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REPORT ON THE NORTH PALM BEACH CONVENTION

Accepting the gracious invitation of the Passionist Fathers, The Mariology Society of America held its 18th annual convention at their retreat house, "Our Lady of Florida," in North Palm Beach, Fla., on Monday and Tuesday, January 2 and 3, 1967. The meeting took place under the auspices of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Coleman F. Carroll, D.D., Bishop of Miami. Considering the enormous distance most of our members had to travel, the affair was very well attended indeed.

The convention was called to order at ten o'clock in the morning by our vice-president, Fr. Alban A. Maguire, O.F.M. On behalf of Bishop Carroll, who was unable to attend, Fr. Kilian McGowan, C.P., rector of the Passionist community, extended a warm welcome to the delegates. This was immediately followed by the presidential address, read by Fr. William G. Most, of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. Taking his cue from recent pronouncements of the Holy See, the speaker courageously denounced various current trends in the field of theology, and especially in Mariology—trends which have given rise to a good deal of unnecessary confusion and disunity at home and abroad. Then in a more positive approach, he exhorted his audience to adhere always to the methodology proper to a Catholic in scientific investigation, pointing out the paramount importance of faithfully reflecting the mind of the magisterium—something sadly neglected by some nowadays.

The presidential address was followed by a paper on *Mary's Present Role in the Communion of Saints* by Fr. P. Joseph Cahill, S.J., of North Aurora, Ill. Having analyzed at length the meaning and basis of the "communion of Saints" according to recent developments, the speaker endeavored to show how Our Blessed Lady is herself the prototype of that unity which the communion

of saints is all about; she is the synthesis of the essence of Christianity. As such, he pointed out, Mary is the corporate personality manifesting the completeness of God's work, opening horizons of unity and love among all the members of the human community.

The afternoon session began with the election of two new members to the Board of Directors. Proposed as candidates by the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, on behalf of the nominating committee, were: Very Rev. Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, of Yonkers, N.Y., and the Rev. Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R., of Philadelphia, Pa. A vote was taken and the slate was enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates present.

The matter of elections over, the president introduced the Rev. Dr. Arthur Carl Piepkorn, professor of theology at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., who proceeded to read a very enlightening dissertation on *Mary's Place Within the People of God According to Non-Roman Catholics*. It was mostly a survey of contemporary attitudes among our separated brethren concerning Our Lady's prerogatives and cult. It revealed, among other things, the speaker's vast erudition and his remarkable familiarity with current controversies in the field of theology. Judging from the reaction of the delegates, both Dr. Piepkorn and his paper made a deep impression on the select audience.

The second morning featured not less than three speakers: Fr. Barry Rankin, C.P., of St. Meinrad, Ind.; Fr. Hugh M. McElwain, O.S.M., of Mundelein, Ill.; and Fr. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of Washington, D.C. Fr. Rankin spoke on Mary's cult in the community of believers; Fr. McElwain on Our Lady's Assumption and Christian eschatology; and Fr. Carroll—who has become the Laurentin of our Society—gave us a highly informative survey of recent publications in the field of Mariology.

Shortly after the luncheon recess the delegates gathered for the last general session to hear Fr. Richard Kugelman, C.P., of Union City, N.J., who lectured on recent biblical literature bear-

ing on various mariological questions freely debated among scholars. A very stimulating paper indeed.

The business meeting, which began at 2:30 P.M., featured the usual reports by Fr. Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., chairman of regional meetings, and Fr. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., treasurer of our Society. The secretary then announced that the next convention would be held, *Deo volente*, at the John XXIII Center in Dayton, Ohio, on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 2 and 3, 1968. He also asked for a vote favoring the enrollment in our Society of a group of applicants. Present membership, he said, now stands as follows: Active members—316; associate—54, yielding a total of 370.

