A New Institute for Marian Studies: The Marian Library Institute of the University of Dayton and Its Affiliation with the Marianum of Rome

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The history of the University of Dayton and of its Marian Library began with a medal of St. Joseph. On the feast of this great patriarch, 19 March 1850, Father Leo Meyer, one of several Marianists recently arrived from France, acquired the property in Dayton, Ohio, where today there stand the buildings of the University where the Marian Library is located. Because he had no funds on hand, Father Meyer gave as security the medal of St. Joseph with which he had just sealed the deed of sale and purchase. The owner of the property, Mr. John Stuart, a descendent of the Scottish royal family, accepted this pledge; and it was agreed that payments were to be spread over a period of twelve years.

Plans were made to establish a school for boys, and on 1 July 1850, four Marianists began teaching. The institution developed quite rapidly. The year 1869 saw the consecration of a large chapel placed under the patronage of the Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception. This structure still serves as the University's church. In 1882 the school, now called St. Mary's Institute, was empowered to grant degrees. Named St. Mary's College in 1912, it was finally incorporated in 1920 as the University of Dayton. The University library, wherein the Marian Library now forms a special department, was first given its own separate building, the Albert Emanuel Library, in 1927.

The Marian Library itself was founded in 1943 in preparation for three centenaries that were to be celebrated in 1949-1950: the death of Father Chaminade, founder of the Marianists; the arrival of the Marianists in the United States; and the origin of the University. Envisioned primarily as a center for scholarly research, the Library was to give concrete expression to the Marianists' vow to make the Mother of God better known and loved. Father John Elbert, then President of the University, entrusted Father Lawrence Monheim, head of the religion department, with the task of establishing the Library. Following the end of World War II, the Library grew steadily, thanks to the energetic efforts of the founding director and
his successors: Fathers Edmund Baumeister, Philip Hoelle and Robert Maloy and of its librarians, Brothers Stanley Mathews and William Fackovec.

When the Library was committed to its present director, Father Théodore Koehler, it had a reputation the world over as the richest collection of its kind in many areas of Marian studies, ranging from theology to iconography, from spirituality to anthropology. Begun with President Elbert’s gift of his own book, _Devotion to Mary in the Twentieth Century_, its shelves now contain more than 44,000 volumes in over fifty languages, extending from the origins of printing history (The oldest dated book, a gathering of sermons by Leonardus of Utino, was printed at Venice in 1473) to the present day. Supplementing the Marian books is a large general reference collection containing several important series of patristic texts, biblical studies, works in Church history, much material on iconography (especially that of the Eastern Churches), and an extensive section in general bibliography. Those working at the Marian Library also have access to the resources of the University library. Since 1970, the latter has been housed in a new seven-story building where the Marian Library occupies the top floor.

Quite early in its history, the Marian Library began its service to Marian scholars and recognized its position as educator of a wider public. In 1944, the second director, Father Baumeister, began to organize, with the help of volunteers, a union catalog of Marian books. It now lists about 20,000 titles located in some 1,000 libraries throughout the United States and elsewhere. During Father Monheim’s second term as director, Bro. Stanley Mathews, in 1951, began editing the publication of _Marian Library Reprints_, later called _Marian Library Studies_. This was a series intended to circulate more widely significant articles and documents originally published in sources not readily available to most readers. In 1967 Father Maloy began planning for a new _Marian Library Studies_, which would publish strictly scientific work: critical editions, research, historical bibliography, etc. This review, an annual, was to make it possible for authors to publish specialized works of merit. Thus, for example, the excellent study of Roberto Caro, S.J., _La homiletica greca en el siglo V_ appeared in three parts (1971-1973). A recent number presented Stefano de Flores’ _Itinerario spirituale di S. Luigi Maria di Montfort (1673-1716) nel periodo fino al sacerdozio (5 giugno 1700)_. The review’s first work in historical bibliography was a chronological listing of Paul VI’s documents on Marian themes. Further essays along the same line appear in the present issue:
a general bibliography on La Salette compiled by Father Stern and another on the publications of the Sodality of Molsheim by Leo Schlaeffl.

