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Letter from the Apostolic Delegate

Mariological Society of America

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Dear Father Carol:

It is a great pleasure for me to inform you that our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, gracious bestows His paternal Apostolic Blessing upon the officers and members of the Mariological Society of America on the occasion of the twenty-fifth annual convention of the Society to be held in Saint Petersburg Beach, Florida, on the third and fourth of January, 1974.

In Behold Your Mother, their Pastoral Letter on the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Bishops of the United States stated: "We have called upon dedicated theologians to aid us in restating the teachings of the Church about her. Here again the Council documents have guided our approach. We hope and pray that our presentation will be a subject for serious study and loving reflection."

The members of the Mariological Society of America can justly be proud of their contributions to the preparation of this Pastoral Letter. By your willing response to the call of the Bishops, you have given an outstanding example of the collaboration between Bishops and theologians which is so necessary if the People of God are to cling without fail to the faith once delivered to the saints, penetrate it more deeply by accurate insights, and apply it more thoroughly to life (cf. Lumen gentium n. 12).

To this Blessing of the Holy Father, may I add my congratulations for your twenty-five years of service to the Church, which calls upon Mary as her Mother, and my prayerful best wishes for the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend J. B. Carol, O.F.M., Secretary

The Mariological Society of America