

# NEWSLETTER of the CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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09 August 2003

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## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting – 6 Feb 2003.**

The AGM was held at Victory Park, Gauteng. Those *present* at the supper meeting were: Anselm Prior (in the chair), George Daniel, Arthur Davies, Pius Dlungwane, Jean Evans, Patricia Fresen, Claire Hegarty, Celia Kourie, Derrick Kourie, Marie Andre Mitchell, Theodula Muller, Susan Rakoczy, Graham Rose, Charles Ryan, Jennifer Slater, Elsie Srivens.

*Apologies* were received from: Stuart Bate, Christopher Chatteris, Luke Mettler, Rodney Moss, Simon Nyathi, Margaret Kelly, Alison Munro. *Messages of encouragement and solidarity* were received from Denis Hurley, Brian Gaybba, and Luke Mettler who also sent greetings to all other founding members.

*Minutes* of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2003 were adopted. Matters arising from the minutes were dealt with in the agenda of the meeting.

*Chairman's Report:* Anselm Prior presented a comprehensive report on the activities of the CTSSA during his term of office (to follow the minutes).

*Financial Report:* The balance on account at 31 December 2002 was R 11 839,94.

*Anniversary Booklet:* The chairman recorded the Society's special gratitude to *The Southern Cross* and Denis Hurley for their permission to produce a limited edition of the Archbishop's person memoirs of Vatican II and also to Vincent Kairus of Jetline e.com, generous printer, and Ed Fivaz, final editor for their labours in the end stages of the publication.

*Newsletter:* The following appointments were made:

Editor: Jean Evans; News Gatherers: Sue Rakoczy (Cedara Cluster), Jenny Slater (St John Vianny), Celia Kourie (Unisa) TBA (St Augustines's), TBA (Cape Town).

*Publicity, Membership and Recruitment:* It was agreed that: the publicity pamphlet be redesigned; new members be sought in theological faculties; a website be considered.

*Regional Meetings:* Charles Ryan was deputed to arrange meetings for theological reflection in the PMB district. Graham Rose was deputed to find ways of sharing with the Regions, video conferencing material in use in Gauteng.

*Visit of Professor Ottmar Fuchs:* It was agreed that a feasibility study into costs and locations be done prior to an invitation being sent to Professor Fuchs of Tübingen to address Regional meetings during his September visit to St Augustine's College. Anselm Prior would report on behalf of Gauteng and Charles Ryan on behalf of Natal.

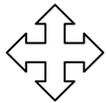
### *International Network of Societies of Catholic Theology (INSECT)*

The chairman reported on a communication received from the new President of the above international theological network who assumed that CTSSA was a member of INSECT. Prof. Hinze requested an annual update of the work of CTSSA for inclusion on the INSECT website. The chairman was authorised to submit a report on the annual conference and AGM. An invitation to collaborate in a second project of INSECT designed to integrate African theology into the global discussion was put on hold.

*Next Conference:* The Executive was mandated to determine the location and date of the next annual conference due in 2004. In doing so, a location in Natal during the Michaelmas break of the theological faculties was to be considered. "Moral Renewal of Church and Society" was accepted as a general theme of the conference.

*Closure:* The chairman thanked all members who had participated in the AIDS Conference, all who had worked with him since his election as chairman, all who had attended the AGM and dinner, and closed the meeting.  
--Arthur Davies

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## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT: January 2002 – February 2003**

### **1. The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of elected members Fr Anselm Prior, OFM, (Chairperson), Fr Graham Rose (Treasurer), Mr Arthur Davies (Secretary), Fr Stuart Bate, OMI; Fr Charles Ryan, SPS; and Sr Jennifer Slater, OP. The Committee later co-opted Sr Alison Munro, OP and Fr Rodney Moss as members. We are grateful for the positive response of these two to our request.

After a slow start to the year (due to the chairperson!), we met in June, August, September and November. A further informal meeting of three members took place in January to put together the logistics of this evening's meeting.

The members of the Executive Committee have given up so much valuable time to attend meetings. This includes, remember, travelling through heavy traffic to and fro. They have worked hard at planning for both this AGM and the AIDS Conference which we, as a Society, are co-sponsoring. We have not only met in person but have made extensive use of e-mail in order to keep in touch with each other. Special mention should be made to Mr Arthur Davies, the quiet, efficient and hard-working secretary on whom I have happily had to depend. I would like, on your behalf, to express my gratitude to him and all the members of the Executive.

### **2. Correspondence**

Quite a few members have written to me, explaining their present work/study situation, expressing appreciation for the Society's contribution to theological reflection, offering me commiserations on my election as chairperson!, and generally to just keep in touch. The fact that I have not answered these communications does not mean I do not appreciate them.

