

## **INSeCT Steering Committee Annual Meeting**

**June 6-10 2018**

### **Minutes and Actions Items 1**

- A. Updates and Agenda
- B. Planning and Preparation for CTSA Meeting & INSeCT Input
- C. Sarajevo – CTEWC: INSeCT Poster on Kairos Project
- D. Kairos Project
- E. General Assembly 2020

## **A. Updates and Agenda**

### **1. Updates re Regional Members of Respective Steering Committee (SC) officers**

### **2. Report on Gender Justice Project follow-up**

- Moving forward with single article disseminating fruits of project
- Blending this with case study from ACTA with possible case studies from ESWT and other regions in later sections.
- Alternative to take the first part and substitute ESWT case study for ACTA and publish in ET
- Preference consensus seems to be for one single article.

### **3. Priorities for Our Working Time Together**

- Discerning mission and priorities for INSeCT
- Helping communicate this to CTSA board and membership (to replicate elsewhere)
- We agreed common aims and objectives for the duration of our time in Indianapolis and we achieved these very well. INSeCT was visible and all SC members interacted throughout with a wide range of CTSA members and helped more folk understand what INSeCT is and what it is about.
- The feedback I received from INSeCT Board members past and present was uniformly positive. Job well done folks!

## **B. Planning and Preparation for CTSA Meeting & INSeCT Input**

Our Collective Session on Kairos Project at CTSA – Respective Regional Components and Presentations

The session took place on **Saturday morning, June 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11.00-12.45pm in the Austin/Boston meeting rooms.**

This session also helped us brainstorm and prepare further for our outreach to member societies engaging them in the Kairos project itself.

Our agreed format was as follows:

- A. GM introduced the session, explaining INSeCT’s background, origins, history, mission and its work and then introduced the Kairos project.
- B. Each board member then spoke addressing core questions for exploration and areas of focus for the Kairos project relative to the specific regions we represent.
- C. The purpose here was to offer **snapshot of what is happening in particular regions and countries.**
- D. Each regional representative introduced themselves, explaining where they work, what areas they work in etc.
- E. Each spoke about some of the societies of theology in their respective region which are members of INSeCT
- F. Each next reflected on the Questions and topics we considered on Thursday morning.
- G. Each were asked to choose *maximum* of FIVE key themes/areas/questions to address in your presentation. Exploring the **practitioners** of theology, the **focus** of theology, the **facilitation** of theology, the **impact** of theology, and the **futures** for theology in your region (including challenges/aspirations for theology).
- H. We agreed there would obviously be wide variations throughout the different parts of each region. So as with the themes/topics/questions, we decided to choose an exemplary yet necessarily limited selection of areas that will give a flavor of the state of theology across your region.
- I. We also agreed to find questions and areas of focus that are not too narrow or specialized but which can rather draw together multiple areas of concern/challenges/potential/aspirations for theology and the church in our area specific to the description of the Kairos project in general (e.g. the potential for and how to facilitate greater collaboration between the official church and theology in our region etc.).
- J. The remainder of the session was devoted to discussion.

Our preparation for the CTSA group presentation session allowed us to dovetail four important areas of work:

1. Determining core questions for exploration and areas of focus for the Kairos project relative to the specific regions we represent
2. Further fleshing out the aims and focus of the Kairos project in general
3. Presenting these to the CTSA session
4. Formatting the same in a creative way for the INSeCT Poster-style presentation to be presented at the CTEWC conference in Sarajevo

### **C. Sarajevo – CTEWC: INSeCT Poster on Kairos Project**

1. Producing Regional aspects of Poster - *we agreed to dovetail this with aspects of preparation for the CTSA group presentation:*
2. *All were asked think about how the key points of their CTSA presentation can be represented in diagrammic form for the CETWC poster for INSeCT*
3. See further details here:  
<https://www.ctewcsarajevo.com/conference-papersposters/>  
and instructions here:  
<http://www.catholicethics.com/top-stories/sarajevo-conference-presentation-posters>
4. It was suggested each think about designing something analogous to 1-2 PowerPoint slides for this and we will bring these together soon.
5. **Please send me these as soon as you can so the poster can be produced well in advance of Sarajevo – ideally before July 4<sup>th</sup> at the latest.**
6. Volunteers for production (creative skills/imagery etc. for poster)
7. Presenting and manning the poster and fielding enquires to promote Kairos project
8. Organizing meetings of INSeCT SC in Sarajevo

## **D. Kairos Project**

### **1. Revisions to Project Proposal**

We discussed new revised documents – one for our own internal strategic thinking and a second project description more suited to external dissemination (some audiences will need to see a combination of both, of course).

