

The Thomas More Society

The Thomas More Society of America • P.O. Drawer 33609, Farragut Station • Washington, DC 20033-0609

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1983

Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of the Thomas More Society was held Saturday, September 24, 1983, at 10:00 a.m. at the National Association of Broadcasters, Washington, D.C.

The officers for the 1983-84 term of office are:

President	Joseph B. McGrath
President-Elect	Dr. James E. Boland
Treasurer	James P. Keenan
Executive Secretary	Anthony J. Obadal
Chairman of the Board	Martin J. McNamara

Elected as directors at the meeting were: Mary Ellen Bork, Todd R. Eskelsen, Robert E. Lee, Howard T. Markey, and Anthony J. Obadal.

Bylaws

The proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were officially adopted April 1, 1983, by a vote of 77 mailed ballots. Under the terms of those amendments, new members pay dues in advance, and dues will be renewed at the beginning of the Society's fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report

Alice O'Donnell reported that the Society had total assets of over \$10,000 with approximately \$9,100 in cash and invested funds. The contributions of C. Normand Poirier and Judge Markey were acknowledged and the Society expressed its appreciation.

Awards Committee

The Society presents as appropriate the Thomas More Award, given to private citizens whose conduct illustrates the principles of More's life, and the Good Servant Award, given to public servants exemplifying More's principles.

William D. Ruckelshaus was suggested for the Good Servant Award, both for his courageous and principled stand during his previous governmental service and in

his current critical post. The membership voted to offer him the award.

The membership voted also to extend honorary membership in the TMS to Father Byron, president of Catholic University and speaker at this year's annual dinner.

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The board of directors meeting followed immediately after the close of the annual meeting.

The directors voted to extend resolutions of appreciation to Alice O'Donnell, Joseph B. McGrath, Joseph Crumlish, Regina McGranery and Anthony J. Obadal.

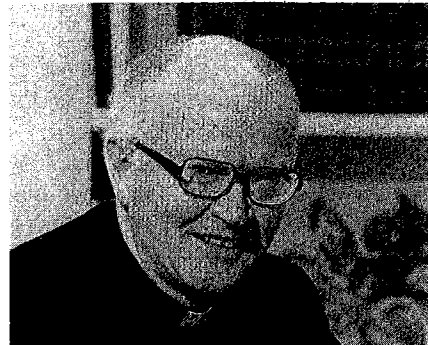
Incoming president Joseph McGrath discussed his goals for the Society:

1. A discussion series or colloquia that will emphasize More's values and ethics and their relevance to society today.
2. Increased membership, the expansion of chapters in other cities, and the development of a student chapter program. (See Development).
3. A more formal publications program through which the Society can stay in touch with its out-of-town members.

The committee chairmen were announced:

Mary Ellen Bork	Program & Activities
F. David Clarke	Membership
Joseph Crumlish	Publications
Hon. Howard T. Markey	Awards
Martin J. McNamara	Executive Committee
Anthony J. Obadal	Annual Dinner
Alice O'Donnell	Bylaws & Constitution
C. Normand Poirier	Scholarship Program
Robert Silano	Colloquia & Seminars
Nancy R. Sodeman	Chapters & Charters
Brian E. Crooks	Audit & Finance
James P. Keenan	Investment

The meeting was then adjourned.



William J. Byron, S.J.

DINNER WITH BYRON

William J. Byron, S. J., President of The Catholic University of America, was the featured speaker at the formal dinner of the Society, held October 27 at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Father Byron spoke on the role of the religiously oriented university in higher education.

Father Byron is the former president of the University of Scranton. He has served as member, trustee, and director of many educational, charitable and civic institutions, councils and organizations, and is the author of more than 70 publications dealing with economics, social ethics, and educational issues.

More For The Money: Donor Challenge

Robert E. Lee has announced that an anonymous donor will give \$2,000 to the Society if that amount is matched in other contributions by Christmas. The money will be used for the Society scholarship fund and for other philanthropic activities.

All interested in contributing should send their checks to The Thomas More Society, P.O. Drawer 33609, Farragut Station, Washington, D.C. 20033-0609. All contributions are tax deductible.