### **3. Newsletter and Regional Meetings**

Everyone these days, it seems, comments on how quickly time passes and this applies to your Executive Committee members. No doubt, it is a sign of how busy we all are. As a result, certain items handed over to the Committee by the out-going Executive have not yet been dealt with, namely, a newsletter and the re-establishment of regional meetings. The present executive did agree at its meeting on June 2002 that news-gatherers be approached in the various regions of the country (names were even suggested), and that perhaps regional meetings could take the form of theological discussion over, for example, supper. As chairperson, I apologise for not communicating these suggestions to the membership of the Society, but I do recommend that both be discussed at this meeting. Perhaps a person (or two) in each region could take on responsibility for setting up the necessary structures.

### **4. The Church and Moral Regeneration**

Members at the last AGM suggested this title be the subject of this year's meeting. When the members of the present Executive heard of the AIDS Conference, which is taking place this week, we immediately asked to be kept informed, indeed, to be represented at the Conference. As it turned out, your chairperson was appointed to the three-person organising committee and we as a Society are co-sponsors, along with St Augustine's College and the SACBC AIDS Desk. This subject, and particularly the emphasis on responsibility, is very much in line with the wishes of our

last AGM. I trust that our efforts this week will contribute in an important way to reflection on this key issue and the Church's responsibility for our Southern African society.

#### **5. Professor Ottmar Fuchs**

Prof. Fuchs, from the University of Tübingen, is to visit this country for two weeks in September-October this year. St Augustine's College has asked our Society to co-host his visit and the Executive has agreed. This means that we will be responsible for organising venues and travelling arrangements for the professor's lectures from September 29 till October 3. Certain members of the Society (perhaps according to region?) will need to take on these responsibilities.

#### **6. International Connections**

At their request, I have supplied updated information of the Society to the publishers of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, a group based in Brussels.

As chairperson, I have also received communication from Dr Hinze, the newly-elected President of the *International Network of Societies of Catholic Theology* (INSeCT), based at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Prof. Hinze makes two requests. Firstly, that we give him an annual update on the work of our Society for inclusion in INSeCT's website. Secondly, the network is launching a new project for African Catholic Theologians to post their writing on the same website. At this meeting I am distributing further information on this project and firmly hope some of our members will be able to contribute to this project, as I believe that African thinkers have a lot to offer the Christian theological world.

#### **7. We Have Come of Age!**

We are 21 years old this year! Our birth was surrounded by excitement and, although we may have gone through the usual turbulent adolescent years—who are we? What are we about? We are today alive and well, and perhaps still ready to offer the odd ecclesial kick where necessary!

Thanks to Fr Graham Rose of Rivonia and the women of Victory Park for organising this evening's birthday supper. We had been hoping that Archbishop Hurley would regale us this evening with reminiscences of the theological changes and growth that have taken place since Vatican II, and perhaps speak of something of his own contribution to the renewal of the Church. Unfortunately, His Grace could not attend, although he did express his wish to meet up with the Society's members again. (This was on the phone and I couldn't resist responding: "Well, you have plenty of years yet to go!" He seemed to appreciate that!). Many thanks to Fr Rodney Moss for his attempts to get the archbishop here.

Meanwhile, if other arrangements have gone according to plan, we shall be giving you, as a birthday present, a copy of Archbishop Hurley's series of articles on the impact of Vatican II on today's Church. These articles originally appeared in the *Southern Cross*. This is a one-off printing by the CTSSA for those who attend this evening's meeting. I wish to extend my gratitude to the *Southern Cross* and to Archbishop Hurley for permission to publish this copyright material for this auspicious occasion.

#### **8. Video Conferencing**

Last year Fr Graham spoke with enthusiasm about video conferencing by international speakers which takes place regularly. Perhaps a short written description of these events might encourage both members of this Society and others to participate in the theological debate by means of contemporary technology.

#### **9. Conclusion**

For myself, chairing this Theological Society has had a slow start. It is a new world to me, after all! But as I entered into the task I became more excited by the possibilities of what we could be involved in, or more specifically, communicating to others what we are already involved in and contributing to. I have always believed in the Southern African Church and we are only a pinhead of what is being thought about, discussed, argued and applied in this country.

I believe that our enthusiasm in whom we are and what we say, write and do must rub off on to others, especially in our oral presentations and our written work. The thought of Southern African

theologians must be documented, published and made known worldwide. If we could only work at this many others will be drawn into the theological enterprise and the life-giving world of theology.

Thanks!

Anselm Prior, OFM  
Chairperson, CTSSA

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SACBC AIDS \* CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA \*  
ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

### **Responsibility in a Time of AIDS – A Catholic theological response to the pandemic** *Statement to the Media*

Eighty-three invited delegates assembled at St Augustine College of South Africa Campus from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003 to participate in preparing a theological response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The conference was co-hosted by the AIDS office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Catholic Theological Society of SA and St Augustine College of South Africa. Delegates included Catholic AIDS activists, HIV/AIDS pastoral care workers, media workers, and Catholic theologians. The theme of the conference was "Responsibility in a time of AIDS".

Responsibility in a time of AIDS is vital, for many in our society refuse to take responsibility for the tragedy unfolding in our society.

Responsibility means to stop searching for someone to blame. Many blame the devil, the ancestors, a witch or the Americans for AIDS. Others blame God saying it is his punishment for evil or as a result of breaking his law. This is wrong. We must also break the connection between guilt and HIV/AIDS. It is unchristian to assume that a person who is HIV+ is guilty. **No one deserves to have AIDS!**

Issues of HIV/AIDS should not be dealt with within a framework of individual moral values but within the framework of social justice. Behaviour transmitting HIV principally results from acts determined by social power relationships rather than individual moral ones. These allow irresponsible behaviour in the rape of virgins for a cure, the exploitation of sex workers, the abuse of women, the refusal to admit the present of the disease in our communities, the hiding away of AIDS sufferers, and the stigmatising of the disease and its victims. Many holding power in our society, especially political leaders, have failed to mobilise the resources at their disposal to establish effective structures which will respond to the crisis and bring hope for people.

The Church must accept that it has failed to educate its members on the value of sexuality and chastity. Therefore we must mobilise ourselves to this end. We must work for the education of conscience since people are often confused about what is the right thing to do. The education of young people into a clear and consistent set of Christian values, which can bring them full life, is an essential Christian response right now. Catholic messages about condoms have tended to confuse the issue since they are too tied to teachings about contraception whereas the goal here is to defend oneself against a deadly disease. The Church has powerful resources of interpersonal medial, which can be used for greater impact than at present. Group meetings, homilies, retreats and recollection days can all be used to communicate the Church's position on issues of HIV and AIDS. We need to find ways of communicating this message in an effect way.

But in the final analysis our response to HIV/AIDS must be that of Christ: hope, compassion, support and above all not judging. The Catholic Church has set up over 75 new pastoral projects responding to HIV/AIDS. More are needed. Issues of HIV/AIDS should not be tied to prescriptions of what not to do. Rather we should follow the new commandment of what to do. We are called to love and care for one another and caring is one of the things that Catholic institutions are well

known for. Caring for people is a true healing work and demands real responsibility for it is time consuming and demanding.

We must give greater recognition to the value of traditional African healing approaches since they are community based rather than focusing on the individual. We should cooperate with these where possible and also make use of those which are compatible with the Gospel in our own pastoral caring approaches. Indeed our healing strategies must be multidisciplinary using medical, psychological, ritual, spiritual therapies, as well as political strategies to access the nation's resources.

Coordinating Committee of the Conference

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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CTSSA EXECUTIVE – Monday 1 June 2003 at Pretoria**

Present: Anselm Prior (in the chair), Alison Munro, Graham Rose, Arthur Davies

Apologies: Stuart Bate, Rodney Moss, Jenny Slater, Charles Ryan

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 April 2003 were adopted.

Matters Arising:

1. Anniversary Booklet: Archbishop Hurley in acknowledging his copies of the booklet praised the issue as "a very pleasing production".
2. Newsletter:
  - 2.1 Chris Townsend would be asked to gather news at the Soweto School of Theology. GR
  - 2.2 Kevin McDonnell would gather news at the Catholic Biblical College. GR
  - 2.3 Lumko would be invited to nominate a correspondent. AP
  - 2.4 The meeting noted the illness of the editor with concern and wished her a speedy recovery.
3. Carried forward:
  - 3.1 The designing of a new publicity pamphlet. JS
  - 3.2 The designing of a new CTSSA logo. JS
4. Regional Meetings: It was noted that
  - 4.1 A further very successful gathering of theologians had been held at Cedara under the auspices of the CTSSA—Eastern Zone, arranged by Charles Ryan;
  - 4.2 Charles be asked to provide a brief report for inclusion in the newsletter.
  - 4.3 The Executive committed itself to a meeting of the Northern region in September 2003 using material available at the video conferencing facility. GR
5. Visit of Prof. Fuchs; A provisional itinerary has been arranged as follows:  
Saturday 27/09/03 -- PTA

Tuesday 30/09/03 --UNISA  
Tuesday 30/09/03 --Public lecture at St Augustine's College  
Thursday 02/10/03 --SJV 4<sup>th</sup> year students  
Thursday 02/10/03 --Open Lecture at SJV

6. AIDS Conference: The academic papers presented at the conference, edited by Stuart Bate and entitled "Responsibility in a Time of AIDS", will be launched at five venues during July 2003.

