

## **Preamble Regarding Obligations of the International Society of Scholastics**

The International Society of Scholastics is a union of philosophers brought together by fidelity to the principles, methods, and doctrines of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Prince of Scholastics, which we hold inviolate, in order that, by association, we may promote the autonomous rights of the philosophical sciences as the highest and most universal sciences investigable by reason alone—sciences which are neither mere handmaidens of theology nor simply apologetic tools—and, thus, work for the reconciliation of philosophy with the partial sciences.

Members of the Society are bound to its principles and goals, to which the signs of fidelity shall be the following:

- 1) Recognizing that a small error in principle is a large error in conclusion, one must subscribe fully to the Twenty-Four Thomistic Theses proposed by the Congregation of Studies and approved by Pope Saint Pius X as clearly containing not only the principles and major propositions of Thomas and of Scholastic Thomism, but also as being among the most fundamental principles of reality.
- 2) Recognizing that the genius of Scholastic Thomism is rightly ascribed in predominance to Thomas himself and not to one's own explanation or novel presentation of the same philosophy, one must treat the philosophic writings of Thomas as primary to all others.
- 3) Recognizing that we are among the least in the affairs of philosophy, one must energetically defend the philosophic doctrines of Thomas in his explanations of them, even if one does not fully grasp their meaning or import.
- 4) Recognizing that we are far removed from the mind of Master Thomas, when a point of contention arises regarding his meaning, one must first and foremost seek its resolution in the consensus of the philosophers of the continuous line of Scholastic Thomists who are recognized as faithfully and intentionally adhering to Thomas's doctrine. This line includes, but is not limited to, Herve de Nedellec, Thomas Sutton, Durandus of Aurillac, John Capreolus, Cajetan, Conrad Kollin, Sylvester de Ferraris, Francis of Vittoria, Dominic Soto, Melchior Cano, Peter de Soto, Dominic Banez, John of St. Thomas, the Salmanticenses, Vincent Gotti, Salvatore Roselli, Sanseverino, Charles Rene Billuart, Benedetto Lorenzelli, Edouard Hugon, Thomas Zigliara, H.D. Gardeil, Norbertus del Prado, Santiago Ramirez, and Garrigou-Lagrange. This line excludes those who explicitly or implicitly reject the principles, methods, or conclusions of the Scholastic Thomistic tradition and its continuous and organic development.
- 5) Recognizing that truth cannot contradict truth and that, thus, demonstration cannot contradict demonstration, one must not only explicate the conclusions of Scholastic Thomism but must also make great efforts to reveal the reconciliation of surface inconsistencies a) among the rational demonstrations of Thomas themselves and b) between those demonstrations and the demonstrated facts of the modern partial sciences.

For their fidelity to the Scholastic tenets, members of the Society will find available to them numerous educational resources and academic benefits as well as opportunities to actively participate in the formation and sustention of various projects supported by the Society of Schoolmen. These benefits will be elaborated herein.

## **CONSTITUTION**

Above have been most generally outlined the obligations incumbent upon all members of the International Society of Scholastics. The essential goals, structure, and functions of the Society must now be dealt with in detail. However, as there will prove to be different paths toward the promotion of Scholastic thought, some more suited to certain centers of activity and educational spheres than others, and as there will prove to be functions more or less contributive by different members and levels of members it is most opportune to keep these regulations general, though firm. There will be an advantage to leaving ample room for the superiors of the Society to support, develop, and even disband projects as they see fit, for the invariability of the principles to which the Society holds demands the plasticity of the individuals who become involved. If members are found failing in the resolve of the Scholastic principles, they will corrupt the Scholastic doctrines. For, "*parvus error in principio magnus est in fine.*"

### **ARTICLE I—NAME**

In English, this society shall be known officially as the International Society of Scholastics (hereafter referred to as the ISS). In Latin, it shall be known as the ISS. Informally, the ISS may be referred to as the Society of Schoolmen, and its highest members will be referred to as the Schoolmen or Scholastics. In other languages, the names of this society and its members will be decided by local Member-Societies and Councils united by the language in question, but it must always be a legitimate and honorable derivation of "*Societas*" and "*Scholasticus*" for reasons that will be made evident by the following.

