she has served and continues to serve the Society. Thank you to Msgr. Michael Souckar for his willingness to serve as Vice President/President-Elect. Thank you to Rev. Greg Bittner for his service as Treasurer and to Dr. Margaret Chalmers, Consultor, whose terms of office just ended. Thanks also to Rev. Tom Cronkleton who has moved from Consultor to Treasurer and to Rev. Jim Conn, SJ, and Msgr. Charles Antonicelli who were elected as BOG Consultors. I also want to thank the other candidates for office for your willingness to serve and your ongoing service to the Society: Dr. Eileen Jaramillo, Mrs. Meg Romano-Hogan, Sr. Amy Hereford, CSJ and Msgr. Tomás Marín. We are indeed fortunate to have so many fine canonists who are so willing to offer their service to enhance the Society and advance canon law and professionalism in its practice in the United States.



Rev. Phillip Brown, S.S. (center right), welcomes the newest members of the Board.

What a wonderful convention we had this year; a fitting celebration of the CLSA's 75th anniversary I join John in expressing gratitude to all those responsible for the convention and to everyone who attended for your participation. Our conventions are a real testament to the value of our Society and all that it does for its members.

I also want to thank those whose committee appointments are ending, and those who have accepted new committee assignments. Our committees are the backbone of the Society where the most important work we do is accomplished. I want to commend all committee members, especially the Chairs, and encourage you to renew your efforts to move committee projects forward. Your work has

great value for canonists throughout our country, in fact throughout the world, and is of great assistance to individual bishops and the U.S. Bishops as a whole.

I am happy to report that I have already made new committee appointments and all committee slots have been filled for the coming terms of office. I am particularly gratified by the number of newer canonists who have accepted committee appointments and the increasing number of newer canonists who are serving on committees. One of my goals as President, as I stated at the candidate's forum in 2012, is to involve younger and newer canonists in the work of the Society and prepare the Society to usher in a new generation of leadership in the coming years. I am pleased both at the willingness of young canonists to serve and the support of the Society in looking towards our long-term future.

As you know, last May President John Vaughan, Executive Coordinator Sr. Sharon Euart, and I travelled to Rome together for the Society's biennial visit the principal Roman dicasteries involved with canon law work and the activities of the Society. I want to note that we could not have received a friendlier reception by all of the dicasteries and university faculties we visited, including in particular the *Signatura*, the Rota and the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts. I believe the reception we received bodes very well for the future of our Society.

In October I represented the Society at the Canadian Canon Law Society Convention in Sudbury, Ontario. Once again, I was struck by the warmth of my reception I received and the depth of our relationship with the Canadian Society. The presentations at the convention were excellent, and it was great to renew friendships with so many of our Canadian colleagues I have known over the years and to make new friends and colleagues in the Canadian Society. As you perhaps know, a number of canonists belong to both the CLSA and the Canadian Society, and I would certainly encourage members of the CLSA to consider membership in the Canadian Society and members of the Canadian Society in the CLSA. Both societies offer excellent annual meetings, valuable opportunities for continuing education as canonists, but also to forge stronger ties with one another for our own professional development and the advancement of our Societies.

As is customary, I have been invited to Ottawa in February to deliver a lecture at the School of Canon Law at St. Paul's University and visit with the students there about the CLSA. (*continued, page 4*)

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NEW!

PENAL WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

**PENAL AND DISCIPLINARY SITUATIONS
INVOLVING PRIESTS AND DEACONS:
WHAT CAN BE DONE – AND HOW?**

**A PRACTICUM IN THE APPLICATION OF
CANON LAW**

WHEN: *March 31-April 2, 2014*

WHERE: Bethany Center, Lutz, Florida (17 miles north of Tampa International Airport)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Those entrusted with the application of canon law to difficult situations in which clergy (priests and deacons) may be removed permanently or temporarily from pastoral responsibilities.

