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Report on the 1986 Convention (Tampa, FLA.)

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REPORT ON THE 1986 CONVENTION
(TAMPA, FLORIDA)

At the invitation of the Most Rev. W. Thomas Larkin, Bishop of St. Petersburg, the Mariological Society of America met once more at the Franciscan Center in Tampa, Florida, May 28 and 29, 1986. Some forty-five members and friends of our Society gathered for this 37th national convention. Many arrived already on May 27, to enjoy the warm Florida climate, and the Board of Directors met on that evening.

This meeting of the Board began at 8:30 p.m. Present were: Most Rev. Austin B. Vaughan (our Episcopal Chairman); Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M. (President Emeritus); Officers: Rev. Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D., President; Rev. James T. O'Connor, Vice President; Rev. Theodore A. Koehler, S.M., Secretary; Non-officers: V. Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P.; Rev. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I.; Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M.; Rev. Charles W. Neumann, S.M.; Rev. William L. Laffey, S.S.C. Absent were: Rev. Albert Bourke, O.C.D., Treasurer (in the hospital), and Dr. William H. Marsliner, Non-officer (unable to attend because of obligations at his own college).

After the opening prayer, the Secretary began with various announcements. Some members had excused themselves because they could not attend. Sister Mary Elise Krantz, as Executive Director for the Consortium Perfectae Caritatis, had to go to the executive board meeting of that Society. Rev. Walter F. Pelczynski, M.I.C., Superior of the Novitiate of the Congregation of Marians, was engaged by his duties at the novitiate. Mr. Michael Callanan is immobilized in his wheelchair; he sent his best wishes for our Convention. Fathers Heft and Buby, Marianists, could not come, because they had to prepare themselves for the upcoming General Chapter of the Society of Mary. Rev. Bernard E. Witkowski also wrote us that he was unable to attend our Convention. The other communications concerned news received about other societies

interested in Marian studies: the meeting of the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary in England, at Chichester, next September 15-19, 1986, and the Symposium on the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Fatima in Portugal, September 14-19, 1986. Fr. Kirwin reminded us that the E.S.B.V.M. in America has meetings in New York every second Saturday of May and October. The dates for the 1987 International Congresses in Kevelaer, West Germany, are: the Mariological Congress, September 11-18, and the Marian Congress, September 18-20; their programs are published at the end of this volume of *Marian Studies*.

The topics and the speakers decided (and now arranged) for the MSA Convention of 1987 are:

Mary and Liberation, by Rev. Bertrand de Margerie, S.J.

The Magnificat, by Rev. Matthew F. Morry, O.P.

Mary and the Missions Today, by Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M.

Invocation and Intercession in the 17th-Century Anglican Divines,
by Rev. Fr. William L. Lahey, S.S.C.

Survey of Recent Mariology, by Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm.
(his annual contribution).

For the 1987 convention date: since May 28 is the Feast of the Ascension, we set the sessions for June 2-3, 1987, with arrival on June 1. We will go again to Washington, D.C., at the Washington Retreat House. Regarding the program for 1988, we finally decided to make a presentation of *Marialis cultus*, using a different approach than that employed for our analysis of *Lumen gentium*. Instead of a paragraph-by-paragraph study of the document, we will prepare a historical introduction to *Marialis cultus* and an updating. Therefore, the theme will be: *Marialis cultus: An Update*. The first topic will be "Mary and the Holy Trinity as Reflected in the Liturgical Year." This will cover the sections on the Blessed Virgin in the revised Roman liturgy, on the Blessed Virgin as the Model of the Church in divine worship, and (in part two) that about the renewal of devotion to Mary, also (in section one) all that is said about trinitarian, christological and ecclesial aspects of Marian devotion and, finally, paragraph 31 will be taken into consideration.

The second topic will be "Mary and the Presence of Women in the Church and in Society." The third topic will be on Marian devotions, especially the Rosary, as a preparation for the celebration of the liturgy. The fourth topic will be "*Marialis cultus* and Ecumenism."

The Board discussed again the problems associated with selecting sites for our future sessions. We want to retain the guidelines already decided in the past: 1) sites in bigger cities which offer the possibility of reduced airfares, 2) locations offering good facilities (individual rooms with private bathrooms), and, 3) places which are not too distant from the airport (taxicab fees are sometimes very high).

