

National Marian Congress. One of the most momentous gatherings in the history of Marian devotion in the United States is to be held on December 7 and 8 in Washington, D.C. At this gathering will be represented the principal Marian movements in the United States, including the Sodality, Legion of Mary, the Rosary Crusade, sponsors of the Family Rosary, the Secular militia, and devotions to the Miraculous Medal, the Sorrowful Mother, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The Marian Library will be represented at the congress. In these critical days, when the world seems to be campaigning against the Church, this congress can be of vital importance. We are reminded of the words in the liturgy: "Mary, thou hast overcome all heresies." -- One of the chief purposes of this congress seems to be to unite all these great Marian movements and to consolidate their tremendous forces in the Christianization of this country dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. May we ask your prayers for the guidance of those participating in the congress.

Another milestone for the Marian Library. We are happy to announce that, at last, the Supplement to the Booklist of the Marian Library is ready for distribution. The present list extends the number of our entries past the 4200 mark. Since the April edition contained only 2600 entries, we feel that real progress has been made, especially in view of the fact that the previous edition came out too late for the field workers to organize their forces before the end of the school year. With this more complete list now available; and with the entire second semester before them to plan their campaign, the field workers and their assistants will be able to do an outstanding job with a minimum of effort in checking the public and private libraries of their regions. Thus we expect to see our union catalogue grow by leaps and bounds. We shall supply all our field workers with copies of these backlists as they need them. The Supplement is now ready for general sale at 50¢ postpaid.

Mary's volunteer army is growing. We are pleased to number among our new helpers in Mary's project, Miss Dorothy McMahon of Maryhouse, Minneapolis. Miss McMahon and her helpers have consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary in the service of the neglected colored people of their city. Despite their taxing and time-consuming work, they have found occasion to check already close to a dozen libraries for our Union Catalogue. -- At the other end of the Twin Cities, Sister Marie Cecilia, of the College of St. Catherine, has offered to cooperate in this same work. -- Last summer our local staff worked out a tentative system of classification to be used eventually in the cataloguing of the Marian Library. Sister Marie Cecilia, who is Director of the accredited Library School at the college, has offered to take our classification as a project for her classes in library science and to give us the benefit of their criticisms. Thus newer forces are rallying to Mary's cause. We shall be glad to supply copies of this 7-page classification to all those who are anxious to help us prepare further for the work of cataloguing, which we hope to inaugurate during the coming summer, if possible.

From Detroit, there is also pleasant news. Sister Ursula, I.M.M., our field worker there, is right on the job. She has sent in Record Cards for ten more libraries. We are pleased to note the fine cooperation of different religious societies. Among the sisters submitting these Record Cards, we find initials different from Sister Ursula's, I.M.M., for example, S.C. (Sisters of Charity), O.P. (Dominicans), S.M.R. (Society of Mary Reparatrix). It is a pleasure for us each month to discover new friends of Our Blessed Mother.

From Philadelphia, Bro. Ignatius Knickius, S.M., sends Record Cards for twelve more libraries. He seems to complain that he is losing one of his best helpers, but we don't think he should feel that way. He writes that Miss Evelyn Liederbach, who has checked many libraries, public and private, is entering the Carmelite convent on December 8. We are proud to have had her among our helpers and we are sure that, as

she imbibes the spirit of the Little Flower in her new home, she will support our work by her prayers. We like to think of our work as an apostolate, and we know that the Little Flower is the official patron of missionaries. We are sure, therefore, that Evelyn's entrance into Carmel, far from depriving us of a helper, is providing us with a "key worker" in the power plant that is indispensable for the success of Mary's project. To Evelyn, our best wishes and our prayers that Mary may ever guide her in the realization of her noble ambition.

Another librarian joins our ranks in Miss Melvina Hendricken of Brockton, Mass. Her offer comes as the result of Mr. J. Griffin's "letter" on the Marian Library in the Boston Pilot. We should like to commend the outstanding work of Mr. Griffin in behalf of the Marian Library. Since our October Newsletter, he has contributed twenty-four books, and, in his latest letter, says that more are on the way. He has also sent us dozens of his articles on the Blessed Mother published in Sponsa Regis and other periodicals. Most recently he has written an article on the Marian Library in the form of a "letter" to the Brooklyn Tablet, the Boston Pilot, and other papers. We quote from his article: "Unfortunately this magnificent and long-overdue project has not received the widespread attention it deserves. The principal purpose... is to assemble... literature about the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will probably become the greatest center of Marian research in the world and eventually may well become the mecca of scholars from all nations.... Let us all join forces in this master plan to erect a worthy shrine of scholarship to the Mother of the Word Incarnate." -- That is more than we ever dared to say, but it is not beyond our fondest hopes. Nothing is too good for our Blessed Mother. We feel certain that the continued and ever growing support we are receiving will enable us to make great progress toward realization of those hopes. Mr. Griffin's "letters" have brought many responses; they should serve as a tip for others in whose region the project is little known.

From more distant points Mary's friends are likewise seeking a share in her project. From Europe we have unsolicited offers from priests in Paris and Bordeaux, France, and from Fribourg, Switzerland. We hope to organize our six European provinces (of the Society of Mary--Marianists) for this work during the coming months. From South Africa, Father Storck, requests the "privilege of acting as branch director" for his region. Father Storck is editor of the Queen of the Kingdom, and has contributed full-page articles on the Marian Library in the May and September issues, which in turn have brought responses from East Africa.

Fulton Sheen among donors. During the past month the Right Rev. Msgr. Fulton Sheen contributed an autographed copy of his latest work, The Seven Words of Our Lord and Our Lady (Kenedy). His accompanying letter of commendation is most encouraging to all of us. We were happy, too, to receive Don Sharkey's autographed copy of After Bernadette (Bruce), an excellent introduction to the story of Lourdes. From New England, Kiffy Parsons sent us an autographed copy of her Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage (Driftwood Press, North Montpelier, Vt.).

Army chaplain joins benefactors. From the Shrivensham American University of England, Msgr. Robert Sherry (Major) sent \$25.00 as a token of his commendation and encouragement. The ladies' Sodality of St. Peter's parish, Chillicothe, Ohio, which we had the pleasure of addressing on the Marian Library, contributed \$25.00 to further the work. Chaminade High, Dayton, Ohio, added \$25.00 to its previous contribution. -- Among the recent donors of books we list Mother Francis Regis (Philadelphia), William Bruce (Milwaukee), George Blute (Somerville, Mass.), Father Juan Madrazo (San Juan, Puerto Rico), Father Gerard Decorme, S.J., (Isleta, Texas), Chaminade High (Mineola, N.Y.) and Colegio San Jose (San Juan, Puerto Rico).

Your Christmas gift to Mary. We recall to our readers that the Marian Library is operating solely on the voluntary offerings of services and funds of Mary's loyal children. The publication of the Supplement is costing almost \$500.00. Most of the copies will be distributed gratis to our field workers and their assistants. As they locate out-of-print books for purchase, further funds will be required. May we appeal to all the friends of Mary for a little gift to Her to whom our project is dedicated, -- to Her, who made Christmas Day possible.

To all our friends, co-workers, and donors, our sincerest thanks. May Mary reward your generosity abundantly at this Christmas season and grant you a truly Marian New Year. Note: Please post this notice or pass it on. Help make our Blessed Mother's work known to all her children. We shall be glad to receive new names for our mailing list. There is no charge for the Newsletter.