

1-24-1961

## Report on the Pittsburgh Convention

Mariological Society of America

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### Recommended Citation

Mariological Society of America (1961) "Report on the Pittsburgh Convention," *Marian Studies*: Vol. 12, Article 5, Pages 15-20.

Available at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian\\_studies/vol12/iss1/5](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/marian_studies/vol12/iss1/5)

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## REPORT ON THE PITTSBURGH CONVENTION

The fair city of Pittsburgh was chosen as the site for the Twelfth Annual Convention of The Mariological Society. The selection was doubly appropriate, since the Ordinary of Pittsburgh, His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Wright, is the Episcopal Chairman of the Society, and he had just observed his Silver Jubilee in the holy priesthood. The meeting was headquartered in the magnificent new Hilton Hotel and was presided over by His Excellency, Bishop Wright. It opened on Monday, January 2, and closed on Tuesday, January 3.

The first session began at 10 o'clock in the morning with a warm "Official Welcome" from Bishop Wright, and was immediately followed by a "Presidential Address" by the Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J. Both items are printed in these Proceedings for the edification and sheer delight of our readers.

The scholarly dissertations read and discussed on Monday and Tuesday were as follows: *The Mother of the Messiah*, by Rev. Barnabas Mary Ahern, C.P. (discussion leader: Rev. Roland Murphy, O.Carm.); *The Woman of Gen. 3, 15. Textual Criticism*, by Very Rev. Stephen Rowe, O.F.M. Cap (discussion leader: Rev. Eric May, O.F.M. Cap.); *Patristic Interpretation of the Protoevangelium*, by Rev. Dominic J. Unger, O.F.M. Cap. (discussion leader: Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.); *The Protoevangelium in the Light of the Magisterium*, by the Very Rev. Msgr. George W. Shea (discussion leader: Rev. John F. Sweeney, S.J.); *The Mother of Emmanuel*, by Carroll Stuhlmüller, C.P. (discussion leader: Rev. James C. Turro); and *Old Testament Background of the Magnificat*, by

Rev. James T. Forestell, C.S.B. (discussion leader: Rev. Christian P. Ceroke, O.Carm.).

The election of new members of the Board of Directors took place, as usual, in the first afternoon of the Convention. The Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Gallo, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, proposed the Very Rev. Albert Bourke, O.C.D., and the Rev. Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., and the happy choice was spontaneously acclaimed by those present.

The last item on the program was the business meeting. It began with a brief report by the Rev. Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., on the regional meetings sponsored by the Society during 1960 in Boston, Washington, D. C., and Dayton. He announced that Chicago and Darlington, N. J., would be added to the list in 1961. Father Hoelle was followed at the lectern by the Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., who read a report on the financial status of the Society. In his turn, the Secretary announced that the next Annual Convention would be held in New Orleans, La., subject to approval by Archbishop Rummel. He also read a list of applicants for membership in the Society and, upon a duly seconded motion, all were officially enrolled. The Secretary likewise disclosed the result of a survey conducted in 1960 concerning the feasibility of submitting a memorandum to the forthcoming Ecumenical Council requesting the Fathers to take a stand on the question of Our Lady's Coredeemption. The petition, which appears below, was approved by the totality of the delegates present and will be submitted to the Council by His Excellency, Bishop Wright on behalf of the Society. The verdict of those not attending the Pittsburgh meeting was as follows: only one rejected the doctrine expressed in the petition; two favored the definability of the doctrine, but doubted its opportuneness; one favored the doctrine, but questioned its definability; and one expressed doubts as to the wording of the petition.

Preces Sodalium Societatis Mariologicae Americanae  
ad Patres Concilii Vaticani II delatae

Societatis Mariologicae Americanae sodales, in urbe Pittsburgensi pro annuo conventu 1961 adunati, venerabiles Patres Concilii Vaticani II enixe rogant ut doctrinam de Beatae Virginis Coredemptione peculiari investigationi subiciant et quae ad mentem Ecclesiae tenenda iudicent christifidelibus perspicue proponant

Neminem profecto latet de munere Virginis coredemptivo diversos diversa opinari. Si autem sententiam nostram hac de re nobis pandere liceat, sequentia proculdubio statui posse censemus.

Exploratum omnibus est Beatissimam Virginem Mariam, juxta longe plurimorum theologorum placita, ad titulum Coredemptricis jus habere, non solummodo quia nobis Redemptorem dedit, neque ex eo dumtaxat quod nunc in caelis omnes gratias cunctis hominibus impetrat, sed praecise quia immediate (quamvis secundario ac subordinato modo) ad ipsum opus redemptivum una cum Filio scienter et volenter cooperata est. In specie sicut Christus, praesertim sua sacratissima passione, omnia salutis auxilia nobis de condigno meruit ac pro omnibus peccatis satisfecit, ita sane ejus Beatissima Parens, praesertim sua compassione, easdem gratias salvificas nobis saltem de congruo promeruit ac pro cunctis peccatis satisfactionem Deo praestitit. Beatae Virginis cooperatio merita et satisfactiones Christi nullatenus augebat. Nihilominus, ipsius Virginis merita et satisfactiones, quae valorem redemptivum ex mentis Christi totaliter hauriebant, a Patre caelesti benigne acceptabantur pro nostra redemptione a servitute peccati, et quidem per modum unius cum pretio quod ipse Salvator offerebat. Effectus igitur cooperationis Deiparae idem omnino respicit objectum ac operatio Christi, nempe, restorationem (in actu primo) totius generis humani in divinam amicitiam per peccatum amissam.

