

Marian Studies

Volume 42 *Proceedings of the Forty-Second
National Convention of the Mariological Society
of America held in Chicago, Ill.*

Article 5

1991

Editor's Preface

Thomas A. Thompson
University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies



Part of the [Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Thompson, Thomas A. (1991) "Editor's Preface," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 42, Article 5.
Available at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol42/iss1/5

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Marian Library Publications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Marian Studies by an authorized editor of eCommons. For more information, please contact mschlangen1@udayton.edu, ecommons@udayton.edu.

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Mariological Society of America's 42nd annual meeting took place in Chicago at the Cenacle Retreat House, May 29-30, 1991. This was the second of three annual meetings devoted to studying the presence of Mary throughout the entire liturgical year. These three meetings are an exploration of the full meaning of Vatican II's statement in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*: "In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honors with a special love the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of Christ" (103).

When we think of Mary's association with Christ in the liturgical year, the solemnities of the Advent and Christmas season come to mind—the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8), the Nativity of the Lord (Dec. 25), the Solemnity of the Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Epiphany of the Lord (Jan. 6), and the Presentation of the Lord (Feb. 2). The Gospels record Mary's presence and participation in events concerning Jesus' annunciation, birth, and childhood, and, so, the first Marian commemorations in the liturgy developed in the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons.

But Mary's association with Christ was not limited to his birth and childhood. The first to believe in Christ (Lk. 1:42), she was called blessed for hearing and keeping the word of God (Mk. 3:35; Lk. 11:27-28). She advanced in her pilgrimage of faith and shared the sentiments of her Son as he suffered on the cross near which, by divine intention, she stood (Jn. 19:25). Also, there is a tradition—affirmed by Ambrose of Milan, Ignatius of Loyola, and, most recently, by Hans Urs von Balthasar—that, after the Resurrection, Mary encountered the Risen Christ. Her motherhood of love con-

tinues until all come to know and respond to God's grace.

In the present liturgical calendar of the Western Church, there is no commemoration of Mary during the Lent and Eastertide. (Until the 1961 reform of the calendar, there was a feast on Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent commemorating the compassion of Mary and another on September 15 in memory of all her sorrows. Only the latter has been retained.) Just as the solemnities dealing with the Incarnation (Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation) all have a Marian dimension, so do the seasons devoted to commemorating the Redemption (Lent, the Paschal Triduum, and the Easter time). Mary suffered with her son and associated herself with his sacrifice (*Lumen gentium* 65).

One way of commemorating Mary's presence in Lent and the Easter season is found in the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (1986). The use of these Masses is optional; they are available for those who wish to portray the Virgin Mary in a way appropriate to the spirit of the liturgical season. (The prayers could also be used in the Liturgy of the Hours and in prayer services.) During Lent, "the Blessed Virgin is the model of the disciple who faithfully listens to the word of God and follows the footsteps of Christ to Calvary, there to die with him (see 2 Tim. 2:11). At the Paschal Triduum, the Blessed Virgin is the new Eve or the "new woman" who stands by the tree of life (see Jn. 19:25), as the companion of Christ, the "new man," and as the spiritual mother into whose maternal care the Lord entrusts all his followers (see Jn. 19:26).

The *Collection* presents five Masses for use during the Lenten season (Holy Mary, Disciple of the Lord; The Virgin Mary at the Foot of the Cross, I and II; The Commendation of Mary; and The Virgin Mary, Mother of Reconciliation). During the Easter Season, the *Collection* has four Masses to commemorate Mary's participation in the Paschal Mystery (The Virgin Mary at the Resurrection; Mary as the Fountain of Light and Life; Our Lady of the Cenacle; Mary, Queen of the Apostles).

These three annual meetings of the Mariological Society

of America—1990, 1991, 1992—were intended not as a campaign for more Marian feasts but as a way of bringing homilists and catechists to an awareness of the inseparable bond uniting Mary to the mysteries of Christ celebrated throughout the liturgical year.

We thank all who made this program possible, especially the three speakers who responded to the Society's wish for a program on Mary in Lent and Easter. Fr. Bertrand Buby, S.M., was asked to reflect on the presence of Mary in the Scriptures read for the seasons of Lent and Easter and Fr. Lawrence Choate, O.S.M., on the liturgical texts of the seasons; Fr. Johann Roten, S.M., was asked to provide the commentary on principal themes for preaching and teaching. Fr. James Davis, O.P., presented a study of the Apostolic Letter *Redemptoris custos*, and Fr. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., provided his annual comprehensive survey of Marian literature.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank all who helped make the 1991 meeting possible: Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, for his invitation to hold the meeting in the Archdiocese of Chicago; Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, Auxiliary of Chicago, for his welcome to the Archdiocese and for celebrating the Eucharist with us; the Servites of Chicago for providing the reception; the staff of the Cenacle Retreat House for their hospitality; and, finally, the benefactors and supporting members of the Mariological Society of America.

THOMAS A. THOMPSON, S.M.