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Report, 1985-86: Houston, Texas Region

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REPORT, 1985-86: HOUSTON, TEXAS REGION

The Texas Regional Unit of The Mariological Society of America had been meeting since 1978 by rotating between San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas under the leadership of Father Charles Neumann, S.M., Msgr. Francis G. Wearden and Father Fred Jelly, O.P., respectively. In 1985, Texas was divided into three regions located at the three cities of San Antonio, Houston and Dallas.

The following is a report of the Houston Regional Unit Convention held February 8, 1986, on the campus of the University of St. Thomas in Houston, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Basilian Fathers in the beautiful Anderson Hall.

There were about 150 participants in attendance, including 12 priests, 10 nuns and 2 seminarians. The one-day meeting began with a discussion of the paper on "Mary and Christian Moral Principles" delivered by Dr. Germain Grisez at the national meeting of 1985. The discussion was opened by Dr. Joe Boyle, Philosophy Department member of the University of St. Thomas, by Fr. Terry Brinkman, S.T.D., a Houston pastor and Diocesan Moral Theologian, and by Sr. Madeleine Grace, S.T.L., from the Incarnate Word Academy in Houston. Each panelist had studied the Grisez paper and presented his/her own theological insights. A lively discussion followed with the participants voicing their reactions and questions to each of the three speakers.

After lunch, the second topic, "Mary and Feminist Theology," was beautifully presented by Dr. Joyce Little, a theology professor at U.S.T. Dr. Little's coverage of her topic was complete, scholarly, and most interesting. Reactors to her ideas were Fr. Charles Neumann of San Antonio and Mrs. Lee Bowers, a Houston housewife, mother and president of the Diocesan

Marian Activities Committee. A discussion from the floor continued until the time ran out.

The faculty at the University were delighted that the Mariological Society met on campus and they have expressed interest in participating at future conventions. There was also a universal feeling that the popular piety of the faithful benefits greatly by such opportunities for a more theological appreciation of Our Lady and her prerogatives.

At our meeting next year, we plan to discuss Chapter 8 of *Lumen Gentium*.

REV. MSGR. FRANCIS G. WEARDEN
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