1983-84 Lecture Season: Bigger and Better than Ever

As a follow-up to the very successful 1982-83 program season, which included presentations by Bernard Bassett, S. J., descendant and biographer of More; Professor Thomas I. White, Upsala College, New Jersey; Ladislav Orsy, S.J., canon law specialist; Dr. Krivatsy, reference librarian at the Folger Shakespeare Library (see Feast Day, p. 3) and Blahoslav S. Hruby, Presbyterian clergyman and executive director of the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies, the Program Committee for the 1983-84 season is planning six to eight programs. Serving as chairman of the committee is Mary Ellen Bork. Details of the individual programs will appear in future newsletters and in mailings to the members.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Father Orsy, S. J., was a delegate to the election of the new general of the Jesuit order.

Robert E. Lee, former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, was a delegate to the Region 2 Administrative Conference for Satellite Communications, held June 7-July 17 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Chief Judge Harold T. Markey of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit was the guest of honor at the 111th Annual Banquet of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, held December 4, 1982 at the Capital Hilton Hotel.



Dr. Nati H. Krivatsy, Reference Librarian, Folger Shakespeare Library discussing Folger's Thomas More collection



The recently restored statue of St. Thomas More in St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill. Inscribed on the plaque on the prie-dieu is a prayer to St. Thomas composed by Hon. Howard T. Markey.



Seen at the dedication of the More statue and shrine at St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill are (left to right) Senator Frank A. Murowski, Alaska; Monsignor John J. Murphy, pastor of St. Joseph's; Senator Daniel P. Moynihan, New York; Chief Judge Howard T. Markey, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; and Joseph B. McGrath, TMS president.

Prayer to Thomas More

St. Thomas More, be our advocate and counsel before the Divine tribunal that alone is without error.

Bespeak for us the wisdom to apply the precepts of God's eternal law to the problems of our daily lives.

Intercede for us that we may emulate the sense of humor which made your heart echo with the mirth of heaven.

Pray that we may spurn false oaths and live as you did, faithful to our faith, even though by doing so we may be called upon to sacrifice our all as you sacrificed yours.

These things seek for us through the merits of Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

Amen.

—Prayer written by Hon. Howard T. Markey, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and founder of the Thomas More Society, and set in a plaque mounted on the prie-dieu in front of the statue of More in St. Joseph's Church.

Ex Libris

UTOPIA

THE BEST STATE OF A COMMONWEALTH AND THE NEW ISLAND OF UTOPIA, *A truly Golden Handbook, no less Beneficial than Entertaining*, by the Distinguished and Eloquent Author THOMAS MORE Citizen and Sheriff of the Famous City of London.

Thus proclaims the title page of Thomas More's Renaissance *magnum opus* which is must reading for every student of More, his life and his times.

Thomas produced this serio-comic dialogue about the best of all possible worlds as a vehicle for elaborating ideas which, quoth he "... it is easier for me to wish for in our states than to have any hope of seeing realized."

One Utopian concept, far in advance of its time is now, according to fellow member Ladislav Orsy, S. J., fundamental to 20th century Catholicism—"... that the individual may be free to conceive of God with the most ardent devotion in any form he pleases." Religious freedom is but one of many novel features of this endearing tale.

The Yale edition of *Utopia*, with a scholarly and satisfying introduction by Edward Surtz, S. J., is available for \$12.00 in hardback and \$3.25 in paperback at Yale University Press, 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

Joseph D. Crumlish

Give More This Christmas

Give the gift of wit, humor, grace, scholarship, friendship, courage, and history this Christmas. Give the memory and example of Thomas More to valued friends and colleagues by enrolling them as members of the Thomas More Society.

Your gift of membership makes available a year's activities that include fine lectures by eminent speakers, a gala annual dinner, the bound volume of *Moreana*, with articles on every aspect of More's life, thought, and works and those of his contemporaries. Perhaps most important of all is the chance to share the companionship of those who cherish what More represents as a shining figure of his age and an example to our own.

Society membership is growing, the first-rate lecture series is expanding, the number of chapters is increasing and they are mounting very active programs, and Society development is being formalized as a major step in reaching a wider audience.

Why not help that growth and development by introducing someone to the spirit of More and the Society?

Development A Major Goal

Recognizing that development is crucial to growth and the increased awareness of the Society's goals and activities, the Society has taken several steps.