As part of its centennial celebrations in 1950, the University of Dayton instituted the Marianist Award "to be conferred annually on one who has rendered outstanding service in America to the Immaculate Mother of God, the Patroness of both our country and our University." Among those honored were Juniper Carol, O.F.M., founder of the Mariological Society of America; Daniel Lord, S.J., promoter of the Sodality movement in this country; Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary; René Laurentin, whose studies in Mariology are known all over the world. Three years later, in 1953, Father Monheim in his turn established the Marian Library Medal, to be given annually to the author of the best book on Mary in English. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen received the first medal for his work, The World’s First Love, which has since been widely translated. Other medal winners originally in English and later made available in other languages are Father William Most’s Mary in our Life, Ruth Cranston’s The Miracle of Lourdes, and Hilda Graef’s Mary. A History of Doctrine and Devotion. In 1969 a new medal was designed by Joseph Barrish, S.M., of the Department of Fine Arts at the University and executed by Henry Setter. The medal is given to a scholar, chosen by an international panel, whose research has significantly advanced the course of Marian studies. It is presented every four years at the time of the international congress sponsored by the Pontifical Marian Academy of Rome. This new medal was given for the first time in 1971 to the eminent Mariologist Charles Balic, O.F.M., President of the International Pontifical Marian Academy. In 1975 it was received by Giuseppe M. Besutti, O.S.M., a professor at the Marianum distinguished for his work in Marian bibliography.

Another activity of the Marian Library also began in 1953 with the organization of the Marian Library Institutes. These annual conferences, featuring well-known Mariologists and noted speakers in other fields, were “to study Mary’s role in the Divine Plan, and the cooperation which we must provide in order that her mission in the modern world might be accomplished.” These institutes gave place to a lecture series that presented such prominent scholars as René Laurentin, Henri Cazelles, Jean Leclercq, Eric Mascal . . .

In January of 1965, Father Hoelle, the Library’s fourth director, received the University of Dayton’s Marianist Award for his work in developing the Marian Library and its many activities. Father took the occasion to announce a new phase in the Library’s service to scholarship:
the institution of the Marian Library Study Fund. This fund, to which the Mariological Society of America made a generous contribution, has made it possible for students and scholars to spend extended periods of time in residence at the Library.

On 7 December 1973, the Marian Library marked the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation with a liturgical celebration united with the University of Dayton community in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. This event, on the eve of the University’s patronal feast, was preceded by a week of lectures on *Woman and Mary, Archetype of Humanity in the History of Salvation*. The talks were planned to juxtapose two areas of study that would benefit if they were treated together more frequently: Mary and woman. Rev. Eamon Carroll, O.Carm., spoke about the American bishops’ joint pastoral on Mary that had just been released, *Behold Your Mother, Woman of Faith*. Father Carroll had been one of the principal editors of the pastoral.

All of the preceding—the steady expansion of the Library’s holdings, its various activities and services—brings us to the foundation of the new Institute. Between 1973 and 1975, several indications of Providence led the Marian Library to recognize the need for such an institute. Theologians who came to work at the Library, students who wished to pursue research in various areas of Marian study, gifts received for the development of the work and other circumstances, in a sense, forced the Library to move ahead. In 1973, Father James Hickey, assistant to the director, spent several months of study in Italy. Aided by his Marianist confreres, especially by Father Luigi Gambro, he spoke about the Library’s plans to the authorities of the Marianum, the Pontifical University in Rome directed by the Servites. There the President, Father Elio Peretto, O.S.M., suggested a solution that was most practical: the establishment of an institute canonically linked with the Marianum. This was to be done in accord with the authorities of the University of Dayton and of the Society of Mary. Father Raymond A. Roesch, President of the University of Dayton, approved the project. The Superior General of the Society of Mary, Father Stephan Tutas, and Father William Behringer, Provincial of the Cincinnati Province, encouraged the foundation.