WHAT WILL BE COVERED:

Practical information on how to respond in an appropriate canonical manner to clerical situations involving sexual abuse of minors, violations of celibacy or continence, other canonical delicts financial misconduct, boundary violations.

PRESENTERS:

Msgr. John A Alesandro, JCD, JD; judge-instructor, Diocese of Rockville Centre;
Very Rev. Lawrence DiNardo, JCL; vicar for canonical services, Diocese of Pittsburgh;
Msgr. Frederick Easton, JCL; adjutant judicial vicar, Archdiocese of Indianapolis;
Msgr. Thomas J. Green, JCD, professor of canon law, The Catholic University of America.

REGISTRATION:

Registration will be available online only. Space at the Bethany Center is limited to 50. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Watch for workshop brochure and registration form on the CLSA website in early January 2014.



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www.facebook.com/CLSAmerica

NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have joined the Society since September 2013. 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 Blayney
New South Wales, AUS

Rev. Brian W. Capuano
Richmond, VA

Rev. Paul S. Czarnota
Beltsville, MD

Ms. Carole Gan
New South Wales, AUS

Rev. John Gomez
Pittsburgh, TX

Ms. Michele Hugonnet
Leuven, Belgium

Rev. Roger H. Keeler
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Ms. Sarah Lauhead
Berriozar, Spain

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New York, NY

Rev. Reynolds Matunog
Los Angeles, CA

Claudia V. Murdoch, Esq.
Brooklyn, NY

Thomas Nguyen
Ottawa, Ontario, CAN

Dr. Stephen Ogheneovo
New Orleans, LA

Rev. Giovanni Rizzo
Belleville, NJ

Mr. Michael Sinclair
Queensland, AUS

Rev. Mark Steffl
New Ulm, MN

Mr. William Tonsmeire
Birmingham, AL

Rev. Daren J. Zehnle, KHS
Rome, Italy

SOCIETY HONORS BOCCAFOLA

The Canon Law Society of America is pleased to announce the 2013 recipient of the Role of Law Award, Msgr. Kenneth E. Boccafola. Msgr. Boccafola was honored at the 75th Annual Convention in Sacramento, California, for his extensive contributions to canon law. Please click below to read both Rev. John Vaughan’s citation Msgr. Boccafola’s response.

The Society extends its sincere congratulations to Msgr. Boccafola. Thank you for your service!



**ROLE OF LAW
CITATION**

BOCCAFOLA’S RESPONSE

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR



Sr. Sharon Euart, RSM

I join my voice to those of the president and past president, Rev. Phillip Brown, SS and Rev. John Vaughan, in expressing gratitude to all those who helped make the 2013 CLSA convention in Sacramento such a successful event and a memorable experience. Many attendees have commented, “the best yet!” I extend special thanks to Bishop Jaime Soto, Rev. Mark Richards, Yvette Espinoza, and their team of volunteers from the Diocese of Sacramento for their assistance and gracious hospitality; to Sr. Ann Rehrauer, OSF, Msgr. Jace Eskind and the pastoral musicians from Sacramento for the beautiful liturgies; and to all our presenters, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees. On behalf of all of you, I offer special thanks to Colleen Crawford, our executive assistant, whose pleasant manner and gracious assistance contributed in no small way to the success of the convention. Thank you to all!



Bishop Jaime Soto (center) receives the offertory at the 2013 Convention Liturgy in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

The convention evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive. Overall, participants highlighted the outstanding program, excellent speakers, international presence, comfortable hotel, proximity of the meeting space, hotel staff, NIX assistance, nearby restaurants and downtown space, cathedral, food and banquet as contributing to a very enjoyable experience. Once again, the buffet lunch was greatly appreciated!

