
Matthew F. Morry

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

Recommended Citation

This Back 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 frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.
REPORT, 1990-91: NEW ENGLAND REGION

The New England Region of the Mariological Society of America held its annual meeting on Saturday, October 13, 1990, at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. with prayer led by the Most Reverend George H. Pearce, S.M., D.D. Fr. Matthew Morry, O.P., Director of the New England Region, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Archbishop George H. Pearce, assistant to the Bishop of Providence, R.I. His topic was "Mary: Model of Christian Spirituality."

Archbishop Pearce proposed that if we are to be identified as participants of the Kingdom of God then we must become and remain as little children. Yet, how are we to do this? How are we to encounter the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit? God has arranged this.

This journey to God takes place through a personal meeting with the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, the Lord Jesus sends to us and breathes into us the Holy Spirit. It is through the power of the Spirit that Jesus, the Christ, comes to us. It is the Spirit Who makes it possible for us to cry out Abba (Father). This encounter with the Trinity is personal, dynamic, lifelong.

"Through the Father's Fiat all creation came into being. But at Mary's Fiat all creation was thenceforth and for all eternity drawn into the very essence and substance of God in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ." Mary, then, is the way to God through her Son; for with living faith Mary received God's Word. And, so, we also have a special relationship with Mary, and we are caught up in her cooperation with the Divine Will at the Annunciation and at the Cross. She, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church, united with her Son Jesus, intercedes for us to God.
Further, Archbishop Pearce noted how Pope John Paul II has focused upon our path to God and on Mary's role in the Divine Saving Act. The Pope develops this in four of his encyclicals: *Redemptor Hominis*, *Dives in Misericordia*, *Dominum et Vivificantem*, and *Redemptoris Mater*. As the Holy Father explains, Jesus reveals the Father to us in His Human Nature received from Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the hour of the death and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to us as the Consoler, as the Spirit of Truth. Through her faith, Mary entrusts herself to God, conceives Jesus, and preserves her union with Christ at the Cross. United in faith to her Son Jesus, Mary is and remains our Mother in the order of grace. She is our model for participating in the Kingdom, in the life of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Following the Keynote Address and discussion, the audience of one hundred and thirty joined Archbishop Pearce in a Marian Liturgy in Aquinas Chapel. The homilist at this liturgy was the Reverend Peter Martin Batts, O.P., sometime professor of theology at Providence College and presently a graduate candidate in Washington, D.C. Fr. Batts invited us all to reflect on Mary as Model and Teacher of prayer, as seen in her complete surrender in the Annunciation, her humility in her visit to Elizabeth, her resignation to God's will at the Cross and her confidence and trust in God at the Pentecost experience in the Upper Room. In Mary one finds the reaches of the human spirit concretely exemplified as responding to God's call.

Following the Eucharistic Liturgy there was a luncheon, with a brief business meeting. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

**REV. MATTHEW F. MORRY, O.P.**

*Director, New England Region, MSA*