

# Marian Studies

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Volume 5

Article 3

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1-30-1954

## Report on the Washington Convention

Mariological Society of America

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### Recommended Citation

Mariological Society of America (1954) "Report on the Washington Convention," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 5, Article 3, Pages 5-12.

Available at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian\\_studies/vol5/iss1/3](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol5/iss1/3)

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## REPORT ON THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION

The Fifth Annual Convention of the Mariological Society of America was held at Holy Name College, Franciscan house of theology, Washington, D. C., on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 1954, under the gracious auspices of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Patrick A. O'Boyle, D.D., Archbishop of Washington. The first general assembly was called to order at ten o'clock in the morning. In his introductory remarks, Father Juniper Carol, O.F.M., president of the organization, extended a warm welcome to the numerous guests, recalled briefly the accomplishments of the Society during the first four years of its existence, and finally introduced His Excellency, the Most Reverend Amleto G. Cicognani, D.D., Apostolic Delegate to the United States. In his brief address, which appears in this volume, the Holy Father's representative expressed his personal satisfaction over the noble endeavors and numerous achievements of the young Society, summarized the singular favors which God has so liberally bestowed on His own Mother, and strongly urged those present to promote an even deeper appreciation of those prerogatives during the Marian Year of 1954 according to the ardent desire of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, gloriously reigning. The address was enthusiastically acclaimed by all.

The next speaker on the program was the distinguished scholar, Rev. Dr. Allan B. Wolter, O.F.M., professor at the Franciscan Institute of Theology and Philosophy in St. Bonaventure University, New York, and co-editor of the well-known publication *Franciscan Studies*. Although primarily a philosopher, Father Allan has devoted considerable time to the study of Mariological questions, particularly Our Lady's Co-redemption and her Immaculate Conception. His remarkable paper on *The Theology of the Immaculate Conception in the Light of "Ineffabilis Deus,"* was, for the most part, an endeavor to

elucidate certain theological problems left unsettled by the memorable papal pronouncement of 1854. The lively discussion which followed Father Allan's paper was conducted by the Rev. Kenneth Dougherty, S.A., of Washington, D. C.

At one o'clock in the afternoon the guests gathered in the spacious refectory of the monastery where, after preliminary refreshments, an exquisite luncheon was served.

The second general assembly, held at 2:30 in the afternoon, was highlighted by a very learned dissertation on *The Immaculate Conception in the Magisterium of the Church Prior to 1854*, read by the Rev. Armand Robichaud, S.M., talented professor of dogmatic theology at the Marist Seminary in Framingham Centre, Mass. The paper was noted for its wealth of pertinent documentation, a good deal of it never before published in the English language. The discussion leader was the Rev. Marion Habig, O.F.M., of St. Louis, Mo.

The fitting climax of the day came at 4:30 with the traditional Holy Hour which, for the first time, was attended by hundreds of priests and seminarians from the neighboring houses of theology. The impressive services, held in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, were presided over by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, who was likewise the celebrant at Benediction. The prayers were recited by the Rev. Eustace Smith, O.F.M., chairman of the program committee, while the splendid musical program was offered by the well-known schola cantorum of Holy Name College. The sermon, a stirring panegyric on Our Lady's queenly prerogatives, was preached by the renowned orator, His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester and Episcopal Chairman of the Mariological Society. The theme selected was particularly appropriate in view of the petition which the Society is submitting to the Holy Father this year, as related below.

The morning assembly on the second day of the Convention opened at ten o'clock and featured a very scholarly and thought-provoking paper by the Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Gulovich, of Granville, New York, on the much-debated question of Mary's Immaculate Conception in the tradition of the Eastern Churches. The informative exchange of views which followed was conducted by the Rev. Bruno C. Zvirblis, O.P., of Jersey City, New Jersey. At 11:30 the members of the Society were given the opportunity to choose from the following elective panel discussions: *The Immaculate Conception and the Preternatural Gifts*, by the Very Rev. Dr. Albert Kippes, O.M.I., of San Antonio, Texas (discussion leader: the Rev. Cyril Volpert, S.J.); *The Argument of the Liturgy in Favor of the Immaculate Conception*, by the Rev. John Quinn, of New Rochelle, New York (discussion leader: the Rev. James A. Brennan, C.M.); *The Nexus Between the Immaculate Conception and Mary's Other Prerogatives*, by the Rev. Dr. Thomas U. Mullaney, O.P., of Washington, D. C. (discussion leader: the Rev. Eric May, O.F.M.Cap.).