In my annual report to the convention, I updated the participants on the continued development and use of the CLSA website and its impact on new membership. We continue to see an increasing number of members use the website for payment of dues, convention and event registration and purchases from the online bookstore. Most of our new members apply for membership on line rather than by mailing in an application form. [The Index of CLSA Advisory Opinions](#) has become an important research tool, as has the English translation of the Rotal sentences provided by Rev. Gus Mendonça, which are available as [a download for members](#). The number of “contact forms” continues to increase with inquiries from individuals requesting information, seeking advocates, resources or answers to canon law questions or general church questions. This section requires monitoring on a daily basis and responses are provided by the website administrators. It is clear that

the website has become the preferred means for communicating with the Executive Coordinator’s Office with a variety of questions and requires ongoing updating and management.

With regard to membership, the number of CLSA members continues to increase, both active and associate, especially among civil attorneys. Over the past year we accepted 82 new members representing both U.S. and international active, associate, and student members, plus an additional fifty new members since July of this year. I am particularly pleased with the increase in student membership, an initiative we have steadily worked to increase. Currently we have over 100 student members!

We are delighted to announce that we will initiate the CLSA Webinar Series beginning in February. We are calling the series “CLSA’s Webinar Wednesdays” which will be scheduled every other month on a Wednesday at 2:00 pm (ET), 1:00 (CT), 12:00 noon (MT), and 11:00am (PT). We may test different times to see which are most convenient. We have contracted with CommPartners, a company that will provide the needed platform for the webinars. We will be able to provide many of the services in-house by using our website for communication, advertising, registration, archival of presentations, administration, and our staff for technical assistance. In early January, Colleen Crawford and Mary DeBroeck will participate in tech training from CommPartners. While the webinars will originate from The OEC in Washington, providing the technical functions and administration, speakers may present from remote locations with their computers. Our first Webinar will be held Wednesday, February 5, 2014. The topic will be Sacramental Record-keeping and Jay Conzemius from the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be the presenter. Our second webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12 with Sr. Victoria Vondenberger, RSM as the presenter on the Defender of the Bond. On April 9, an overview of the Penal Law Workshop will be offered. Watch for more details about the new webinar series on the website!

As I prepare to begin a new ministry on April 1 as Executive Director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, I want to express my deep gratitude to you, the members of the Canon Law Society of America, for the opportunity to serve as your executive coordinator for the past five and a half years.

I have been privileged to work together with dedicated, professional men and women toward our goal to serve the canonical needs of our Church. Working toward that goal has its blessings and its challenges, but above all, it is a joy. I am grateful for the unique vantage point from which I have been able to see the profoundly good and generous spirit of all our members and your deep commitment to the Society and its mission. Your hard work, your sense of pastoral service and your care for others make me proud to have been of service, in some degree, in your ministry.

I am especially grateful to Rev. John Vaughan for the opportunity to address and thank our members during the Sacramento convention, and am most appreciative of the plaque and gift John gave me on your behalf. *(continued, page 7)*



Reverend John Vaughan presents outgoing Executive Coordinator Sharon A. Euart, RSM, with a plaque at the annual banquet.

(Presidential Reflections, continued from page 1) The topic of my lecture will be *Due Process and the Right of Defense: Fulcrum of Justice, Heart of the Law*.

A very exciting initiative the CLSA has undertaken that you will be hearing more about in the coming months is the initiation of a program of webinars designed to offer more opportunities for updating and continuing education. Please see the announcement in Sr. Sharon's report and the advertisement of upcoming webinars elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As always, the BOG will make every effort to have representatives present at regional meetings. I attended the meeting in Little Rock last summer where I also gave a seminar on *Canon Law and Catholic Health Care System Mergers*. It was a really great experience, and I received a wonderful reception from Cathy Gilligan and those who organized and carried off the meeting. This Spring I'll be attending the regional meeting in Salt Lake City, and we have assigned other members to attend the other upcoming meetings as well.