It was Archbishop Joseph Bernardin of Cincinnati who indicated the Institute’s fundamental orientation. In his talk at the Marian Library’s thirtieth-anniversary celebrations, he urged theologians to work towards a Mariology founded on Christology and linked to Ecclesiology, a Mariology that would help to nourish Christian life today. With authorities at
The Marian Library Institute of the University of Dayton

the Marianum and at the University of Dayton, the Marian Library worked towards organizing the Institute, formulating the statutes and obtaining the approval of the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education.

In May 1975, various professors connected with the Institute took an active part in the proceedings of the Seventh International Mariological Congress. It was at this time also that Father Marian Zalecki, the first doctoral candidate to prepare his work at the Marian Library, defended his thesis, *The Theology of a Marian Shrine: Czestochowa*.

Cardinal G. M. Garrone, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, noted with approval the steps taken by the President of the Marianum, and on 5 November 1975, he signed the decree, which we here reproduce, approving the Institute for five years *ad experimentum* as affiliated to the Marianum.

SACRA CONGREGATIO PRO INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA

peculiari dilectione ac cura mariologica studia prose quintae, rogatione attenta
Rev.mi Praesidis Pontifici et Facultatis Mariologiae seu “Marianum” in Urbe,
per septentri tibus studiis quibus Institutum Bibliotheca Mariana nuncupatum in Universitate Daytonensi vigens iam diu scite diligenterque in cumbit electis professoribus strenue adlaborantibus ad sacras mariologicas disciplinas ubi publicus pleniusque edocendas excolendas atque illustrandas, praec uiris habitis favorabilitibus Conferentiae Episcoporum Civitatum Foederatarum Americae Septentrionalis Excellentissimique Cincinnatiensis Archiepiscopi ac eiusdem Facultatis Magni Cancellarii corporisque professorum necnon memoratae Universitatis Rectoris sententis, laudati Praesidis petitionem libenter suscipiens, idem

INSTITUTUM vulgo “MARIAN LIBRARY”
in studiorum Universitatis Daytonensis florens, Pontificiae Facultatis Mariologiae seu “Marianum” in Urbe

AFFILIA TUM

ad quinquennium et ad experimentum constituit declaratum, collata Facultati potestate academicum Sacrae Theologiae cum specialisatione Mariologica DOCTORATUS gradum alumnis Instituti conferendi.

Sacrum insuper Dicaslerium eidem Facultati praestituit ut iuxta Documentum “Normae quaedam” inscriptum (d.XX m.Maii a.D. MCMLXVIII)
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aliasque Sanctae Sedis academicas leges ad amussim praeculamum Institutum ordinet modereturque, cuis peculiaria Statuta, hac ipsa die a se adprobata, ad actum fideliter adducenda invigilet; servatis ceteris de iure servandis; contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Romae, d.d.V m.novembris a.D.MCMLXXV, ex aedibus Sacrae Congregationis pro Institutione Catholica.

PRAEFFECTUS

GABRIEL MARIA CARD. GARRONE

A SECRETIS

† JOSEPHUS SCHROFFER

The professors of the Institute have then received their canonical mission to teach from the Chancellor of the Marianum, the Very Rev. Peregrino M. Graffius, Superior General of the Servites. The programs for the doctorate have been established in accord with the theological faculty of the Marianum. Other courses of study, similar to those at the Marianum, are being planned which will lead to a diploma in Marian Studies. These courses will also be open to those already enrolled at the University of Dayton in other graduate programs, notably in English, psychology, sociology, education, theology. A limited number of fellowships and scholarships are available to aid professors and students who wish to pursue their research with the aid of the Marian Library’s resources. Directing the Institute is Father Théodore Koehler, who was appointed by Father Raymond A. Roesch, President of the University of Dayton, at the suggestion of the Provincial of the Cincinnati Province of the Marianists, Rev. William Behringer. Thus two religious families, the Servites, who trace their origin to the year 1233 and the Marianists, established in 1817, both founded to serve the Mother of God, unite their efforts to make better known that Woman of Faith, the type of the Church, whom Divine Love has raised up to save the world.

The Staff of the Marian Library
University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio