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### Report on the 1989 Convention (Burlingame, Calif.)

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**REPORT ON THE 40TH CONVENTION  
(May 31-June 1, 1989—Burlingame, California)**

***MARIALIS CULTUS—an Update: Fifteen Years Later  
(1974-1989)***

The Mariological Society of America held its fortieth annual convention at Mercy Center, in Burlingame, California, near San Francisco, on May 31 and June 1, 1989. It was the first time that the MSA met in the West. Some eighty participants enjoyed California's end-of-spring sun, flowers, birds, and the beauty of the San Francisco Bay. The hospitality and services of the Sisters of Mercy made our sessions very comfortable. As foreseen, we followed a slightly-changed schedule this year; we began May 31st at 2:00 p.m. and we ended June 1st in the evening.

*Wednesday, May 31*

Our MSA coat-of-arms banner decorated the wall of the conference room behind the speakers' table. A display table held the programs of the regional units, the photographs made at our last convention (1988) by Father Charest (who published some of them in *Queen* [Sept.-Oct. 1988]), and a list of the charter members of the Society.

Brother John Samaha, S.M., co-president, began the first session by asking the Most Reverend Patrick J. McGrath, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco, to offer the opening prayer and the welcome address. In the name of the Archbishop, the Most Reverend John R. Quinn (who had sent us the letter of invitation to his archdiocese but could not

come to the convention), Bishop McGrath welcomed the members of the MSA. In a world now filled with promises of peace but still threatened by wars, his welcome address (here published, p. 47) stressed the need for an image of peace. We have this image, the bishop said, in Mary, Mother of Peace and Hope.

Sister Suzanne Toolan, S.M., welcomed us in the name of the Mercy Center.

The Cardinal Wright Award was then presented to Father Alfred Boedekker, O.F.M. The citation, read by Father Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., expressed the admiration of the entire Society for the remarkable personality of Fr. Alfred, his work for the poor and his constant support to the MSA.

Announcements followed. Our episcopal chairman, the Most Reverend Austin B. Vaughan, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, had informed the secretary by phone that he would be unable to attend our convention, because he had to go to jail for his apostolic involvement in pro-life activities. The secretary promised Bishop Vaughan the prayers of the MSA.

Father Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D., speaking for the Committee of Nominations, proposed to the members of the MSA the following two nominees for the Board of Directors: Rev. William L. Lahey, S.S.C., and Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P. Both were approved to replace Bro. John Samaha, S.M., and Rev. James Parker, whose terms had expired.

The liturgical celebrations were coordinated by Father Thomas Thompson, S.M.; the music of Sr. Suzanne Toolan and the Sisters at Mercy Center enhanced our Eucharistic celebrations.

The secretary reminded all members to send him promptly any change-of-address information, to facilitate the use of third-class mail (bulk mail) for our correspondence.

Next, Bro. John Samaha, S.M., co-president of the MSA, read the presidential address written by our other co-president, Father William J. Cole, S.M., entitled "The Future of Mariology."

Dr. Raymond Noll, director of Pastoral Studies at the University of San Francisco, introduced our first speaker, Rev.

Kenan Osborne, O.F.M., professor at Berkeley, California. His topic, "Mary and the Holy Trinity as Reflected in the Liturgical Year," began our convention program—one aimed at an update of *Marialis cultus* after fifteen years (1974-1989)—through the analysis of some of that document's main themes. Father Osborne analyzed the historical development of the teaching on the Holy Trinity and concluded that this mystery, revealing a God who is Love, is manifested in Christ and in his saving work. "What one says about Mary from a theological standpoint is first and foremost a statement about God." In Mary, our liturgy honors above all a revelation of this God of Love; she is the mother of the Son of God, who was made man to reveal the true God, the Divine Persons, for our salvation.

At 5:00 p.m., a concelebrated Eucharist in honor of the feast of the Visitation was presided over by the Most Reverend Donald Montrose, Bishop of Stockton, California. In his homily he spoke of his experience with the poor and of our pastoral responsibilities. We were very grateful to Bishop Montrose who participated in all our sessions.

After the concelebration on May 31st, the participants gathered in the conference room for the customary "happy hour" and then went to the refectory for dinner.

At 8:30 p.m., the Board of Directors held its meeting. The following members were present: Rev. William J. Cole, S.M., Co-President; Bro. John Samaha, S.M., Co-President; Rev. James McCurry, O.F.M. Conv., Vice-President; Rev. Theodore A. Koehler, S.M., Secretary; Rev. Thomas A. Thompson, S.M., Asst. Secretary; Rev. Albert Bourke, O.C.D., Treasurer; and Non-Officers, Rev. Matthew F. Morry, O.P.; Rev. Walter T. Brennan, O.S.M.; Rev. William L. Lahey, S.S.C.; Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P. Rev. Charles R. J. Costello, as future treasurer, was an invited guest. Members who could not attend were: Most Rev. Austin B. Vaughan, Episcopal Chairman; Rev. Juniper B. Carol, President Emeritus; Rev. William B. Smith and Rev. James T. O'Connor, Non-Officers.

