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REPORT ON THE DAYTON CONVENTION

At the invitation of The University of Dayton, the Ninth Annual Convention of The Mariological Society of America was held in Dayton, Ohio, on Thursday and Friday, January 2 and 3, 1958. Most of the sessions took place in the *Aviation Room* of the Miami Hotel, located in the heart of the city. The meeting, whose central theme was *the Mary-Church Relationship*, was one of the most successful in the history of the Society, being attended by over a hundred delegates from the various States and neighboring Canada.

The Convention opened at ten o'clock in the morning with the customary introductory remarks by the President of the Society, Father Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm. Having extended cordial greetings to the guests, and explained the general purpose of the meeting, Father Carroll introduced the Very Rev. Andrew L. Seebold, S.M., President of the University of Dayton, who addressed the "official welcome" to the delegates on behalf of His Excellency, the Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati.

The text of his brief allocution follows:

On Christmas Eve we received the following communication from His Grace, the Archbishop of Cincinnati:

"I have just learned with considerable regret that it will be impossible for me to come to Dayton on January 2nd to extend a cordial welcome to the members of the Mariological Society of America, meeting in their Ninth Convention.

May I ask you therefore to speak in my name in extending an official and cordial welcome to the Convention? Please inform the delegates that we are delighted that they should meet in the Archdiocese during this the Lourdes centennial year, and that we feel their choice of the city of Dayton, the home of the Marian Library, was a particularly appropriate one.

We assure the officers and members of the Society of our interest in and encouragement of their work and we send them our cordial blessings.

With every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours in Christ,
/s/ KARL J. ALTER,
Archbishop of Cincinnati."

It is with a feeling of humility that I stand here in the place of the Archbishop to extend to you, members of the Mariological Society of America, His Grace's official and most cordial welcome to the Archdiocese and to the city of Dayton.

As President of the University of Dayton I am honored to welcome you to our campus for the Holy Hour, the visit to the Marian Library and to the dinner this evening.

We feel that the Marian Library has much in common with your Mariological Society, in that it is dedicated, like you, to the spread of the knowledge, love and veneration of our Blessed Mother.

We are particularly happy that you have chosen the city of Dayton for your convention in this centennial year of the Lourdes apparitions. We are confident that your visit to our city will be an inspiration to all the parishes and educational institutions to a greater love of her, through whom and through the charity of the Father "we have been called to be and we are the sons of God."

The theme of your convention, which will treat in a most scholarly manner Mary's relationship to the Church, impresses upon us our basic Son-Mother relationship to her—a love for our Blessed Mother which is not merely a recognition of her in external acts or so-called devotions but in a way of life, an expression of the filial piety of Jesus Christ Himself, which constitutes us in a state of son of Mary. This filial piety dedicates every moment and action of our lives to the service of Mary toward our own personal sanctification and the salvation of souls.

Again we extend to you a most cordial welcome and we pray that your deliberations, during this convention, may be blessed and directed by Our Blessed Mother and that particularly in this Lourdes Centennial Year every endeavor may tend to the glorification of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit through the Immaculate Conception.

After thanking Father Seebold for his warm welcome, the President called upon Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary of the Society, to make a few important announcements. Among other things, the Secretary noted that, due to unforeseen circumstances, a few last-minute changes in the program had become necessary. He informed the delegates that on December 23 he had received a communication from Father Joseph Montalverne announcing his inability to attend the Convention and to submit his paper on *The Mary-Church Relationship in the Patristic Period*. The Secretary then expressed the deep gratitude of all concerned to Father Walter

J. Burghardt, the well-known Jesuit patrologist, who, only a few days before the meeting, had graciously consented to substitute for Father Montalverne, and to conduct a seminar on the same subject at the appointed time. Father Carol likewise announced that the election of officers, scheduled for the next day, would take place immediately before Father Burghardt's seminar on the first day of the Convention, thus making it possible for the newly-elected officers and members of the Board of Directors to have a meeting that same evening.

At approximately 10:30 the President introduced the keynote speaker of the Convention, the Reverend John F. Sweeney, S.J., of Woodstock, Md., President of the Catholic Theological Society of America. In his excellent paper Father Sweeney explained the meaning of the relationship between Our Blessed Lady and the Church, and analyzed briefly, but very precisely, the various similarities and dissimilarities between the two, according to the mind of the more representative theologians at the present time. The spirited discussion which followed was conducted by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M.

At 12 noon the guests gathered in the spacious *Sky View Room* of the hotel for the usual refreshments and luncheon. Immediately after the luncheon, The Marian Library Medal was conferred on Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary of the Society, by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., Director of the Marian Library of the University of Dayton. Father Hoelle explained briefly the purpose of these annual awards, and informed the delegates that it was being presented to Father Carol this year in recognition for his book *Fundamentals of Mariology*, published by Benziger Bros. in 1956. Whereupon Father Carol addressed a few words to the assembled guests conveying his profound gratitude to the Director of the Marian Library and his able staff for the signal honor received, and expressing the hope that the beautiful award

would stimulate him to accomplish something really worthy of Our Blessed Lady in the years that lie ahead.

