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AWARDING

THE MARIAN LIBRARY MEDAL TO

VERY REVEREND CHARLES BALIĆ, O.F.M.

The Marian Library of the University of Dayton is greatly honored to present its gold medal of 1971 to the eminent Franciscan scholar Father Charles Balić, President of the International Pontifical Marian Academy.

For some forty years Father Balić has promoted the cause of Marian scholarship with the most extraordinary energy. Since 1931 he has been contributing to the discussion of all the major issues in contemporary Mariology by a vast number of his own original books and articles. In addition to this, he has undertaken the critical edition of works by several earlier writers. A bibliography of these marian works which he has published either as author or editor takes up more than seven closely printed pages in volume 20 of the Ephemerides Mariologicae.\(^1\)

Father Balić has done much to encourage the production of significant studies by other Mariologists the world over. He has, first of all, inaugurated at least seven distinct series of publications, the earliest, begun in 1931, centering on Medieval Mariology, and the latest in 1968, devoted to biblical-patristic studies. Then, as President of the International Marian Academy, he organized the First International Mariological and the Eighth Marian Congress to celebrate the dogmatic proclamation of the Assumption in 1950. He has continued in the capacity of general coordinator of these important gatherings, which have taken place every four years since then. Father Balić has also assumed the formidable task of editing their voluminous proceedings. Considering all this activity, we can see quite clearly that

\(^1\) Another bibliography will appear in the Festschrift, now in press, honoring the seventieth birthday of this great Mariologist, who is also well-known for his important work as a Scotist, especially in his capacity as general editor of the Opera omnia of Duns Scotus.
The Marian Library Medal

Father Balić has played a very prominent role in the elaboration of marian doctrine as it was eventually formulated by the Second Vatican Council. It is in tribute to this very productive life and to thank him for the inspiration and generous encouragement he has given to others, that a jury of his peers has selected Father Balić as the recipient of the Marian Library Medal. The award will be given to him during the Sixth International Mariological and Thirteenth Marian Congress, which is being held this year, from August 6 through August 15 at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, his native country. It will be a singular joy for the Marian Library to pay its measure of praise to Father Balić, who has proved to be a worthy son of St. Francis, himself so signally devoted to the Mother of God.

The Marian Library Medal, established in 1953, was intended originally to promote the writing of good marian books in English. In 1967 the library board agreed to present it once every four years to a scholar who, in the judgment of an international body of experts, deserves the honor because of his singular contribution to the advancement of scientific Mariology. Father Balić will be the first to receive the medal under these new conditions.

2 In September of 1969, Father Robert Maloy, the director of the Marian Library, had the medal redone. Bro. Joseph Barrish, S.M., of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Dayton, submitted the new design, which was executed in a first cast by Rev. Henry Setter, S.M., in 1971. A final casting has been entrusted to a firm in Salamanca, Spain.