I also want to say word of appreciation to Sr. Sharon Euart, RSM who will be moving on to a new position this year. It is with truly mixed emotions that we see Sr. Sharon move on: gratitude for her service; deep appreciation for the profound changes and advancements that she has guided the Society through during her tenure; sadness that she will no longer be at the administrative helm of the Society, but happiness for her as she takes up new responsibilities at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes and where she will no doubt make contributions as important as those she has made as EC of the CLSA. And, of course, Sr. Sharon will continue to make contributions to the Society: she has already accepted an important committee assignment that will allow her to make use of her vast knowledge of the Society and canon law, and her deep commitment to the Society, for the further advancement of our efforts and the well-being of our members.

As we move forward into a new year, into the CLSA's 76th year, let us be mindful of the unique role that we play and our unique and very serious responsibilities as canon lawyers, as all lawyers have. Many of us are charged with administering justice, others with administering the affairs of the Church, all of us with giving advice and counsel to those who administer justice and the affairs of the Church. Having witnessed conscience ignored, or lacking altogether, too often by those in authority, modern legal systems have tried to craft rules that will achieve justice, or at least good results, automatically as it were. Our own legal tradition as canonists teaches us that there are no rules that can achieve justice and good results automatically. There are no self-executing rules. Rules are applied by human beings, and their application requires good judgment. This applies to making decision, to administering the affairs of society and the Church, and to the effort to achieve justice. And there is no escaping that sound judgment requires a well-formed conscience and the willingness to act conscientiously. Lawyers, including canon lawyers, are in a unique position to encourage those we serve to act conscientiously, rather than simply expediently. And, of course, we are called to act conscientiously ourselves. In other words, in common parlance lawyers and canon lawyers are in a unique position to encourage those we serve to do the right thing. Let us renew our commitment to always doing the right thing. Let us re-commit ourselves to advising others well on what the right thing to do is, and on how to do it. Let us renew our commitment as servants of justice and as prudent and compassionate administrators of the affairs of the Church, of the things of God. ♦

WEBINAR WEDNESDAYS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2014 introduces a monthly webinar series

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Sacramental Record-Keeping

Jay Conzemius, Diocese of Pittsburgh

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

The Defender of the Bond

Sr. Victoria Vondenberger, RSM

More information will be posted on the CLSA website at www.clsa.org.

CONVENTION UPDATES

October 13-16, 2014, St. Louis, MO

St. Louis Union Station Hotel
by DoubleTree

Following the 2013 convention in Sacramento, Molly Hackett, President of NIX, notified us that the renovation work on the sleeping rooms at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, the site of the 2014 convention, would not be completed in time for our October 2014 event. After considering several options, we contracted with the St. Louis Union Station Hotel by DoubleTree for the 2014 convention. The hotel common areas have been recently renovated and the sleeping room upgrade will be completed in the spring. NIX was able to obtain a lower room rate of \$125 per night!

Shortly after completing the negotiations with the Union Station Hotel, the Millennium Hotel announced that it will close its doors in January 2104. We are fortunate that NIX was informed about the delay in room renovations prior to the hotel's decision to close and worked quickly to select a new property for our convention. More information regarding the hotel will be sent to you later in the spring with the convention brochure.

ADDITIONAL UPDATE: The 2017 Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana.



2013 CONVENTION PHOTOS & BRIEF EVALUATION COMMENTS

Convention Photos Courtesy of Rev. Manuel Viera, OFM

“This was the best presentation I have heard in my many years of attending the CLSA convention - juridical, theological, pastoral, all leveled and very balanced.” – in reference to Bishop Scicluna’s address



“Brian Dunn[’s]...attitude, pastoral concerns and obvious care for the people of his diocese came through clearly.”

“It was very good that the major address was relevant - he mentioned gay marriage, communion, and the divorced and remarried...” – in reference to Archbishop Myer’s address



“Wonderful to have an update directly from Rome. It would be great to have a Rome update every year!” – Response to Pinto and Jaeger’s seminar

“The presentation was excellent. Good job, Mr. Jay Konzemius! One of the best and most practical seminars ever in the CLSA conventions.”

“I always learn when John Beal presents at the CLSA convention.”