The second general assembly was called to order by the President, Father Carroll, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The Very Rev. Joseph Sielski, Provincial of the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge, Mass., and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, was then invited to submit the slate of candidates for office. He indicated that, since the President and the Vice-President had been in office only one year, filling the vacancies left by Fathers Le Frois and Resch, it was the desire of his committee that they should be re-elected for a two-year period. It was likewise suggested that Father Carol, Secretary, and Father Robichaud, Treasurer, be granted another term in office. For the Board of Directors, the Chairman nominated Father Vincent J. Nugent, C.M., of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Father John F. Harvey, O.S.F.S., of Hyattsville, Md. A vote was then taken by the Secretary, and the slate submitted by Father Sielski's committee was unanimously approved by the delegates present.

The matter of the elections being concluded, the President introduced Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., who, as mentioned before, had graciously consented to conduct a seminar at this time, substituting for Father Montalverne. Notwithstanding the fact that he had been requested to undertake this task only a few days before the meeting, the speaker presented a truly remarkable synthesis of the patristic teaching on the Mary-Church relationship. During the enlightening exchange of views which followed, conducted by Father Alban A. Maguire, O.F.M., Father Burghardt cautioned his audience not to draw hasty conclusions from the patristic statements explicitly identifying Our Lady with the Church. Such testimonies, he pointed out, happen to be relatively few, and may well have a different meaning from that which is currently attributed to them by certain European theologians.

At four o'clock in the afternoon the traditional Holy Hour was held in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of the University of Dayton. The solemn services were conducted by the Very Rev. Andrew L. Seebold, President of the University, assisted by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., as deacon, and Father Lawrence W. Monheim, S.M., as sub-deacon. The Very Rev. John A. Elbert, S.M., Provincial of the Marianists, Cincinnati Province, delivered an appropriate sermon in which he stressed the profound significance of Our Lady's influence on the Mystical Body of Christ, as may be gleaned from the very pages of Sacred Scripture. Mary's divinely entrusted mission, the speaker said, is to assist the Savior in bringing forth His Church on Calvary's height, and to aid the members of the Mystical Body in the attainment of their supernatural goal. Hence, her relationship to the Church is properly expressed in terms of a spiritual Motherhood, Coredemption, and universal Mediation.

Shortly after the Holy Hour the delegates were invited to take a tour of the famed Marian Library on the campus of the University. The visit turned out to be one of the highlights of the Convention. Founded in 1943 by Father Lawrence W. Monheim, S.M., and now under the direction of Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., with the assistance of Brother Stanley G. Mathews, S.M., the Library has become a widely known center of research for thousands of students of Mariology in America. Avidly inspecting its many literary and artistic treasures, the members of the Society expressed amazement at the remarkable progress achieved in so short a period of time.

Following the Library tour, all those attending the Convention gathered in the University Dining Hall where they were served an exquisite dinner through the courtesy and generosity of the University authorities and of the Marian Library.

The first general assembly on the second day of the Convention began promptly at ten o'clock in the morning, and featured a very informative lecture by Father Francis L. B. Cunningham, O.P., of Dubuque, Iowa. The learned speaker undertook the difficult task of analyzing the mutual relationship between Mary and the Church as described in the writings of the Middle Ages. He skillfully traced the gradual development of the analogy, and pointed out its germinal foundation in the writings of the Fathers. He concluded that the so-called "identity" between Mary and the Church, as envisaged by medieval theologians, meant simply that Our Lady was the figure, the prototype of the Church. The lecture gave rise to a very interesting discussion, which was competently conducted by Father Joseph L. Shannon, O.S.A.

After a ten-minute recess, the delegates assembled again to hear a paper written by our former president, Father Bernard J. LeFrois, S.V.D., on *The Mary-Church Relationship in the Apocalypse*. In the author's absence (he is now teaching in the Philippines), his manuscript was read by Father Richard Kugelman, C.P., and the discussion led by Father Christian P. Ceroke, O.Carm. The purpose of Father LeFrois' lengthy and scholarly tract was to follow closely the process by which St. John arrives at an identification of Our Lady with the Church by predicating the same features of both under the one figure of the "Woman." Much of the discussion which ensued centered on the various possible meanings of that identification, and on its obvious repercussions in the field of Mariology.

In the afternoon session, which began at 2 o'clock, the guests were privileged to hear a recognized authority in the field: Father Cyril Vollert, S.J., Dean of the School of Theology at St. Mary's College, in St. Marys, Kansas. With his customary ability the distinguished theologian presented a resumé of the novel theory advanced by Prof. Semmelroth

(according to whom Mary's personification of the Church is the fundamental principle of Mariology), and showed conclusively that, from the viewpoint of speculative theology, this position is quite untenable. During the profitable discussion which followed his brilliant dissertation, Father Vollert further corroborated his stand by appealing to the explicit teaching of the Magisterium on this subject.

At three o'clock the President opened the business meeting by inviting Father J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., Treasurer of the Society, to read his financial report covering the year 1957. After the Treasurer's report, Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary, announced that the next annual Convention of the Society would be held in Paterson, New Jersey, on Monday and Tuesday, January 5 and 6, 1959, and that the central theme of the meeting would be: *The Fundamental Principle of Mariology*. The Secretary then proceeded to read a list of applicants for membership, and upon a duly seconded motion, all were officially enrolled in the organization. This brings our membership to a total of 363, of which 303 are active members, and 60 associate members.

