



MARIANUM

NOTIZIE-NEWS

Newsletter of the Pontifical Theological Faculty Marianum, n. 31

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE «HISTORY OF MARIOLOGY»

After a lengthy process of composition and editing the first volume of *Storia della Mariologia: Dal modello biblico al modello letterario*, E. Dal Covolo and A. Serra (edit.) Città Nuova, Rome 2009, has just appeared. It is 1051 pages long and includes 30 contributions from 28 authors. We have every reason to say: “at long last!” This volume has been so long awaited; the second volume will appear within the beginning of 2010 and the third volume in 2011.

1. As I explained in my General Introduction to the three volumes so many Mariology scholars and enthusiasts have felt the need for just such a work. The idea of putting it together was born of the experience of our Faculty’s teaching. The Casa Editrice Città Nuova publishing house expressed interest in the project. Organizing the project began in 2000.

The “challenge” – and it was a challenge – was placing this project in the context of the general history of the Church and theology at a time when the very idea of “making history” was under discussion. Professor I.M. Calabuig Adán, OSM, the President of the Faculty and someone well known to and respected by our readers guided the project until February 2005.

Professor Calabuig’s untimely death and other unforeseen events of the sort that plague collaborative projects slowed the project down and caused temporary setbacks. As Professor Calabuig’s successor in the presidency I coordinated and

continued planning with the assistance of the directors responsible for the individual volumes: Professors E. Dal Covolo and A. Serra for the first volume; Professors E. Boaga and L. Gambero for the second volume; Professors F. Bosin and S. De Fiores for the third.

2. During the planning and execution of this project there were certain aspects to be considered even more fundamental than the basic criteria and character of the work. First of all: Mariology in our context was not understood in its strictly technical and original sense and history did not refer to the development of Mariological thinking from the seventeenth century to our own time. Rather we were concerned with the presence and mission of Maria of Nazareth, the Mother of the Lord, the Holy *Theotokos* not just in theological discourse but in the life and culture of churches in various eras and civilizations.

Mary is seen as the *locus* in which the “*nexus mysteriorum*” is especially apparent; she is a point of convergence for a variety of cultural factors that can only be understood on a broad – even geographical – context. So our *Storia* moves from East to West with special emphasis on the European West; areas of Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Reformed influence; it includes other continents where pertinent sources and documentation exist. A space-time interpretation involves several disciplines and methodologies which allow us to see Mary from different perspectives: Bible, theology, liturgy, popular devotions, spirituality, mysticism, literature, iconography and the arts in general. There is the risk of presenting a fragmented picture. We attempted to solve this problem by using the idea of a *model* or *paradigm* as a general scheme of convictions, values and procedures shared by the members of a specific community.

3. The abundant interpretive and documentary material to be found in volume I covers a geographic area that begins in the Middle East and includes all the most ancient areas of Eastern and Western Christian tradition. We began with the origins of Christianity and went up to the 15th century with nine cultural paradigms: **1.** Biblical narrative model. **2.** Apocryphal narrative model. **3.** Patristic model. **4.** Cultural models from the patristic era. **5.** Ancient Conciliar model. **6.** Mediaeval model: devotion and theology in the Latin high middle ages. **7.** Mediaeval model: the monastic and mendicant paradigm. **8.** Theological and spiritual models between the middle ages and the renaissance. **9.** Theological and cultural model in the East from the XIIIth to the XVth century.

4. The three volumes are the product of academic study and research; they are intended primarily for teaching Mariology as a part of theology; they represent a

contribution to the promotion of the teaching and study of Mariology; they are designed to foster a dynamic growth and increase of our understanding of Mary in the mystery of Christ, the Church and culture in general.

They are a tool for students of theology and history who will provide their own criticism and interpretation. This is something we will gladly accept.

As a first effort we realize that volume I and the subsequent volumes will prompt observations and suggestions. A critical reception will contribute to improvements in later editions. To read the *Introduzione Genrale*, the *Introduzione* and the index of the volume please see: www.marianum.it/novita.htm

Silvano M. Maggiani osm, President

**INTERNATIONAL MARIAN-MARIOLOGICAL CONGRESS:
“APPARITIONS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
IN HISTORY, FAITH AND THEOLOGY.”**