#### *Action Items and Substantive Points of Discussion:*

- a. Blend helpful/necessary aspects of SC document into General call document
- b. Underlining the integrated focus of INSeCT's work in this three year cycle: instead of multiple tasks this project, Rome General Assembly and the Catholic Theology Worldwide Reports are all brought together – 2020 will be coherent in focusing on this.
- c. PA – Doc 2 – clarify serving the church serving the world (no. 6) [or leave helpful ambiguity which communicates both/and? MH Not one without other (Certeau)]
- d. GP – revisit church-world relationship dynamics (e.g. *Gaudium et Spes* and subsequent shifts – from Vatican II – church IN the world to JPPII/Ratzinger in but against the world)
- e. GM correlation debates; two-way church-world relations and learning opportunities (back to G&S, JXXIII, now Francis contra JPPII/Ratzinger)
- f. MH - Doc 1 no. 8 has key priorities identified; maybe include some organizational history and memory; developing priority of INSeCT as collaborative partner and critical friend; flesh this out further; working of ecclesial dialogue should be on table and named; MH Define and clarify what synodality and magisterium mean for INSeCT document more explicitly to aid dialogue
- g. GM – Cath Theology serves the church which exists to serve the world
- h. PA again brought the issues of avoiding overlap with mission and work of CICT-Conférence des institutions catholiques de théologie/CICT-Conferencia de las instituciones católicas de teología/COCTI-Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions. Discussion ensued to determine that our project is distinctive from and hopefully complementary to the work of CICT/COCTI etc. One problem raised was that it is difficult to actually discern what that organization is presently focused upon because its websites are out of date and it is difficult to ascertain who it is best to contact in relation to its leadership because it is disparate and spread geographically and linguistically.

### **2. Fleshing Out different components - Adapting and Developing Catholic Theology Worldwide Reports & Program**

- a. GM – again Rome essentially and this project devotes whole GA time to Cath Theo Worldwide rather than multiple tasks
- b. GP more than regional reports; panels and discussions on common themes; Rome is a beginning – rather than the end so we are not constrained by time
- c. MH encouraging regions to keep address what's being worked on already

- d. GM – we need to decide on best format to engage Vatican dicasteries; different thematic panels to engage specific dicasteries on particular groups of issues/themes
- e. PA – making explicit interreligious dialogue and ecological questions as priorities

### **3. Core Questions and Themes to pursue**

We discussed a framework of themes that break down into further questions around each thematic cluster. Of course, not all of these could be covered by each region/member society but we need to decide whether to send all or a selection of question or simply the themes (along the lines of how each SC member presented at the CTSA session).

#### Practitioners of Theology:

1. In general terms, who are the key producers of theology today in your region/context and what are some of their main sources and resources?
2. Where are tomorrow's theologians coming from in your region/society? Please consider your answer also with regard to factors such as background (social, ethnic, gender, denominational, religious, regional or disciplinary).
3. In your region/context, describe the relations between Theologians and the official church?
4. In what ways can Catholic theologians in your region or specific contexts, as well as the wider church, best embrace this *kairos* moment?

#### Focus of Theology:

1. What are the three most exciting or important questions and/or fields of enquiry being pursued in theology today in your region/context?
2. Highlight three important ways in which theology, as a subject and as a discipline, has changed over the past fifty years in your region/context? Why are these changes significant?

#### The Facilitation of Theology:

1. In your geographical context, who are the main supporters, facilitators and enablers of theological research and scholarship today? (please list 3-5)?
2. What do you believe are the noteworthy shifts in relation to the above in recent times compared to the final decades of the twentieth century? (please list at least 3)
3. How can INSeCT best help facilitate theology/build bridges within your region and between your region and other areas?

#### Impact of Theology:

1. Who are the main beneficiaries of theological research and scholarship in your region/context today?

2. Can you identify three of the most important ways in which theology makes a positive difference in your region/context and our wider world today?
3. How can theology help to facilitate engagement and dialogue between polarized elements of our increasingly divided societies?