The secretary opened the meeting with a prayer. He then gave some preliminary indications about current MSA statis-

tics. The number of Active Members is now 315; with Associate Members, the Society now totals 512 members. The current entire regular distribution for *Marian Studies* is 766 copies. The secretary asked if the number printed could be increased to 1,100, and this proposal was approved.

The Board then discussed the price of *Marian Studies*. The price of a single volume in the United States has been \$10.00. The Board decided to ask \$12.00 per volume of all subscribers, but the dues of the members were not changed.

The secretary proposed to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Mariological Society with a special dedication of the convention and the 1989 issue of *Marian Studies*. The Board agreed. A dedication message at the beginning of our next volume of *Marian Studies* will mention longtime supporter and former episcopal chairman, Cardinal Wright; the founder, Father Juniper Carol; the current episcopal chairman, Bishop Vaughan (noting his courage in the Pro-Life Movement); and, finally, those charter members of the Mariological Society who are still members today, whose names were highlighted on the list that was on display during the convention.

We then passed to the discussion of the items on the agenda which had been prepared and sent beforehand to the Board of Directors. For the convention of 1990, the Board selected the dates, May 30 and 31, and scheduled the Board meeting for May 29, in the evening.

The Board discussed various locations for future conventions. To study this question better, a committee was appointed, composed of Fathers McCurry, Costello, and Thompson. The secretary gave them a folder with materials regarding possible locations, including responses already received by him.

The discussion about topics for 1990 convention papers began with the proposal for a conference about John Henry Newman, since 1990 marks the centennial of his death. A presentation relating to Newman's response to Pusey was suggested: how Newman's answers there can be seen as answers to present-day questions about Mary.

The discussion of other possible topics underlined the importance of the *Letter from the Congregation for Catholic Education* (1988)—sent to the superiors of seminaries and theological faculties and other centers of study—emphasizing the importance of Marian studies and the development of these studies in the more recent past. Especially noted in this letter, signed by Cardinal Baum, were the following documents: Chapter 8 of *Lumen gentium*, Paul VI's *Marialis cultus*, and John Paul II's encyclicals and his homilies, particularly those made on visits to Marian shrines. The Board wished to respond to the real needs of those teaching and preaching the mystery of Mary today. It was felt we should seek not only an integration in theology, but also an openness to the present apostolic responsibilities of the Church in the world—for example, the importance of the poor, as treated in the Magnificat, in the Beatitudes, in the present teaching of the Church.

The Board also discussed the idea that it might be better to center entire future programs on some important themes. Fr. Jelly proposed to base such a program on the liturgical year. The Board nominated a committee and charged it with the elaboration of such a program to be proposed to the Board the next day at 1:30 p.m., before the last General Assembly. The secretary, Fr. Jelly and Fr. Lahey were named to form this committee.

The Board then passed to another item on the agenda: the revision and the reprinting of the constitution and by-laws. A committee was appointed, composed of the secretary (Fr. Koehler), Fr. Charles Neumann and Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan. This committee's proposals will be sent to all the Active MSA members. Their responses, in turn, will be discussed by the Board of Directors at the next convention.

Another point on the agenda was raised—whether it would be useful to send a newsletter (two pages on one sheet) to the members and maybe other interested people, once or twice yearly? The Board preferred the sending of an annual newsletter to accompany the dues notice; we would have a second issue only if necessary.

Our co-president, Bro. Samaha, had proposed that the MSA co-sponsor—possibly with The Marian Library and some dioceses—a competition to foster the renewal and development of Marian hymns with appropriate melodies and vernacular texts. This project would require allocating money, for example, \$1,500. Since we anticipated the election of a new treasurer (on June 1) and this matter involved finances, the Board decided to retain this proposal for further discussion next year.

A proposal that the MSA reduce the dues to \$10 a year for retired members was briefly discussed and accepted by the Board.

The Board also discussed the possibility of designing a new certificate to use for the Cardinal Wright Award. The format, the text, and the style of print could all be revised. Fr. Thompson was charged with developing a new possible presentation. The meeting ended at 10:30 p.m.

### *Thursday, June 1*

We began our morning session at 8:30 a.m. Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D., in the name of the Nominating Committee, proposed a change among the MSA officers. The delegates present approved the nomination of Rev. Charles R. Costello as treasurer, replacing Rev. Albert Bourke, O.C.D., who had asked to be relieved of the position. For the Nominating Committee, Rev. James Parker was chosen to replace Rev. Timothy Holland, S.S.J.; for the Admissions Committee, Rev. Theodore Koehler, S.M. (*ex officio*), and Rev. Leonard Glavin, O.F.M.Cap., were elected to replace Sister Mary Elise Krantz, S.N.D., and Mr. Michael G. I. Callanan.

