

Canon Law Society of America  
Eighty-Seventh Annual Business Meeting  
Orlando, Florida  
October 15, 2025

**Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Very Reverend Patrick Cooney, OSB, President, called to order the Eighty-Seventh Annual Business Meeting of the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA) on October 15, 2025 at the Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld Hotel in Orlando, Florida at 11:09 a.m. He presided over the meeting as Chair and led the assembly in an opening prayer.

The Chair announced that Fr. Kevin Niehoff, OP, would serve as the timekeeper, and Mrs. Donna Miller, CLSA Executive Coordinator, would substitute for the Secretary, Sr. Rose Marie Timmer, RSM, who was unable to attend. He announced that the parliamentarian for the meeting would be Ms. Lucy Johnson and that *Robert's Rules of Order* would be used in matters not included in the CLSA Constitution or Bylaws.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Ms. Kathleen Butler, the General Secretary of the CLSA, presented the credentials report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the credentials report as presented, which was approved by the assembly.

ADOPT RULES OF MEETING

The Parliamentarian presented the proposed rules for the Business Meeting. The Chair stated that the Board of Governors moved for their approval. There was no discussion. All in favor were asked to stand. Seeing the clear majority for approval, the Chair declared the rules for the meeting were adopted.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Chair explained the minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Annual Business Meeting of the CLSA were published in the CLSA website Member Center and in the 2024 *Proceedings*. The Chair called for any corrections to the minutes as submitted; none were proposed. The Chair announced the minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Annual Business Meeting were approved and stand as published.

The Chair appointed Fr. Greg Luyet, Fr. Paul Counce, and Miss Mary Gen Blittschau as the approval committee for the minutes of this meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND CONSULTORS

Fr. Patrick invited Dr. Zabrina Decker, Chair of the Committee on Nominations, to present the slate of nominees for officers and consultors.

Fr. Patrick inquired if there were additional nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

After a brief instruction on the mechanics of the election, active members were invited to cast their ballots.

For the Office of Vice President/President-Elect

224 ballots were cast; 113 were needed for election. There were 2 invalid ballots. The votes cast were as follows:

Ms. Anna Marie Chamblee received 42  
Rev. Msgr. Robert Oliver received 180

The Chair declared that there was an election. The Rev. Msgr. Robert Oliver was elected Vice President/President-Elect.

For the Office of Treasurer

223 ballots were cast; 112 votes were needed for election. There was 1 invalid ballot. The votes cast were as follows:

Very Rev. Jeffrey Cabral received 96  
Rev. W. Chris Palladino received 126

The Chair declared that there was an election. The Rev. W. Chris Palladino was elected Treasurer.

For the Office of Consultor

221 ballots were cast; 111 votes were needed for election. There were 3 invalid ballots. The votes cast were as follows:

Mrs. Amanda Crawford received 60  
Rev. Msgr. Jason Gray received 124  
Rev. Alexander Laschuk received 77  
Ms. Lori A. Peery received 65  
Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse received 97

The Chair declared there was an election with the Rev. Msgr. Jason Gray elected as Consultor. A run-off election was then held between the Rev. Alexander Laschuk and Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse.

216 ballots were cast; 109 votes were needed for election. There were no invalid ballots. The votes cast were as follows:

Rev. Alexander Laschuk received 69  
Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse received 147

The Chair declared there was an election with Mr. Benjamin Roodhouse elected as Consultor.

## REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fr. Patrick referred the assembly to the complete text of his President's report. He highlighted the meeting at the Dicastery for Bishops with Cardinal Robert Prevost, who a few months later became Pope Leo XIV.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The CLSA Treasurer, the Very Rev. Jamin David, presented the Treasurer's report. Discussion followed.

### EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Donna Miller, the Executive Coordinator of the CLSA, presented her report.

### GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Kathleen Butler, General Secretary, presented her report.

## RESOLUTIONS

The Chair read the applicable CLSA Bylaws that govern the proposal of resolutions from the floor and asked if there were any such resolutions to be presented. There were none.

The Chair called the Rev. Langes Silva, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to the podium to present the resolution. After reading the resolution, Fr. Silva announced that the committee moved the resolution.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Fr. Jamin David, Treasurer, on behalf of the Board of Governors which developed the resolution, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Fr. John Hammond (Nashville) moved to divide the question into separate motions of raising the dues for Active and Associate Members from \$350 to \$400 beginning with the 2026-2027 fiscal year and of raising the dues for Student Members from \$175 to \$200 beginning with the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The motion to divide was seconded and approved.

The motion to raise the dues for Active and Associate Members from \$350 to \$400 per year beginning with the 2026-2027 fiscal year was approved.

The motion to raise the dues for Student Members from \$175 to \$200 per year failed.

[Note: The texts of the reports and resolutions as amended and approved will be included in the 2025 *Proceedings*.]

## CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

The Very Rev. Luke Millette, Chair of the Constitution Revision Commission, presented a report on the process and schedule of work. He reviewed the recent survey results, noting that only a small fraction of the membership responded to the two surveys. Of those responses, 84.7% support a two-year presidency. Several straw polls were conducted.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Chair opened the floor to discuss any new business of interest to the assembly; there was none.

## VARIA

The Chair welcomed the representatives of the sister canon law societies and invited them to address the assembly.

Fr. Gerard Tartaglia, President of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, thanked the CLSA for its hospitality and for our publications. He invited members to join the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Fr. Tartaglia reported that the *Canon Law Abstracts* are kept current on its website and in print. He invited the members to attend the next CLSGBI conference being held in Glasgow May 4-8, 2026.

Fr. Patrick advised the assembly that Fr. Chris Sherren, the Vice President of the Canadian Canon Law Society, was presiding at their concurrent Annual General Meeting but would address the membership the following day. Fr. Patrick noted that we received letters from other international canon law societies and encouraged everyone to read these in the *2025 Proceedings*.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved by the assembly. The 87th Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

Mrs. Donna Miller  
Executive Coordinator  
October 24, 2025

Approved by the Minutes Approval Committee on November 12, 2025:

Very Rev. Greg Luyet  
Very Rev. Paul Counce  
Miss Mary Gen Blittschau