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Report, 1985-86: Western Region

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REPORT, 1985-86: WESTERN REGION

Affiliation

In accordance with the new article X on regional units of the MSA passed at the 1985 convention, the Western Regional Unit was affiliated with the national organization. MSA/West was instrumental in promoting this idea, and had worked with the national secretary for over a year in this regard.

Overview

MSA/West has experienced a sound establishment in the western states this year. A concerted effort to invite new members, some publicity, the encouragement of many bishops, and a successful Mariology conference contributed to a strong beginning. This firm initiation is due in no small part to the sound organization of Father Alfred Boddeker, O.F.M., and his enlistment of many assistants to work with the executive committee. Father Alfred is chairman of MSA/West, and meets regularly with Father Bertrand Clemens, S.M., Mr. Paul McCarthy, and Brother John Samaha, S.M., members of the executive committee.

Mariology Conference

The principal event of the year was the annual Mariology Conference held September 7, 1985, at the Cathedral of St. Mary in San Francisco. Attendance reached 190 for the day-long program which included two lectures followed by discussion, luncheon, and a Mass celebrating the Birth of Mary. The general theme was Mary in the contemporary Church. Father Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of Loyola University, Chicago, spoke on "Mary, the Woman Come of Age." The reactor was Father Bertrand Clemens, S.M. Father Carroll's paper was published in the

1985 *Marian Studies*. The topic of "Mary of Nazareth: Lady for All Seasons" was addressed by Father Neal Flanagan, O.S.M., of the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, with an analysis of Mary in the Gospels and in related symbolism. Prior to his untimely death, Father Flanagan had planned to publish his paper in the *Biblical Theology Bulletin*. Father Luke Buckles, O.P., was reactor to the second presentation. Most Reverend John Quinn, Archbishop of San Francisco, was principal celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy. The homilist was Most Reverend Pierre DuMaine, Bishop of San Jose, who reflected on the readings for the feast of the Birth of Mary.

Progress and Concerns

In the past year, membership has increased to 144. Organizational efforts are continuing toward building a larger and more active executive committee with representation from diocesan and religious clergy, religious Sisters and Brothers, and the laity. A periodic newsletter, *Mary Today*, has been initiated by the secretary. Plans and opportunities are being considered for hosting more speakers and brief programs in more areas. Finances remain a serious concern.

Future Events

Two Mariology conferences are planned for 1986. In the northwest Father Stephen Ryan, O.S.M., has organized a program for May 31 at the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland, Oregon. The theme is "Living the Magnificat in Our Time," and it will feature an art exhibit and a performance of Bach's "Magnificat." The keynote speaker is Ann Johnson, author of *Miryam of Nazareth: Woman of Strength and Wisdom*. The Portland conference is a biennial event. For northern California the executive committee will again host a program at the Cathedral in San Francisco on September 13. Speakers will be Father Fred Jelly, O.P., of the University of Dallas in Texas, and Father Charles Neumann, S.M., of St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. The San Francisco theme will be Chapter 8 of *Lumen Gentium* two decades after Vatican II.

BRO. JOHN SAMAHA, S.M.
Executive Secretary, MSA/West