

Marian Library Newsletter

Rev. Edmund J. Baumeister, S.M., Editor
University of Dayton, Dayton 9, Ohio

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Priorities delay. This is the first time that the Marian Library has occasion to complain that its immediate work has been hampered somewhat by the war. We had hoped by this time to be able to announce the publication of our booklist, but due to priorities and lack of manpower in different quarters, the printer was not able to get the materials he needed to carry on the work as rapidly as he had hoped. It was especially the unusual characters required for the foreign titles, such as French and Spanish, that caused the delay. We are glad, however, to say that the booklist is really under way. We have examined the proofs for the first part and are confident that the finished copy will meet our expectations, and that with its publication our widely scattered army of branch directors will be able to get into action and produce rich results with a minimum expenditure of energy and time. We feel certain that next time we shall be able to give evidence of real progress through the use of the booklist, which should be off the press in another month.

A reply to our last Newsletter brought a complaint that in the enumeration of the cities included in our national organization of branch directors the city which had perhaps done more for our project than any other was not given a mention. We regret very much this oversight. Our investigation showed that the blame lies primarily with our "typist-publisher" who inadvertently skipped an entire line: "Brooklyn, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Covington, Detroit, Galesville, Hamilton." All these cities had already volunteered the services of branch directors before the publication of our December Newsletter. Since that time the following cities have been added to our list: Ansonia (Conn.), Canon City (Colo.), Ferdinand (Ind.), Lima (Peru), Newburgh (N.Y.), Ponce (Puerto Rico), Hilo, Honolulu, and Wailuku (Hawaii), and Sherrill (N.Y.). With these additions we have at the present time forty-two branch directors together with a list of thirty assistants. These branch directors include twenty-nine priests and Brothers of the Society of Mary and thirteen others, among them, priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay men and women. They will hear from us as soon as the booklist is ready for distribution.

Periodicals in the Marian Library. Until now we have been concentrating our principal efforts on our book collection, but we intend eventually to build up also as complete a collection of Marian periodicals as well. We are happy to say that our request for back numbers of the Ave Maria has met with the finest cooperation, so that now we lack only three volumes for the completion of our set, viz., VII (1871), VIII (1872), and XVIII (1882). We shall appreciate information as to where these may be had. They are no longer available at the Ave Maria Press. We single out here for special mention St. Mary's College, Kansas, which besides donating a substantial number of volumes of the Ave Maria, added forty-five volumes of the Rosary Magazine including Volumes 2-46, 1891-1915. We are anxious to complete that set and shall be glad to hear from any of our friends who can help us locate the remaining volumes. At this time we also appeal to all who have back numbers, especially bound volumes of any other Marian periodicals, that are not doing any particular service where they are, but might do a great service in our national research library. We shall be grateful for any news about such periodicals. May we suggest that interested parties write us before sending in such periodicals in order to avoid too much duplication and useless expense in transportation.

Generous Response. We are very grateful for the many gifts to the Marian Library in response to our plea for a Christmas remembrance. Lt. Julie Glaser has the distinction of being the first person in the service to join the ranks of our donors. Special thanks are due to Sister M. Therese, O.S.B., for her gift of ten dollars and her still more generous offer of service in furthering the project.

There have also been generous contributions in the form of books and pamphlets. We are very grateful to Benjamin Bussler for his autographed copy of his latest work, Kyrie Eleison published by the Magnificat Press, Manchester, N.H. The book is extremely interesting, containing as it does 200 different litanies, 25 of which are

litanies of the Blessed Virgin. Among these are the litanies of the "Life of Mary," "Holy Name of Mary," and "Immaculate Heart of Mary" (by Newman). From the Very Rev. Walter C. Tredtin, S.M. we received a valuable copy of Carl Sonnenschein's Madonnen. Mary Leahy of Ansonia, Conn., sent us an old copy of a contemporary report on the apparitions of Knock. From Purcell High School, Cincinnati, we received several valuable additions in books and pamphlets. We also thank Miss Alice Dolan of Freer, Texas, for her manuscript poem, "Mary My Beautiful Mother," which we hope to publish in some of our later work. We are also grateful for an anonymous gift of \$5.00 from St. Louis as well as a copy of Lynch's A Woman Wrapped in Silence. To all these kind friends our sincerest thanks.

Services of the Marian Library. A request from the major seminary in Montreal, illustrates the type of service we hope to be able to give on a large scale, after the Marian Library has advanced further toward its goal. A student at that seminary asked us to locate three books on the Blessed Virgin that he needed for certain research work. If our Union Catalogue had been sufficiently developed, we might have indicated libraries in Canada to which he could have had recourse. We were, however, able to tell him that he could get two of the books from the Library of Congress, but for the third he would have to go to a library in Beacon, N.Y. Eventually we shall be able to tell people the nearest library to their homes that contains a particular book. This is the purpose of a Union Catalogue. Another request of a different kind has come from a group of seminarians, who are anxious to know of all the Marian organizations enriched with spiritual privileges of any kind. If any of our readers knows such a list we shall be glad to act as intermediary in rendering the service.

We were favored with another letter from Father Cacella during the past month. (See December Newsletter). Father Cacella has his headquarters in Brooklyn, where he is trying to spread the devotion urged by Our Blessed Mother. He has asked us to be a Promoter of the Sodality of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for which purpose he has sent us hundreds of application blanks and booklets for those interested in joining his crusade or rather the crusade of Our Blessed Mother. The only condition for membership is the daily recitation of the Rosary. Married people are to promise that they will say it with the other members of their family. Membership entitles one to a share in the daily Mass offered at headquarters and to having one's name inscribed in the GOLDEN BOOK at the original shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

We accept with pleasure this privilege of being a Promoter of this beautiful devotion. We shall be glad to forward to all inquirers as many application blanks and booklets on Fatima, as they desire, and supply them with certificates of membership as soon as we receive the formal application. - May we add here that Father Cacella's headquarters are at St. Anthony's Welfare Center, 443 E. 135th St., New York 54, N.Y. He does a great deal of charity there through his breadlines, etc. Any contribution to his cause will be appreciated.

National Mariology Commission. At a recent convention in Detroit we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Regina Daley, the chairman of the National Mariology Commission and of hearing the interesting program carried out by its members. The commission is located at the College of St. Rose, Albany. We were edified to hear of their wonderful cooperation with the Family Rosary Crusade and the Scapular Militia. Their scrapbooks on Marian music and art as well as contemporary news on the Blessed Mother intrigued us. We were pleased to note that the Marian Library found a significant place in their scrapbook. What interested us most was the thought of the enormous possibilities in such a project, if introduced into all our high schools throughout the country. Why not establish a local commission in each high school as a part of the Marian Sodality or the Mission Crusade in honor of the Queen of the Apostles?

Before leaving Detroit we made a call on Sister Mary Ursula, I.H.M., our volunteer branch director of that region. We were most anxious to meet her and acquaint her thoroughly with the purpose and methods of the Marian Library project, because we feel that the Detroit region is an important field for the work. Our visit was most encouraging. Sister M. Ursula has a committee all set to go, as soon as we give the word, i.e., as soon as the booklist is issued as their tool. Sister has enthusiastic plans for giving us the most generous cooperation. She plans to interest all the Sisters in the project at the next annual retreat and feels sure that the entire district of Detroit and Toledo will be well taken care of. We are just as certain of the greatest success after she transmits some of her enthusiasm to the thousand Sisters at the retreat next summer. We still need more Sister Ursula's especially in those cities not mentioned in the earlier part of this letter and in the December issue. We shall be glad to enlist other volunteers, who are willing to direct their students in checking the libraries of their districts for Marian books.