"*Societas*" is to be understood as a more-than-passing union of Philosophers united by intellectual and moral assent to fulfill the ideals of the Scholastic synthesis, such as are outlined in Article II, while under obedience to the authorities empowered to direct the union towards said ideals. Consequently, should at any time the intellectual and moral assent of any member of the ISS to the ideals set forth in Article II be compromised or be commonly regarded as highly suspect, said member will be ejected from the union. General signs of fidelity to these ideals are outlined in the preamble of this Constitution whereas suspicion of infidelity shall be credible in the absence of these signs.

"*Scholasticus*" is to be understood as referring to that most commonly held coordination of philosophical sciences—comprising both its doctrinal and didactic elements—prevalent in the Medieval universities of Christendom beginning more or less in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, developing most fully during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, declining from that point forward, embracing preeminently the philosophical principles of Aristotle AS SYNTHESIZED SUPEREMINENTLY IN THE MIND OF THOMAS OF AQUIN--whose methods, principles, and doctrines are taken as our

inviolable guide—and expounded by his legitimate commentators (i.e., those who upheld the Scholastic synthesis or its various revivals).

Thus, Scholasticism, as we employ the term, may be described as the systematic coordination of all particular orders of human knowledge through strict rational disputation from certain principles which was taken up in the medieval universities from the perennial philosophy of man, synthesized in the mind of Thomas Aquinas, and expounded by his faithful commentators, and includes the consequent cultural effects of a life lived according to such order. Thus Scholastic Thomism is not simply a set of speculative doctrines but extends itself to all practical and moral orders. It is a tendency toward a comprehensive grasp of the order of reality as deduced from first, self-evident principles in each order of knowing according to perennial logical canons, and of man's moral duties resulting from such coordination.

We do not hold fast to this philosophic and Scholastic Thomism on account of reasons from authority, for “*locus ab auctoritate quae fundatur super ratione humana est infirmissimus.*” Rather, we hold to this philosophic and Scholastic Thomism as devotees of truth; realizing that its tenets have been obtained by reason alone and verified by unassailable proofs from logical demonstration and empirical experimentation.

## **Article II—PURPOSE**

Holding as we do that the intellectual method of investigation and instruction formulated in the Scholastic synthesis, and that the philosophical doctrines concluded therefrom, together represent the pinnacle of rational activity, and holding as we do that intellectual development is the highest achievement of man insofar as he is a rational being, it is our purpose to reestablish the Scholastic synthesis in all speculative and practical fields as offering the normative model for rational inquiry and practical activity that results in personal perfection (including the habits of art and science), economic stability, and political faultlessness. Our efforts shall be directed at seeking out and promoting various projects that will resurrect Scholasticism by our providing the intellectual resources and backing to allow others to incorporate proper reasoning into daily thought. The ISS will strive to cause in others knowledge of the highest metaphysical analysis, in order that they may carry philosophic principles into their respective fields, thus reestablishing philosophical sciences as the unifying constituent of logical artifact (i.e., perfection of purely rational knowledge).

The resurrection and universal adoption of the Scholastic synthesis will be achieved through:

1. Gathering a pool of traditional Scholastic philosophers dedicated to the same principles and ends, in order to make good through association what fails the individual.
2. Supporting various projects that embody these principles and aim towards these ends. Specifically:
  - a. Projects that teach Scholasticism by making it available in its classical, unadulterated form which is faithful not only to the content of Scholastic Thomism but to the structure of it as well; by means of these educational projects,

the ISS will encourage others to carry the conclusions of Scholasticism into their own occupational fields and ethical conduct.

- b. Projects that directly counter those false opinions destructive to Scholasticism, yet always in manners befitting our rational ideals.

