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Questionnaire on Seminaries

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THE MARIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Office of the President
Dominican House of Studies
487 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017

October 26, 1976

Dear Member:

Would you kindly answer the following questions and send your replies to me here at the Dominican House of Studies by early December (let's say by December 8, 1976, a most appropriate day for us!). This should also avoid the rush of Christmas mail as well as provide the necessary time for me to study your answers and make a report on them to you at our next annual convention (cf. encl. for details of program, etc.). Of course, I shall submit this report along with any discussion that it generates to the next issue of our proceedings, *Marian Studies*, for all our members to read so that we may receive as much support as possible in this very important matter. I consider it one of the top priorities of our Society to do whatever we can to foster Marian doctrine and devotion among our future priests. It is my prayerful hope, therefore, that our discussion in early January at the convention will lead to a course of action that will greatly benefit all those involved in the apostolate of seminary education and formation. Please cooperate in this service of our Society by responding to the following questions at your earliest convenience within the next month.

1. Are there any explicit courses in Mariology taught in your

seminary or any seminary of which you may have knowledge? If yes, please indicate the titles and basic context of such courses.

2. If there are no explicit courses in Mariology, is Marian doctrine taught in the context of other courses, e.g. in a Christology or Ecclesiology course?
3. Other than actual courses in the seminary curriculum, is any instruction on Mariological questions provided in other ways, e.g., by special lectures, seminars, workshops, etc. on particular occasions?
4. In light of your replies to questions 1-3, what do you think ought to be done,—and indeed can realistically be done,—with current seminary curricula to improve education of future priests regarding Mary's role in salvation history?
5. What place does Mary have in the liturgical celebrations of the seminary or seminaries with which you are familiar, e.g. are her feasts celebrated with special solemnity, do the homilies develop the meaning of Marian truths for their daily life of Christian faith, is Saturday often or ever devoted to her at the community Mass, etc.?
6. Are there any other more personal and para-liturgical forms of Marian devotion practiced and encouraged in the seminary whether in common or in private, e.g. Bible Vigils, recitation of the Rosary, etc.?
7. In light of your answers to questions 5-6, what can be done to help inspire a deeper devotion to Mary, our spiritual Mother?

Fraternally in Jesus & Mary,
Very Rev. F. M. Jelly, O.P. (Pres.)