At this time, Fr. Most, in his capacity as president, read the following citation:

THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1967

Citation

The recipient of this year's Mariological Award was born at San Antonio, Texas, in 1923, and received his elementary and secondary education in Catholic schools of his native city. He earned the Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Dayton in 1943, and after several years of teaching, did his philosophical and theological studies at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, receiving the doctorate of sacred theology in July, 1954. This year's nominee is a member of the Society of Mary founded by Venerable Chaminade. He joined the Society after attending the Marianist High School in San Antonio, and made his religious profession in 1940. It was after five years of teaching in the Society's schools in St. Louis, San Antonio and Quebec that he went abroad for his further studies, 1948 to 1954. During this period he was ordained to the priesthood in July, 1952.

Returning to the United States in 1954 he was assigned to teach in the Marianist Scholasticate at Maryhurst, St. Louis, Mo., and in 1956 was named novice master at Marynook, Galesville, Wisconsin, a position he occupied until 1959. From 1959 to 1963 he was back in San Antonio, first as religious superior, then as President of S. Mary's University. Another tour of duty abroad lasted from 1963 to 1965, again in Switzerland. Currently he is director of the second novitiate of the

North American Provinces of the Society of Mary at the Marianist Religious Study Center, New Haven, Missouri.

This Marianist scholar has made a notable contribution to Mariology especially by his doctorate thesis. At the University of Fribourg he followed in the footsteps of a series of fellow-Marianists from the United States who have worked in Mariology. Continuing a pattern of scholarship that reaches back to the dissertation on the Mariology of the pre-Nicene Fathers brilliantly defended in 1904 by Emil Neubert, the French Marianist, several Americans of the Society of Mary have since the twenties done their doctoral research in historical Mariology, e.g., Fr. Mitchel on S. John Damascene, Fr. Bruder on S. Anselm, Fr. Friedel on Card. Newman, Fr. Wm. J. Cole on Ven. Chaminade. Our award-winner was guided into the study of S. Ambrose by Msgr. Othmar Perler, chairman of patrology and Christian archeology at Fribourg.

His dissertation, first presented in 1954, was somewhat expanded and brought up to date for publication in 1962, in the University of Fribourg series: *Paradosis: Contributions to the History of Early Christian Literature and Theology*. The book is titled: **THE VIRGIN MARY IN THE WORKS OF ST. AMBROSE**, and is a landmark study of the Milanese bishop's theology of our Lady's virginity in all aspects, *ante partum, in partu, post partum*. It is still winning critical acclaim by European and American reviewers, e.g., Fr. Lakner, the German Jesuit, received it with great praise recently in the *Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie*. In the press of his many administrative duties, this Marianist educator has still found time for lectures and retreats on Marian spirituality, and has contributed articles in this field to the magazines, *The Marianist Educator* and *Mary Today*.

He is a member of several academic societies, and has received civic honors in San Antonio, and a listing in *Who's Who in America*. The Mariological Society of America is privileged to single out this long-time member of the Society for the special services he has rendered to Marian theological endeavor. We announce with pride the granting of this year's **MARIOLOGICAL AWARD** to the **REVEREND FATHER CHARLES WILLIAM NEUMANN** of the Society of Mary.

After a few words of warm appreciation from Fr. Neumann, Fr. Most proceeded to convey his personal gratitude and that of the Society to the following: His Excellency, Bishop Carroll, for inviting us to his diocese; His Excellency, Bishop Wright, Episcopal Chairman of our Society, for his continued support of

our various undertakings; Fr. Jude Dowling, C.P., Director of the Retreat House, and his confreres, for the warm hospitality extended to our guests; Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., Editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, for his generous contributions to the Society; and the various speakers and discussion leaders for their learned papers and stimulating exchange of views. When Fr. Most asked if there were any further business to be transacted, Fr. Cletus Wessels, O.P., moved that our Society continue its ecumenical approach in future meetings. His motion was enthusiastically carried. The president then declared the convention adjourned and closed with a prayer of thanksgiving.