The afternoon session began at 2:30 with an erudite lecture by the Very Rev. Dr. Raphael Huber, O.F.M.Conv., on *The Immaculate Conception in the Tradition of the Western Church*. After a brief survey of the testimonies available, the speaker concluded that, while the dogma defined by Pius IX in 1854 had undergone considerable development, nevertheless its substance had formed part of the Church's implicit belief from the earliest times. The lively discussion which followed was led by the Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.SS.R., and centered mainly on a few controverted texts from the patristic period.

As scheduled, the business meeting began promptly at 3:30 in the afternoon. A brief report was read by the president relative to present membership in the Society, which has now passed the 300 mark. In the absence of the chairman of the

committee on admissions, Father Carol read out the names of new applicants (54 in all) and they were officially received into the Society by a unanimous vote. After a brief financial report read by the treasurer, Father Kenneth B. Moore, O.Carm., the president proceeded to announce the winners of the various awards offered annually by the Society. The special Mariological Award for 1953 was conferred on the Reverend Lawrence W. Monheim, S.M., Director of the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, Ohio. On behalf of Bishop Wright and amid the applause of those present, Father Carol presented Father Monheim with a check in the amount of \$100.00 and then read the following citation:

#### THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1953

##### *Citation*

Each year the Mariological Society of America confers a special Award on one of its active members who has made some outstanding contribution to the field of Mariology.

Of the several worthy candidates considered this year, none was deemed more deserving than the Reverend Lawrence W. Monheim, of the Cincinnati Marianist Province.

Father Monheim made his studies at the Universities of Fribourg, Switzerland, and Dayton, Ohio, where he has been head of the Department of Religion. In 1943 Father Monheim founded the now universally famous Marian Library, located in the University of Dayton. Among the many services rendered by this Library are the Newsletter, the Union Catalogue and the Marian Reprints. These and other remarkable achievements of the Marian Library have been due principally to the dynamic and intelligent leadership of Father Monheim.

For this reason, the Mariological Society of America today wishes to give public recognition to this prominent apostle of Our Lady by conferring on him the Special Mariological Award for the year 1953.

As to the annual seminarians' contest, the special board of judges selected the following winners: M. Emilien Lamirande, O.M.I., of the St. Joseph Scholasticate, Ottawa, Canada (first prize: \$150.00); Mr. Robert V. Callen, S.J., of St. Mary's College, St. Marys, Kansas (second prize: \$100.00); and the Reverend Anthony J. Wilhelm, C.S.P., of the Paulist Seminary, Washington, D. C. (third prize: \$50.00). Father Wilhelm was the only winner present.

The topic selected by the Board of Directors for the seminarians' contest in 1954 will be Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. 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 mailed to the office of the secretary (600 Sound View Avenue, Bronx 72, New York) not later than September 25, 1954.

A particularly interesting feature of this year's Convention is the petition which the Mariological Society has decided to submit to the Holy Father humbly requesting that a liturgical feast honoring Our Lady's Universal Queenship be instituted for the whole Church. The special committee in charge of formulating the text of the petition included the Very Rev. Roger M. Charest, S.M.M. (original promoter of the idea), as chairman, the Very Rev. Peter A. Resch, S.M., and the Very Rev. Firmin M. Schmidt, O.F.M.Cap. On behalf of the committee, Father Resch asked the members of the Society to express their considered judgment on the matter and after a brief discussion a favorable response was manifested by all. The full text of the petition, which is being transmitted to His Holiness by the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate, is given here with the minor modifications suggested by His Excellency:

SOCIETAS MARIOLOGICA AMERICA SEPTENTRIONALIS

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Washingtonii, 5 Januarii, 1954, Anno Mariano.

