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THE CARDINAL WRIGHT AWARD
of the
Mariological Society of America
Citation

Each year the Mariological Society of America confers a special award on one of its active members for outstanding contributions in the field of Mariology.

Of the several candidates considered for this year's award, the judges have decided that the award be given to Rev. Roger M. Charest, S.M.M.

Father Charest, a charter member of the Mariological Society of America, has been over the years one of its staunchest supporters and promoters, particularly through the pages of the *QUEEN* magazine which he founded in 1950, shortly after the birth of our Society.

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Father Charest completed his theological studies at St. John's Scholasticate, in Ottawa, Canada, where he was ordained in 1942. In 1954, Father Charest headed the committee ("and was the original promoter of the idea": *MS* 5 [1954] 9) which petitioned the Holy See, in the name of the Society, to establish a liturgical feast honoring Our Lady's Universal Queenship—a petition which, according to the late Father C. Balić, O.F.M. was one of the determining factors that led the Holy See to institute the liturgical feast of Mary's Universal Queenship. That same year, The Marian Year, Father Charest founded The CONSECRATION CENTER in Bay Shore, New York, from which he spearheaded a very successful nation-wide campaign for parish as well as individual Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

From 1961 to 1967, Father Charest was selected by his superiors to head the American Province of the Montfort Missionaries. In 1969, he returned to the *QUEEN* magazine as its managing editor and Director of Montfort Publications.

Father has travelled extensively throughout the United States, Canada and the Philippines, preaching and lecturing to various groups and institutions on St. Louis de Montfort's Marian theology and spirituality. He has been, and continues to be, involved a great deal with the Legion of Mary apostolate and spirituality. He has contributed to various Catholic publications and collective works on Mary. In 1973, Father Charest set up a Lourdes Pilgrimage Bureau for the handicapped.

Finally, from 1980 to 1982, Father Charest has served as President of our Society. For these reasons, the Mariological Society of America today wishes to give public recognition to this apostle of Our Lady by conferring on him the special Mariological Award for the year 1982.