

Marian Studies

Volume 47 *Marian Spirituality and the
Interreligious Dialogue*

Article 14

1996

The Secretary's Report

Thomas A. Thompson
University of Dayton

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Recommended Citation

Thompson, Thomas A. (1996) "The Secretary's Report," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 47, Article 14.
Available at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol47/iss1/14

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THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting The Mariological Society of America Villanova University, Philadelphia, PA

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Present were the following members of the Board of Directors: Fr. Walter T. Brennan, O.S.M.; Fr. Bernard Confer, O.P.; Fr. Bertrand Buby, S.M.; Sr. Jean Frisk (recording secretary); Fr. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I.; Fr. Theodore Koehler, S.M.; Fr. Samuel Maranto, C.Ss.R.; Sr. Mary Catherine Nolan, O.P.; Fr. Johann Roten, S.M.; Bro. John Samaha, S.M.; Fr. Emmanuel Sullivan, O.C.D.

The Oblate Retreat Center, San Antonio, Texas, was chosen as the site for the 1997 meeting. The topic, as approved by the Board of Directors in 1995, will deal with the Virgin Mary and ecumenical dialogue. A more specific theme title will be formulated.

The first topic of discussion dealt with the formation of a Membership Committee whose purpose would be to attract and retain new members. Among the strategies suggested were contacts with other academic societies, recruitment of scholars in fields aligned with Marian studies, and the use of advertisements in continuing education programs.

Two program committees were formed. The first was made responsible for the topic and speakers for the 1997 meeting (Frs. Jelly, Carroll, Kirwin, Thompson). The second committee—responsible for hospitality, publicity, and liturgy—will consist of Fr. Maranto and Sr. Nolan.

The proposal to change the name of the organization to the Mariological Society of the United States of America was tabled for further study.

Meeting of the Professional-Active Members

Thursday, May 30, 1996

At the meeting of the professional active members, the following officers were elected for a two-year term: (1996-1998): Fr. George T. Kirwin, O.M.I., president; Fr. Bert Buby, S.M., vice-president; Fr. Thomas A. Thompson, S.M., secretary; Bro. John Samaha, S.M., treasurer.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors: Sr. Jean Frisk (1996-99); Fr. Matthew F. Morry, O.P. (1996-99); Fr. Louis Bonacci, S.J. (1996-98: completing Fr. Buby's term).

Meeting of the Professional-Active Members

Friday Afternoon, May 31, 1996

The following sixteen individuals were admitted as professional-active members to the Society: Sister Flor de Maria Alvarez; Virginia Sharon Cygan; Fr. Herbert C. De

Launay; Msgr. Charles J. Dollen; Dr. Anele Heiges, O.P.; Fr. Thaddeus Kwak; Msgr. Matthew G. Malnar; Fr. Luis M. Melo, S.M.; Fr. Myles P. Murphy; Fr. Leo Polselli, C.S.C.; David S. Reynolds; Most Rev. Raymond O. Roussin, S.M.; Fr. Donald M. Siple, O.S.M.; Fr. Peter Ignatius Vaccari; Fr. Robert Joseph Warsey, O.S.M.; Fr. Robert Witwicki, S.M.

The following eight individuals were admitted as associate members: Michele M. Crahan; the Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, Summit, NJ; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lopiccolo; Fr. Patrick Greenough; Dr. Ralph A. Pope; Sr. Kathleen P. Rivest, M.M.C.C.; Fr. François Rossier, S.M.; Fr. Richard Saksons, O.Praem.

This year, then, sixteen individuals were admitted as professional-active members and eight as associate members. A number of names have been withdrawn from the membership list because of failure to pay membership dues for the last two years. Total membership (June 1996) was 406. (This figure includes the 24 new members mentioned above, 33 members who have not paid dues since 1994, 46 members who have not paid dues since 1995, and 71 members who have not yet paid dues for 1996.) In addition (as of June 1996), there were 152 subscriptions to *Marian Studies*.

The results of the year-long hymn search were announced. The principal reason for the search was to encourage writing of hymn texts which present some of the images of the Virgin Mary used in the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The three criteria were that the hymn should present an image of Mary as found in the *Collection* or the *Catechism*, that it be suitable for use at the celebration of the Eucharist, and that it be in the form of metric hymn of several stanzas. The titles of the five winning hymns are listed here with the names of their authors: "We Sing of a Woman" by Sister Delores Duffner, O.S.B., of St. Joseph, MN; "Blessed Is She Who Believed" by Sister Marie Colette, P.C.C., of Los Altos Hills, CA; "Faithful Mary" by Sister Marie LeClerc Laux, S.S.N.D., of Milwaukee, WI; "Burning Bush and Hidden Ark" (Hymn for Advent and Christmas) by Michael Hodgetts of West Midlands, England; and "O First-born Daughter" by Bernadette Gasslein of Ottawa, Canada.