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Report, 1984-85: Dallas, Texas Region

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REPORT, 1984-85: DALLAS, TEXAS REGION

On Saturday, February 16, 1985, at the Perkins School of Theology (Methodist) located upon the campus of Southern Methodist University (SMU), a meeting of the Texas Region of the Mariological Society of America (MSA) was held for the first time in Dallas, Texas. Fr. Jelly, Prior of the Dominican community on the campus of the University of Dallas, organized this initial meeting in conjunction with Dr. Edwin E. Sylvest, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity at Perkins where he has been offering a mariological course for the seminarians during recent years. Frs. Wearden and Neumann, who have been coordinating the Houston-San Antonio Region of the MSA for the past several years, were informed about the details of the program. Because of the distances involved in the great state of Texas, it has been decided that Dallas should be a special region. Of course, the Texas regions will work in close collaboration.

The theme of the program was: "Mary, Mother of the Lord, in Ecumenical Perspective." Following a celebration of Morning Prayer together, Dr. John Deschner gave the first presentation: "A Protestant Perspective." He is the Moderator of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Lehman Professor of Christian Doctrine at Perkins. Fr. Peter Phan of the Theology Department at the University of Dallas and Dr. Marjorie Procter-Smith, Assistant Professor of Liturgy at Perkins, made the Catholic and Protestant responses, respectively. At the afternoon session, attended by Bishop Tschoepe of Dallas, Fr. Jelly delivered his paper: "A Roman Catholic Perspective" in the ecumenical dialogue about Mary. The respondents to his presentation were Dr. Sylvest and Mrs. Isabelle Colora, President of Associates in Justice, Inc., a Catholic laywoman.

an and former student in Dr. Sylvest's mariological course at Perkins. A lively dialogue followed both papers.

Dr. Deschner's presentation proposed a three-fold approach to mariology, evaluating each from the ecumenical perspective according to the Protestant point of view. He considered the approach that sees Mary in solidarity with her fellow creatures as most congenial to the dialogue. Fr. Jelly's paper commented upon the signs of hope and the difficulties concerning marian doctrine and devotion in the ecumenical movement. He suggested ways in which the difficulties might be resolved and so further the significant progress already made regarding Mary's role in the quest for Christian unity. Both papers will appear as essays in a book scheduled to be published soon (*Marian Studies* will give the details when available).

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