

Marian Committee of the United States. On December 7 and 8 the first national Marian congress was held at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. A large crowd assisted at the public sessions and at the Pontifical High Mass held in the main chapel of the Shrine. But the principal purpose of the congress appeared only in the closed sessions to which the principal Marian lay movements were invited. Among these were the Rosary Confraternity, the Family Rosary, the Scapular Militia, the Association of the Miraculous Medal, the Sorrowful Mother Novena, and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin, the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, and last but not least our own little Marian Library. To this group was added the National Mariology Commission of the National Federation of Catholic College Students (NFCCS). The chief purpose of the closed sessions was to develop means of unifying these great movements in carrying out the great mission of Mary in modern times. Emphasis was placed on apostolate as the "common bond" that ought to unite all of these organizations. They are all interested in developing children of Mary; they are all interested in imitating Him who said: "I have given you an example, that as I have done, so do you also." -- To imitate Jesus, the first Child of Mary, we must be animated by the same purpose for which He became a Child of Mary, -- the salvation of mankind. To be a true child of Mary means to live for souls, to suffer and die for them. It is this apostolic goal that has been adopted by the new committee to be known as the "Marian Committee of the United States of America." This is to be a permanent committee and is to meet at least once a year to discuss ways and means of furthering its work. -- We were very grateful for the invitation to this congress. Our infant project had little claim to association with these well-established lay movements. Our claim, if any, lies in the future, in our possibility of rendering great service as a clearing house for all these associations. We hope to offer help to all their members, when our library is prepared to act as the service agency which is its goal. -- The Marian Library should profit a great deal from the cooperation of these other movements, according to the plans drawn up at the congress.-- The Committee plans to hold another congress this year to commemorate the dedication of the United States to the Immaculate Conception. May 12 has been set as tentative date for the opening session.

By a strange coincidence to us the closed sessions of the congress were held in the Marian Library of the National Shrine. This gave us the opportunity to examine some of its precious treasures in the ancient tomes devoted to our Blessed Mother. A report on the chief possessions of the Mariana Library is found in the latest issue of the Bulletin of the Catholic University.

During our short stay in Washington, we were privileged to pay a visit to one of the earliest benefactors of the Marian Library, who donated many valuable books to our collection. We were greatly edified by the Christian atmosphere of his home, but our surprise came, when he ushered us into his "Marian chapel." His office and the adjacent room were literally lined with statues, pictures, plaques, medallions, and books on the Blessed Mother, one more beautiful than the other. Our host seemed happy and proud to talk about the things that referred to the Blessed Virgin. What we admired most was his "at-homeness" with his Mother and whatever referred to Her.

The Union Catalogue. In earlier issues of the Newsletter we have referred to our Union Catalogue, in which we hope to unite all the Marian books of as many public and private libraries as possible. While in Washington, therefore, we took the occasion to visit the most famous of all Union Catalogues, the one at the Library of Congress. As it was in the evening just before train time, we were not able to meet the chief custodian, but we did gather a bit of valuable information to facilitate our own work. Since then, we have corresponded with Mr. George Schwegman, the Director, and were pleased at his interest in our project. He is anxious to incorporate the results of our findings in his Union Catalogue. Certainly, if this can be

done, it will increase the fruitfulness of our work a hundredfold. To do this, however, we depend entirely on the cooperation of our Field Workers, who are responsible for having Record Cards made for the public and private libraries of their districts. The work should be quite simple now that we have issued the Booklist and the Supplement. We urge our Field Workers to press this work forward as fast as possible, because upon it depends to a great extent the realization of a number of the principal objectives of our project. -- We appeal again to others, especially teachers who are in a position to encourage their students or socialists to participate in the work of checking public libraries, parish libraries, etc. to offer their help in furthering our Blessed Mother's work. We shall be glad to offer gratis all the materials for this purpose.

The Union Catalogue will be one of our greatest means for acting as a service agency, after it is sufficiently developed. It has already given valuable help. Just today we had a request for help in preparing a paper on the apparitions of Our Lady. The request came from Cleveland. We feel quite sure that our inquirer was greatly helped by the fact that we could tell her that the best set of books on the subject was available in her own city at the Ursuline College. We were able to render this service only because we had the Record Card filled out for Ursuline College library by one of our generous helpers. We need many such helpers in every city of the United States. If you can spare an hour or two a month, send in your name; WE NEED MORE FIELD WORKERS.

We were pleased to receive Record Cards from seven more libraries in the Pittsburgh area from Father Robert Brown, S.M., but we were more pleased at his statement that "Sister Helen Mohr, S.C., has agreed to see to the checking of all her community libraries in the diocese." -- Here is an example for all members of religious communities. If you are interested in Mary's work, see to it that every one of your community libraries has a Record Card in our Marian Library Union Catalogue. Write for a Record Card today.

