

“Pope Benedict XVI and the Sacred Liturgy” SCL Annual Conference Report 2007

Ed Schaefer and Daniel G. Van Slyke

The eleventh annual conference and general meeting of the Society for Catholic Liturgy took place 20-23 September 2007 at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. The timely theme of the conference, “Pope Benedict XVI and the Sacred Liturgy” provided a new direction for the Society’s conferences. It following a series of two conferences dedicated to sacramental themes, beginning with “Sacraments of Initiation” in 2005 and “Sacraments of Healing” in 2006.

PRESENTATIONS

The 2007 annual conference witnessed the introduction of a new format, which divided presentations into two tracks. The bulk of speakers presented scholarly papers in Track I sessions, while several presenters led the more practically-oriented Track II sessions. The roster of speakers and topics follows, listed alphabetically by last name:

- Matthew G. Alderman, Architect, “Manifesting Heaven: Architectural Solutions for *The Spirit of the Liturgy*”
- Rev. Thomas Buffer, “Making the ‘Rite’ Choice: Music and the Liturgy”
- Richard H. Bulzacchelli, Aquinas College, “The Meaning of Sacrifice in the Theology of Joseph Ratzinger”
- Rev. Jack Custer, Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, “The Eucharist as Thanksgiving Sacrifice”
- Conrad Donakowski, University of Michigan (emeritus), “A City of God: Ratzinger at Regensburg”

- Robert Fastiggi, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, “The Eucharistic Ecclesiology of Benedict XVI”
- Michael P. Foley, Baylor University, “The Whence and Whither of the Kiss of Peace in the Roman Rite”
- Sr Madeline Grace, Aquinas College, “Facing East: Is It a Liturgical Practice which Needs to Be Revisited Today?”
- Helen Harrison, Sydney, Australia, “*Ad cenam Agni providi* with Plainsong and Polyphony”
- William Heyer, Architect, “Architecture of the Josephinum”
- Janice Kraus, independent scholar, “Finding Jesus Christ – in Prayer, in the Liturgy, in the Church: Catholic Liturgy and the Problem of Protestant Evangelical Converts”
- Anthony Lilles, St John Vianney Theological Seminary, “Sacramental Mysticism: The Teaching of Pope Benedict and the Experience of the Saints”
- Msgr Richard Malone, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, “Benedict XVI on the Sacrifice of the Mass”
- Stephen Mirarchi, independent scholar, “Tears in the Liturgy: Lachrymosity in the *Missale Romanum* since 1962”
- Rev. Robert Pesarchick, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, “Pope Benedict XVI and the Liturgy: The Incarnation, Inculturation, and the Liturgy”
- Linda Khirallah Porter, “Anchoring Confirmation to the Eucharist: Order or Age?”
- Edward Schaefer, Gonzaga University, “‘Active Participation’ and the Church’s Polyphonic Treasury”
- Philip Carl Smith, University of Notre Dame, “A Hermeneutic of Continuity for 20th Century Sacred Music”
- Thomas Gordon Smith, University of Notre Dame, “Evangelizing Through Sacred Art and Culture”

- Rev. William J. Turner, “Catholic Identity in Liturgy: A Methodology for Implementing Liturgical Changes”
- Daniel G. Van Slyke, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, “Active Participation from Pius X to Benedict XVI”
- Rev. Gavin N. Vaverek, “The Eucharist as a Celebration of Reconciliation”
- Rev. Timothy Vaverek, “Rediscovering Vatican II: The 1962 and 1970 Roman Missals in the 21st Century”

All of these presenters responded to the Society for Catholic Liturgy’s first-ever open call for papers. In addition, the conference offered two plenary addresses. Dr Alcuin Reid opened the conference with a keynote address on “The Liturgical Reform of Pope Benedict XVI.” In the closing plenary address, Msgr Michael Magee of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia discussed “Three Windows into the Mind of Benedict XVI on the Liturgy,” reflecting on his experiences working in the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments. Check future issues of *Antiphon* for published versions of the conference presentations.

The Bishop’s Committee on the Liturgy [BCL] of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops once again demonstrated their appreciation for the work of Society for Catholic Liturgy in the person of Msgr James Moroney. Msgr Moroney engaged full members of the society in an informal conversation regarding the work of the BCL.

LITURGIES

Conference participants prayed the divine office and the Mass together each day, and also enjoyed a sacred music concert by the Magpie Consort. Lauds and Vespers were celebrated each morning and evening in the chapel. Dr James Yeager, of the Pontifical College Josephinum, organized the offices and provided musical leadership. Solemn Mass on Sunday morning concluded the conference.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

A business meeting for full members was held on Saturday morning. Fr Timothy Vaverek, outgoing president of the SCL, noted the following points in his report on the state of the society: (1) The SCL currently has 220 members; (2) The 2007 conference boasted the highest attendance of any conference in the society’s history; (3) The finances of the society are on solid footing, owing to the diligence of

Fr Paul Keller, O.P., who has been working as the ad-hoc treasurer of the society.

At the business meeting, members also approved the venue, date, and topic of the next general conference. It will meet in St Cecilia Cathedral of Omaha, Nebraska, from 29 January to 1 February 2009, and focus on the *Missale Romanum*. This decision means that the society will not host a conference in the calendar year 2008. Like the 2007 conference, the 2009 conference also will be preceded by an open call for papers.

The membership discussed the topic of the 2010 conference, and determined that it will be liturgical *munera*, in the sense of roles, offices, duties, and responsibilities. The exact title of the conference remains open. The board approved the conference dates of 28-31 January 2010.

Finally, the election of board members was held at the business meeting. Dr Edward Schaefer, Fr Paul Keller O.P., and Dr Daniel G. Van Slyke were re-elected, and joined by new member Dr Anthony Lilles. The board, in turn, elected its officers for 2007-2008: Dr Carmina Magnusen Chapp of St Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, who served as coordinator of the 2007 conference, was elected as the SCL's first female president; Fr Paul Keller O.P. was elected as the new vice-president; and Dr Edward Schaefer will serve again as secretary.

SUMMARY

With over 100 people attending – including pastors, seminarians, scholars, religious, and interested laity – the Society for Catholic Liturgy's 2007 conference was an immense success. The hospitality of Pontifical College Josephinum was appreciated by all, as was the high quality of presentations in both Track I and Track II. The society looks forward to another successful conference in January-February 2009. Be sure to check *Antiphon* and the web site of the Society for Catholic Liturgy (www.liturgy society.org) for the call for papers and further conference information as it becomes available.