The list of members who had not paid dues for three years was presented; they were deleted from the Membership Roster.

We decided to increase the number of copies of *Marian Studies* that is printed (from 500 to 700). Our 1985 issue is already unavailable. The advertising in *Cruz*, *Queen*, and *Our Lady's Digest*, has been very effective, and the Board also took into account the recent sizeable increase in membership, especially in California.

The Board decided that it would be best to deposit the archival materials of the Society at the Marian Library (those documents which have permanent and historical value).

Sometimes we need to know the telephone numbers of our members. We will ask them if they would give their telephone numbers at least to the Secretary, even if they do not want them printed in *Marian Studies*.

Finally, the Secretary read a letter of Margaret and Bern Foley, an apostolic couple from Australia, about a possible project to tape topics related to Marian doctrine or devotion. The Foleys are well known for their extraordinary promotion of the Rosary bouquet offered to Our Lady each year for the celebration of her birthday. The Board decided that we would tape our reports on Mary and *Lumen gentium* this year and send a set of these tapes to the Foleys.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

After breakfast and registration, we began our sessions at 10:00 a.m. Our President, Rev. Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D., introduced His

Grace, the Most Rev. W. Thomas Larkin, Bishop of St. Petersburg, who gave the opening prayer and an official Welcome. In his welcoming remarks, Bishop Larkin mentioned the new radio station that his diocese had just opened; the call letters, honoring Our Lady, are WBVM-FM. Sr. Mary McNally, head of the Franciscan Center, greeted us in the name of this Center. The Cardinal Wrigfit Award, bestowed periodically on a member of our Society for distinguished service in Marian theology, was then presented to Rev. James T. O'Connor of St. Joseph's Seminary, located in the New York diocese at Dunwoodie, Yonkers. The outgoing President, Rev. Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D., read the citation, and Bishop Larkin presented the award certificate to Fr. O'Connor (the citation is given after this report).

Our first speaker, Very Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P., of the University of Dallas, Texas, was introduced by Rev. James McCurry, O.F.M.Conv., of Saint Hyacinthi College-Seminary, Granby, Massachusetts. Fr. Jelly's report, entitled "The Theological Context of and Introduction to Chapter 8 of *Lumen gentium*," began our analysis of this chapter from the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. More than twenty years after the Second Vatican Council promulgated this document, on November 21, 1964, our Society wanted to present a complete commentary on this Chapter 8 which treats Mary's role in the Mystery of Christ and the Church. The text had been divided among four speakers, and each one had to study carefully the preliminary drafts of his section of Chapter 8 in order to make his comments on the definitive text given in *Lumen gentium*. Fr. Jelly introduced this work and commented on the first numbers of *Lumen gentium*: 52 to 54. Fr. Jelly described the preparations of the Council and mentioned the preliminary drafts of Chapter 8. He spoke also of the vote taken on October 29, 1963, when Cardinal Santos had argued for retaining a separate Marian schema and Cardinal Koenig, on the contrary, had spoken for its insertion into the Church document. The Council Fathers came to a dramatic climax that practically split the assembly in two: those who favored the position of Cardinal Santos versus those who favored that of Cardinal Koenig. Finally, they decided to place the presentation on the Blessed Virgin within the Constitution.

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At 2:30 p.m., Rev. Matthew F. Morry, O.P., in the name of the nominating committee, proposed new officers and board members for election. The new President is Rev. James T. O'Connor, who in the morning had received the Cardinal Wright Award, and the new Vice President is Rev. William J. Cole, S.M., professor at IMRI (International Marian Research Institute); also elected were: the Very Rev. James Parker (replacing Very Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P.) and Brother John Samaha, S.M. (replacing Dr. William H. Marshner). Rev. Roger M. Charest, S.M.M., editor of *QUEEN of All Hearts*, then introduced our second speaker, Rev. James T. O'Connor. This presentation on numbers 55 to 59 of *Lumen gentium* showed how the conciliar use of Holy Scripture there anticipated the guidelines that would be given in the Constitution on Revelation later in the fourth session. It was quite a renewal in our biblical image of Our Lady, especially for the Old Testament. Fr. O'Connor commented on the exact meaning of the words used in the document of *Lumen gentium*. He also analyzed the text showing how Mary is at once Mother of the Redeemer and our Mother. This spiritual motherhood of Mary is centered on Christ.

