

# Marian Studies

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Volume 40 *Proceedings of the Fortieth National  
Convention of the Mariological Society of  
America held in Burlingame, Calif.*

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Article 18

1989

## Report, 1988-89: Houston, Texas, Region

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### Recommended Citation

Wearden, Francis G. (1989) "Report, 1988-89: Houston, Texas, Region," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 40, Article 18.  
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## **REPORT, 1988-89: HOUSTON, TEXAS, REGION**

The eighth annual meeting of the Houston Regional Unit of the Mariological Society of America was held on Saturday, 4 February 1989, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Once again, the Basilian Fathers of St. Thomas University welcomed the group in the auditorium of Cullen Hall on their campus. The meeting enjoyed the support of the Galveston-Houston Diocesan Marian Activities Commission and the Legion of Mary, and, despite an ice-storm that eventually closed the freeway system by mid-afternoon, the gathering numbered about 125 persons, most of them laity of different ages, occupations and educational backgrounds.

To contribute to the observance of the Year of Evangelization, the theme chosen for the convention was "Mary, Star of Evangelization."

Mr. Fran Peffley of Norristown, Pennsylvania, a third-year seminarian at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland, and a member of the Legion of Mary since the age of ten, addressed the morning session. His talk was entitled "Mary and the Mission of the Holy Spirit" and drew on the Marian thought of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. A discussion followed, led by Mrs. Marilyn Hogan, alumna of St. Thomas University and mother of four, and Miss Frances Rauer, native Houstonian attorney whose academic degrees were earned at Catholic University, Yale, and Stanford.

Fr. Charles W. Neumann, S.M., professor of theology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, spoke to the afternoon session on "Mary and the Mission of the Church," commenting on Mary's role in the Church's work of evangelization, communication of the Christ-life, and ministry of unity among mankind. The discussion that followed was led by

Fr. William L. Young, principal of Mt. Carmel High School and former diocesan director of radio and television services, and Mr. Richard Derr, local businessman and onetime volunteer in a New York City lay community working with runaways.

The numerous questions addressed to each of the speakers indicated a deep interest and alert attention on the part of the audience. Both talks were videotaped for further use.

As is customary, the participants joined the university's regularly scheduled celebration of the Eucharist at noon. In the lobby of Cullen Hall, a rich assortment of Marian books, pamphlets, and religious articles invited perusal and purchase throughout the day-long meeting.

There was general agreement that the carefully planned program was another gratifying success for the thriving Houston Regional Unit.

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