Report of the Meeting of the New England Region

Matthew F. Morry
The Annual Meeting of the New England Region of the Mariological Society of America was held on Saturday, October 30, 1982, at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, with one hundred and thirty in attendance. Fr. Matthew Morry, O.P., Director of the New England Region and Professor of Mariology at Providence College, convened the meeting at 10:00 A.M. The invocation was offered by the Reverend Thomas Bernard Confer, O.P. The Very Reverend Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., President of Providence College, welcomed the gathering with official greetings of the college.

Fr. Frederick Michael Jelly, O.P., Academic Dean at the Josephinum School of Theology in Columbus, Ohio, delivered the keynote address: “Mary in the Life of the Church.” In his lecture, Fr. Jelly delineated the role of Mary in the Church’s dynamic vitality that is prayer, especially contemplative prayer. There is in the Rosary a contemplative aspect that reflects Mary’s attitude of response and presence to the Divine Call. This contemplative aspect of the Rosary places one firmly in relation to renewals in the Liturgy and Evangelization. With respect to the Liturgy, it is especially in relationship to the Eucharist that one may enter more deeply into the Eucharistic mystery through the Rosarian mysteries. While meditation on the Joyful Mysteries deepens one’s faith in the real presence, reflection upon the Sorrowful Mysteries brings one more deeply into the sacrificial aspect of the Eucharist, and prayerful consideration of the Glorious Mysteries aids one in understanding the Eucharist as sacrament and as the reality of love.

Relative to Evangelization, Fr. Jelly noted that if one is to evangelize then one needs to be evangelized. In the Acts of the Apostles one may see Mary as presiding over the beginning of evangelization through the Church. Mary is involved also in the
passive and active evangelization: she has received the Word, and she transmits the word.

During the brief period for discussion, Fr. Jelly clarified the term *appropriation* as making the mysteries of the Rosary *proper* to our contemporary conditions and issues. He also elaborated upon the distinction of the Ascension of Jesus and the Assumption of Mary: the fulfillment, and the fruit of that fulfillment.

At the morning session, the Very Reverend Edward R. Daley, O.P., J.C.D., Provincial, extended his personal greetings to the meeting. He noted that the mother's role of teaching is a reality we all experience and which we also may exercise; it reflects, as well, the mother's concern and involvement with her children.

Following the morning session, there was a Marian Liturgy in Aquinas Chapel. The chief concelebrant was the Very Reverend Edward R. Daley, O.P. The Reverend Terence J. Keegan, O.P., S.T.D., who recently published his commentary on the Gospel of St. Mark, was homilist.

In his homily, Fr. Keegan noted that human problems and concerns, human sorrows and sufferings do find solution in the saving sacrifice of Jesus. It is in doing God's will that human affairs achieve their proper orientation and order. We are able to learn what is God's will for each of us through prayer. Now, Mary stands before us as the exemplar of the praying disciple. The Rosary of Our Lady is an apt vehicle of prayer to discover, through the *lived* saving mysteries, God's will, presence and love.

A luncheon in the Mural Lounge of Raymond Hall brought the Society's meeting to a close at 2:00 P.M.

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