

**SEVENTY-EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING
THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
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Report from the Task Force:

“The Social Sciences and the New Testament Interpretation: Investigations into Kinship.”

Those in attendance (9)

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Report

The Task Force (**The Social Sciences and the New Testament Interpretation**) this year saw the culmination of six years of research “*Investigations into Kinship*” with the announcement that the work that we have been doing over these years has reached the publication stage. The articles that the members of our task force have been working on and have been presented to our group are now being published in CBQMS as a Festschrift in honor John J. Pilch, a founding members of this task force and someone who has been actively engaged for the past twenty-eight years. The title of the publication is “*Exploring Biblical Kinship: Festschrift in Honor of John J. Pilch.*” and will appear as volume 55 in the series.

An announcement of the publication was made in the report submitted by the General Editor of CBQMS, Robert Kugler, at the Business Meeting of the CBA by Robert Kugler as follows:

“A further volume, CBQMS 55, Exploring Biblical Kinship: Festschrift in Honor of John J. Pilch, edited by Joan Campbell and Patrick J. Hartin, is in the final editing stages and will be in press in late summer 2015. Notably, the latter volume is the product of papers presented over recent years in the CBA Task Force, “The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation,” and is being presented in pre-publication form to the honoree at this year’s meeting.” (Report of the General Editor of CBQMS, Rob Kugler, Chairperson for the CBQMS).

The opening session was devoted to honoring John J. Pilch, who was in attendance. We had the privilege of presenting him with a mock-up of the Festschrift in his honor. In addition to the presentation, John was also honored with testimonies and congratulations from all those who were present and had written articles in the Festschrift, as well as many other scholars who were unable to attend, but had submitted texts that were read on their behalf. Attention was drawn to John’s outstanding career, his publications and the contributions he has made not only to the discipline but more importantly to the lives and careers of so many scholars these past three decades. John has been the inspiration and driving force behind our Task Force over these past three decades and without doubt this Festschrift is a worthy testament to his contribution not only to our Task Force but also the Catholic Biblical Association.

In the subsequent sessions our Task Force we discussed a number of publications and forthcoming works by members of the Task Force:

- An article by John Pilch, *“The Wisdom of BenSira in MENA Cultural Context: A Cultural Topical Index.”* (A draft article in preparation for publication in *Hervormde Teologiese Studies* [Nov 2017], University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa).
- A Bok by Daniel Darko *“Kindship in the New Testament: Kinship Context for Reading the Sermon on the Mount.”*
- Karl Kuhn, *The Kingdom According to Luke and Acts: A Social, Literary and Theological Introduction* (2015).

Future Directions: The publication of this Festschrift marks the completion of our project “Investigations into Kinship.” However, our Task Force “**The Social Sciences and the New Testament Interpretation**” decided that we would continue our work in this field. Two new co-conveners were proposed and accepted, namely Kenneth Stenstrup and John J. Pilch. The focus of the research will be “*Investigations into the Negotiation of Power in Antiquity.*”

With this report, we, the co-conveners of this task force, would like to thank all the members for their support and dedication to the project on Kinship and to this Festschrift that resulted in lively discussions and research over the past six years.

Respectfully submitted by Patrick J. Hartin and Joan Campbell (Co-Conveners)