“Well done; I had no idea it was that easy!” – Response to Padazinski’s seminar

“I never thought anyone could make this topic interesting - Sr. V did and I learned a lot too.”

– Vondenberger seminar



“Great job as a first time presenter!” – Response to Cavanaugh’s seminar



“Lynda’s style is excellent, encourages discussion and helps get us to think; very pastoral in her outlook, which is so appreciated.” – Robitaille’s Pre-Convention workshop

“Actually, this was exceptionally well presented. I believe this will help more than even my JV thought.” – Response to Smilanic and Golden Pre-Convention Workshop

“Continue to get more movers and shakers from Rome.”

“Buffet lunch was fabulous - keep them!”



CONVENTION REPORT



Rev. John Vaughan

Last October approximately 350 members of the Canon Law Society of America gathered in Sacramento, California to celebrate our 75th year as a professional society. The theme of the annual convention was “Celebrating 75 Years: Honoring the Past, Building the Future.” Judging from the comments made and the evaluations received, we celebrated, honored and built in admirable fashion. It was my privilege to serve as the president of the CLSA during the last year and in that capacity to preside over our jubilee convention. We were honored to receive a letter acknowledging our 75th anniversary from His Eminence, Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, President of the Pontifical Council of Legislative Texts.

I want to take this occasion to thank all who participated in the convention in any capacity, particularly the Convention Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Michael Joyce, CM.

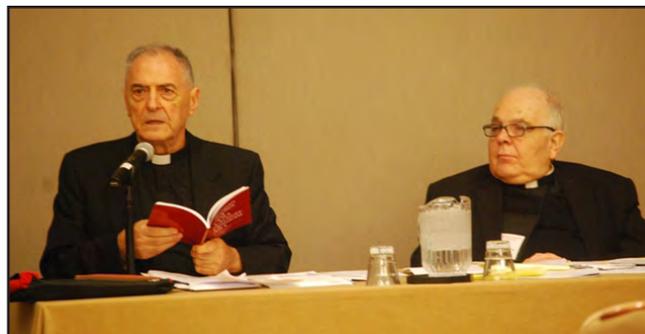
The topics of the various seminars and the names of those who presented them have been published elsewhere and their presentations will be printed in the 2013 *Proceedings*. I am grateful to each of them for their dedication and for their knowledge and competence.

The two pre-convention workshops were attended by approximately seventy-five people. Fathers Dan Smilanic and Paul Golden, CM, presented an informative workshop entitled “Delicts Against the Faith and Sacraments Reserved to the CDF” and Dr. Lynda Robitaille concentrated on the method of “Choosing an Appropriate Ground of Marriage Nullity.” All who participated in these workshops found them extremely informative and helpful.

The opening talk of the convention was delivered by Most Rev. John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, who spoke to us on “The Past as Prologue: A Consideration of Canon Law in the United States.” On Wednesday morning Bishop Charles Scicluna shared his experience in the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and presented an address entitled “Response to and Prevention of Clerical Misconduct: Current Praxis.” Concluding the convention the third major address was given by Bishop Brian Dunn, Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada. Bishop Dunn’s topic was “The Interaction of Theology, Law and Life from the Perspective of Bishops.”

It was a particular privilege for us to welcome Most Rev. Monsignor Pio Vito Pinto, the Dean of the Apostolic Tribunal of the Roman Rota. He gave two presentations of his seminar which were enthusiastically received. His title was “Recent Papal Norms and Recent Internal Measures to Ensure Timeliness at the Roman Rota.” Monsignor Pinto made it very evident that he wants to collaborate with local tribunals and do all he can to facilitate the tribunal ministry in all dioceses. Most

Rev. Monsignor David-Maria Jaeger accompanied Monsignor Pinto and it was a pleasure to welcome him back in our midst.



Most Reverend Monsignors Pinto and Jaeger lead discussion at the 75th Annual Convention.

