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**TWO SETS OF WINNERS ANNOUNCED  
FOR 'IMAGES OF MARY' NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS CONTEST**

DAYTON, Ohio — Art critics and the general public have different opinions about what makes good art, particularly when the subject matter is religion.

That's why two sets of winners were recently announced for the Mariological Society of America's "Images of Mary: Contemporary Variations" juried exhibit that was on display from May 1998 to May 1999 at three locations across the country.

Critics and the general public who viewed the art at the International Schoenstatt Center in Waukesha, Wisc., the University of Dayton's Marian Library and at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., were asked to select the three best works of art and explain their choices.

After the results were compiled, "Pillar of Faith," a fired, glazed clay sculpture by Suzanne M. Young, of Oakland Township, Mich., was given the \$1,000 first-place prize by popular vote. A mixed-media altar piece, "Image of Mother of the Church," by Robert Eustace, of Englishtown, N.J., was chosen by art critics as the \$1,000 first-place winner.

All the images in the exhibit can be found on the Internet in UD's Marian Library's virtual gallery at <http://www.udayton.edu/mary/gallery/exhibits/msa.html>.

Popular vote gave the \$500 second prize to Jan Solwianiuk, of Parma, Ohio, for his painted woodcarving, "Mother of God of Dayton, Ohio." Third place and \$300 went to Elizabeth Schultz, of Pewaukee, Wisc., for her oil painting, "Secret Garden/Gate of Heaven."

The art critics selected "The Holy Virgin," a gold-leaf tempera painting by Tatiana Grant, of San Francisco, Calif., for second place and "Maesta: After Duccio," a mixed-media altar piece by Sandra Bowden, of Clifton Park, N.Y., for third place.

"Art can be, to a point, sophisticated and hermetic where the reader needs to be given a map to the deep recesses of the artist's soul to uncover the cipher of his or her imagination," said the Rev. John Roten, S.M., director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research

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Institute at UD and organizer of the exhibit. "There exists the other extreme too, where art wallows in the bland

meaninglessness only good enough to please those who do not want to be challenged."

Roten says the area in between those two extremes is where "authentic artistic communication" exists and where much of the exhibit's artwork would be classified.

"Some of the paintings exhibited hold a social and cultural message. Others attract the viewer with the gentle power of the sometimes subtle, sometimes stark beauty," Roten said.

The exhibit, held to celebrate the Mariological Society of America's 50th anniversary, "tested the flexibility and breadth of the visitor's attention," Roten said. "The variety of themes, media and quality could be unsettling, but it was also an obvious reminder of the stunning and multifaceted presence of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, at the end of this second millennium."

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For more information, call Sister Jean Frisk, coordinator of the Marian Library art gallery, at (937) 229-4254 and via e-mail at [Jean.Frisk@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:Jean.Frisk@notes.udayton.edu).