

Marian Library Newsletter

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Progress of the Marian Library. Definite progress has been made in the Marian Library due to the generous collaboration of both the faculty and the student committees of the University. Besides the student committee, we are happy to include among our assistants the first high-school volunteers, two students from the local Julianne High School, who are offering their help regularly. Especially noteworthy was the checking of almost a thousand Marian titles of the New York Public Library against our union catalogue with the result that several hundred new titles were added to our list. Many of these were in Spanish and other foreign languages. Thanks to Miss Catherine Klevorn, we have also been able to check the complete Marian booklist of the St. Louis Public Library against our files and make notable additions to our list. An important milestone has been reached in the completion of the present Marian Library booklist of approximately 2500 titles. Steps are being taken to have this in print for the new year.

National organization gets under way. Since the last issue of the Newsletter the national staff of "branch directors" and assistants has begun to organize. To date forty-eight individuals have volunteered their services as coordinators or agents of the Marian Library in the field. Among the chief places thus far represented are Alameda (Cal.), Baltimore, Belleville (Ill.), Kirkwood, Maryknoll, Millbury (Mass.), New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, Quebec (Can.), St. Boniface (Can.), St. Louis, St. Meinrad (Ind.), San Antonio, San Francisco, and Sioux City. Outside the states are included assistants from Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, and Peru. Many other volunteers, especially from other cities are still expected and needed. With the publication of the present booklist this "advance army" of our Blessed Mother will begin its work and a steady and significant progress is certain.

Since the Marian Library began as a Marianist project, it is natural to expect that the majority of the original contacts were Marianist priests and Brothers. Other branch directors are likewise desired especially in cities in which the Marianists have no schools. Among such volunteers we are happy to include members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and seminarians of Maryknoll. Among our friends in the laity several have volunteered from Chicago, St. Louis, Providence, and Millbury (Mass.).

To canvass as many public and private libraries as possible in order to round out our Union catalogue further volunteers will be needed. We shall be glad to hear especially from districts not included in the preceding paragraph.

Marian Library a universal interest. Mary is everybody's mother. If we ever harbored the idea that societies dedicated by name to our Lady, had a monopoly on devotion to Mary, we would be disillusioned by our connections with the Marian Library. To put it mildly, we were greatly edified by the prompt response to our request in the preceding issue of the Newsletter for earlier volumes of the Ave Maria. Among those making generous offers were the Benedictine Fathers, Franciscans, Fathers of Holy Cross, Jesuits, Ursuline Sisters, and the Catholic Lending Library of Cincinnati. All seem anxious to have a definite part in Mary's work.

Other contacts likewise indicate the universality of interest. John P. Then of Hastings, Minn., sent us an interesting account of his hobby (he calls it his devotion), of collecting pictures and statues of the Blessed Virgin, which has netted him already over 2000 varieties. The League of Catholic Women of Boston has consulted us on its plans for a Marian Congress next May. A Premonstratensian Father offered us some helpful information on an ancient Marian text. Autographed publications have been received from Miss Mary King (Australia), Bro. Angelus Raphael, F.S.C., Father Marancovick, and Father Joseph Cacella. Father Cacella, a native of Portugal, is now in Brooklyn to spread the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary which was urged so strongly by our Lady of Fatima. Father Cacella writes us that his mother was present at five of the six apparitions at Fatima.

We are indeed happy to list all these friends of our Blessed Mother. Our project has forced upon us more vividly than ever that Mary is everybody's mother, and we feel proud to be able to offer our inadequate services to act as a unifying agency or clearing house for all that concerns the mother of us all.

Several new friends have joined the donors list of the Marian Library. Especially worthy of mention is the North Catholic High School of Pittsburgh with its gift of \$25.00 to "further our noble work."

Death takes Marian Library's greatest benefactor. In our October issue we singled out the generosity of Msgr. James M. Ryan of Columbus, Ohio. It was with deepest regret that, on October 20, we received the telegram announcing his untimely death. We were consoled whilst attending the funeral services, to hear the eloquent tribute paid to his memory. Though sorry to see him go, we are encouraged by the thought that we now have an intercessor before the throne of her to whom our project is dedicated. We know that his prayers will bring blessings to our work.

We feel certain that Monsignor Ryan's generosity to his Blessed Mother's cause has brought him a rich reward. You will pardon us, if we suggest his wholehearted generosity as a model worthy of imitation. In sending us one of our most prized acquisitions, Monsignor wrote: "This book is worth a \$100.00 to me. It's yours free, if you have no other copy." He was anxious to make his last gifts to his Blessed Mother as perfect as possible. In sending the seventy volumes of the Ave Maria, he noted that the last four volumes were unbound, because several numbers were missing. Of these he added: "If you can get them, have them bound and send me the bill,--if I am alive,--I don't expect to live long. -- Getting these books for the Society of Mary is a pleasure."

A Christmas gift to Mary. May we remind you that the Marian Library has been operating solely on voluntary offerings of services and funds from Mary's loyal children, and we are confident that it will realize its goal on that same basis. The publication of the Marian Library booklist will draw heavily on the present funds, and as the many branch directors begin their work of locating materials, more funds will be needed. May we appeal to all our friends at this holy season for a little Christmas gift to her who brought Christmas Day to us?

May the Mother of the Christ Child bless you all abundantly this Christmas season and grant you a truly Marian new year.

Note: PLEASE POST this notice on your bulletin board or pass it on to other interested persons. Help make our Blessed Mother's work known to all her children. We shall be glad to receive new names for our NEWSLETTER mailing list.