7. INSeCT

7.1 INSeCT is seeking theologians to serve on an editorial board of an African Theological project and to publish short essays on their website. The CTSSA will not respond to this initiative as yet.

7.2 It is seeking website information on the state of Catholic theology in SA. GR undertook to discuss this matter with members of the CTSSA Executive at St Augustine's. GR AP will discuss the project with the academic staff at SJV.

8. Conference 2004: Agreed that:

8.1 CTSSA invite the SACBC and St Augustine's College to co-host the conference AM/GR

8.2 The conference be held at St Augustine's College during Michaelmas recess.

8.3 Staff at Cedara be consulted regarding these matters. AD

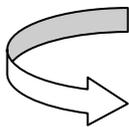
9. Recruiting: It was agreed that:

9.1 A promotional desk be manned at conferences. AD

9.2 Final year students at SJV be invited to join the Society. AP

9.3 The Episcopate be requested to promote the Society. AP

10. Next meeting: 7 August 2003 at 15h30, Santa Sophia to be followed by the AIDS papers' launch at SJV at 17h30.



A message from your editor:

Sorry for the delay in production. I am now back to work and anticipate that the next newsletter will be produced in early October. Can you send me any information by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October? Anyone want to do a book review?

Jean Evans, at [mercymakau@worldonline.co.za](mailto:mercymakau@worldonline.co.za)  
(084) 822-0020; (012) 703-3110; fax (012) 703-0021

If you have any suggestion for a logo and/or more interesting format, please contact me. Publisher is easier for a newsletter, but I'm not sure everyone has it.

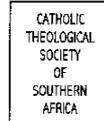
I am attaching copies of the programme for Conference 2003 and information on INSeCT for your perusal.

"What was not in my plan, was in God's plan. The more often I experience this, the deeper becomes my conviction in faith, that seen from God's angle there are no chance events."

—Saint Edith Stein



SACBC AIDS



The SACBC AIDS Office, the Catholic Theological Society of South Africa and  
St Augustine College of South Africa present

**RESPONSIBILITY IN A TIME OF AIDS  
A Theological Response to the Pandemic**

**PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday 5 February 2003**

16h00-16h45 Arrival and Registration

17h00 –18h30

Some Words of Welcome

Sr. Alison Munro OP , Coordinating Secretary SACBC AIDS desk

Prof. Edith Raidt, Vice Chancellor, St Augustine College of South Africa.

Introduction to the Conference

Prof. Stuart C Bate

**(Public Lecture)**

**Responsibility: the Catholic Tradition**

Dr Charles Ryan 30 mins

Dr Jennifer Slater OP 15 mins

Discussion 40 mins

**Thursday 6 February 2003**

07h15 Eucharist

07h45 Breakfast

**08h30-09h30 Responsibility: the Prevention of HIV/AIDS**

Sr Alison Munro, OP 30 mins

Dr Graham Rose 15 mins

Discussion 15 mins

**09h30-10h30 Responsibility and Caring for One Another**

Dr Patricia Fresen OP 30 mins

Mr Johan Viljoen 15 mins

Discussion 15 mins

10h30-11h00 Tea

11h00-12h00 **Responsibility and African Culture**

Fr Siphon Vitus Ncube 30 mins

Dr Sithembele Sipuka 15 mins

Discussion 15 mins

12h00-13h00 **Responsibility and the Media**

Fr Gabriel Afagbegee 30 mins

Ms Else Strivens 15 mins

Discussion 15 mins

13h00 Lunch

14h30-16h30 **Group Work I**

Dr Anselm Prior OFM

17h00-18h30 **(Public Lecture)**

**Responsibility: Religious and Cultural Healing**

Prof. Stuart Bate OMI 30 mins

Dr Jennifer Alt OP 15 mins

Discussion 45 mins

**Friday 7 February 2003**

07h00 **Liturgy: Responsibility in a Time of AIDS**

Bishop Kevin Dowling CSsR

07h45 Breakfast

08h30-10h30 **Group Work II**

Dr Anselm Prior OFM

10h30-11h00 Tea

11h00-13h00 **Group Work III and Report Back**

Dr Anselm Prior OFM

13h00 Lunch and Departure

Contact Person: Dineo Monyepao at [dmonyepao@sacbc.org.za](mailto:dmonyepao@sacbc.org.za);

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