At 4:30 p.m., we gathered in the Chapel for the concelebrated Eucharist. Our Episcopal Chairman, Most Rev. Austin B. Vaughan, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, was principal celebrant and homilist. After the Eucharist, we gathered in the refectory for a happy hour followed by dinner.

Thursday, May 29

Our second day began with a concelebrated Eucharist; Bishop Vaughan again presided and gave the homily. Our third speaker, Rev. Charles W. Neumann, S.M., professor at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, was presented by his colleague at the same university, Rev. J. Willis Langlais, S.M. Fr. Neumann commented on numbers 60 to 65 of *Lumen gentium*. Fr. Neumann made a thorough comparison between the preparatory text of Chapter 8 and the text ultimately included in *Lumen gentium*. This precise analysis of the development of the conciliar text on the basis of the preparatory drafts showed the importance of the conciliar presentation both of the relationship between

Mary and the Church and of the spiritual maternity of Mary. Cardinal Suenens was at the origin of the final lines of number 65: Mary is the model of the maternal love that should inspire all those who cooperate in the apostolic mission of the Church. Very Rev. James Parker, Director of Catholic Charities in Charleston, South Carolina, and assistant to the ecclesiastical delegate, introduced our fourth speaker, Rev. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I., newly elected Provincial of the Oblates of the New York Province. The speaker commented on the last part of *Lumen gentium*, numbers 66 to 69, on the place of Mary in our liturgy and in our devotions. We need to understand how the Church progressively developed the doctrine and the devotion about the Blessed Virgin Mary from admiration to confidence, imitation, and invocation. The conciliar text refers to Ephesus (431) and also to the Second Council of Nicea (787). The text also contains guidelines, rules, for the teaching of Marian doctrine and devotion. True Marian devotion can only be ecumenical, since Mary is in heaven, a great sign of hope and consolation for the people of God still in pilgrimage on earth.

At one o'clock in the afternoon Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., professor at Loyola University of Chicago and the International Marian Research Institute of Dayton and associate editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, gave his annual "Survey of Recent Mariology." He was introduced by Rev. Leonard Glavin, O.F.M.Cap., from the Josephinum faculty, Worthington (Columbus), Ohio. The speaker presented the main Marian works that appeared in 1985 and the beginning of 1986. Although his complete "Survey" is published in *Marian Studies*, he could only summarize it in his oral presentation. Each year his analysis and bibliography helps those who want to know not only what Marian works were published in English but also in other languages: French, German, Italian and Spanish. His report includes articles in periodicals which specialize in Marian theology and the annuals of various national Mariological Societies in their respective languages.

At all our sessions, a good amount of time is given to fruitful discussions. Of particular interest this year was the intervention of Rev. T. William Coyle, C.Ss.R., who explained how, during the Second Vatican Council, the American bishops gathered together to hear papers giv-

en by their theologians and to discuss Council matters. This was of great significance for the schema presented on the Blessed Virgin Mary which later became Chapter 8 of *Lumen gentium*. A summary of Fr. Coyle's remarks is published in this volume of *Marian Studies*. This issue of *Marian Studies* will be a very important one since, in addition to all the reports given during the sessions, we will also publish a comparison of the conciliar text with the preparatory drafts and a specially prepared English translation of Chapter 8.

On the first day of this convention, Rev. Lahey presented a banner appliqued with the coat of arms of our Society. This artistic banner was hung on the wall behind the pulpit at which the speakers presided during our convention. It will be used in the same way in the future. We were also able to thank and applaud both the designer of our coat of arms and the creator of the banner: Rev. Larry Lossing and Miss Pamela Sue Birky respectively.