Scholarship Fund

At the annual meeting, the membership voted unanimously to accept the suggestion of C. Normand Poirier to establish a fund which would award scholarships annually to high school seniors for their essays on some aspect of More's life or works. The committee noted "There is much in the time in which More lived to resemble ours: ideological conflict, extensive and cruel wars threatening whole portions of the civilized world, religious confusion, explosion of thought, educational and cultural change, and new means of disseminating information widely. What better role model for young people in our own time who have few genuine heroes." The committee plans to award prizes of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively, or alternatively, six prizes of \$1,000 each, to the winning students.

The decision of the selection panel, composed of academic and others knowledgeable about More, will be final, and the Society would have all rights to any essays submitted.

Poirier suggested a goal of \$100,000, to be raised by such things as dinners for selected individuals, black tie galas, as well as by approaching wealthy individuals and corporate scholarship committees. Robert E. Lee has already contributed \$1,000 in seed funds to the effort. All funds collected will be maintained in interest bearing accounts, and expenditures will be carefully controlled.

Committee on Chapters

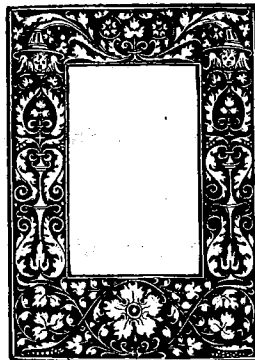
Dr. Nancy R. Sodeman of Texas was appointed chairman of a committee on chapters earlier in the year, at the April 12 board meeting. This committee will advise the board on how best to help already existing chapters and encourage the formation of new chapters. Aiding Dr. Sodeman in this important work are Charles LiMandri, involved in establishing the new chapter on the West Coast, and C. Normand Poirier.

FEAST DAY CEREMONIES

The Society observed the feast day of St. Thomas More, June 22, with a mass at St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill celebrated by Monsignor John J. Murphy, pastor. Monsignor John A. O'Connell, rector of St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington, gave the homily. Following mass, the renovated statue of St. Thomas More and the newly constructed shrine to him were dedicated. The shrine includes a prie-dieu on which is mounted a plaque with a prayer to the saint written by Judge Markey.

There was a luncheon reception in the Hart Senate Office Building following the ceremonies. Dr. Nati H. Krivatsy, reference librarian at the Folger Shakespeare Library, was the luncheon speaker. She discussed the creation of the Folger collection, and the Folger's English and Continental Renaissance holdings, which include important editions of More's works and those of his contemporaries. Dr. Krivatsy organized the exhibit, *Sir Thomas More: the Man and His Age*, in 1978 in honor of the 500th anniversary of More's birth, as well as the current Folger exhibition celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth. Among the items in the Luther exhibit are Leo X's *Exsurge Domine*, the 1520 bull against Luther, and Henry VIII's 1521 treatise against Luther.

In the June 22 *Congressional Record*, Senator Durenberger inserted remarks noting the renovation of the statue and construction of the shrine in St. Joseph's. Durenberger observed how appropriate it was that a statue of More be located so close to the halls of government, and referred to More's public service, close family life, place in history as author, humanist and wit, and his great moral courage. The Senator's remarks were reprinted and mailed to the membership.



Border ornament from Martin Luther's and Philipp Melancthon's *Vom Reych Gottes Was Es Sey Und Wie*, printed in Augsburg in 1525. The Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.

Chapters On The Move

West Coast Chapter Formed

The Thomas More Society of San Diego, consisting of the law schools of the University of San Diego and Cal Western, was formed in January, 1983. Membership is open to all members of the law school communities, including students, administration, faculty and staff. For its first year, the Society planned three evening meetings, with an attorney or judge as speaker, followed by discussion. The society promotes and promulgates the contemporary relevance of More's principles, and allows students to meet members in the community who have an interest in More and what he represents.

Catholic University

The Thomas More Society of The Catholic University of America, founded 1983, sponsors weekly lectures on some aspect of More's life or a seminar on some contemporary issue studied in the light of Catholic principles. Twice monthly members receive articles, booklets, or some bit of *Moreana* as well as readings that pertain to the lectures and seminars. Discussion topics include More as well as contemporary moral and ethical issues.

Georgetown University

According to Todd Eskelsen, head of the Georgetown Law School chapter, and a member of the board of directors of the Society, his chapter is emphasizing the role of the lawyer in society today, and anticipates conducting seminars on the American Bar Association's changes in the Code of Ethics. Dr. Healey will address the chapter, and the group will discuss the relevance of Utopia to contemporary life.