Quae omnia, quatuor saltem saeculorum decursu ab Ecclesiae theologis (paucis dissentientibus) propugnata, amplissimo episcoporum suffragio novissimis temporibus sancita comperuntur. Eandem sententiam recentiores Pontifices amplecti videntur, quippe qui singulare

hoc Virginis munus christifidelibus haud semel palam proponunt Sic, e g., Benedictus XV diserte testatur de Beata Virgine juxta crucem: "Ita cum Filio patiente et moriente passa est et pene comortua, sic materna in Filium jura pro hominum salute abdicavit placandaeque Dei justitiae, quantum ad se pertinebat, Filium immolavit, ut dici merito queat ipsam cum Christo humanum genus redemisse" (A A S., 10 [1918] 182). Cui plane concinit Pius XII juxta quem redemptio nostra provenit ex passione Christi et ex compassione Deiparae En ejus verba: "Cum enim, ex Dei voluntate, in humanae Redemptionis peragendo opere Beatissima Virgo Maria cum Christo fuerit indivulse conjuncta, adeo ut ex Jesu Christi caritate Ejusque cruciatibus cum amore doloribusque ipsius Matris intime consociatis sit nostra salus perfecta . . . (A A S., 48 [1956] 352). Quocirca, Societatis Mariologicae Americanae sodales, occasionem Concilii Ecumenici mox celebrandi fidenter nacti, venerandos Patres humiliter adprecantur quatenus praefatam doctrinam, sensu superius expositam, sedulo ventilare satagent, eamque, si lubet, tamquam Ecclesiae doctrinam decernere dignentur.

Following the Secretary's report, the President announced that the winner of the Seminarians' Contest for 1960 was Mr. Robert Meskunas, S.M., a theological student of the Marist College, Washington, D. C. His entry, for which he received \$100.00, was entitled, *Some Patristic Exegesis on Mary's Sanctity*. As to the special Mariological Award for 1960, the President read the following citation:

#### THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1960

##### *Citation*

The annual award conferred by the Mariological Society of America on one of its active members pays tribute to uncommon excellence in the field of Mariology. Productive scholarship of a high order brings the Mariological Award for 1960 to a Loras College professor, the Reverend William G. Most.

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Father Most attended Loras Acad-

emy and College, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1936. From 1936 to 1940 he attended the Sulpician Seminary in Washington, D. C. 1940 saw his ordination to the priesthood and his Master of Arts in Religion from the Catholic University of America. The same institution awarded him in 1946 the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Latin.

For two decades Father Most has been a highly respected teacher and scholar. His professorial association with Loras College, where he teaches in the Department of Latin and Greek, goes back to 1940. Besides, he has given courses at Mount St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque and at the Midwest Branch of the Catholic University.

But it is through his scholarly productivity that Father Most overleaps the boundaries of Dubuque. A half-dozen books merit mention. There is his Catholic University dissertation, *Syntax of the Vtac sanctorum Hiberniae*. There are his *Latin by the Natural Method, First Year*, *Latin by the Natural Method, Second Year*; and *Fifty Units of Basic Latin Grammar*. There is his digest-style edition of Augustine's *City of God*, which reviewers have praised for its grasp of Augustine and its insight into the college and seminary audience for which it is intended. Above all, there is *Mary in Our Life*, now in its third American edition. Editions in English have appeared in Cork and Bombay, the work has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Italian, and German; it will appear too in Korean, Tamil, and Malayalam. For this contribution to Marian literature Father Most received the Marian Library Medal in 1955.

Articles by Father Most have been published in *Age of Mary*, *American Ecclesiastical Review*, *Ave Maria*, *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, *Catholic Educational Review*, *Classical Bulletin*, *Classical Journal*, *Cross and Crown*, *Emmanuel*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Ephemerides Mariologicae*, *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, *Marianist*, *Marian Reprints*, *Marianum*, *Mary*, *NCEA Catholic High School Quarterly Bulletin*, *Our Lady's Digest*, *Pastoral Life*, *Priest*, *Queen of All Hearts*, *Scapular*, and *Spiritual Life*.

But no mere listing of books and periodicals can do more than suggest the extraordinary activity of this man, his profound dedication to the life of the mind, his precious contributions to a better

understanding of the Latin language, of Augustine, and of our Lady. He is a splendid example of the magnetic scholarship, the ceaseless collaboration, and the intellectual courage which we envision on a large scale in this new decade. Recognizing these gifts and the signal uses to which they have been put, the Mariological Society of America is proud to present its 1960 award to Father William G. Most, of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa.

Following the reading of the citation, Father Most approached the rostrum and received from the President a beautiful scroll and an envelope with \$100.00. He explained that, while he would keep and treasure the artistic scroll, he wished the money to go to the Marian Library in care of Father Juniper Carol, Secretary of the Society. This exquisite gesture of generosity elicited an enthusiastic round of applause from the delegates.

Father Burghardt then proceeded to bring the Convention to a close, but not before thanking those who had contributed so much to its success, particularly Bishop Wright, whose continued support of our organization has earned him the profound gratitude of all its members.