#### Futures for Theology

1. What are the three biggest challenges for the future of theology in your context/region?
  2. Where are the most significant gaps in the facilitation of theology today in your region/context? (please suggest 1-3)?
  3. Identify the three key priorities for the future of theology in your region/context
  4. What forms and types of dialogue may best serve the future of theology in your region/context?
- **Do we also need to add questions relating to the past vis-a-vis the present**
  - **Question on abuse crisis? Or more as a theme?**

#### Further Key Aspirations for INSeCT from the Kairos Project Documents:

- We also aim to explore how future INSeCT initiatives might pose and explore two key questions: ‘How can we help? How can we work together?’ These questions being addressed vis-à-vis both the church (official, regional and local) and wider society. INSeCT can also assist theological groups and organizations at both the regional and global level to explore the same questions.
  - Therefore INSeCT will seek to develop its mission in serving as a facilitator of exchange and dialogue: an authoritative go-between with ecclesial bodies and authorities and, where appropriate, secular bodies – representing the interests of members and of theology and of the global church in our representative regions.
  - INSeCT can therefore aim to serve in a synodal function in multiple ways, including acting as a body both Rome and global, regional, national and local bishops can consult on particular issues as in older centuries. INSeCT’s future work can involve the initiation of further consultations, bringing key dialogue partners together to share and discern results
4. **Framing regional and issue-specific questions**
    - **Instead of INSeCT developing the regional-specific questions, it was decided to base the invitation to regions and member societies on the general questions above to elicit region specific responses.**

- So we will distribute a list of core questions for every region, oriented to their contexts, and we can also invite each region/member society also to adapt and fashion/add their own questions (see description in general KP document).
- We can also further adapt some of the questions/orientation from the KP documents, themselves.

In our further brainstorming some region-specific issues were identified e.g.

Europe Church-Secular Relations as key focus/Faith/reason etc.

Brasil – SOTER July Belo Horizonte conference coming on Church, Ethics and Politics

Another issue = hate speech *within* the church, against bishops, for example which is a novel development

*Once again, it would be helpful in drawing all this together, if each SC member could draw together the key themes and questions from their CTSA presentation in writing this up and preparing the slide format for the collective Sarajevo INSeCT Poster. Again this combines several goals into one core task!*

##### **5. Call to Members (delayed due to need for Rome interaction)**

- **Ask societies to make this the focus of their forthcoming conference(s) in part at least/and include as wide a range of members as possible in discernment of their societal/regional reports**
- **Include request for membership payment**

- As a suggested *modus operandi*, we could ask members to begin by taking the 2017 Catholic Theology Worldwide reports, updating them and modifying them as ‘position papers’ to inspire/kick-start wider reflections throughout their member societies and/or regions working toward the production of more in-depth presentation(s) and papers aimed at other regional members as well as at church curial depts. and bishops conferences.
- So we widen the Catholic Theology Worldwide focus so that entire societies rather than just one or two people engaging in shaping snapshot of what is happening in particular regions and countries. We also broaden the focus and range of issues addressed.
- So the original reports can be expanded and the questions which we as the SC send to members will help take the focus and discussions forward in each region.
- The aim will be that each region/wider range of member societies will offer a presentation and shorter paper on the ‘State of Catholic theology in ....’ at the next General Council
- This can also feed into the presentations to/discussion with members of Vatican depts. Etc. and also in preparation for publication in book/journal and/or online form to serve as wider resources for connecting Catholic Theology Worldwide.

A key intention, therefore is to aim to mutually inform and educate member societies and to educate Vatican depts and bishops' conferences on what is happening with theology worldwide, issues of concern, challenges, achievements and aspirations as well as to help demonstrate ways in which (interaction between) member societies and INSeCT in general can offer multiple resources for the church globally and dicasteries in Rome alike.

- A further key aim to work toward General Councils by default being occasions for mutual learning about what is happening in global theology across global regions and between differing sectors of the church as a key priority.

