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REPORT OF THE KANSAS CITY CONVENTION

In line with the prevalent concern of the Church at the present time, the Fifteenth Annual Convention of the Mariological Society of America was devoted primarily to the theme of ecumenism in its bearing on Marian questions. The sessions were held at the Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Mo. on Thursday and Friday, January 2 and 3, 1964, and were presided over by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles H. Helmsing, D.D., Bishop of Kansas City, Mo.

The first general assembly began at 10 o'clock in the morning with a prayer and an address by His Excellency, Bishop Helmsing. After extending a warm and cordial welcome to the delegates, His Excellency dwelt at some length on the importance of the Convention's theme for the work of the Church in this ecumenical age. In connection with the Second Vatican Council's decision to treat of Our Blessed Lady within the framework of the Church, rather than in a separate schema, he noted that several news releases here and abroad had misinterpreted the mind of the Council Fathers as a desire to "downgrade" Mary's exalted position. He stressed that when he and 52 per cent of the Bishops voted against a separate schema, there was no intention to deemphasize Our Blessed Lady. "We are of the household of the Faith, and we all agree with St. Bernardine of Siena that we cannot say too much about Mary, our Mother." To interpret the vote correctly, he said, one must recall the purposes for which the late Pope John convoked the Council. It was felt that these pastoral and ecumenical purposes would be best served, and the true image of the Church would be best revealed to non-Catholics, if the Council laid stress on Mary's relation to Christ and to His Church.

After thanking His Excellency for his very informative talk,

the Rev. Edward D. O'Connor, C.S.C., President of the Society, read his own address entitled *The Theology of Mary and the Critical Spirit*. This was immediately followed by a paper on *The Development of Marian Doctrine as an Ecumenical Problem*, by the Rev. Austin B. Vaughan, professor of dogmatic theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. The discussion leader was the Rev. Patrick J. Gaffney, S.M.M., superior of the Montfort Fathers Seminary in Litchfield, Conn. The high degree of theological insight and sound judgment displayed by both Fr. O'Connor and Fr. Vaughan elicited the most favorable comments from the audience.

At 3:30 in the afternoon the delegates gathered for the election of new members to the Board of Directors. The Rev. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I., chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted the following recommendations which were unanimously approved by the Society. For *President*: The Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Shea, Rector of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N.J.; 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 Boston, Mass. (The last three were actually re-elected to the offices they already held.) To replace the two outgoing members of the Board (non-officers): The Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., of Washington, D.C., and the Rev. Kenneth F. Dougherty, S.A., of Garrison, N.Y.

Other papers featured on the program and read during the Convention were: *Our Lady's Coredemption as an Ecumenical Problem*, by the Rev. Robert E. Hunt, of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N.J. (discussion leader: the Rev. John J. Powell, S.J.); *Integrating Marian Devotion in Catholic Spirituality*, by the Rev. Jordan R. Aumann, O.P., Dominican Priory, Chicago, Ill. (discussion leader: the Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm.); *Psychological Factors in Marian Devotion*, by the Rev. Charles A. Curran, Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.

(discussion leader: the Rev. Anthony Th. Padovano); and *Marian Theology and the Contemporary Problem of Myth*, by the Rev. Thomas Aquinas O'Meara, O.P., St. Rose Priory, Dubuque, Iowa (read *in absentia* by the Rev. John Valerian Thomas, O.P. with the Rev. William G. Most as discussion leader). Judging from the spontaneous reaction of the audience, these scholarly dissertations must be rated an excellent contribution to the Marian field. In offering them now to readers of MARIAN STUDIES, the Society pays a well-deserved tribute to their authors.

The closing session of the Convention was devoted to the business meeting at 2:30 P.M. After brief reports from the Rev. Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., on regional meetings held in 1963, and from the Rev. J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., on the financial status of the Society, the Secretary announced that the next Annual Convention would be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, Pa. on Monday and Tuesday January 4 and 5, 1965. The general topic for discussion will be: *Our Lady and Salvation History*. The Secretary was followed at the podium by the President, Msgr. Shea, who proceeded to read the following citation:

THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1963

Citation

The recipient of the Mariological Award for 1963 is Father Kenneth Francis Dougherty of the Society of the Atonement. Father Dougherty was born in New York City in 1917, and received his elementary schooling at St. Paul's in the Bronx. After high school at Seton Hall Prep., New Jersey (So. Orange), he entered the Society of the Atonement, and made his religious profession in 1938. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946.

The scholastic background of Father Dougherty is a thorough and distinguished one: he earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (in philosophy) at the Catholic University of America in 1951, and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology from the pontifical faculty of the Propaganda Fidei in Rome in 1957.

The teaching experience of the winner of the Mariological Award is equally impressive—he has taught at the Catholic University of America, at the Atonement Seminary, Washington, D.C., and at Notre Dame College, Baltimore, Md. Currently Father Dougherty is teaching at St. Pius X Seminary, Graymoor (Garrison), New York.

Father Dougherty's name is well known in the field of theology—both as a writer and as a speaker. He has devoted his talents particularly to Mariology, and has been a faithful and active participant at the annual conventions and the regional meetings of the Mariological Society of America. He has taken part also in international meetings of Mariological importance.

The forthright writing of Father Dougherty has appeared in the series entitled *Mariology* (ed. by Rev. J. B. Carol, O.F.M.), in *Marian Studies*, in *Unitas*, in *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, in *The American Ecclesiastical Review*, and elsewhere. His name is especially associated with first-hand investigations and assessments of modern Protestant thought about Our Blessed Lady. His study on Our Lady and Contemporary Protestantism in the United States was first given at the St. Louis Mariological Convention in 1955 (cf. *Marian Studies*, vol. 6). The paper presented at the third international Mariological Congress, held at Lourdes, September, 1958 (and later published in the proceedings, *Maria et Ecclesia*) was the fruit of a study on Anglicanism and Our Lady that Father Dougherty completed at Oxford University in 1957. The essay contributed to Volume 3 of *Mariology* (ed. J. B. Carol, published in 1961) dealt with the attitudes towards Mary of present-day continental Protestantism.

During a study trip abroad the past year of 1963 Father Dougherty visited various ecumenical centres, conducting interviews and gathering information on the theme: "Mary: Wall or Bridge in the Ecumenical Movement?"

It is a privilege for the Mariological Society of America to honor today this truly active member who has deserved so well of the scientific study of Marian theology. In an ecumenical age, the Mariological Society of America salutes by means of the Mariological Award Father Kenneth F. Dougherty of the Society of the

Atonement, a priest who is as dedicated to Marian scholarship as he is to Christian unity.

Having handed the artistic scroll and a check for \$200.00 to Fr. Dougherty, the President said that it was now his pleasant duty to express sincerest thanks to those who, ignoring inconveniences, had traveled to Kansas City to attend the Mariological Convention. He also had warm words of appreciation for His Excellency, Bishop Helmsing, who participated so actively and graciously in the meeting; His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Pittsburgh and Episcopal Chairman of The Mariological Society, for his generous support of our group; Fathers Lawrence J. McNamara, Alfred B. Fellows, and George K. Fitzsimons, for their assistance as members of the Program Committee; the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, a constant benefactor of the Society; and last but not least, the talented speakers and discussion leaders for their valuable contributions. Since there was no further business to be transacted, Msgr. Shea seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting and closed with an appropriate prayer at 3 o'clock.