Following the Secretary's report, the President announced that the winner of the Seminarians' Contest for 1957 was Frater Conan McCreary, O.F.M.Cap., theology student at the Capuchin College in Washington, D. C. The title of his paper: *Our Lady's Coredemptive Death*. The Secretary wired Frater Conan the customary congratulations on behalf of the Society, and sent him a check for \$100.00. Father Carroll then disclosed that the Rev. Cyril Vollert, S.J., of St. Marys, Kansas, had been chosen by a committee *ad hoc* as the winner of The Mariological Award for 1957 (\$100.00), and he proceeded to read the following citation:

THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1957

Citation

Consonant with its endeavor to stimulate scientific research among its members, The Mariological Society of America confers an annual award on one of its active members who has distinguished himself for his contributions to the field of Marian theology.

Of the several candidates considered by the committee in charge, none was deemed worthier of the honor than the Reverend Cyril Vollert, of the Society of Jesus, professor of Dogmatic Theology at Saint Mary's College, St. Marys, Kansas.

Father Vollert was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1924, and was ordained to the holy priesthood in 1935. His distinguished career as a scholar began in 1929 when he received the doctorate in philosophy from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Ten years later the same University conferred on him the doctorate in Sacred Theology.

Between 1929 and 1931 Father Vollert was professor of Classical Antiquity at Marquette University. He has been professor of Dogmatic Theology at Saint Mary's College, St. Marys, Kansas (the School of Divinity of St. Louis University) since 1939. Recognizing his unusual talents, his religious superiors appointed him Dean of the same School of Divinity in 1940, a highly responsible position which he has held ever since. In 1949 he was summoned to the Eternal City as guest professor of Sacred Theology in the Pontifical Gregorian University, and in 1954, the Marian Year, he was elected President of The Mariological Society of America.

Father Vollert is the author of the book *The Doctrine of Hervaeus Natalis on Primitive Justice and Original Sin*, published in Rome in 1947. His masterful translations of Scheeben's *The Mysteries of Christianity*, St. Thomas' *Compendium of Theology*, and Mersch's *The Theology of the Mystical Body* have earned the praise of scholars at home and abroad.

Besides these notable works, Father Vollert has contributed numerous articles of high caliber to such scientific publications as

Gregorianum, *Theological Studies*, *Proceedings of the Catholic Theological Society of America*, and many others.

It is particularly in the field of Mariology, however, that Father Vollert has won universal recognition. His significant contributions to *Marian Studies*, to Hubert du Manoir's *Maria*, and very especially to the second volume of Father Juniper Carol's *Mariology*, rank him among the foremost Mariologists of this generation. It is mainly these essays and dissertations which show forth the author's sound scholarship, keen mind, vast erudition and penetrating theological insight.

The Mariological Society of America, considering it a signal honor to count this prominent theologian among its most valuable collaborators, today wishes to express in a tangible, though inadequate manner its profound admiration and heartfelt gratitude toward him by conferring on him the special Mariological Award for 1957. In so doing, the members of this organization express the hope that this richly-deserved honor will stimulate its recipient to still further achievements in his cherished field of Marian Theology, thus adding new luster to our heavenly Mother's radiant crown of glory.

At this time Father Vollert came to the speaker's lectern and, with his characteristic modesty, assured the delegates that he was profoundly grateful to the Society for the "utterly unmerited" honor, and that he would accept it only in order to enhance the Mariological library of his beloved St. Mary's College.

The matter of the awards being concluded, the President expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all those who, by their active attendance, had contributed so much to the success of the Ninth Annual Convention. In particular, he wished to thank His Excellency, the Most Reverend Karl J. Alter, D.D., Archbishop of Cincinnati, for having invited our organization to his archdiocese; the Very Rev. Andrew L. Seebold, S.M., President of the University of Dayton, for his "official welcome" in behalf of the Archbishop, and for inviting the

delegates to an elaborate dinner in the University; the Very Rev. John A. Elbert, S.M., Marianist Provincial, for his beautiful sermon during the Holy Hour services; Father Lawrence W. Monheim and Father Philip C. Hoelle, for their efficient handling of publicity, transportation and various other important details; the Management of the Miami Hotel, for its warm hospitality toward the Convention delegates; and finally, the various speakers and discussion leaders, for their scholarly papers and informative discussions. All the items on the agenda being properly concluded, the President brought the Convention to a close with a prayer of thanksgiving at approximately 4 o'clock.

Our readers will undoubtedly be gratified to notice the new feature added to MARIAN STUDIES in the form of photographs inserted in the middle section of the present volume. The photos represent some of the American Bishops who honor us with their membership in our Society, and also some of the past and present officers of the organization. The Mariological Society of America takes this opportunity to thank Fathers Lawrence W. Monheim and Philip C. Hoelle, founder and director, respectively, of the Marian Library in Dayton, for having suggested this idea, and particularly for having offered to finance the cost involved.