Our benefactors. Gifts to Mary's project have continued to flow in during the past two months. We are happy to point out especially the donation of 19 new books by Sister Mary Therese, O.S.B., of Ferdinand, Indiana, and 24 books together with other items by Mr. Griffin. We are grateful to Mr. Griffin also for his further publicity for our project through articles in the Sign and the Catholic Educational Review. The notice in the February issue of the Messenger of the Sacred Heart probably owes its origin to one of his articles also. -- Rather unique among our latest acquisitions are three Japanese books on our Blessed Mother. They come through Sgt. Paul Swift in Kyoto, Japan. He writes that because no books could be bought there Father Furuya, pastor of St. Francis church "insisted that I take these, his own books. He was delighted to be able to make some contribution for Mary" as he put it. He is Japanese -- educated in Rome." Sgt. Swift who also sent us books previously from the European theater of war adds characteristically: "It has been a real thrill for me to meet these servants of God--of all nationalities--in all corners of the world." -- A prized acquisition comes from Sister Paul-Emile in Ottawa, Canada, in the form of a copy of Cardinal Lepicier's Relations de la très Sainte Vierge avec le très Saint Sacrement, an address delivered at an International Eucharistic Congress. -- From Mineola, Father Monheim sends us several books secured from salvage shops. Here's a hint for other Field Workers. Get in touch with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in your district and see whether they have any Marian books that you can direct this way. -- We take this opportunity to thank all these donors, as well as those who have offered cash gifts. We should like to single out an anonymous gift of \$5.00 from St. Louis and a \$25.00 War Bond from the faculty of Purcell High School, Cincinnati. Other gifts have come in Newburgh, N.Y., Dedham, Mass., New York City, St. Louis, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. To these and the many others our sincerest thanks!

(PLEASE POST)



## UNION CATALOGUE OF THE MARIAN LIBRARY

Nature and purpose. A Union Catalogue is in reality a combination of many different catalogues in one. Besides giving general data regarding a publication, it gives also the exact location in which it can be found, that is, it generally indicates in some way several libraries containing the work in question. The Union Catalogue of the Marian Library proposes to do this service for all the principal books treating of our Blessed Mother. In the Marian Library organization, there are field workers in the principal cities throughout the states, as well as in Canada, Mexico, and South America. These field workers are expected to check libraries, both public and private, for all Marian books. They may do this checking either directly or through others. This can be done very readily through members of Sodalties and other Marian organizations.

Method. This checking of libraries was originally done by having individuals copy the complete name of the author, the title, the place of publication, etc. However, since we have issued the Booklist of the Marian Library, this work has been greatly simplified. Now the procedure (as described on pp. 2 and 3 of the Supplement to the Booklist of the Marian Library) is as follows: (1) The one checking the library finds the title of a book on the Blessed Mother and locates this in the Booklist which is arranged alphabetically by author. Each book has a number. This number then is recorded on the Record Card as shown on page 3 of the Supplement. This process is repeated for every Marian book. If there are differences in editions or publishers, or if there is an entirely new author and title, these also are indicated on the Record Card as shown on page 3 of the Supplement. When all the books of an individual library have been entered on the card, the record is complete. This corresponds then to the catalogue of Marian books of that single library. (2) The next step is to transfer this record or individual catalogue to the Union Catalogue. This is done as shown on the accompanying page. On this page it will be noticed that there are code letters, each code indicating an individual library. The code follows the system in the Union List of Serials and Symbols Used in the Union Catalogue of the Library of Congress. In general, the code is made up as follows: the first capital letter indicates the state, the second indicates the city, and the third the individual library. When there is no third letter, the code indicates the principal or public library of the locality. For example, on the accompanying sheet NM indicates Maryknoll (M), New York (N); MIDR indicates the rectory (r) of the Holy Redeemer Parish (R) of Detroit (D), Michigan (Mi); DF stands for the Franciscan Monastery Library (F) in Washington, D. C. (D).--To continue our explanation then, the Union Catalogue will give us the information as to the location of the various books. Thus, on the accompanying page, we notice No. 1450. Checking with the Booklist we notice that this number represents "Longo, B., Fifteen Saturdays of the Most Holy Rosary. Valle Pompe, 1907." The Union Catalogue then tells us that so far we know that Longo's book is found in the libraries of Maryknoll, New York, the Redeemer Rectory Library, in Detroit, Michigan, and the Franciscan Library, Washington, D. C. The other symbols on the accompanying page are interpreted in a similar manner. Each one stands for a separate library.

At the present time our Union Catalogue is still in its infancy, but we hope during the coming months to enlarge it considerably. When it is more complete, we shall be able to tell inquirers the library nearest to them which contains the work they are seeking.

Local Union Catalogue. This Union Catalogue will enable us to give a great deal of service. Among others we may be able to help different communities or cities to establish a local Union Catalogue. If any city, for example Detroit, is anxious to establish a Marian reading circle we should be able to turn over to them all the Record Cards for the libraries in Detroit so that they can, with a minimum of effort, construct a Union Catalogue for their own locality. This will enable them to know exactly where every Marian book in Detroit can be found.

February, 1946

(over)

1450. NM, MiDRA, DE

51. DE

52.

53.

54. MoKM,

55. NB, Ma,

56. RM, InF, ND,

57. MA,

58.

59.

1460.

61. CENa,

62. NKNR,

63. InN,

64. MiDR, DE

65.

66.

67.

68. InF, ND, Ma, InMnA,

69. InN,

1470.

71. DU,

72. PM,

73. XCM, InF, InM,

74. KyN,

75. MoKM, MoCC, DEN,

76.

77.

78. MADE, PB,C

79. InF, NM, MiDR,

1480.

81. OCa,

82. MiDV,

83. WG, PPa, PC,

84. ODM,

85.

86. ODU,

87. InM, NB, WG,

88. PC,

89. OCa,

1490. DE

91. DE

92. WG, MoKM, PV,

93. PPR, PC, ODM,

94.

95. PPI,D,

96. IC, PC,F,

97. InF, MiDRA, InMnA,

98. PS, MiDM,

99. InF, WG, MoCC,