

# Marian Studies

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## Presentation

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## PRESENTATION

The Mariological Society of America observed its Silver Jubilee during its annual convention held at The Happy Dolphin Inn, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, on Thursday and Friday, January 3 and 4, 1974. The two-day meeting, which was attended by some eighty delegates, was hosted by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles B. McLaughlin, Bishop of St. Petersburg.

The first session was called to order promptly at 10 A.M. and featured welcoming remarks by Bishop McLaughlin and a remarkable presidential address by Fr. Charles W. Neumann, S.M. with highly detailed information on the history of the Society and its annual Proceedings, *MARIAN STUDIES*. The keynote speaker was Fr. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I. who spoke on the savior role of Mary as compared with that of the Church. His reactor was Fr. Alban A. Maguire, O.F.M.

At 12 noon the delegates gathered in the spacious Texican Room for the traditional *pre-prandium* followed by an exquisite luncheon.

The election of officers and Board members took place in the State Room at 3:30 P.M. The following were elected by unanimous vote: Fr. George F. Kirwin, O.M.I., *president*; Very Rev. Frederick M. Jelly, O.P., *vice-president*; Fr. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M. *secretary*; Fr. James Forgac, O.S.B., *treasurer*. To the Board of Directors: Rev. Msgr. Albert W. Low, replacing Fr. Jelly, and Fr. Philip J. Donnelly, S.J., replacing Fr. Hickey.

Following the election, Fr. Manuel Miguens, O.F.M. read a very scholarly dissertation proving that the famous text in *1 Tim. 2:5* does not exclude either Our Lady or any other mediator, as has frequently been claimed by non-Catholics and even

by some Catholics. The discussion leader was Fr. James J. Cunningham, O.P.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Conference Room at 7:30 P.M. and closed shortly after 10 P.M.

On the second morning of the convention Fr. John H. Ryder, S.J. presented a paper in which he developed an interesting thesis to exclude Our Lady from any necessity of being redeemed, based on the fact that her *active* conception came about in a totally pure and holy manner. The spirited discussion which ensued was directed by Fr. Philip J. Donnelly, S.J.

After a ten-minute recess, Fr. Thomas Aquinas Collins, O.P. commented at some length on the various recent theories concerning the meaning of the "truth" of the Bible, and made some application to a biblical theology of Mary. Fr. Dominic J. Unger, O.F.M. Cap. served as reactor.

The afternoon session featured the usual survey of recent Mariology by Fr. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm. with Fr. Theodore A. Koehler, S.M. as discussion leader. It was followed by the regular business meeting in which Fr. James Forgac, O.S.B. read a financial report, and the new president, Fr. Kirwin made a few appropriate remarks. First, he announced that the 1975 convention would be held, *Deo volente*, in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 2 and 3, subject to the permission of the Ordinary. Second, he read the citation of The Cardinal Wright Award, the text of which appears elsewhere in this volume. Then, before adjourning the meeting, Fr. Kirwin expressed the heartfelt gratitude of the group to the following:

A) To His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles B. McLaughlin, for having invited us to his Diocese, and for his obvious interest in the activities of the Society;

B) To His Eminence Cardinal Wright, our Episcopal Chairman; to Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, Editor of *Our Lady's Digest*; to Bishop McLaughlin, and to Very Rev. Ladislaus Pelczynski for their generous financial contributions to our Society;

C) To those members of our Society (Carroll, Jelly, Kugelman) who participated in the drafting of the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Our Blessed Lady;

D) To the Very Rev. J. Keith Symons, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese; to Rev. Msgr. Patrick Trainor, Pastor of St. John's for their valuable cooperation in making the necessary arrangements for the celebration of Holy Mass during the convention;

E) To the distinguished speakers and discussion leaders for their scholarly dissertations and informative discussions.

F) To Fr. Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., founder of the Society, "because the Society's Silver Jubilee is, in a sense, his own Jubilee."

G) And finally, to the Manager and staff of The Happy Dolphin Inn for their warm hospitality and excellent services.

Since no further business was to be transacted, Fr. Kirwin closed the convention with a prayer of thanksgiving at approximately 3 P.M.

FR. JUNIPER B. CAROL, O.F.M.  
*Editor*