#### **6. Kairos Sub projects??**

We resolved to keep the focus on the common core project – other projects worldwide can and no doubt be reported in their responses

#### **7. Getting media to promote project – engaging internationally and regionally**

- *All SC members to write short pieces to spread word on project with attention to region specifics*
- *Utilize our respective media contacts to promote the Kairos project, INSeCT in general and Rome 2020 in particular*

#### **8. Starting to Think about Organization and Division of labour re Kairos Project and General Assembly – see below**

## **E. General Assembly 2020**

### **Organization and Logistics General Assembly 2020**

*Question re: Timeframe Should it be 2021?? Can we organize all we wish to in time for 2020?*

- **Funding General Assembly 2020**
- *Modify Member Society invitation letter and Kairos Project internal doc 1 to act as grant application letter - Detail what GA entails and practicalities*
- **Grant bid to include costs of steering group meetings and publication/follow-up meetings before and after Rome 2020**
- Porticus
- Renovabis
- Aid to the Church in Need
- KDFB & SKF (Catholic Women's Organization – Germany/Switzerland)
- Sponsored by Religious Orders
- US Foundations?
- Roman Dicasteries – at least to help in kind – getting venues, rooms, meals etc.
- Religious Orders
- Media Outlets
  
- Contribution from member societies in different ways to general funds
- Need to look at delegates getting sponsored one by one then budget for venues, meals, excursions
- Seek in-kind support from locals in Rome as much as possible

### **Locations**

- Roman Universities (to help host and facilitate?) Gregorian (Maeve to enquire) Urbaniana
- Casa Santa Marta?
- Religious Orders
- PISAI
- Servites (Martin) – for steering committee meeting in 2019
- Scalabrinians (House and Meet at SIMI?)
- Dominicans
- Benedictines
- Franciscans
- Jesuits? (Ask Drew Christiansen - ) make enquiries
- Irish College
- Lay Center (gratis? Doubtful but can ask)

- Domus Romana
- American Academy of Rome
- Civita Cattolica (at least as conference venue) – via Spadaro
- ACU/CUA/Notre Dame/BC Rome centers?
- Centro Pro Unione

- **Time of year:**

*Dates discussed: 5 days - September (arrive by 13 begin assembly on 14, leave earliest on Sat 19 – so actual full working days are Sept. 14-18*

*Or following week – arrive by 20, begin assembly on 21, work each day up to including 25, departing at earliest on 26*

One of these weeks to be confirmed ASAP – both seemed possible for all SC members

Alternative possible dates: Post Easter (April 20)? January?

- **Following-up on advance Rome outreach and elsewhere**
- **Modify Invite letter for ecclesial groups making clear the format and what it will entail, stressing it is the Kairos General Assembly**
- **Utilize pages 2-3 of Doc 1**
- *From now onwards campaign of sustained outreach – from a distance and in person*
- *Working to get concept of Kairos Project to Francis*
- *Dicasteries: Culture, Human Development, Bishops, Religious, New Evangelization, Interreligious Dialogue Christian Unity (Education? CDF?)*
- Bishop Paul Tighe has volunteered to help open doors
- New Ecclesial Movements etc. – Sant’Egidio, Focolare etc? Roberto Catalano
- MH – visit to Rome in September
- PA – outreach to General Secretary of Congregation for Bishops
- Broad sweep focusing on facilitating INSeCT being in position of collaboration and influence permanently to represent members and influence church and world policies in delivering original INSeCT aims and goals

- **Format of Rome 2020:**

Length – 5 days including business meeting

- Move from overview/introductory presentations to Themes, panels, regional sessions and/or thematic sessions
- **Determine themes and clusters of themes in advance or (and) once reports are submitted**
- Limited number of invited Plenary speakers to inspire discussions?
- Include workshops/group work or all plenary so everyone shares same experiences and information – important all are together – more synodal – latter deemed priority – except:

- **INSeCT Business workshops for futures of INSeCT and meetings; General Council voting meeting**
- **Opportunity to make a key positive difference and INSeCT serve as representative and advisory body to Rome and the Bishops' Conferences**
- Invite additional delegates from key regions esp the most diverse
- **Invite responses from dicasteries to presentations?**

**Activities:**

- Papal audience?
- 2-4 plenaries?
- Excursions and/or visits to Dicasteries?
- Sant E'Gidio/Focolare/Scalabrinians
- Something cultural/musical/fun from each region.

**Further Practicalities/Logistics:**

- Simultaneous translation (include in grant) – Vatican has resources. Get grad students, priests and religious to help.
- Grads to assist in organization postdocs for wider project and publications
- Engage all key journalists from round world and media key folk from start (not necessary to fund them –their organizations should do so).
- ***Division of Labour and roles among ourselves - To move things along more swiftly – perhaps consider inviting wider team from among INSeCT veterans to also help***