We were warmly welcomed to the city of Sacramento by Bishop Jaime Soto who presided at our convention Liturgy on Wednesday evening in the beautiful Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. I want to express our gratitude to Rev. Mark Richards, Judicial Vicar of Sacramento, and to his tribunal staff who assisted us so admirably both prior to and throughout the convention.

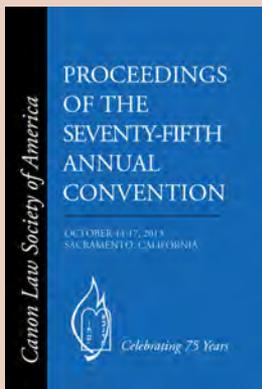
Once again we were well served by Nix & Associates in the person of Kathy Best who was on site during the convention and who was a wonderful liaison with the hotel staff. Monsignor Victor Finelli, the General Convention Chair was gracious and humorous as he fulfilled his duties “in our midst as one who serves.”

As I express my gratitude to the members of the Board of Governors for their partnership and support throughout the year, I want to also thank those nominees who stood for office on the Board. Congratulations to those elected to a term: consultants Rev. James Conn, SJ, and Monsignor Charles Antonicelli; treasurer Rev. Thomas Cronkleton and our new Vice President, Monsignor Michael Souckar. I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. The BOG will serve the Society well under the capable leadership of Rev. Phillip Brown, SS.

It is hard to imagine that our convention would have gone as smoothly as it did without the efficient and competent work of our office administrative assistant, Colleen Crawford. Not only did she work for months preparing for the convention but she was on site in Sacramento, answering questions, taking pictures, making copies and doing everything possible to be of service to all of us. Thank you, Colleen!

Finally, again I express the gratitude of all the Society to our Executive Coordinator, Sr. Sharon Euart who coordinated all the details of the Convention as well as the other responsibilities of our Society. As she nears the end of her term as our Executive Coordinator, during our convention banquet it was my privilege in your name to acknowledge publically her many contributions and to present her with a gift and a plaque.

May God bless each of you in your canonical ministry in the year ahead. I look forward to gathering with you in St. Louis next October. ♦



PROCEEDINGS REMINDER

In order to receive the forthcoming *Proceedings of the 75th Annual Convention*, please ensure your mailing address is current. Mailing addresses can be updated under “[Edit Bio](#)” in the Members Only section of the website.

REGIONAL MEETINGS 2014

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

March 10-12: **Western Regional Conference**
Salt Lake City, UT

May 5-7: **Midwest Canon Law Conference**
Cleveland, OH

May 5-8: **Northwest Regional Meeting**
Seattle, WA

May 6-8: **Eastern Regional Meeting**
Baltimore, MD

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Rev. John Vaughan

Executive Coordinator

Sr. Sharon A. Euart, RSM

(OEC Update, continued from page 3) Finally, having worked closely with many members, I would like to acknowledge in particular – the presidents and members of the Boards of Governors 2008-2013, the chairs of the committees, and in a particular way, the staff of the Executive Coordinator’s Office: our executive assistants Katie Richards who worked with us for four years, and now Colleen Crawford who has been with us only a little more than a year but who has learned so much during that time and whose gracious manner calms even the most difficult callers; our part time administrative assistants Nicole Lee, Susan Mulheron and Amy Tadlock who worked diligently and generously with us while pursuing their JCL degrees, and now Mary DeBroeck, a doctoral theology student from CUA. I am deeply grateful for their generous service, their kindness and for all they taught me. I am confident that the OEC staff will continue to provide the high level of service with which you have become familiar.

During this season of waiting as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, I take this opportunity, on behalf of Colleen, Mary and myself, to wish each of you a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas. ♦

Trying to log in to the website,
but forgot your password?
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President Robert Lariviere, on behalf of the Canadian Canon Law Society, presented the CLSA with a commemorative plaque on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in Sacramento, California. Above, President Lariviere presents the gift to Reverend John Vaughan.



The Society gratefully acknowledges the CCLS and President Lariviere. Thank you!