Given that the matter dealt with by the Scholastic synthesis is the totality of reality, it is inconvenient to specify in detail here within the Constitution itself the projects and precise activities that the ISS will undertake. Such decisions will be left to the ingenuity of various men at various times and will deal with all conceivable speculative and practical activity. However, the activities and promotions of the ISS must always be measured by the Marks of Fidelity, be guided by the doctrinal and didactic principles of Scholastic Thomism, meet with agreement by the Advisors, and ultimately be approved by the President.

### **ARTICLE III—LANGUAGE**

Given the considerations of practicality and the nearly worldwide recognition of English as the new common language, it serves the purposes of the ISS to utilize English as our official language. However, it is the hope of the ISS that Latin will eventually find a place of preference in all official documents and correspondence, given its practically unalterable character as well as the importance of continuity between the old Scholastic masters and the ones to come. Should the President of the ISS and the Advisors at some point in the future deem it feasible to replace English with Latin as the official language of the ISS, this Constitution is to be amended in accordance with that judgment.

### **ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP: GENERAL STRUCTURE**

Holding such universal goals as does the ISS, and considering that these goals depend upon such precise and closely guarded principles, it seems necessary to establish several distinct and exactly separated levels of membership with varying levels of control exercisable by the superiors. In this way, the fundamental doctrines of the ISS and the activities undertaken to promote them will be entirely commanded by the superiors while, at the same time, there will be opportunities for an unlimited number of members who share the same general goals outlined in this Constitution. Therefore, the ISS will be comprised of four distinct levels of membership: the lowest level is comprised of Associates or Simple Members; the next level is comprised of Full Members; the third level is comprised of Distinguished Members; and the highest level is comprised of Scholastics. These three levels shall be constructed and perform as follows:

(A) Associate Members. Comprising the lowest level of membership in the ISS, the Associate position is open to all who generally support the mission of the ISS and desire to follow its activities and receive some of its services. Only general contact information and a personal request for admission are required for this level of membership. No obligations are imposed on Associate Members and they are free to withdraw from membership at any time. The exact extent of participation by Associate Members will be left to the discretion of the Superiors according to the circumstances.

(B) Full Members. Comprising the third level of membership in the ISS, the level of full member is open to all who expressly and externally manifest a minimum fidelity to the goals of the ISS. The sign of this minimum fidelity shall be an affirmation of assent and commitment to uphold the five principles enumerated in the preamble to this document. These members shall have no say in the governance of the ISS or in the election of its superiors. However, these members shall have a limited access to the resources of the ISS as determined by the superiors according to the circumstances. The exact extent of participation that these members will have is to be decided on a project-by-project basis and must be approved by the President in consultation with the Advisors.

(B) Distinguished Members. Comprising the third level of membership in the ISS, the honor of complete membership shall be granted to all who, having been admitted as an associate, present to the President a certain number of academic works deemed to be in harmony with the goals of the ISS and deemed to be of a sufficient intellectual grade to merit fuller participation of the Associate in the activity of the ISS. What constitutes the number of worthy documents or activities will be determined at a later date. In addition, the applicable member must meet whatever specific rational demands are made by the President in consultation with the Advisors. Distinguished members, in addition to whatever benefits may be bestowed on Full Members, will be allowed to participate in all local elections that fall within their geographic boundaries. Moreover, they will have the opportunity to contribute philosophical works to ISS publications, to host ISS events, to contact and consult the Scholastics, and to proffer projects for consideration by the President in consultation with the Advisors. Further benefits will develop with the growth of projects and will be left to the discretion of the President.

(C) Scholastics. Comprising the highest level of membership in the ISS, the position of Scholastic is by invitation only. It is granted solely by the President, in consultation with the Advisors, to those distinguished intellectuals, be they already members of the ISS or not, whose goals are in complete accord with those of the ISS and whose presence is deemed to be of most fruitful benefit to the restoration of Scholasticism. It is highly recommended that Scholastics be especially trained in the Scholasticism synthesized by Thomas Aquinas according to the traditional Scholastic method. They must not be found wanting in any doctrinal area and must be of prudent judgment in supporting any new thinkers that are proposed to be Thomistic. Scholastics have complete access to all benefits that may be developed by the ISS. In addition, they have the opportunity to teach in the name of the ISS, to sponsor projects in the name of the ISS, and to participate in the elections of superiors.

