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Report, 1987-88: Western Region

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REPORT, 1987-88: WESTERN REGION

The Western Region had planned to hold its annual meeting in November 1987 on a theme suggested by *Mother of the Redeemer*, the Marian Year encyclical of Pope John Paul II—Mary in the Liturgy. However, various circumstances negated this plan for a one-day conference.

Marian Year Event

An idea for an ecumenical program suggested by Father Alfred Boeddeker, O.F.M., MSA/West Chairman, attracted the involvement of the University of San Francisco and the Archdiocese of San Francisco. A five-day program evolved from the collaboration of a planning committee comprised of representatives of the three co-sponsoring groups: Father John LoSchiavo, S.J., President, Dr. Ray Noll, Chair of Pastoral Theology Programs, and Dr. Alan Ziajka, Director of Special Programs, of the University of San Francisco; Father John Keane, S.A., Ecumenical Officer of the Archdiocese of San Francisco; Father Alfred Boeddeker, O.F.M., and Brother John Samaha, S.M., of MSA/West.

The planning committee devoted fourteen months to developing "An International Ecumenical Conference on Mary, Woman for All Christians," to be held at the University of San Francisco, June 17-21, 1988.

As a special Marian Year event, the object of the conference is to convene internationally and nationally known Christian theologians and dignitaries for dialogue on the place of Mary in Scripture, Tradition, and in the life of contemporary Christians throughout the world.

The program offers four dialogue days and a special ecumenical prayer celebration on Sunday in St. Ignatius Church

on the USF campus. The dialogues highlight Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and Catholic traditions. A variety of special interest sessions will alternate with the plenary session dialogues. An attendance of 300 is expected.

Brochures detailing the complete program are available here, and have also been mailed to each member of the MSA.

Varia

Membership is holding steady at about 150. During the Marian Year we hope to increase this number.

Finances are always a difficulty, but Father Alfred manages to balance the books.

1989 MSA Convention

MSA/West has invited MSA to the San Francisco area for its next national convention. The Board of Directors has planned to hold the 1989 meeting at Mercy Center in Burlingame, California, in early June. Burlingame, in suburban San Francisco, is a few minutes from the San Francisco International Airport. Mercy Center is located in a lovely estate setting in a residential neighborhood. We look forward to welcoming you to the western region, and hope you will bring others with you.

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