

Marian Studies

Volume 37 *Proceedings of the Thirty-Seventh
National Convention of the Mariological Society
of America held in Tampa, FLA.*

Article 25

1986

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Recommended Citation

Jelly, Frederick M. (1986) "Report, 1985-86: Dallas, Texas Region," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 37, Article 25.
Available at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol37/iss1/25

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REPORT, 1985-86: DALLAS, TEXAS REGION

The first meeting of the Dallas Region was held at St. Cecilia Parish in Dallas, Texas, on October 19, 1985. Although there was a regional meeting of the MSA held at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in Dallas during February 1985, it was still then a part of the Houston-San Antonio Region. Because of the great distance of Dallas from both these Texas cities, it was later decided to make Dallas a distinct region of the MSA.

The topic of this first meeting was "Mary in the Contemporary Church and the Upcoming Extraordinary Synod." The meeting began with the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy in St. Cecilia parish church at which Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of the Dallas Diocese presided and preached. He remained for the rest of the meeting during which Fr. Jelly delivered two talks: "Mary in the Liturgical and Biblical Renewals of the Church and the Upcoming Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in Rome" and "Mary in the Renewal of the Church's Ministries, Especially Those of the Laity, and the Upcoming Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in Rome." Each talk was followed by a period for questions and discussion.

For a first meeting, the attendance was encouraging enough to look forward to greater participation in the future. Among the participants, a good number of the laity were interested in learning how Mary might help them enter more dynamically into the renewals of the post-conciliar Church. At the time of the meeting the Extraordinary Synod had not yet taken place. Fortunately, however, both of Fr. Jelly's addresses were aimed at what actually did transpire in Rome the last week of November and the first week of December 1985. He emphasized Mary's special role in the proper implementation of Vatican II.

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