All decisions of the President regarding the acceptance of someone into the membership level of Scholastic must involve the consent of at least two of the Advisors.

## **ARTICLE V—BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of the ISS shall be constituted in the following form:

- Inside Directors

- Governing Directors
  - President and Executive Director
  - Executive Vice President
  - Vice President of Operations
  - Vice President of Finance
- Advising Directors
- Outside Directors

The ISS Board is divided into two panels, the Inside Directors and the Outside Directors.

The Inside Directors will have the power of establishing norms and precepts of ISS activity according to the given circumstances and the statutes of these By-Laws. Ultimately, all actions of the ISS must be approved by the Inside Directors under the authority of the President. The Outside Directors are for purely consultative purposes; these Outside Directors have no authority over the ISS or its members in virtue of their positions as members of the Outside Directors; nor may the Outside Directors speak on behalf of the ISS unless explicitly authorized to do so.

By the authority given them through the consent of the members of the ISS insofar as the latter choose to be members of the ISS, the Directors are bound in conscience to follow the guidelines presented in these By-Laws.

No member of the Board of Directors shall receive remuneration in virtue of his position as a member of said board.

## **1. The Inside Directors**

The Inside Directors are of two kinds: Governing Directors and Advising Directors. Governing directors exercise varying levels of policy control over the ISS. They each have a distinct responsibility and are accountable to the President. Advising Directors share a consultative role with the Outside Directors, but, in addition, they fulfill an important electoral function as will be outlined in Article V.1.(E).

### **(A) The President and Executive Director.**

The primary control of the ISS is essentially vested in one person who is at the same time the President and Executive Director. He retains all decision making power except where limited explicitly by these By-Laws. The role of president passes via succession and not election. With a line of succession the chances are far greater of safeguarding the continued orthodoxy of the ISS's mission than they would be in a democratic presidency. The first President is responsible for naming the first successor, who will in turn name his successor, and so on. The appointed successor need not be a member of the ISS Board but must be of sufficient knowledge and character to be admitted to the Scholastic level of membership. Naming a successor may be done at any point during the President's career. Each successor should be especially well versed in the Ethics and Politics of Aristotle as presented by Thomas Aquinas in order that he govern most rightly.

In addition to naming a successor, each President must appoint an Executive Vice President, a Vice President of Operations, and a Vice President of Finance all of whom should remain with the President for the entirety of the latter's service. The President is also free to create up to five additional vice president positions should they be required by circumstances.

The President retains control of the ISS until he dies or chooses to resign or is considered unanimously by the Executive Vice President, the Vice Presidents, and the Advisors to have lost control of his faculties.

*Should he die without appointing a successor*, the Vice President will take immediate possession of the deceased President's office as Acting President. After one year in office, this Acting President will be subject to a vote of confidence by the Advisors. The Advisors will vote to retain or release the Acting President. A two-thirds majority is needed for this vote. If he is retained, the Acting President becomes the legitimate President; he may then appoint a new Vice President, and may name his own successor. If he is not retained, a unanimous vote is required by the Advisors in addition to a two-thirds majority vote of all Scholastics in order to appoint a new President. If such a vote is not cast after two years from the last President's death, the ISS shall be considered disbanded. One nomination for the new President may be made by each member of the Inside Panel.

*Should he choose to resign*, he will name his successor. The successor takes possession immediately and he holds the office under the same conditions as did the resigning President.

*Should he suffer the loss of his faculties*, a unanimous vote is required by the Advisors in addition to a two-thirds majority vote of all Scholastics in order to appoint a new President. If such a vote is not cast after one year of the President's removal from office, the ISS shall be considered disbanded. One nomination for the new President may be made by each member of the Inside Panel.