A jubilee marking the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions in Lourdes was celebrated from December 8, 2007 to December 8, 2008. P.A.M.I. wanted to honor Mary the Mother of the Lord both intellectually and scientifically and for this reason held the 22nd International Marian-Mariological Congress at Lourdes (September 4 – 8, 2008). The Congress had as its theme: *Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in History, Faith and Theology*. The Congress took place in the Hémicycle Bernadette, a new building on the right bank of the Gave de Pau almost directly opposite the grotto. It is comprised of a large church and reception rooms for pilgrims and the sick. There is also a conference center - a hall with 500 banked seats; there is a concierge area, smaller rooms for group meetings and cabins for simultaneous translation. The Hémicycle is connected to the Grotto and the three basilicas (upper church, Holy Rosary and the underground St. Pius X vault) by an arched wooden bridge. Thousands of wheelchairs cross this bridge daily. Cardinal E. Poupard, Special Delegate of Pope Benedict XVI, presided at the Congress. The Congress included general sessions (in two of which the President and Vice-president of the Marianum read papers) and national and/or language sessions especially (but not e-

xclusively) for members of National Mariological Societies attending the Congress. The program was full; at the end of the Congress President of P.A.M.I. stated that the subject was well chosen and explored exhaustively from so many perspectives; there were so many new contributions – participation was indeed impressive. There were some 450 to 500 attendees from across the world among whom were the Bishop of Tarbes-Lourdes, Msgr. J. Perrier (and five other bishops from Chile, the Philippines, Poland, Africa) and the most important living Mariologists. The Marianum was well represented by the President, Vice-president, six teachers, the Secretariat and Sister O. Di Angelo. Each day the Eucharist

celebrated in the grotto and the two adjacent basilicas provided the spiritual framework for the Conference. The influence of the Marianum was especially evident: many of the attendees were our former students, our teachers and collaborators with our review. Without exaggeration we can say we felt at home.

There were some organizational problems: the hotels hosting attendees were somewhat distant a long walk from the Congress hall but this in no way dampened our spirits; the walk provided private time for all of us. On the whole it was a wonderful experience which we will remember with pleasure and gratitude to Our Lady.

Tiziano M. Civiero osm

SERVITE HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY COURSE

The annual classes on the *History and Spirituality of the Servite Order* were held from September 22 to October 3, 2008. The classes covered the period from the Council of Trent to the Second Vatican Council. We considered the development of the Order, its presence in the life of the Church; participation of Servites at the Council of Trent, the person and work of Fra Paolo Sarpi; the German Observance and the Hermits of Monte Senario; the period of suppression; the growth of communities in America, Africa, Asia and Oceania; the flourishing female congregations. There were also classes on hagiography, liturgy and Marian devotion. As is our custom we devoted a day to an historical-artistic excursion. This year we visited Servite locations in Naples and its surroundings.

The whole experience was marked by the presence of qualified instructors and enthusiastic participants – a sure sign of the importance and usefulness of these classes.

Dilermando M. Ramos Vieira osm

GATHERING ON «RELIGIOUS ORDERS FROM CHARISMATIC INSIGHT TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION. THE SERVANTS OF MARY. 1245-1431»

With the assistance of the Marianum Faculty the Servite Historical Institute organized a Second Gathering (October 7 – 9) on certain aspects of the Order's history between 1245 and 1431. The Gathering involved 12 papers and 7 communiqués.

In the presence of the Prior General, Grand Chancellor of the Faculty, Fra Angel M. Ruiz Garnica, the President of the Historical Institute, Fra Dilermando Ramos Vieira introduced the subjects to be discussed. A large number of attendees were present for the introduction and followed the Gathering's work with interest.

The papers read focused on two historical periods: from the origin of the Order to its approval (1304); from approval to the birth of the Observance (1304 – 1431). Special attention was devoted to the internal and external life of the Communities with emphasis on their spirituality, hagiography and iconography.

From a methodological perspective it was helpful to focus on the contemporary social and political mentality and its influence on the friars and the ecclesiastical circumstances in which the Order was born and grew.

The presence, reports and interventions of the greatest living historian of the Order's beginnings and mediaeval development, Professor F. A. Dal Pino, made a profound impression on the work of our gathering. Qualified scholars of the middle ages and young research students of the Order's history presented the fruits of their endeavours.

We will publish the *Acta* of this Second Gathering in *Studi Storici OSM* as we have published those of last year's First Gathering in 2007. Preparation for the Third Gathering next year is advancing. It will focus on the period between 1431 and 1623.

