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THE CARDINAL WRIGHT AWARD

Citation

This year The Mariological Society of America takes special pride in conferring The Cardinal Wright Award on its illustrious member and valued collaborator, the Reverend Manuel Miguens, O.F.M.

Our distinguished Biblical scholar was born in Havana, Cuba in 1925, and ordained to the holy priesthood in 1949. He pursued his clerical studies in the Seminary of the Franciscan Province of St. James of Compostela in Spain. Having successfully completed his graduate work at the Pontificium Athenaeum Antonianum in Rome (1949-1952), at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem (1952-1959), and at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium (1958-1959), he received his doctorate in sacred theology. He earned his doctorate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Commission in Rome, a signal honor not shared by many.

For thirteen years Fr. Miguens was professor of New Testament exegesis and of biblical Greek at the Studium Biblicum in Jerusalem. He taught Sacred Scripture at the Catholic University of America between 1968 and 1974, and lectured at various biblical institutes and workshops during the same period. At present he graces the faculty of the Cluster of Theological Schools in Washington, D.C. and also of Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Being an accomplished linguist (besides Latin and biblical languages, he is fluent in German, French, Italian, Portuguese, English and Spanish), he was invited to address the International Mariological Congresses of Santo Domingo (1965) and Lisbon (1967), the American Catholic Biblical Association (1968), the Second Scholastic Congress in Oxford

(1956), and more recently the twenty-fifth National Convention of The Mariological Society of America in 1974. The superior caliber of the papers presented by Fr. Miguens to the above-mentioned assemblies has earned him the highest respect of scholars everywhere.

To his manifold activities we may add that he was engaged by the Pontifical Biblical Commission as consultant for the *New Vulgate*. He was likewise supervisor for the Greek part of the Bible in the Italian ecumenical *Bibbia Concordata*, and translated the Book of Wisdom for this work.

Thus far Father Miguens has published three important books: *Filius David apud Prophetas Minores* (Rome, 1954), *The Paraclete* (Jerusalem, 1963), and *The Sin that Entered the World* (Jerusalem, 1972). Besides that, he has contributed scores of papers to many scholarly publications, such as *Studi Biblici Franciscani*, *Bibbia e Oriente*, *Revista Eclesiástica Brasileira*, *Rivista Biblica Italiana*, *De Mariologia et Oecumenismo*, *Maria et Sacra Scriptura*, *Studi sull'Oriente e la Bibbia*, *Acta Congressu Scholastici Internationalis*, *Semana Bíblica Española*, *Estudios Bíblicos*, *The American Ecclesiastical Review*, *The Marian Era*, and our own *Marian Studies*. He has several publications ready for the press, among them: *Bārā and Creation in the Old Testament*, and *God's New Creation in the New Testament*.

From the preceding resumé it should be clear that Father Miguens ranks as a scholar of international reputation. His multiple publications, not a few of them mariological in content, are noted for their serious, sober, balanced and objective scholarship. These rare qualities are evidenced to the highest degree in the brilliant and exhaustive dissertation which he has now written for the twenty-sixth volume of our *Marian Studies* dealing with the alleged silence of the New Testament on the crucial question of Our Blessed Lady's virginity in Christ's conception.

It is primarily for this remarkable contribution that His

Eminence, Cardinal Wright, our Episcopal Chairman, has enthusiastically applauded the selection of Father Miguens as the recipient of The Mariological Award for 1975.

While we heartily congratulate our distinguished colleague on this great honor, we formulate the hope that he will continue to place his unique talents at the service of our heavenly Queen and Mother, for the glory of her divine Son.