The secretary then read the names and some messages from persons unable to attend: Bishop Austin B. Vaughan (as already explained); Archbishop Roger M. Mahoney of Los Angeles; Bishop Pierre DuMaine of San Jose ("I regret this for many reasons, including a lost opportunity to refresh valued associations with Kenan Osborne, Stan Parmisano, Eamon Carroll and others. Please convey my greetings

and prayers to them and all the participants."); Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M.; Rev. James T. O'Connor, Rev. William B. Smith; Rev. James Parker (who, because of a new assignment, was moving to a new residence); Sister Mary Elise Krantz, S.N.D., Rev. Bertrand Buby, S.M., and Rev. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I.—who, because of Provincial responsibilities in their respective religious societies, were unable to attend; Associate Members: Juan Alva, Michael Callanan (who is again in the hospital), Bernadette Conte, and Sister Ann Muriel Ronan, S.S.J. The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, the Most Reverend Pio Laghi, acknowledged the brochure on the 1989 national convention, saying: "... the courtesy of this gesture is greatly appreciated."

The secretary also read the names of the members who died (or whose deaths were reported) since the last convention: Rev. Bertrand Clemens, S.M. († February 1, 1989); Rev. G. Gordon Henderson, S.J. († December 13, 1987); Most Rev. William J. McDonald († January 9, 1989); Rev. Msgr. William H. McDougall († December 8, 1988); Rev. Msgr. Alvin P. Wagner († January 31, 1989).

The second speaker, the Rev. Thomas A. Thompson, S.M., director of The Marian Library at the University of Dayton, was introduced by Father Matthew F. Morry, O.P., professor at Providence College (Rhode Island). In his report, "The Virgin Mary in the Liturgy: 1963-1988," Fr. Thompson traced the development of ecclesial documents on the Virgin Mary in the liturgy. He discussed Vatican II, *Marialis cultus* (1974), the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* (1986) and the documents of the Marian Year. Currently, twelve of forty-six formularies contained in *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* are available. A translation of the complete Latin collection is expected for summer 1990.

After a short intermission, the Rev. Gerald M. Horan, O.S.M., Prior of The Grotto, national sanctuary of the Sorrowful Mother in Portland, Oregon, introduced the third speaker, Sister Martha Garcia, O.P., a teacher from San Francisco. In her report, "Mary in the Liturgy of the Hours," Sr.



Martha supplemented the indications of *Marialis cultus* with a helpful listing and analysis of all the texts concerning Mary in the Liturgy of the Hours. We have there a rich Marian hymnal, also, prayers and biblical readings for each liturgical season whose doctrinal and devotional value can be usefully stressed.

The second meeting of the Board of Directors was held at 1:30 p.m., to hear and decide on the reports of the committees charged with proposing programs and locations for our next conventions.

The committee made the following proposals:

1) The secretary's report on the convention of 1989, when published in *Marian Studies* 1989, will mention the decision of the Board of Directors that the MSA will use the next three conventions for a study, inspired by the *Letter from the Congregation for Catholic Education* (issued in March 1988, under the signature of Cardinal Baum, and reprinted in *Marian Studies*, 1988), "Mary in the Mysteries of Christ during the Liturgical Year: Implications for Teaching and Preaching Today."

2) The program will begin in 1990, focusing on the liturgical period from Advent through Christmas to the Baptism of the Lord. Each program will approach the topic from three aspects:

- a) the special *biblical references* used in this part of the liturgical year (in 1990—the messianic preparations in the Old Testament and their realization in the New Testament);
- b) the special *liturgical references* in this period (for 1990—with possible order of treatment: Sunday liturgies, feastday liturgies, weekday liturgies);
- c) contemporary *theological reflections* (for 1990—teaching and preaching about the "inseparable bond" between Christ, Mary and us that is shown during this period of the liturgical year).

3) The focus of the program for 1991 would be the liturgical period of Lent through Easter; for 1992, it would be the Ordinary Time—Mary and the Holy Spirit.

The proposed long-range program was accepted by the Board.

The committee assigned to foresee possible locations of future meetings proposed the following sites: for 1990—Providence, Rhode Island; for other years—Chicago, Illinois; Portland, Oregon; Houston, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting ended at 2:00 p.m.