We ended the Convention as usual with a second business meeting. The President, Rev. James O'Connor, announced that the next convention will be held in Washington, D.C., June 2 and 3, 1987, at the Washington Retreat House (Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement). Other announcements were made. The 10th International Mariological Congress, followed by the 17th International Marian Congress, will take place next September 11-20, 1987, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Kevelaer. The topic of the Mariological Congress is "The Marian Cult During the 19th and 20th Centuries until Vatican Council II Exclusively (1789-1962)"; the topic of the Marian Congress is "Mary, Mother of the Faithful." Those interested in participating in the congresses, especially in giving a paper, can write to the Secretary of the Mariological Society: Rev. Theodore Koehler, S.M., Marian Library, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469-0001. The Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary (E.S.B.V.M.) will organize its next international conference at Chichester, England, September 15-20, 1986.

Four reports were given about MSA regional activities: Rev. Matthew F. Morry, O.P., for the Rhode Island Region; V. Rev. Frederick Jelly, O.P., for the Dallas area; Rev. Francis G. Wearden for the Houston area; and Brother John Samaha, S.M., from California, for the Western Region.

The following resolution was proposed for the vote of the General Assembly:

Whereas Catholic theology is based on, rooted in, and nourished by the faith of the Church; and

Whereas academic integrity demands that no one be called a Catholic theologian who does not hold personally to Catholic doctrine; and

Whereas the Holy See has the ultimate responsibility to oversee the teaching of Catholic doctrine at all levels:

Be it resolved that this Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention of The Mariological Society of America declare its firm support for the efforts of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to ensure the authenticity of the teaching given in Catholic theological faculties.

The text was read by the Secretary, and passed.

The President expressed the Society's gratitude for the gifts and donations received over the past year. He urged prompt payment of the annual dues; the notice is sent out early in the year. The President then brought the meeting to a close, expressing the gratitude of the Society to the following persons:

- a) to His Excellency, the Most Reverend W. Thomas Larkin, Bishop of St. Petersburg, for inviting us to his diocese and for offering the Opening Prayer at our first session and welcoming us to the diocese;
- b) to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Austin B. Vaughan, the Episcopal Chairman of our Society, whose presence at this convention was most appreciated;
- c) to Mr. Robert Andrews, to Mr. Arthur W. Clinton, Jr., to Chaplain Lt. C. Alfred M. Croke, to the Marian Fathers of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and to the Very Reverend Stanley Matuszewski (editor of *Our Lady's Digest*) for their generous contributions to our Society—and to many other benefactors not mentioned here by name to whom we also owe our gratitude, especially to our Supporting Members;

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- d) to the Staff of the Franciscan Center, especially to Sister Mary McNally, Sister Odette Haddad, Sister Margaret Gillogly, and Mrs. Ruth Leonard for the warm and efficient hospitality extended to us these past two days;
- e) to our distinguished speakers and reactors, for their scholarly papers and thought-provoking discussions;
- f) to our Secretary, Rev. Theodore Koehler, S.M., and to his assistant, Mrs. Cecilia Mushenheim, for the preparation of our conventions.

There was no further business to transact, so Fr. O'Connor called for a motion of adjournment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The convention ended at 3:00 p.m. with the singing of the Salve Regina.

REV. THEODORE KOEHLER, S.M.
Executive Secretary



COAT OF ARMS FOR THE MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

BLAZON OF THE ARMS: Azure, on a cross or a lily of three blossoms proper, and in dexter chief a crown-celestial of the second.

MOTTO: Mater Sapientiae

SYMBOLISM: Blue (*azure*) is Mary's color and the color of truth and philosophy. The cross of gold (*or*) speaks of the richness of the Faith or the riches of Christ. The three-flowering lily is Our Lady's flower and represents also her special relationship to the Blessed Trinity. Placed upon the Cross the lily shows the inseparable nature of the predestined relationship of Our Blessed Lord and His Immaculate Mother.

The heraldic crown-celestial suggests the queenship of Mary, theology as queen of the sciences, and the lofty pursuits of the Society, etc.

AVAILABLE:

8 1/2" x 11" color print of the MSA Coat of Arms, suitable for framing.

Price: \$3.00 (includes postage and handling)

Order from: MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Marian Library

University of Dayton

Dayton, Ohio 45469-0001