

2-11-1971

Report on the 1971 Convention

Juniper B. Carol

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Carol, Juniper B. (1971) "Report on the 1971 Convention," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 22, Article 5, Pages 7-12.
Available at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol22/iss1/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marian Library Publications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Marian Studies by an authorized editor of eCommons. For more information, please contact mschlangen1@udayton.edu, ecommons@udayton.edu.

REPORT ON THE 1971 CONVENTION

Bowing to a decision of the Board of Directors (January 3, 1971), we resume, after a year's interruption, the honorable task of editing MARIAN STUDIES, and reporting on the annual meetings of the Mariological Society of America. Adhering to our previous policy, the report will be brief and to the point.

This year's convention was held at The Happy Dolphin Inn, St. Petersburg Beach, Fla. on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5. Attendance at the various sessions fluctuated between eighty and ninety persons. The huge success of the meeting was due, in large measure, to the enthusiastic support and co-operation of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles B. McLaughlin, Bishop of St. Petersburg, and of Father James F. Gloekler, Vicar General and Chancellor of the diocese.

The convention opened officially with a concelebrated Holy Mass at 10 A.M. in St. John's Church, St. Petersburg Beach. Bishop McLaughlin, who was the main celebrant, addressed the congregation and extended a warm welcome to the delegates. His homily, which appears elsewhere in this volume, stressed particularly the important role of Mary in our lives as described by the Second Vatican Council.

At 12 noon the guests gathered in the spacious banquet hall of the Dolphin Inn for the traditional refreshments and luncheon. In an exquisite gesture of generosity, Bishop McLaughlin volunteered to underwrite the expenses involved.

The first general assembly, which began promptly at 2 P.M., opened with a prayer and a few appropriate remarks by Bishop McLaughlin. This was followed by the presidential address of Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, professor of dogmatic theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. The distinguished

speaker touched on various possible causes for the present decline of Mariology, and pointed out that, in the minds of some theologians, any emphasis on Our Blessed Lady is indicative of identification with the past and an unwillingness to face the realities of the present.

Msgr. Vaughan was followed at the podium by the convention's keynote speaker, the Rev. William G. Most of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. The widely-known mariologist approached his theme—the nature of Mary's intercession—from the biblical angle of the covenant and reinforced it with references to patristic texts and the documents of the Second Vatican Council. One of his conclusions was that, in the divine scheme of redemption, Our Blessed Lady forms one salvific principle with Christ, although her role is always dependent upon, and secondary to, that of her Son. Father J. Armand Robichaud, Rector of the Marist Seminary in Framingham Centre, Mass., led the animated exchange of views following Fr. Most's paper.

After a ten-minute intermission, the delegates again gathered in the Gold Room of the motel to hear a lecture by Fr. Robert Maloy, S.M. of the University of Dayton, Ohio, on the theological basis for consecration to Mary. The erudite speaker discussed at length the various meanings of the term "consecration," and then went on to show how the foundation of our consecration to Mary is, in the last analysis, her unique role in the redemptive economy freely chosen by God. Appropriately enough, the discussion leader for Fr. Maloy's paper was Fr. James McMillan, S.M.M., himself an authority on the question of Marian consecration.

The first day of the convention closed with a panel discussion held at eight o'clock in the evening. The topic: *Presenting Mary to Modern Man*; the panelists: Fr. Richard Kugelman, C.P., chairman of the theology department of St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y.; Fr. Matthew F. Morry, O.P., professor of theology at Providence College, Providence, R.I.; and Sister Rosanne Jones, O.S.F., of Tampa, Fla. Fr. Kugelman was of

the opinion that the best way to present Mary to modern Christians, especially the young, was by showing that at the Incarnation, Visitation, Cana, and Calvary, Mary emerges as an example of commitment and involvement, and that in her Assumption she stands as a sign of hope and solace for God's pilgrim people. Fr. Morry, in turn, considered some of the reasons why Marian devotion is in decline among moderns. The humanism of contemporary man, he pointed out, looks to man as the measure of all things. Marian devotion is bound to suffer in a society in which the family is in a state of deterioration from the confusion of the male and female roles, the tension of change, the mundane goal, the skepticism and the lack of respect for authority. Finally, according to Sr. Rosanne, the blame for the decline in Marian devotion ought to be placed on the clergy itself. Our youngsters, she said, are tremendously interested in Our Lady and want to know more about her. But priests hardly ever preach a sermon on Mary. They are alienating the youth by their apathetic attitude in this respect.