At the General Assembly, Sister Roseanne Murphy, S.N.D. de N., of the College of Notre Dame, Belmont, California, introduced Rev. Stanley Parmisano, O.P., formerly professor of St. Albert's College in Oakland, whose topic was "Marian Devotions: In and Beyond *Marialis Cultus*." Devotions, he pointed out, can give rise to difficulties. Their proliferation can endanger the true worship of God. After Vatican II, many devotions were marginalized. *Marialis cultus* responded by stressing the importance of Marian devotions, especially the Angelus and the Rosary. At present there is a revival of the rosary and of pilgrimages. Marian devotions are rooted in the life of the Church, in the presence of Mary in our everyday life.

The Rev. Paul E. Duggan, a pastor in Palo Alto, California, introduced our last speaker, the Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., professor at Loyola University in Chicago, for his annual "Survey of Recent Mariology." The Marian Year inspired a good number of studies, articles in periodicals, and books treating topics in doctrine, scripture, tradition, liturgy, and devotion. At the beginning of his survey, Father Carroll highlighted three items:

1. *At Worship With Mary: A Pastoral and Theological Study*, by Christopher O'Donnell, O.Carm., who followed the calendar and gave documentary notes on various Marian feasts;
2. *The Forthbringer of God: St. Bonaventure on the Virgin Mary*, by Rev. George H. Tavard; and
3. "Mater Dolorosa, Mater Misericordia" [Sorrowful Mother, Mother of Mercy], by Rev. Eamon Duffy. This essay, published in *New Blackfriars* (May 1988), demonstrates the significance of these titles, showing Mary's union with her suffering and merciful Son.

He also pointed out the apostolic letter of John Paul II, *Mulieris dignitatem*, on the dignity and vocation of women (15 August 1988)—issued to end the Marian Year—which again shows the importance of Mary for our Christian vocation.

At the closing business meeting, the co-president, Bro. John Samaha, S.M., made the following announcements: The next annual convention will be held May 30 and May 31, 1990, in Providence, Rhode Island, with, as customary, arrival in the afternoon and evening of May 29th. The Board of Directors will meet the evening of May 29th.

There were four reports about Regional Meetings held this past year. Fr. Matthew F. Morry, O.P., reported for the Rhode Island Region; Fr. Charles Neumann read the report prepared by Rev. Msgr. Francis G. Wearden about the Houston (Texas) Region; Fr. Charles R. Costello read the report by Rev. Frederick Miller on the New Jersey Region; and Bro. John Samaha, S.M., delivered the report on the activities of the Western Region.

Bro. Samaha reported that the MSA then had about \$4,000 in its savings account. The Society is always grateful for gifts or donations to support our efforts. Members are reminded to pay their annual dues promptly; *Marian Studies* will not be sent to members who have not paid their dues. Pre-payment is required of all subscribers to *Marian Studies*. He also announced that the Board had decided to increase the subscription price of each volume to \$12 (beginning in 1990), although MSA dues would remain unchanged.

As he brought this meeting to a close, Bro. Samaha expressed the gratitude of the Society to the following persons:

- a) to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Patrick J. McGrath, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco, for offering the opening prayer and for welcoming us, at our first session, in the name of Most Reverend John R. Quinn, Archbishop;
- b) to His Excellency, the Most Reverend Austin B. Vaughan, the Episcopal Chairman of our Society, who could not be with us because of his arrest for his participation in Operation Rescue;

- c) to Mr. Arthur W. Clinton, Jr., to Chaplain Lt. Col. Alfred M. Croke, to the Very Reverend Stanley Matuszewski, M.S. (editor of *Our Lady's Digest*), and to the Reverend Walter F. Pelczynski, M.I.C., for their generous contributions to our Society—and to the many other benefactors not mentioned here, especially to the Supporting Members listed in *Marian Studies*;
- d) to the staff of the Mercy Center and especially to Barbara Woods, Sister Suzanne Toolan, and the community, for the warm, efficient, and abundant hospitality extended to us these past two days and for the great help given to our eucharistic concelebrations;
- e) to the Reverend Alfred Boeddeker, O.F.M., recipient of the Cardinal Wright Award for 1989, for his many years of generous support of Mary's interests, including this Society;
- f) and, finally, to our distinguished speakers and discussion leaders, for their scholarly input and thought-provoking comments and questions.

Bro. Samaha then called for a motion of adjournment. The motion was seconded and approved by the assembly. The convention concluded with the singing of the "Salve Regina."

At 5:30 p.m., we had our Eucharist, with Bishop Montrose as principal celebrant. The homilist was Father Walter T. Brennan, O.S.M., provincial of the Eastern Province of Servites.

### *Friday, June 2*

For those who remained at Mercy Center, there was a final concelebrated Eucharist at 7:45 a.m.; our vice-president, Fr. James McCurry, O.F.M.Conv., was celebrant and homilist for this Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A last breakfast gathered us at 8:15 a.m., in the refectory of the Center. Departure began at 9:00 a.m.

REV. THEODORE A. KOEHLER, S.M.  
*Executive Secretary*