Beatissime Pater:

Solemnis definitio Assumptionis Beatae Virginis Mariae regnantis ad dexteram Filii sui in aeterna gloria, traditionalem doctrinam de regalitate ejusdem Virginis satis perspicue collustrasse haud immerito censetur. Immo vero, haec doctrina, quae apud theologos et Christifideles magis magisque in dies exploratur, memorabili illo nuntio radiophonico quod, occasione coronationis B. Virginis a Fatima (13 maii, 1946) Sanctitas Vestra habuit, mirabiliter exponitur ac summopere vindicatur: "Jesus Rex est saeculorum aeternorum tum jure naturali tum jure acquisitionis; per ipsum, cum ipso et sub ipso Maria Regina est ex gratia, ex cognatione divina, tum jure acquisitionis tum ob singularem electionem. Ejus regnum eadem pollet amplitudine ac regnum Filii et Dei, cum nihil prorsus ab ejus arceatur dominio."

Hanc doctrinam profitentes, ad majorem Sanctissimae Trinitatis gloriam, ad imperium amoris et misericordiae Beatissimae Virginis Mariae sub regalitate Christi Regis pleniori luce evocandum et ad Christifidelium pietatem ac fiduciam erga eandem Virginem Mariam magis augendam, consodales Societatis Mariologicae Americae Septentrionalis, annuo conventu Washingtonii adunati, pietate filiali permoti, ad pedes Sanctitatis Vestrae humiliter provoluti, ardentissimis precibus Patrem Commune supplicant ut festum liturgicum Regalitatis Universalis Beatissimae Virginis Mariae, quod particularibus locis vel institutis jam concessum agnovimus, ad universam Ecclesiam extendere dignetur.

The matter of the petition being concluded, Father Carol announced that, before handing over the presidency of the Society to his successor, he wished to express his sincerest thanks to those who had attended the Convention and who had in any way contributed to its success. He singled out Their Excellencies, the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate,

the Most Reverend Archbishop of Washington and the Most Reverend Bishop of Worcester as particularly deserving of gratitude. He likewise expressed his profound appreciation to the following: the Very Rev. Benedict Ballou, O.F.M., Rector of Holy Name College, for having invited the Society to hold its Convention there; the Very Rev. Pascal Kinsel, O.F.M., Commissary of the Holy Land, for the hospitality extended to a group of out-of-town guests; the Right Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. O'Connor, for his kindness in making the National Shrine available for the Holy Hour; the Rev. Thomas U. Mullaney, O.P., and the Rev. Ignatius Fonash, M.S.S.S.T., members of the committee on arrangements, and particularly to the Rev. Eustace Smith, O.F.M., chairman of that committee, for invaluable assistance; the Rev. Jerome Donnelly, O.F.M., procurator of Holy Name College, for his very efficient handling of what concerned the refreshments and the luncheons; the various speakers and discussion leaders for their excellent contributions; the good Clerics of Holy Name College, especially the members of the choir, for their superb musical program; and the neighboring Christian Brothers for their generosity in providing transportation to and from the National Shrine.

The last item on the agenda was the election of officers and the new members of the Board of Directors. Called upon by Father Carol, the chairman of the nominating committee, Father Roger M. Charest, proceeded to submit the names of the various candidates selected by his committee. The slate proposed, which received the unanimous approval of those present, was as follows:

*President:* the Very Rev. Cyril Vollert, S.J., dean of the School of Sacred Theology of St. Louis University, St. Mary's, Kansas;

*Vice-President:* the Rev. Lawrence P. Everett, C.S.S.R., pro-



fessor of dogmatic Theology, Mount St. Alphonsus, Esopus, New York.

*Secretary:* the Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M. (retiring president), of Holy Cross Monastery, Bronx, New York;

*Treasurer:* the Rev. George W. Shea, professor of dogmatic Theology, Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, New Jersey.

*New Members of the Board of Directors:* the Very Rev. Msgr. John J. Carberry, officialis of the Brooklyn diocese; the Rev. Bernard J. Le Frois, S.V.D., professor of S. Scripture, Seminary of the Divine Word, Techny, Illinois; the Very Rev. Peter A. Resch, S.M., Provincial of the Marianist Province of St. Louis; the Very Rev. Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm., professor of S. Scripture and prior at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, D. C.

The nominations being duly approved, Father Carol invited the newly-elected president, Father Vollert, to say a few words to the gathering. In a brief but very appropriate address, Father Vollert offered his sincere thanks for what he termed an "undeserved" promotion, paid the usual compliments to the retiring president, and expressed the hope that in the future the organization will continue to show the same vigor and vitality that it has shown in the past. The meeting adjourned with an appropriate prayer of thanksgiving at 4:30 P. M.