The first paper on the second day of the meeting was by Fr. Aelred Tegels, O.S.B., editor of *Worship* magazine, who spoke on Mary's role in the liturgical prayer of the Church. The speaker endeavored to show how the Church, from the very earliest times, had used both the Missal and the Breviary as vehicles to impress on the faithful the various truths concerning Mary, especially her powerful intercession.

Following Fr. Tegel's paper, the delegates heard Fr. James McQuade, S.J. of Clarkston, Michigan, on *Mary and the Apostolate*. The genial Jesuit did not read from a prepared manuscript, but used an impressive array of audio-visual techniques to illustrate how Our Lady is intimately involved in every phase of the Church's apostolic mission. Perhaps the most amazing feature of his talk was the fact that he was able to cover his vast field within the traditional half hour allotted to each speaker—a remarkable feat indeed.

The afternoon session began with the usual *Survey of Recent Mariology*, prepared by Fr. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm. of Washington, D.C. Since the author was regrettably absent (teaching in Ireland), the presentation was made by Fr. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M. As in the past, Fr. Carroll's selective survey brought us up to date concerning the latest and best contributions to the field of Mariology, including some of the most controversial literature on the subject.

During the business meeting, the Nominating Committee submitted two candidates for membership on the Board of Directors, namely, Fr. Daniel F. Hickey, C.S.S.R. (to replace Fr. Charles W. Neumann, S.M.) and Fr. J. M. Jelly, O.P. (to replace the Very Rev. Ladislaus F. Pelczynski, M.I.C.). A vote was taken, and the two candidates were unanimously elected. Whereupon Msgr. Austin Vaughan, President of the Society, read the following citation:

THE CARDINAL WRIGHT AWARD FOR 1971

Citation

On the occasion of its twenty-second annual convention, The Mariological Society of America wishes to pay public tribute to the scholarly achievements of its distinguished member, the Reverend John F. Craghan, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Craghan was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and there received his elementary education. After attending St. Mary's College in North East, Pa. from 1950 to 1956, he entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, taking his first vows in 1957. He pursued his philosophical and theological studies at Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, N.Y. and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1962. In recognition of his unusual talents, Fr. Craghan's superiors sent him to the University of Munich in West Germany where he undertook higher studies in sacred theology under the skilled supervision of Prof. Dr. Michael Schmaus. The dissertation which earned him a doctorate in theology was titled, *Mary, the Virginal Wife and the Married Mother*.

Wishing to enhance even further his mastery of the sacred sciences, Fr. Craghan attended the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1965 to 1968, receiving the Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in 1967, and being declared *candidatus ad lauream* in 1968. Since that date he has been professor of Old Testament in Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, N.Y.

Fr. Craghan has contributed scholarly articles to *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *The Bible Today*, *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, and as recently as last year, to MARIAN STUDIES. The last mentioned essay, entitled *Historical Character of the Virginity Accounts in the Infancy Narratives*, and his doctoral dissertation, *Mary, the Virginal Wife and the Married Mother* (published in Rome, 1967) have been widely acclaimed both at home and abroad.

It is particularly in recognition of the scrupulous objectivity and uncommon scholarship displayed in these two contributions that The Mariological Society of America today honors Fr. Craghan by bestowing on him the coveted Cardinal Wright Award.

At the end of the citation, Fr. Craghan came up to the podium and, amid a well-deserved ovation, received the beautiful scroll and the check for \$200.00 from the hands of Bishop McLaughlin.

After announcing that the next annual convention would be held in San Antonio, Texas, Msgr. Vaughan proceeded to express the heartfelt gratitude of all to the following:

1. First and foremost, to His Excellency, Bishop McLaughlin for inviting us to his diocese, and especially for his enthusiastic participation in the various phases of the convention.

2. To His Eminence Cardinal Wright, our Episcopal Chairman, to the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, Editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, to Msgr. William F. McDonough, Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and to the Very Rev. Ladislaus F. Pelczynski, Provincial of the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Mass., for their generous donations to the Society.

3. To the Very Rev. James F. Gloekler, Vicar General and

Chancellor of the diocese, for his extraordinary efforts to insure the success of the meeting.

4. To Fr. Eugene Ryan of St. Jude's Cathedral, for making it possible for our delegates to say Holy Mass in the motel.

5. And finally, to our distinguished speakers and reactors for their scholarly papers and thought-provoking discussions.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, and Msgr. Vaughan brought the convention to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving.

REV. J. B. CAROL, O.F.M.

Secretary