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Preface

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PREFACE

Danielle Peters, STD

The 67th annual conference of the Mariological Society of America, held May 17–23, 2016, at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, focused on the *Theological Foundations of Devotion to the Heart of Mary*. This theme was chosen in light of the Centennial of Mary’s Apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, where Our Lady called for the consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

Several papers addressed the message of Fatima. Msgr. Charles M. Mangan, STL, spoke on “The Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as carried out by the Venerable Pius XII on October 31, 1942.” While this consecration did not fulfill the two requirements uttered by Jesus and carefully expressed by Sister Lúcia, the pope’s successors in union with the bishops of the world eventually included the consecration of Russia to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. Msgr. Arthur B. Calkins, STD, offered a theological explanation on “Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” While this topic is barely considered in modern theology, it was a strong and recurring message of the apparitions at Fatima and the subsequent apparitions to Sister Lúcia. The speaker emphasized that in our day, too, the devotion of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is practiced in the Church, encouraged by mystics, and

sanctioned by the Holy See. Fr. Dwight Campbell, STD, focused on “Theological Foundations for Eucharistic Reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary in the Context of Messages Given to St. Margaret Mary and at Fatima.” His paper examined the teachings of Pope Pius XI and of Pope St. John Paul II, as well as the writings of more recent authors who have treated the topic of reparation to the Two Hearts. Mr. Michael O’Neill, aka “Miracle Hunter,” took his audience on a journey to a number of approved apparitions that reference the Heart of Mary as a central element or theme beyond the famed visions of Fatima.

A number of speakers presented their research on the foundations of the devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Virginia Kimball, STD, investigated “The Heart of Mary in Light of a Biblical Anthropology of the Heart: Mother and Mystic.” Kimball, a past president of the Mariological Society of America as well as of the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the United States, emphasized that understanding the anthropology of Hebraic biblical culture provides a mystical depth to the Heart of Mary. James K. Hanna, MA, spoke on “The Patristic Pre-History of Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” While devotion to Mary’s Immaculate Heart emerged in the Middle Ages and flourished after the apparitions at Lourdes, Rue du Bac, and Fatima, Hanna showed that its roots run deep in tradition and are evident in the writings of the Church Fathers as well as in the texts of ancient liturgies. Brother Lawrence Scrivani, SM, MA, led us to “Understanding the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Context of the Two-Hearts Alliance.” This approach appears in trace form with the Latin Fathers Ambrose, Augustine, and Jerome. The

devotional development in medieval spirituality and the theological development during the sixteenth century took explicit form only after the Fatima apparitions.

The French School of Spirituality figured importantly in promoting the devotion to the Heart of Mary. MSA's president, Robert Fastiggi, PhD, spoke on the "Theological Foundations for Devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary according to St. John Eudes (1601-1680)." This French priest and theologian is best known for his work *The Admirable Heart of the Most Sacred Mother of God*, published shortly before his death in 1680. In this treatise, Eudes emphasized that Mary's heart is so intimately united to Christ's that they form one mystical heart. Deyanira Flores, STD, entitled her talk "By Mary's Heart We Love the Heart of Jesus: The Teachings of St. Louis M. de Montfort on Mary's Heart." She elaborated de Montfort's (1673-1716) rich and complete doctrine on Mary's Heart, its relationship to Jesus' mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption, so relevant for our spiritual life even today. De Montfort famously asserted that the quickest and easiest way to the Heart of Jesus is total consecration to the Heart of Mary.

Maura Hearden Fehlner, PhD, observed that Catholics of the third millennium are surrounded by subtle new Gnosticisms that challenge true Christian gnosis. In her talk, titled "To Know Salvation: Marian Consecration as Antidote to New Gnosticism," Hearden Fehlner argued that Marian consecration refutes Gnostic errors and fulfills Gnostic longing. Fr. Thomas A. Thompson, SM, PhD, from The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute of Dayton, OH, directed our attention to "The Cordimarian

Spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret (1807-1870) and the Claretians.” Proposing the Heart of Mary as the symbol of her love and dedication, the Claretians promoted devotion to her Heart in their publications and, after 1917, helped to inspire the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary requested at Fatima.

The talks presented at the conference showed that research on and devotion to the Heart of Mary is alive and well. The call emanating from Our Lady’s Heart beckons a loving response from our hearts and adds thereby new elements and nuances to our Marian veneration and imitation. It equips Marian devotion, as it were, with heartbeats. Theology, particularly Mariology, needs to listen to this Heart and learn to distinguish passing, atmospheric pulsations from the sounds emanating from this Heart.

As is customary for the annual MSA conference, an “International Academic Marian Bibliography, 2015–2016” was prepared and presented by Fr. Thompson, MSA Secretary and editor of *Marian Studies*. It includes references found in multilingual research resources, from European Mariological societies as well as from journals whose articles are often not mentioned in U.S. or international databases. This bibliography demonstrates the abundance of Marian materials available from scholars and academic societies.

Author Biography

This Preface was prepared by Danielle Peters, STD, a member of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Dr. Peters served as the MSA Vice President (2014-2016), and, at the 2016 annual meeting, she was confirmed as the MSA President, 2016-2018. Dr. Peters received her

doctorate from the International Marian Research Institute in 2008. She has taught Mariology in several places; she is a research fellow of the Institute for Church Life (University of Notre Dame) specializing in Mariology.

