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REPORT ON THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION

THE Fourth National Convention of the Mariological Society of America was held at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday and Tuesday, January 5, 6, 1953 under the auspices of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edward F. Hoban, Archbishop-Bishop of Cleveland. The numerous guests having duly registered, the first general assembly was called to order with the opening prayer at 10:30 A. M. in the Ohio Room. In his introductory remarks the president extended a very cordial welcome to those present, re-stated the specific purpose of the organization, summarized the work accomplished during the past three years, and finally introduced the first speaker on the program, the Right Reverend Monsignor Ferdinand Vandry, Rector Magnificus of Laval University. Dealing with *The Nature of Mary's Universal Queenship*, the well-known Canadian prelate emphasized particularly the fundamental doctrine of Our Lady's intimate association with Christ in His redemptive mission and also her constant solicitude to lead men to their common supernatural end. The prolonged discussion which followed was led by the Reverend Dr. Vincent Nugent, C.M., of Northampton, Pa.

At 12:30 P. M. the guests were invited to partake of an excellent buffet luncheon in the parlors adjoining the Ohio Room.

The second general assembly, held at 2:30 in the afternoon was devoted to the discussion of a very erudite dissertation on *Our Lady's Queenship in the Magisterium of the Church*, by the Reverend Dr. Eamon Carroll, O.Carm. The speaker acquainted us with a surprisingly large number of papal encyclicals and allocutions in which the Blessed Virgin is explicitly hailed as our heavenly Queen. The Reverend Dr.

George W. Shea, of Darlington, N. J., was in charge of the discussion.

At four o'clock the guests gathered in St. John's Cathedral to attend the Marian Devotions and Holy Hour. The services were presided over by His Excellency, Archbishop Hoban, and the sermon, which appears in this volume, was delivered by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Floyd L. Begin, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland.

On the second day of the Convention the morning session began at ten o'clock with a paper on *Our Lady's Queenship in the Patristic Period* by the Reverend Dr. Malachi J. Donnelly, S.J., of St. Marys, Kansas. The result of the speaker's painstaking research showed conclusively how Our Lady's queenly powers had been loudly proclaimed by the Fathers and ecclesiastical writers from the early ages up to the tenth century. The discussion leader for this paper was the Reverend Dr. Thomas U. Mullaney, O.P., from Washington, D. C.

At 11:30 the guests separated into two groups to attend the following elective seminars: *The Scriptural Basis for Mary's Queenship*, by the Reverend Eustace Smith, O.F.M., professor of Sacred Scripture at Holy Name College, Washington, D. C. (discussion leader: the Reverend Richard Kugelman, C.P.); and *Our Lady's Queenship in the Light of "Quas Primas,"* by the Reverend Dr. Firmin M. Schmidt, O.F.M.Cap., professor of dogmatic theology at the Capuchin House of Studies, Washington, D. C. (discussion leader: the Reverend Dominic J. Unger, O.F.M.Cap.). The guests deeply regretted that, due to a sudden illness, the Reverend Dr. Anthony N. Fuerst, of Cleveland, was unable to submit his seminar on *Our Lady's Queenship in the Eastern Liturgies*.

The main feature of the afternoon session was a remarkable paper entitled *Our Lady's Queenship in the Middle Ages and Modern Times*, by the Reverend Dr. William F. Hill,

S.S., of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland. Father Hill's difficult task was to trace the gradual development of the theology of Mary's queenship from the 11th to the 18th century. He concluded that the theological elaboration of this doctrine did not reach its climax until the 17th century with the writings of Bartholomew de los Rios, O.S.A. The paper gave rise to an animated discussion which was led by the Reverend Dr. Lawrence P. Everett, C.S.S.R., of Esopus, New York.

The business meeting, presided over by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Wright, Episcopal Chairman of the Society, began at three o'clock in the afternoon. At this time several reports were read by the secretary, treasurer and chairmen of various committees; new members were admitted to the Society, and several pertinent resolutions were unanimously adopted. The Reverend Fathers Lawrence P. Everett, C.S.S.R., and Armand Robichaud, S.M., were chosen as the two new members of the Board of Directors, and the Reverend Roger M. Charest, S.M.M., was appointed chairman of the nominating committee.

At the suggestion of His Excellency, Bishop Wright, and his special committee, the 1952 Mariology Award (\$100.00) was conferred by the Society on the Reverend Dr. Wenceslaus Sebastian, O.F.M., in recognition of his important contributions to the field of Mariology. The citation follows:

THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1952

CITATION

In making the special award for distinguished contributors to the field of Mariology this year, the Mariological Society of America is happy to salute a theologian from our great Catholic neighborhood, Canada.

Of the many nominations considered, none seemed more deserving of tribute than Father Wenceslaus Sebastian, O.F.M.

Father Sebastian made studies at St. Anthony's Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta, Laval University and the Rosemont House of Theology in Montreal. He took his academic degrees in Rome with the highest distinction, and undertook further Mariological studies in Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Austria and Italy.

In 1952 he made his most conspicuous contribution to the literature of Mariology, a historico-speculative book entitled *De Beata Virgine Maria, universali gratiarum Mediatrice*.

Last year Father Sebastian honored us at the New York Convention by reading a scholarly dissertation entitled "The Nature of Mary's Spiritual Maternity."

This year at our Cleveland Convention we wish to honor him as this year's outstanding Mariologist and the recipient of the Mariological Award.

After the conferring of the award on Father Sebastian (in absentia), the board of judges chosen for the annual seminarians' contest proceeded to announce the following winners for the year 1952: Mr. Eugene Ledvorowski, of St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis. (first prize: \$150.00); Mr. William F. Flanagan, of St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, Ohio (second prize: \$100.00); and the Reverend Edmund Quinn, O.F.M.Cap., priest-student at the Capuchin College, Washington, D. C. (third prize: \$50.00).

The topic selected for the seminarians' contest in 1953 will be the universal Queenship of Mary. Competitors for these awards must be regularly enrolled students of theological seminaries, houses of study or colleges in the United States or in Canada. All entries must be submitted to the office of the president of the Society on or before October 1, 1953.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Father Carol announced that the next National Convention of the Society would be held—tentatively—in Washington, D. C., on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 1954. The general theme decided upon for discussion will be Our Blessed Lady's Immaculate Conception.

Before the close of the meeting, Father Carol again thanked those who had attended the Convention and contributed to its success. Voicing the sentiments of those present, he paid a glowing tribute to His Excellency, Bishop Wright, for his unparalleled support of the Society, and likewise recalled with deep gratitude the splendid services rendered by the Reverend Dr. Anthony N. Fuerst and Mrs. Eugene McCarthy in the publicity department. The meeting adjourned with an appropriate prayer of thanksgiving at four o'clock.