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The Constitution of the Society

Mariological Society of America

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CONSTITUTION OF THE MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

This association shall be called THE MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA. This name shall appear on the seal of the Society. The Society places itself under the patronage of the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God.

The object of this Society shall be to promote an exchange of views on Marian doctrines and to further studies and research in Mariology.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall consist of active members, associate members, and patrons.

Active members shall be priests interested in promoting studies and research in Mariology.

Associate members shall be persons or groups who in some manner promote the work of the society.

Patrons shall be persons or groups who contribute one hundred dollars (\$100), or more to the support of the Society.

Section 2. Election to active and associate membership shall be by vote of the Committee on Admissions.

Section 3. The annual dues for active members shall be five dollars (\$5.00) payable in advance on January 1 of each year. The annual dues for associate members shall be three dollars (\$3.00) payable in advance on January 1 of each year. The fiscal year of the Society shall end on the 31st day of December of each year. The dues of the new members shall begin with the year of enrollment.

Section 4. Any member who shall fail to pay his dues for the period of two years shall, after notification of non-payment by the Treasurer, be liable to forfeiture of membership. Forfeiture of membership may also occur in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of the Code.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors. All members may attend the meetings.

Section 2. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given one (1) month in advance thereof, signed by the Secretary. This notice shall contain a statement of the agenda, together with a designation of the day, hour, and place of the meeting.

Section 3. One fourth of the total active membership shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTIONS

Section 1. All voting for elections and motions shall be either by ballot, or by Ayes and Noes, or by showing of hands, or by rising. In any case, unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution or its By-laws, that election or motion shall carry which has received a majority of all the *valid* votes. If the first and second voting was indecisive, in the third voting a plurality shall be decisive. In case of a tie after the third voting, for an election he who has the higher ecclesiastical rank or is senior by ordination or age shall be considered elected; for a motion the presiding officer may break the tie.

Section 2. Active members alone shall be eligible to vote in elections and hold office. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected for a term of two years. Directors shall be elected for a term of three years, with two new Directors elected at each annual meeting. However, at the first annual meeting six Directors shall be elected, two of whom shall be designated for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, and two more for a term of three years.

Section 4. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, who shall serve for a term of three years, with one new member elected each year by the Board of Directors. The members of this committee shall be ineligible for immediate reelection.

However, at the first annual meeting the temporary Officers shall elect three members for the Nominating Committee, one of whom shall be designated for a term of one year, another for a term of two years, and a third for a term of three years.

The senior member of the committee shall act as its chairman. This committee shall make nominations for all elective offices as provided in the Constitutions and By-laws. But nominations from the floor shall have equal standing.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. This shall be the order of succession of officers in the case of absence or disability.

Section 2. The President shall preside at meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors. He shall have power, when authorized by the Board of Directors, to enter into contracts on behalf of the Society. He shall make a report of the activities of the Society at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Vice-President, at the request of the President, or in the event of the absence or disability of the same, shall perform the duties of the office of President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall in general perform all duties incident to the office of secretary. In particular he shall:

(a) keep the minutes of the meetings of the Society, and cause the same to be recorded in books provided for the purpose, which shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the members of the Society;

(b) keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors;

(c) keep a roll of members, a copy of which he shall certify to the Inspectors of elections at the annual meetings;

(d) see that all notices are given as required by the Constitution or by the Code;

(e) be the custodian of the records of the Society as well as of the official seal thereof;

(f) conduct the correspondence of the Society;

(g) be *ex officio* a member of the Committee on Admissions, and act as its secretary.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall:

(a) collect and disburse the funds of the Society;

(b) cause all moneys and other valuable effects to be deposited in the name and to the credit of the Society, in such banks or trust companies as shall be selected by the Board of Directors;

(c) upon the order of the President or Board of Directors cause the funds of the Society to be disbursed by checks or drafts upon the authorized depositaries of the Society;

(d) cause to be taken and preserved proper vouchers for all moneys disbursed, these vouchers to be forwarded to the Secretary;

(e) keep the accounts in books belonging to the Society, which shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Board of Directors, to whom he shall, whenever requested, make reports in writing of the money received and paid out of the funds on hand;

(f) at the annual meeting make a full report of the receipts and disbursements of the year;

(g) send out notice to the members one month in advance that their dues are payable, and give them receipts for dues paid;

(h) have the right, and is hereby empowered, from time to time to require from the officers or agents of the Society reports or statements giving such information as he may desire with respect to any and all financial transactions of the Society.

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the Society, namely, the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, and of six Directors, elected as provided in Art. 4, sec. 3.

Section 2. This Board shall meet for the transaction of business semi-annually at such place as they may choose, and at such other stated times and places as shall be prescribed by the rules of the Board. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or any three other members of the Board, provided the call gives fifteen (15) days' notice and specifies the nature of the business to be treated, together with the day, hour and place of the meeting.

Section 3. A quorum of this Board shall consist of five (5) members of the Board, provided that at least three (3) of the five (5) shall be Directors. In the absence of a quorum the Officer or the senior Director present shall have power to adjourn the meeting till such time as a quorum can be convened.

Section 4. If any vacancy shall occur in the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation accepted by the

Board, or otherwise, such vacancy may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board, though less than a quorum. Any such vacancy may also be filled by members entitled to vote at any formal meeting of the Society held during the existence of such vacancy, provided that the notice of such a meeting shall have mentioned such vacancy.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. All Committees shall at all times be subject to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Except in the case of the Nominating Committee as outlined in article 4, section 4, the members of all Committees shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

The President shall appoint annually these Standing Committees: The Program Committee, the Committee on Admissions, and the Committee on Publications.

Section 3. The Program Committee shall consist of the President, the Secretary, and three (3) other members appointed by the President. This committee shall be in charge of the arrangements of the annual meetings of the Society.

Section 4. The Committee on Admissions shall consist of the Secretary of the Society and two (2) other members who are not on the Board of Directors. They shall hold office for a term of two years. This committee shall determine the conditions of membership, examine the qualifications of the candidates, and recommend qualified candidates for approval by the members at the annual meeting.

Section 5. The Committee on Publications shall have charge of such publications as shall be authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

PUBLICATIONS

Papers presented at the annual meeting shall be published each year, under the title of *Marian Studies*, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the active members present, provided notice of such proposed amendment, with copy thereof, shall have been mailed to the entire active membership not less than one month in advance of such meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The following shall be the regular order of business at all meetings of this Society:

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Reading of the minutes.
3. Presentation of new members.
4. Reports of Committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Old business.
7. New business.
8. Presentation and discussion of papers.
9. Election of Officers.
10. Closing Prayer.

Section 2. This regular order of business may be changed at any meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present.

Section 3. Robert's *Rules of Order* shall govern the deliberations of this Society in all cases where it does not conflict with a standing rule of this Society or with the Code. But any rule of Order may be suspended temporarily by a simple majority of the members present.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended on the same conditions as are provided for amendments of the Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. DOMINIC UNGER, O.F.M.CAP., *Chairman.*

REV. NORBERT MCCARTHY, SS.CC., *Secretary.*

REV. CHARLES R. AUTH, O.P.

REV. IGNATIUS FONASH, M.S.SS.T.