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REPORT ON THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION

The present volume of MARIAN STUDIES gathers the various papers read and discussed at the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Mariological Society of America, held in Philadelphia, Pa., at the invitation of its distinguished Ordinary, the Most Reverend John J. Krol, D.D. As in the past, the meeting lasted only two days, Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 1965. The main topic for discussion was *Our Lady and Salvation History*. The modern and beautiful Sheraton Hotel played host to our group for one of the most satisfactory meetings in the history of our Society—from the viewpoint of accommodations, that is. From other points of view (e.g. attendance) the affair was rather disappointing.

The first session opened promptly at 10 o'clock in the morning with a brief prayer and a very appropriate allocution by His Excellency, Archbishop Krol. He was followed by the President of the Society, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Shea, who, after thanking the Archbishop for his timely remarks, read his own presidential address entitled *Pope Paul VI and the "Mother of the Church."*

We note in passing, and with no little satisfaction, that both the Archbishop and the Monsignor reacted very enthusiastically to Pope Paul's recent proclamation of Our Blessed Lady as "Mother of the Church." Considering the openly critical stand taken by some of our so-called "Liberals" on this subject, the warm and sustained applause accorded both speakers was rather significant.

At approximately eleven o'clock the President introduced the Convention's keynote speaker, Father Christian P. Ceroke, O.Carm., professor of Sacred Scripture at Whitefriars Hall, Washington, D.C., who proceeded to deliver a lecture entitled

Principles of Salvation History. In it the learned Bible scholar examined particularly the exodus, which lies at the basis of the Old Testament, and the resurrection of Christ, which is at the root of the New Testament. He did this, he explained, in order to determine more fully the salient characteristics of the theological concept of "salvation history" in Sacred Scripture.

At 12 noon the delegates adjourned temporarily for the usual refreshment period, followed by an exquisite luncheon served in the patriotically decorated Independence Room of the hotel.

The afternoon general assembly began at 3:30 with the election of two new members to the Board of Directors. The unanimous choice fell on Father William J. Cole, S.M., of the University of Dayton, Ohio, and Father Edmund Andrés, C.M.F., of the Claretian Scholasticate in Calabasas, California. They replace outgoing members Monsignor William F. Hogan and Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.

Immediately after the election the delegates heard a paper entitled *Our Lady and the Law of Sin*, by Father Maurice B. Schepers, O.P., professor of theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. The burden of the paper was to reappraise the meaning of the "law of sin" in the context of salvation history, and the manner in which Mary's total victory over sin affects the present progress of the Church in her struggle against the powers of evil. The speaker was deservedly congratulated on his able handling of a difficult subject.

For the morning of the second day of the Convention, the program featured two dissertations on two closely related themes. Father Geoffrey Wood, S.A., resourceful professor of Sacred Scripture at the Atonement Seminary in Washington, D.C., spoke on *Mary in the Plan of God's Graciousness*, while Father Wilfrid F. Dewan, C.S.P., professor of theology at the Paulist House of Studies in Washington, D.C., treated of *Mary's Faith as a Response to God's Graciousness*. Father Wood went into considerable detail to explain the Old Testament background so necessary to understand fully the biblical setting in

which Our Lady is portrayed for us by the New Testament writers. Father Dewan, in turn, studied the following points: 1) the biblical notion of faith; 2) Mary's faith and the divine motherhood; 3) Mary's response as totally a grace (gift) and yet totally free; 4) her faith and redemption; 5) the object of her faith; 6) the growth of her faith; and 7) her response of faith as a type.

The last lecture on the program, entitled *Our Lady and St. Paul's Doctrine on Justification*, was given by Father Carroll Stuhlmüller, C.P., well known professor of Sacred Scripture at the Passionist House of Studies in Louisville, Ky. Like Father Dewan's paper, this one, too, offered not a few interesting and valuable insights in the area of Our Lady's psychology—a field seldom explored by the experts, unfortunately.

The business meeting on January 5 featured reports by Father Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., on the forthcoming Mariological-Marian Congress at Santo Domingo; by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., on regional meetings held during 1964; by Father J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., Treasurer, on the financial status of the Society; by Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary, on tentative plans for the 1966 convention, and on the enrollment of new members in the Mariological Society.

The various reports being finished, Msgr. Shea requested and obtained the approval of those present to donate the sum of \$750.00 to the Marian Library at Dayton, Ohio. As explained by Father Philip C. Hoelle, S.M., director of the library, the money would be used toward a scholarship being offered by the University of Dayton for the benefit of those interested in research in the field of Mariology. The president likewise expressed the profound gratitude of all to His Excellency, Archbishop Krol, for his gracious participation in the Philadelphia meeting; to His Excellency, the Most Reverend John J. Wright, D.D., Bishop of Pittsburgh and Episcopal Chairman of the Mariological Society, for his valuable support of our organization; the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., Editor of *Our*

Lady's Digest, for his generous donations to our Society; to Father Adam J. Otterbein, C.S.S.R., for his superb handling of the Mass arrangements; to the various speakers and discussion leaders for their sincere efforts to make a positive contribution to the science of Mariology; and finally, to the hotel management for its excellent and efficient service. The convention adjourned at exactly three o'clock P.M., as scheduled.

REV. J. B. CAROL, O.F.M.
Secretary