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Report on the New Orleans Convention

Mariological Society of America

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REPORT ON THE NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION

At the kind invitation of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, D.D., Archbishop of New Orleans, La., the Thirteenth Annual Convention of The Mariological Society of America was held in his Metropolitan See. The meeting opened on Tuesday, January 2, 1962, and closed on Wednesday, January 3. All sessions were held at Notre Dame Seminary, staffed by the Marist Fathers, and were attended by numerous delegates from various parts of the country.

On the first day of the meeting, at 10 o'clock in the morning, the President of the Society, Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., introduced His Excellency, Archbishop Rummel, who officially welcomed the delegates to his archdiocese. This was followed by the President's own address which appears elsewhere in this volume. Father Burghardt then explained to his audience that, for the first time since the founding of the Society, its Secretary, Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., would not attend the annual meeting due to a temporary indisposition. In the latter's absence, the President himself read the pertinent announcements usually made at the opening session.

As in previous years, the Society was happy and privileged to feature again seasoned and well-known scholars at its 1962 Convention, as evidenced from the following program of speakers and their papers: Rev. Joseph J. DeVault, S.J., *The Concept of Virginity in Judaism* (discussion leader: Rev. Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P.); Rev. Eugene H. Maly, *Virginity in the New Testament* (discussion leader: Rev. Richard Kugelman, C.P.); Rev. Aelred Tegels, O.S.B., *Virginity in the Liturgy* (discussion leader: Rev. James Forgac, O.S.B.); Rev. Thomas E. Clarke, S.J., *Redemptional Virginity in Mary and the Church* (discussion leader: Very Rev. Msgr. George W. Shea); and Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm.,

Theological Significance of Mary's Virginity (discussion leader: Rev. Ernest E. Larkin, O.Carm.).

As usual, the election of officers and new members of the Board of Directors took place in the afternoon of the first day of the Convention. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Rev. John P. Schaefer, C.S.S.R., Chairman, submitted the following slate: For President, the Rev. Edward D. O'Connor, C.S.C., of Notre Dame University; for Vice-President, the Rev. William G. Most, of Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa; for Secretary, the Rev. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., of Paterson, N. J.; for Treasurer, the Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., of Washington, D. C.; for the Board of Directors, the Rev. John McQuade, S.M., of New Orleans, La. (to replace the Very Rev. Albert Bourke, O.C.D., recently transferred to Rome), and the Rev. Fathers Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., of Woodstock, Md., and William F. Hogan, of Darlington, N. J. Upon a duly seconded motion, the above slate was enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates present.

The business meeting, the last item on the program, was held at 2:30 in the afternoon of the second day. At this time the delegates heard a report by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., on the various regional meetings held during 1961, and also a résumé of the financial status of the Society by Father J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., treasurer. In his own report, the newly-elected President, Father O'Connor, announced that the next Annual Convention of the Society would be held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Boston, Mass., on Wednesday and Thursday, January 2 and 3, 1963, under the auspices of His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston. The general topic to be discussed at that time will be *Our Lady's Holiness*. The names of applicants for membership were then read and duly enrolled in the Society. After announcing that, beginning this year, the annual Mariological award would be \$200.00 instead of \$100.00, Father O'Connor read the following citation:

THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1961

Citation

Of the several candidates considered for the 1961 Mariological Award, none seemed more deserving of the honor than the Very Reverend Monsignor George W. Shea, whose conspicuous contributions to the field of the sacred sciences have earned him a place of distinction among American theologians.

Born in Newark, N. J., Msgr. Shea attended Seton Hall Preparatory School and Seton Hall University, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1932. His theological studies were made at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. He was ordained to the holy priesthood in the Canisianum Seminary, Innsbruck, in 1936. He remained in Innsbruck to pursue his doctoral studies, and when the Nazis suppressed the University's theological faculty and confiscated the Canisianum in 1938, Msgr. Shea accompanied the professors and student body to their new home in Sion, Switzerland, where he completed his studies and received the doctorate of Sacred Theology in July, 1939.

Appointed to Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N. J., in August, 1939, he has taught Dogmatic Theology there ever since, except for the period 1942-1945, when he served as a chaplain in the United States Navy.

Upon resuming his teaching duties at Darlington in 1946, he was given the additional office of Librarian, which he held until 1960. In September, 1961, he succeeded the late Msgr. Joseph H. Brady as Rector of the Seminary. He has been Archdiocesan Pro-Synodal Examiner since 1946, and a member of the editorial board of *The Advocate* since the paper's inception in 1951. The widely-read column, *The Faith in Focus*, appearing in this archdiocesan weekly, was contributed by Msgr. Shea for eight years. In 1954, in recognition of his meritorious apostolate, Pope Pius XII named him a Papal Chamberlain. Other honors conferred on him include the presidency of The Catholic Theological Society of America, and the vice-presidency of The Mariological Society of America.

He has delivered important theological papers before both Societies, and at the Catholic University of America, Notre Dame

University, St. John's University, St. Joseph's College (West Hartford), and St. Joseph's Seminary (Yonkers).

Msgr. Shea has contributed numerous and noteworthy articles on Church and State, Sacramental Theology, the Magisterium, and especially Mariology, to *The American Ecclesiastical Review*, *Ave Maria*, *MARIAN STUDIES*, *Marianist*, *Our Lady's Digest*, *Proceedings of The Catholic Theological Society of America*; to the first and third volumes of the *Mariology* set edited by Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M.; to *The Mystery of the Woman*, edited by Father Edward D. O'Connor, C.S.C.; to *The McAuley Lectures, 1958*; and to *St. John's University Studies: Theological Series*, I. He is also a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*, and Sheed and Ward's *The Handbook of Catholic Theology*.

In view of Msgr. Shea's brilliant literary career and remarkable achievements, particularly in the field of Marian theology, The Mariological Society of America deems it most fitting to bestow on him its highest honor, the Mariological Award for 1961.

Following the reading of the citation, and amid the enthusiastic applause of those present, Msgr. Shea received the artistic scroll and the envelope containing \$200.00. The President then proceeded to thank all those who had in any way contributed to the success of the Convention, and very particularly: (a) His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans; (b) the Rev. John McQuade, S.M., Rector of Notre Dame Seminary, for his generous and cordial hospitality; (c) the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., Editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, for his substantial donations to the Society; and (d) the various speakers and discussion leaders for their scholarly papers and fruitful discussions. The meeting adjourned with a prayer of thanksgiving at about 3 o'clock.