The predominant role of the President will be to ensure that the principles of Scholastic Thomism and nothing else besides are pursued by the ISS. He must personally approve all projects officially undertaken by the ISS on every level of activity. The President, and only he, may appoint heads of projects and empower them to appoint others. In addition, he must appoint, at the beginning of his service, one new Advisor who will replace the one appointed by his predecessor. The Advisor **MUST** meet the requirements laid down for admission into the level of Scholastics. The President is strongly encouraged to choose for this role a good and holy priest who will serve as the President's personal counsel. The President should be obedient to this priest in every legitimate matter.

The President should preside at all meetings of the Board and all meetings where the entirety or majority of Scholastics is present. He should call special meetings of the Board whenever deemed necessary, but he must meet with all of them together at least once a year. He shall sign all official documents and publications, as well as perform all other duties commonly attached to the office of a superior.

Amendment to the By-Laws cannot be made on the sole authority of the President. He requires at least a two-thirds majority of the Inside Directors for any amendment and he is bound to consult the Scholastics, though he is not bound by their opinions. Should at any point the members of the ISS oppose the President, they are absolutely free to leave. If after a prudent amount of time the President is unable to find sufficient numbers to replace a diminishing society, especially the numbers of Board, he may consider the ISS abolished, but he must communicate it to the remaining members. However, should the President who finds himself in such a situation still be holding to the Scholastics ideals, he is strongly encouraged not to abandon the mission of the ISS but to reorganize it as he sees fit. It ought not, though, retain the name ISS, for there is no guarantee of its fidelity to our principles.

If at any time the President becomes unfaithful to the traditional principles of Scholasticism and especially to Thomas Aquinas and his commentators, i.e., if the President fails to be identified by the Marks of Fidelity enumerated above, members of the ISS are asked to resign.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he is present. The President shall execute bonds, mortgages and other contracts requiring a seal, under the seal of the corporation, except where permitted by law to be otherwise signed and executed and except where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the President to some other officer or agent of the corporation.

In his capacity as Executive Director, the President will oversee all day-to-day operations and develop staff should it prove necessary for the continuing operation of the ISS. All official, practical decisions of the ISS shall be made ultimately by the Executive Director.

#### (B) The Executive Vice President.

The Executive Vice President shall be appointed by the President within six months of taking office. The choice for Executive Vice President should be made from among the Scholastics, though an outside choice may be considered legitimate as long as the chosen is qualified to be admitted into the level of Scholastics. The Executive Vice President should retain the same Executive Vice President for the entirety of his service.

The Executive Vice President may be dismissed without cause by the decision of the President and with the approval of two Advisors. Should the Executive Vice President die, resign, or be removed for whatever reason, the President must appoint a new one.

Above all, the Executive Vice President must seek to coordinate the designs of the ISS with the necessary steps and practical measures to implement those designs. The Executive Vice President must be capable of overseeing all the projects sponsored by the ISS, at least in a most general way, and monitoring the results and activities of said projects. In virtue of his appointed office, he may in turn appoint other Scholastics to oversee specific projects, but never without the approval of the President.



The Executive Vice President shall, in the absence or disability of the president, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President for up to one year, at which point a vote of confidence will be cast by the Advisors as outlined in Article V.1.(A).

The Executive Vice President may delegate any or all of his duties to any number of assistants when such delegation has been personally approved by the President. The assistants to the Executive Vice President, if any, in order of their seniority shall, in the absence or disability of the secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the secretary and shall perform such other duties as the board of directors may prescribe until removed by the President.

(C) The Vice President of Operations.

The Vice President of Operations shall be appointed by the President within six months of taking office. The Vice President of Operations shall keep a record of all ISS Board meetings and all official gatherings of Scholastics where the President presides. He shall prepare agendas and official meetings in coordination with the President and the other superiors. He shall submit a report quarterly on the progress of supported projects as well as make such information available to the other members of the ISS insofar as it is deemed fit for release. He shall officially be the point-of-contact for all member-Societies on the local level and procure information pertaining to each of them for the President.

