



More News

The Newsletter of the Thomas More Society of America

Advent 1994

Anne O'Donnell, SND to Speak at TMS Luncheon

The Program Committee of the Thomas More Society is pleased to announce that Anne M. O'Donnell, SND, will address members of the Society and their guests at a luncheon to be held January 26, 1995, at the University Club, at noon. Sr. O'Donnell will discuss the contention between Thomas More and his great opponent William Tyndale.

In a time when our political discourse seems to be marked by polarization and invective, it will be particularly interesting for TMS members to learn about Thomas More's contentions in the public square.

Sr. O'Donnell is an Associate Professor of English, the Catholic University of America, and is a well known scholar of the English Reformation. TMS Members may remember her address to the Society a few years back. More recently, Sr. O'Donnell organized the conference "William Tyndale: Church, State & Word," held at Catholic University and the Folger Library in July. Sr. O'Donnell has been a guest editor of *Moreana*, and has written extensively on Thomas More, William Tyndale, and Erasmus. We are fortunate to have a guest speaker of her stature.

An invitation and reservation form will be mailed in January, but the date fast approaches, so mark your calendars now. For more information, call Deborah Sanger (301) 434-4178.

Thomas More Society Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Program of the Thomas More Society, held on November 19, at the Columbus Law School of the Catholic University, was a great success. Everybody attending was moved and enlightened by the homily of Father Robert Kennedy at the opening Mass, and the new law school facility provided a wonderful backdrop for the event.

Dean Ralph J. Rohner addressed the Society, on "The A.B.A. vs. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*: Predicament or Opportunity for Catholic Law Schools?" Dean Rohner's discussion of actual and perceived conflicts between the ABA's accreditation procedures and the obligations and mission of Catholic universities was both edifying and encouraging. A spirited question period followed.

The official business of the evening was the installation of President Robert A. Dufek. After being introduced by outgoing president Patricia McGuire, Mr. Dufek spoke briefly, sharing his vision of the direction which the Society should take in the next year. In particular, he would like the TMS to return to Thomas More himself as a focus of its activities, to broaden the membership base, and to foster more ongoing communication between the Board of Directors and members.

As a token of thanks to Dean Rohner and the Columbus Law School, the Society presented a framed print of the Holbein portrait of Thomas More to the Law School.

The Thomas More Society of America

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Robert A. Dufek, President
George F. Georges, Treasurer
Deborah Friedman Sanger, Secretary

Report from the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Thomas More Society met on December 12, 1994. President Dufek opened the meeting by stating what he considered the three most important goals of the Society for 1995:

- (1) Reinvigoration of the Society, including establishment of active committees, renewal of the scholarship program and a membership drive. Particular attention will be paid to developing relationships with area law schools.
- (2) A return to Thomas More and Moreana as the base of the Society's programs.
- (3) Increased communication with members, to be accomplished by frequent newsletters. The institution of regular small group gatherings, as well as more formal programs, will enable members to meet and discuss items of interest on a regular basis.

Mr. Dufek commended Dean Rohner and Fr. Robert Kennedy for their parts in the annual meeting. Thanks were extended to Mr. Higgins for his organizing efforts, and to Mr. McGrath for researching the history of the Holbein portrait of Thomas More, which was presented to the Columbus Law School.

Items of particular interest include the establishment of a **Small Group Committee**. John Higgins suggested that the Society form small study groups, in which 5-6 members

meet on a regular basis to discuss a pre-assigned reading by or about Thomas More. Such groups could meet at lunchtime, evenings, or weekends, at a place determined by the participants. It is envisaged that ultimately several of these groups could run simultaneously. Members will be polled to determine interest.

The Program Committee: In addition to the January luncheon (*see article*), programs are planned for March and May, as well as the Annual Dinner in November.

A Student Chapter Committee has been formed to develop relations with students at area law schools. The Board determined that students from these law schools should be invited to Society Programs.

The Scholarship Committee, under the direction of Pat McGuire, is working on reactivation of the Scholarship Program, and on development of procedures for awarding scholarships to high school students.

All members who are interested in working on any aspect of the Society's activities or program are encouraged to call President Robert Dufek (202)467-7135.

A Christmas Prayer

The whole church rejoices today, Almighty Father, for thine only Son, whom the prophets foretold, came into this world as dew upon the grass and made joy to spring up abundantly. Therefore the earth also sings her delight, for, watered by the rain from heaven, she offers wonderful gifts to her redeemer.

