Business Meeting Report, San Francisco, 5 January 2024

-- the major change at the journal over the past year was the death of Msgr. Robert Trisco at 93 years of age. He served the journal as its associate or managing editor for over sixty years. He worked on the journal until the very end, leaving the Periodical Literature section half-done and returning to his apartment where he suddenly fell and died. He is much missed. The CHR published his memoire and the funeral eulogy/homily of Cardinal Timothy Dolan, his former student. With the loss of Msgr. Trisco, the editorial staff handling book reviews was reorganized and new people brought on board.

-- The journal inaugurated its first Digital Church History Essay, providing assessments of various data bases. We hope to make this a regular feature of the journal.

-- During 1923, the CHR published twelve regular articles, plus the Presidential Address of Brenna Moore and the “Journeys in Church History” essay of Paul Grendler. There were three forum review essays and one review essay. It also published 146 book reviews. The handout describes their distribution. Because Covid and a lack of staffing resulted in the piling up of over 300 books needing review, many of which were too old to find a reviewer, those deemed beyond reviewing were listed in the Other Books Received section of the Autumn issue and given to Mullen Library, as a token of appreciation for our free office space in the library.

-- Two prizes associated with the journal are: for the best first scholarly article published that year in the CHR and for the best overall article. The first went to Nicholas Misukanis of the University of Maryland for his article “A Servant of Two Master: Bishop Aloisius Munch and the Debate over Catholic Schools in Postwar Bavaria”; the second went to Thomas J. Santa Maria of Yale University for his study “Pedro de Ribadeneyra and the First Ex-Jesuits: Jesuit Anxiety about Familial Interference to Vocational Perseverance.” Our congratulations to both for their contributions to scholarship.

-- the CHR is in need of excellent articles on the history of Catholicism. As the handout shows, we received only 28 articles during 2023. In the not too distant past we would receive 35 to 40. The multiplication of specialized journals accounts in part for the declining numbers, a phenomenon experienced also by other wide-ranging journals. Given the 2,000 year scope of the CHR, it is of concern that there are so few articles treating the ancient and medieval periods. If you have an excellent article in need of home or have come across one by a colleague, please consider submitting it to the CHR for possible publication or encouraging your colleague to do so.

--The editors of the CHR welcome suggestions on how the journal can be improved and serve your scholarly needs. Please tell me now or send me an email later. Thanks.

Nelson H. Minnich