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## The Cardinal Wright Award

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## THE CARDINAL WRIGHT AWARD

### Citation

This year The Mariological Society of America honors itself by bestowing the Cardinal Wright Award on one of its most distinguished members—Prof. WILLIAM H. MARSHNER, Chairman of the Theology Department at Christendom College, Triangle, Virginia.

Our scholar hails from the historic city of Baltimore, Maryland, where he was born in 1943. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1964, receiving his B.A. *magna cum laude* in Classics. Between 1964 and 1970 he attended Yale University where he majored in Near Eastern Languages and Literature (Arabic, Syriac, Hebrew, Aramaic, etc.). He is presently in the process of receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Dallas, having just submitted a draft of his doctoral dissertation entitled *The Alleged Debitum Contrahendi Peccatum. A New Solution*.

Among Prof. Marshner's multiple professional experiences, the following may be noted: During the academic year 1977-78, as professor of theology in Christendom College, he taught a course on Introduction to the New Testament, and also on the History and Nature of Modernism. In the summer of 1977 he lectured on the Philosophy of Being and Epistemology at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Dallas. During the same summer, he lectured on Western Theological Tradition and on Christology at the Theology Department of the same institution. In the academic year 1976-77 he taught Hebrew Exegesis and Ecclesiastical Latin. During the summer of 1976 he was lecturer in Hebrew at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Dallas. In 1970 and again in 1972 he was invited to lecture at the famed University "Maria Cristina" in Spain.

Prof. Marshner has been a frequent contributor to *The Wanderer*, a national Catholic weekly well-known for its vigorous defense of orthodoxy. Between 1971 and 1973 he was assistant editor of *Triumph* magazine, a Catholic journal of opinion.

Among the many honors received by Prof. Marshner, we may mention: Richard Weaver Fellow (1975-76), Yale University Fellow (1965-69), and Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1964-65). He is a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, of the American Oriental Society, of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, and, of course, of our own Mariological Society.

Neither the taxing demands of a heavy teaching schedule nor his numerous speaking engagements throughout the Country have hindered Prof. Marshner from becoming a prolific writer. He has placed his encyclopedic knowledge and vast erudition at the service of his Church by authoring scholarly monographs and dissertations on a wide variety of subjects, including Sacred Scripture, Dogmatic and Moral Theology, Canon Law, Philosophy and Linguistics. His commentary on the papal document *Mysterium Ecclesiae* (St. Paul, Minn., 1974) was deservedly hailed as a masterpiece of theological insight. His more recent monograph entitled: *Annulment or Divorce: A Critique of Current Tribunal Practice and the Proposed Revision of Canon Law* (published by Christendom Educational Corp. in 1978) is noted for its incisive argumentation and devastating logic. Similar comments may be made on his essay, *Membership in the Church: Fundamental Questions* (published in *Faith and Reason*, Winter, 1976).

But it is particularly for his brilliant contributions to the field of scientific Mariology that our Society has deemed Prof. Marshner most deserving of the coveted Cardinal Wright Award. These contributions include: "Criteria for Doctrinal Development in Marian Dogmas: An Essay in Metatheology," *Marian Studies* 27 (1977) 47-97; "Toward a Relational Theory

of Our Lady's Co-redeemership," *Ephemerides Mariologicae* 27 (1977) 413-423; "A Logician's Reflections on the Debitum Contrahendi Peccatum," *Marian Studies* 28 (1978) 134-187; "A Critique of Marian Counterfactual Formulae," in the current issue of *Marian Studies*, and, of course, his doctoral dissertation: *The Alleged Debitum Contrahendi Peccatum. A New Solution*.

In the above-mentioned disquisitions, the author has exhibited not only a remarkable resourcefulness and a rare mastery of the sacred disciplines involved, but a unique talent as a profound and original thinker as well. Mariologists at home and abroad will be deeply indebted to him for so many invaluable insights into some of the most abstruse problems relative to Our Lady's singular position in the divine economy.

It is to be earnestly hoped that the signal honor which our Society bestows on Prof. Marshner today will spur him on to even higher achievements in his cherished field of Marian theology, for the greater glory of God, for the exaltation of our Immaculate Mother, and for the intellectual enrichment of us all.