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Editor's Preface

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Mariological Society of America's 43rd annual meeting took place in Houston, Texas, at the University of St. Thomas, May 28–29, 1992. This was the third of three meetings devoted to studying the presence of Mary in the celebration of liturgy throughout the entire liturgical year. These three meetings were 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." These three meetings were also a study of the resources contained in the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* which provides texts for the liturgical commemoration of Mary in every season of the liturgical year.

This year's meeting was devoted to the liturgical celebrations of Mary in Ordinary Time. (The previous two meetings dealt with Mary in the Advent-Christmas season [1990] and Mary in the Lent-Easter program [1991].) Ordinary Time comprises all of the liturgical year except for the two seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter, when Ordinary Time is interrupted to prepare for and celebrate the two great mysteries of the Incarnation (Christmas) and Redemption (Easter). Each year, thirty-three or thirty-four weeks—those after Epiphany until Ash Wednesday and the long period after Pentecost to Advent—are designated as Ordinary Time. The specific purpose of Ordinary Time is to celebrate "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects."

During Ordinary Time, there are many Marian feasts and memorials—the Visitation, the Assumption, the Nativity of Mary, as well as the commemoration of Mary on Saturday. In

addition, the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* offers twenty-eight different Mass formularies which may be used during Ordinary Time. The *Collection* gives expression to "the inseparable bond" uniting Mary to Christ's redemption celebrated in liturgy. The *Collection* states that all the Mass formularies for Ordinary Time have one and the same object: "the work God has accomplished in Mary in relationship to Christ and the Church—but celebrated under many different aspects."

This year's program followed the same pattern as the previous two. First, there was a study of the Scriptures for the Masses for Mary in Ordinary Time, then a study of the liturgical texts, and finally a theological reflection on the liturgical season intended as a help to homilists and catechists. The speakers were encouraged to develop the topics in a manner they deemed appropriate and profitable.

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 Ordinary Time. Fr. James Turro was asked to reflect on the presence of Mary in the Scriptures read during Ordinary Time, and Fr. J. Michael Joncas on the liturgical texts of the season; Fr. Walter Brennan, O.S.M., was asked to provide the commentary on the principle themes for preaching and teaching.

This year's program included a presentation by Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, O.F.M.Conv., on the Mariology and scholarly achievements of Fr. Juniper Carol, O.F.M., founder of the Mariological Society of America and for many years its "guiding spirit." The latter's ability to enlist the collaboration of many made possible the three volumes of *Mariology* (published by Bruce of Milwaukee, 1955–1961) and twenty-nine volumes of *Marian Studies* (1950–1978). These works, together with his own books and articles, were major influences on the American scene in the field of Marian studies.

In this quinqucentennial year of the discovery and evangelization of the Americas, Fr. James E. McCurry, O.F.M.Conv., devoted the presidential address to Our Lady of Guadalupe: Evangelizer of the Americas.

We wish to acknowledge and thank all who helped make the 1992 meeting possible: Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston for his invitation to the diocese and for celebrating the Eucharist with us; the staff of the University of St. Thomas, especially Jan Schultz, for the hospitality and pleasing accommodations; Lee Bowers and the members of the Marian Activity Center for their many services; and, finally, all the benefactors of the Mariological Society of America for their continued and generous assistance.

THOMAS A. THOMPSON, S.M.