The Vice President of Operations shall keep or cause to be kept a record of all meetings of the members and the Board of directors and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. The Vice President of Operations shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the members and special meetings of the board of directors, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of directors or president, under whose supervision the secretary shall be. The Secretary General shall keep in safe custody the seal of the corporation and shall affix the same to any instrument requiring it.

The Vice President of Operations will also perform the work pertaining to corporate development. As the ISS intends to be established as a non-profit organization, the Vice President of Operations shall direct the efforts of fundraising, branding, and marketing for the mission of the ISS in consultation with the President.

The Vice President of Operations may be dismissed without cause by the sole decision of the President. Should the Vice President of Operations die, resign, or be removed for whatever reason, the President must appoint a new one.

The Vice President of Operations may delegate any or all of his duties to any number of assistants when such delegation has been personally approved by the President. The assistants to the Vice President of Operations, if any, in order of their seniority shall, in the absence or disability of the secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the secretary and shall perform such other duties as the board of directors may prescribe until removed by the President.

(D) The Vice President of Finance

The Vice President of Finance shall be appointed by the President within six months of taking office. The Vice President of Finance shall collect all appropriate monies accumulated by the fundraising efforts of the Vice President of Operation. He shall deposit the funds in a designated checking account to be withdrawn with the approval of the President to support the projects overseen by the Executive Vice President. Through the various stages of the projects supported by the ISS, the Vice President of Finance shall keep a detailed record of all monies received and disbursed. He shall pay all budgetary obligations and submit financial reports to the Board when requested and when needed for tax purposes.

The Vice President of Finance shall have the custody of the corporate funds and securities, shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the corporation, shall deposit all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

The Vice President of Finance may be dismissed without cause by the sole decision of the President. Should the Vice President of Finance die, resign, or be removed for whatever reason, the President must appoint a new one.

The Vice President of Finance may delegate any or all of his duties to any number of assistants when such delegation has been personally approved by the President. The assistants to the Vice President of Finance, if any, in order of their seniority shall, in the absence or disability of the secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the secretary and shall perform such other duties as the board of directors may prescribe until removed by the President.

#### (E) The Advisors.

The Advisors of the ISS shall be three in number. These Advisors should be only the most qualified of Scholastic thinkers and meeting all criteria for entrance into the level of Scholastic membership. Their function is to provide academic, administrative, and prudential guidance to the other superiors, most especially to the President. The selection of Advisors should be made with the utmost reflection and their advice is not ever to be taken in stride. They are the minds that direct the ISS and must be respected as the intellectual superiors of its every member. There is little excuse for the President to take action contrary to their counsel, while there is no excuse for not consulting them at all.

In addition to consultation, which is their most important role, the Advisors perform the following functions.

- Approving the nominations of the President for Scholastic Membership by a two-thirds vote;
- Determining if and when the President is no longer psychology fit to perform his duties by a unanimous vote;
- Filling a vacant presidential seat in the event that no successor has been named, in accordance with the guidelines of Article V.1.(A);
- Vetoing the introduction of new ISS projects by unanimous vote of disapproval.

As stated in Article V.1.(A), each new President shall appoint one Advisor to replace the one appointed by his predecessor. The other two advisors name their successors from among the ranks of the Scholastics. Should they die without naming a successor, the President shall appoint their replacements. The original three advisors must be appointed by the President within six months of the ISS's incorporation.

The Advisors are free to resign their positions at any time. Once appointed, an Advisor may only be removed by a unanimous vote of the other Governing Board members together with a two-thirds vote of the Scholastics

## **2. Outside Directors**

Outside directors are independent persons who have no binding directorial function in the ISS but are asked to take part in deliberations of the Board and provide their opinions. The President may invite the participation of any number of knowledgeable persons for the sake of wide and prudent consultation. These outside directors may be members of the ISS, but they are to have no other professional relationship or corporate interest with the ISS or its Distinguished and Scholastic members. Their opinions are offered freely and may be accepted or rejected at anytime by the President. They are encouraged to discuss policy matters amongst themselves and present collective advice to the Inside Directors.

