

July 5, 2021

Dear Presidents and INSeCT representatives,

We hope this email finds you in good health and in good spirits.

Our INSeCT General Assembly was held online last January 2021 during which we, the new set of officers, were elected and confirmed by the body. We would like to introduce ourselves to all of you as we begin our term of service:

President: Ruben Mendoza, Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines (DaKaTeo)

Vice-President: Judith Gruber, European Society for Catholic Theology (ESCT)

Vice President: Paolo Fernando Carneiro de Andrade, Sociedade de Teologia e Ciências da Religio (SOTER)

Treasurer: Ramon Luzarraga, Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)

Member: Francis Adedara, Catholic Theological Association of Nigeria (CATHAN)

We do hope to continue the marvelous work that was begun by our predecessors - the late Gerard Mannion, Maeve Heaney, Nontando Hadebe and Gunter Pruellner-Jagenteufel. We thank them for all their service to our network and we hope to tap on their expertise and experiences as we perform our own work in and for our organization. The General Assembly also decided that, in order to aid continuity and handover between research periods, the past-president would stay on for a term as advisor. Maeve has kindly agreed to take on that role this time.

From 2021-2024, we have decided that INSeCT's research theme is "Decolonizing Theologies, Decolonizing the World." As you know, today's world is marked by social injustice in varying forms and degrees, many of which can be traced back to the colonial enterprise. It is all the more important that we theologically reflect on it as we strive as theologians to contribute in our own way in the building of a more just and inclusive society. Kindly expect a future email from us as regards future collaborative endeavors based on the theme.

In case you have suggestions on how we can respond to the needs of your theological societies as we foster our relationships with one another, do not hesitate to let us know. We are open to any feedback that will enable our network to further grow and develop. We look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Ruben Mendoza

Judith Gruber

Paolo de Andrade

Ramon Luzaragga

Francis Adedara