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The Foundation of the Society

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THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOCIETY

Minutes read at the First National Convention of the Mariological Society of America, Catholic University, Washington, D. C. January 3, 1950.

A preparatory meeting for the formation of this Society was called to order at 7:45 on the evening of Oct. 11, 1949, the Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin, in the library of the Holy Name College, Washington, D. C., by Father Juniper Carol, O.F.M. After those present had made it clear that they favored the formation of a society to be devoted to the furtherance of that section of sacred theology which deals with Our Lady, they decided to ask the Most Reverend Archbishop of Washington for permission to establish such an organization in this city. They then decided to use "The Mariological Society of America" as a temporary name for the project.

Those present elected the following priests as temporary officers.

Chairman: Father Juniper Carol, O.F.M.

Vice-Chairman: Father Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R.

Secretary: Father Joseph C. Fenton

Treasurer: Father Kenneth B. Moore, O.Carm.

On a motion made by Father Connell and seconded by Father Mullaney, O.P., the priests present voted to hold the first general assembly in Washington, if the Archbishop's permission should be forthcoming. They decided that this meeting should be held on the third and fourth of January, 1950. Father Carol was voted authority to appoint committees on program and arrangements for the first general assembly, as well as a committee to draft a tentative constitution. After discussions about various details connected with the invitations to the first general assembly, the gathering adjourned. The following priests came to this October 11 gathering:

Auth, Charles R., O.P.
Baier, David, O.F.M.
Boudreault, Edouard, C.J.M.
Carney, Edward John, OSFS.
Carol, Juniper B., O.F.M.
Conway, Francis M., O.P.
Connell, Francis J., C.S.S.R.
Cranny, Titus, S.A.
Fenton, Joseph Clifford
Fonash, Ignatius, M.S.S.S.T.
Grabowski, Fidelis V., M.I.C.
Halligan, Nicholas, O.P.
Harvey, John Francis, OSFS.
Hanahoe, Edward, S.A.
Hannigan, Francis M., S.M.
Healy, Kilian J., O. Carm.
Hogan, Francis X., C.M.F.
Maguire, Alban A., O.F.M.
Martin, Vincent M., O.P.
McCarthy, Norbert D., SS.CC.
McCormack, Gerald, SS.CC.
McGough, Columban, O.C.D.
McClafferty, John J.
Medynski, Francis, M.I.C.
Moher, Robert, C.S.C.
Moore, Kenneth B., O. Carm.
Mulhern, Philip, O.P.
Mullaney, Thomas U., O.P.
Mundy, Gerard P., S.P.M.
Puigvi, Joseph M., C.M.F.
Reginek, Thomas, M.I.C.
Richard, J. Alfred, W.F.
Rush, Alfred C., C.S.S.R.
Schmidt, Firmin, O.F.M.Cap.

The Foundation of the Society

13

Shannon, Joseph L., O.S.A.
Smith, Alan, O.P.
Smith, Ferrer, O.P.
Unger, Dominic J., O.F.M.Cap.
Waldschmidt, Paul E., C.S.C.

Before adjourning the October 11 meeting, the priests present decided to hold another preparatory gathering on November 8. This second meeting was called to order at 7:45 on the evening of November 8 by Father Carol in the library of Holy Name College. Father Carol read the Archbishop's letter of approval and permission, and then read out the list of men appointed to the various committees.

The names follow:

COMMITTEE FOR THE FRAMING OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

Rev. Dominic Unger, O.F.M.Cap., *Chairman*
Rev. Norbert McCarthy, SS.CC., *Secretary*
Rev. Charles R. Auth, O.P.
Rev. Ignatius Fonash, M.S.SS.T.

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION

Rev. Thomas U. Mullaney, O.P., *Chairman*
Rev. Francis M. Hannigan, S.M., *Secretary*
Rev. Edward Boudreault, C.J.M.
Rev. Paul E. Waldschmidt, C.S.C.

Father Connell made, and Father Maguire seconded, a motion that the chairman be empowered to appoint a priest to take charge of the Society's publicity. This motion was carried without discussion. The members also suggested that Father Carol approach the Most Rev. Apostolic Delegate to acquaint him with the project of the Society. Father Carol consented to do this. Father Mullaney then made his report

as chairman of the committee on invitations. The work of this group met with the unqualified approval of the priests present.

Father Unger then distributed mimeographed copies of the tentative constitution to the priests present. After a discussion of this document, the meeting adjourned. The following priests who were not present at the first meeting, attended this gathering:

- Father Edmond D. Benard
- Father Thomas L. Campbell, C.S.C.
- Father Romuald A. Dibble, S.D.S.
- Father Raphael M. Huber, O.F.M.Conv.
- Father William McVeagh, M.S.S.S.T.
- Father Michael J. Walsh, S.P.M.

The First National Convention.—The first general assembly was called to order by Father Juniper Carol, O.F.M., at 10:10 A.M., on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1950, in the McMahon Hall Auditorium, at the Catholic University of America. The Very Rev. Dr. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., offered the opening prayer. After introductory remarks by Father Carol and by the Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann, O.F.M., the secretary read an account of the proceedings which had led up to this convention.

Father Dominic Unger, O.F.M.Cap., chairman of the committee charged with the framing of the Constitution for the new Society, submitted the proposed draft to the assembly. The text, with very few changes, was adopted in the form in which it is found in this publication. At Father Carol's suggestion, the first official act of the Society, immediately after the approval of the Constitutions, was to adopt a resolution "that a humble message be submitted to our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, through his worthy representative in this country, assuring His Holiness of the unconditional loyalty and loving attachment of the members of the Mariological Society

of America toward the Vicar of Christ on earth." The resolution was warmly received and unanimously approved. At the end of the session those present signed the newly adopted Constitution and became charter members of The Mariological Society of America. The assembly thanked Father Unger and the other devoted priests who had worked with him in the difficult task of framing the Constitution.

The second session of the convention was called by Father Connell, vice-chairman, at 3:05 P.M. that same day. Father Connell introduced the Very Rev. Edward Griffith, Procurator General of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, to the Society. Father Carol then delivered his paper on *The Mariological Movement in the World Today*, a paper which was enthusiastically received by the members. Fathers Connell, Unger, Kelly, Charest, De Martini, Everett and Monheim took part in the interesting discussion following the paper.

Two papers were read at the morning meeting held on January 4. The first was Father Monheim's *Marian Collections in the United States*. The second was Father Connell's *Toward a Systematic Treatment of Mariology*. Fathers Connell, Huber, Carol, and De Martini took part in the discussion after the first paper. Fathers Healy, Wyggers, Unger, Carol, Boudreault, Monheim, and Nugent contributed to the discussion after the second. At the afternoon session Father Unger read a paper on *The Use of Sacred Scripture in Mariology*.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session the following officers were elected:

President, Father Carol.

Vice-President, Father Connell.

Secretary, Father Fenton.

Treasurer, Father Moore.

The Foundation of the Society

Board of Directors, to serve for three years:

Fathers Resch and Huber.

to serve for two years:

Fathers Mullaney and Unger.

to serve for one year:

Fathers Gallagher and Hannigan.

After a question by Father Connell, those present showed themselves in favor of the first Monday or the first Tuesday after the new year as the best time for the annual convention of the society.

On a motion by Father Fenton, seconded by Father Tomai, the society voted "that those who have been at the preliminary meetings, but who were not at this convention, may be considered as charter members."

The convention adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

JOSEPH C. FENTON
Secretary.