Outside Directors receive no remuneration for their services and they may not participate in any ISS elections.

## **ARTICLE VI—LOCAL STRUCTURE**

Above has been outlined the international governing structure of the ISS. Each Scholastic member of the ISS will be empowered to form his own Member-Society in his own geographic locale. Should there be several Scholastics in a single geographic location, they will form a Local Council of Scholastics; the rules and regulations pertaining to which will be decided by the Board when the situation present itself.

Each Member-Society and each Council of Scholastics will be given the responsibility of implementing the ISS's supported projects on a local level. Each Member-Society and Council will formulate its own bylaws for the approval of the President. Further elaboration of the organization of local Member-Societies and Councils is far too contingent to pertain to the ISS's present constitutional structure. It will be expounded as the needs of the ISS progress.

## **ARTICLE VII—PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

By "project" one is to understand any academic or social endeavor designed to promote the synthesis of Scholasticism in a particular field by the efforts of ISS philosophers.

As stated in Article II, in its bare constitutional form the ISS avoids restrictive details about the structure and operations of future projects; the myriad of possibilities to promote Scholasticism make an *a priori* outline of our future activities quite impossible.

However, it is to be understood that the activities of the ISS will consist first and foremost in the construction and maintenance of an educational program to teach traditional Scholastic Thomism. This educational program is to be the ISS's fundamental means to promote the revival of Scholasticism and should be considered indispensable to our purpose. The exact structure of this program (e.g., course offerings, location, audience, name, etc.) will not be decided in these By-Laws but will be left to the discretion of the Board given the circumstances of the various times.

The ISS will also support projects other than our own educational program. Among these projects we make a distinction between "personal projects" and "societal projects."

Personal projects are academic or social endeavors designed to promote Scholasticism in a particular field but only immediately through the efforts of an individual (e.g., publishing a book on the Scholastic method, teaching a small class on Scholastic logic, etc.). Small personal projects may be proposed at any time by Distinguished Members of the ISS and especially by Scholastics themselves. Acceptance is purely at the discretion of the Directors, but if accepted, the petitioner is allocated a certain grant (should finances be available), the intellectual backing and resources of all members, and the name of the ISS as a sponsor. No individual who is not a Distinguished or Scholastic Member of the ISS will be granted finances or intellectual support from the ISS as a whole.

Societal projects promote Scholasticism while involving the concerted effort of a number of individuals within the ISS or the ISS as a whole. Support for these projects may be requested by anyone at anytime. Outside individuals and private institutions can approach local ISS members to petition them to have proposals heard by the Board. Should these projects be deemed harmonious with the principles and ends of the ISS, a grant or loan will be given (should finances be available), the full intellectual cooperation of all members will be expected, and the name of the ISS will be loaned to the project. The requirements for the ISS's cooperation will be determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis. However, the ISS reserves the right to abandon a project previously supported and condemn the use of our name by that project should at any time those involved compromise the aims of the ISS.

The ISS especially encourages projects that:

(1) *Defend*

The ISS seeks projects that, primarily through literary work, defend Scholastic Thomism by countering those false opinions destructive to it. .

(2) *Explain*

The ISS seeks projects that, primarily through common work, explain Scholastic Thomism by making it available in its classical, unadulterated form. This includes the

preparation and presentation of educational materials that follow not only the content of Thomism but its structure and method as well.

(3) *Expound*

The ISS seeks projects that, primarily through research, empirical experiment, and its subsequent presentation, expound upon the perennial philosophy of Scholastic Thomism by disputing questions most pertinent to our own times that are not dealt with explicitly by Thomas or the line of Thomistic Commentators. The principles by which such disputations must take place (though especially applicable to these disputations) are the same that guide all the activities of the ISS, and are known by the Marks of Fidelity enumerated above.

The introduction of any new project can be vetoed by the unanimous decision of the Advisors.