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## Report, 1986-87: Western Region

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## REPORT, 1986-87: WESTERN REGION

### *Organization*

After a sound beginning, MSA/West is working to enlarge and strengthen the leadership by adding to the executive committee new and active members. Presently Father Alfred Boeddeker, O.F.M., continues as chairman, with Father Bertrand Clemens, S.M., Mr. Paul McCarthy, and Brother John Samaha, S.M., serving as members of the executive committee.

Membership stands at about 150 in the Western Region. There has been some attrition because some have neglected to pay the annual dues. During the Marian Year, we hope to make another drive for new members and reach the new bishops in the region. Particular attention will be directed to recruiting religious Sisters and Brothers and the laity.

*Mary Today*, our occasional newsletter, is generally well received, and goes to all members in the Western Region.

### *Mariology Conferences*

In 1986, two Mariology Conferences were held for the Western Region. At the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother in Portland, Oregon, on May 31, 1986, the theme was "Living the Magnificat in Our Time," with Ann Johnson, author, as keynote speaker. An art exhibit and a performance of Bach's "Magnificat" were also featured. The Portland conference is held biennially.

"Chapter 8 of *Lumen Gentium*: Two Decades after Vatican II" was the theme of the San Francisco conference at the Cathedral of St. Mary on September 13, 1986. The principal speakers were two of the past presidents of MSA: Father Fred Jelly, O.P., and Father Charles Neumann, S.M. They gave extensive analyses of the text

with pastoral applications. Discussion followed both presentations. Bishop Daniel Walsh, Auxiliary of San Francisco, was principal celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy that concluded the day. Father Basil Cole, O.P., preached the homily. The conference enjoyed an attendance of 150.

### *Marian Year Events*

The Marian Year offers a number of opportunities. Some events are already in the planning and organizational stage. Others depend on how much help can be mustered.

Our annual Mariology Conference is scheduled for November 7, 1987, at Woodside Priory in Portola Valley, a suburb south of San Francisco. The theme will be "Mary in the Liturgy," a concern highlighted in *Redemptoris Mater* and in *Marialis Cultus*.

In conjunction with the University of San Francisco, MSA/West is co-sponsoring a three-day ecumenical perspective of the Virgin Mary with Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant scholars as lecturers and panelists. Academic credit will be offered for those who wish. A special ecumenical prayer service will honor the Mother of Jesus. The program will be conducted at the University of San Francisco on June 17-20, 1988. This Marian Year effort is aiming to attract 200 participants.

MSA/West has also extended an invitation to the Mariological Society of America to hold its annual convention in the San Francisco Bay Area in the near future.

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