

THE CODE REVISION PROCESS: THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CANON LAW SOCIETY OF AMERICA

(A) *Introduction*

The postconciliar period has been a time of significant canonical reform. There has been noteworthy legislative activity at all levels as well as an exceptional renewal of canonical studies.

Such a renewal has been fostered in part in North America by the Canon Law Society of America (hereafter cited as CLSA), a professional association of nearly 2000 members in the United States and elsewhere¹. Like the canonical faculty of Salamanca the CLSA is a recent jubilarian, having celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during its 1988 annual convention².

If continuing canonical renewal is to be fostered, canonists need to collaborate both nationally and internationally. They need to be familiar with the academic-pastoral work that is taking place in various countries. Such a concern prompts the following reflections on the CLSA.

Since Vatican II the CLSA has been involved in numerous legal-pastoral issues. However, this paper focuses primarily on the code

1 Article II of the Constitution lists the following purposes of the CLSA: promoting the church's pastoral ministry, cooperating in the continuous renewal of the law, encouraging canonical research, responding to practical legal-pastoral needs, facilitating the interchange of ideas and practices among canonists, cooperating with professionals in other sacred sciences and establishing a dialogue with canonists throughout the world.

2 For the papers given at this special convention see the corresponding *Proceedings* (henceforth cited PCLSA and the year of the convention). See also *Reflections on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary October 1988* (Washington, DC., 1988). The author will refer to two articles in particular: R. Cunningham, 'Reforming the Code and the Society' (15-25) and J. Provost, 'The First Fifty Years: a Chronology' (43-56). For access to CLSA resources contact: Canon Law Society of America, Office of the Executive Coordinator, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, USA.