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Report, 1988-89: Western Region

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REPORT, 1988-89: WESTERN REGION

The Western Region is delighted that the Cardinal Wright Award for outstanding service to the work of Marian doctrine and devotion has been granted to Father Alfred Boeddeker, O.F.M., of San Francisco. With the help of Father Alfred the Western Region was launched in 1984, and he was chosen chairman of our region unanimously. His leadership and dedication are largely responsible for our annual Mariology conferences.

Marian Year Event

An idea for a Marian Year tribute on a grand scale was proposed by Father Alfred Boeddeker soon after the Marian Year opened. The idea was so attractive that MSA/West enlisted the co-sponsorship of the University of San Francisco and the Archdiocese of San Francisco to plan and execute "An International, Ecumenical Conference on Mary, Woman for All Christians." Last Year's report explains the members and workings of the planning committee.

The International Ecumenical Conference on Mary, Woman for All Christians brought together an international group of theologians and scholars to present papers and to dialogue on the place of Mary in Scripture, Tradition, and in the life of contemporary Christians.

The program was celebrated on the campus of the University of San Francisco, 17-21 June 1988. Four days were devoted to presentations and dialogue in plenary sessions and a variety of special interest sessions for small groups. The dialogues centered on Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic traditions. Sunday was given to a special ecumenical prayer service.

About 400 persons attended the conference, and USF offered graduate credit to those who qualified. This was the largest special program USF had experienced in recent years.

The printed program with full details is on file with the Executive Secretary of the Mariological Society of America and at The Marian Library.

The Future

Future plans include the continuing sponsorship of an annual conference and the expansion of membership. We have experienced a steady increase in membership, and have brought about 200 new members into the MSA.

Finances, a large place to meet, and finding new members for our planning committee are difficulties that return each year. But MSA/West manages to overcome these.

1989 MSA Convention

We are honored to have hosted the 1989 national convention at Mercy Center, Burlingame, California, in suburban San Francisco. We hope that MSA will return to the Pacific Coast soon for a future convention.

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