Dilermando Ramos Vieira osm

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2008-2009

At 4 PM on October 22 the 2008 – 2009 School Year officially began with a prayer to the Holy Spirit and the profession of Faith in the Faculty Chapel. The Prior General and Grand Chancellor, Fra Angel M. Ruiz Garnica, presided. Then in the Aula Magna the President of the Faculty greeted all those present for the occasion and delivered a report on the Faculty's most recent activity. This was followed by a brief interval for socializing and a musical entertainment in which violoncello players F. Fiore and M. Fina played pieces by M. Corrette and A. Rolla. This year we are celebrating the Pauline Year and fittingly Professor R. Penna delivered a paper on *La Verità del Vangelo di Gesù Cristo nel Vangelo di Paolo* [The Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Paul]. Penna examined Paul's principal theological and spiritual themes point by point in an exhaustive and interesting fashion. Many people attended this event.

Luca M. Di Girolamo *osm*

XI COLLOQUIUM OF THE COSTANZA SCELFO INSTITUTE: «MODELS AND FORMS OF LAY KINGSHIP»

In collaboration with the Women and Christianity chair of the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty and sponsored by SAIS-Autolinee we celebrated the *Costanza Scelfo Institute's XI Colloquium* on the problems of women and lay people in the Church. The theme of the colloquium was "Models and Forms of Lay Kingship." This concluded our cycle on the threefold office of the laity. The cycle began with a discussion of prophecy and then the subject of lay holiness. The explicit purpose of this last segment was to emphasize lay authority – an interpretation of the office of kingship. We began with difficult and controversial passages from *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium et Spes*. Once more we chose lay experts to lead out discussion. We emphasized what was new in the Council and especially the opening to competent lay men and women engaged in theology and the apostolate among Christ's faithful. Reading papers on "lay people and the office of kingship" were the following:

Piero Stefani – the Biblical perspective (*Lumen Gentium 10*); Andrea Grillo – the liturgical perspective (LG 11); Giovanni Turbanti – lay independence during the Council; Paolo Bignardi – personal experience in the post-conciliar period; Maria Grazia Fasoli of ACLI – lay people in Society (*Gaudium et Spes 43*); Gianfranco Brunelli of *Il Regno* – lay people in Society (*Gaudium et Spes 79*); Carmelo Dotolo, theologian – (LG 37); Serena Noceti, theologian – (LG 12). Crispino Valenziano gave the concluding address. Presiding at the various sessions were: Silvano Maggiani, president of the Faculty; Giovanni Giorgio, Secretary of SIRT and President of the Chieti Theologate; Piersandro Vanzan, a contributor to *Civiltà Cattolica*; Bernardo Antonini, former Vice-President of the «Marianum»; Fabrizio Bosin, Moderator of the First Study Cycle – «Marianum». Moderating the sessions were: Carmelo Dotolo, President of SIRT; Marinella Perroni President of CTI; Aparicio Valls, professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University; Miriam Diez Bosch, expert on the Vatican; Cettina Militello Director of the Women and Christianity Department and of the *Costanza Scelfo Institute*.

There was a lively debate between the speakers and other personally invited experts. These experts made brief contributions to our final session. While we were pleased at the high quality of the papers delivered we were somewhat saddened by the scarce attendance. There were few high quality experts, few attendees and above all few students. They lost an opportunity to review controversial passages from Vatican II documents and to compare them with the progress made in the last forty years. Many were the insights they could have gained on the life and thought of the Church in these years.

Cettina Militello

**TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CONGREGATION
FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION LETTER
ON TEACHING MARIOLOGY**

On November 29th and 30th 2008, there was a Study Session in Rome at the Antonianum. The subject of discussion was *Twentieth Anniversary of the Congregation for Catholic Education Letter on Teaching Mariology. Content, Evaluation and Prospects*. The session was sponsored by the Pontificia Academia

Mariana Internationalis (PAMI) and our Faculty «Marianum». Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education and Msgr. Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, presided. Professors Salvatore M. Perrella, Jean Piere Sieme Laoul, Cettina Militello and Stefano De Fiores presented papers and interventions. The moderators were Silvano M. Maggiani, President of the Marianum, and Father Vincenzo Battaglia, President of PAMI. It emerged that Mary was an unavoidable part of the faith; she is involved in identity and confession through the elaboration of a Mariology that is basically “relational” and organic. This is very different from the solipsistic Mariology that preceded the Council. It considered the person, role and meaning of Our Lady for the People of God. Teaching this sort of Mariology clearly and appropriately is open to everyone. All elements of partisanship must be avoided. “Relational” Mariology is best suited for a confrontation of theology with culture – all cultures. It is seen essentially and ecclesiologically as the *nexus mysteriorum* within the *hierarchy of truth*. Its cultural and anthropological riches are apparent in various paradigms: narrative memory, aesthetics of beauty and the mystery of compassion. An essential point of departure for this discourse is the progressive interiorization of Vatican II’s *Gaudium et Spes*. This sort of Mariology displays immense aptitude for dialogue on the ecumenical and inter-religious level if it includes the anthropological dimension (the experience of solidarity and the reality of gender) and if it furthers the passage from the image of the Church to the image of mankind (Mary is the exemplar of the person who is open to God and responds in faith to His revelation); it must pursue (urgently) a pragmatic and multi-disciplinary approach that is radically different from the logical-argumentative paradigm.

Professor Sieme Laoul’s statistical investigation revealed that within the Church’s academic centers there are differing ways of interpreting and carrying out the letter’s dispositions. He studied 282 Catholic institutions (*urbis et orbis*) and found that 68% include Mariology in the three-year institutional theology course; this means that some 32% have – for one reason or another – not yet followed the Congregations dispositions. This may be the result of neglect or lack of qualified personnel. Of those institutions that include Mariology 60% have separate courses in this area; the other 40% include Mariology in some other *area*: ecclesiology or Christology. The investigation was on the whole encouraging: Mariology is more and more a subject that is taught and this is what the 1988 Letter was trying to achieve.

Gian Matteo Roggio

**PRESENTATION OF THE ACTS OF THE STUDY SESSION:
«ALFONSO M. IANNUCCI»**

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 4 PM, His Eminence, George Cardinal Martín Cottier OP, Theologian Emeritus of the Papal Household presided at a presentation of Alfonso Maria Iannucci e la teologia neoscolastica, edit. Valentino Di Cerbo EDB, Bologna 2007. Professor Silvano M. Maggiani, President of the Marianum Faculty, greeted all present. Two papers covered the theological work and contributions to Mariology Iannucci (1852-1904), a priest from Benevento, made; he was an important exponent of 19th century Neapolitan theology. One paper was presented by His Excellency, Msgr. Angelo Amato, Prefect of the Causes of the Saints, who spoke with his usual historical and theological competence on “Per una storia della Teologia di fine Ottocento: l’apporto di Alfonso M. Iannucci [History of the Theology at the End of the Nineteenth Century: the Contribution of Alfonso M. Iannucci]”. From a theological perspective Iannucci lived during the golden years of Roman Theology (1830-

1879) – dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Syllabus of Pius IX (1864), the First Vatican Council (1869-1870) and the re-birth of Thomism under Leo XIII (1878-1902). From a Mariological perspective he was the contemporary of important publications promoting the *hora Mariae*: e.g. the 460-page volume with the elaborate title: “Firmitudo catholicae veritatis de psychosomatica Deiparentis assumptione ...” published by Marietti in 1884. From the *ex consensu Ecclesiae* this volume examines and promotes the definability of the Assumption of Mary, and *ex mera conditione humanae naturae*, it affirms unequivocally the death of Mary. Present at this occasion were professors from Neapolitan and Roman universities. Some of Iannucci’s fellow citizens came with the parish priest of the cathedral of Sant’Agata dei Goti where Iannucci ministered and died. There were many students as well as individuals from the Vatican Secretariat of State where Msgr. Valentino Di Cerbo works.

Salvatore M. Perrella osm

THE MARIANUM 70 (2008)

In October 2008 we published issue 173-174 (2008) of the *Marianum*. This issue is appearing in the year marking the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions at

Lourdes and focused on this Marian phenomenon that is so widespread and impressive among the Christian people, a phenomenon that was especially present in the nineteenth century: the many apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the so-called Mariophanies.

We examine the phenomenon from both the theoretical and historical perspective. From the theoretical perspective there is in the *Studia* section G. Scarvaglieri's outstanding essay, *Sociologia del fenomeno mariano* [Sociology of the Marian Phenomenon] which presents a sociological interpretation of Mary's presence in the religiosity of Christians. The author reviews the modern theories that suggest that this phenomenon is more a social than religious fact and then proposes an interesting and convincing solution with his theory of the figure of reference.

It is immediately apparent what importance the *Marianum* attributes to the historical aspect of this phenomenon. A whole new column has been created for this purpose: *Quaestio disputata*. This column revives an age-old tradition of examining a subject by comparing two opposing interpretations: the column considers different views of controversial subjects. In this issue it "calls the attention of scholars – from a singular and deliberately problematic perspective – to questions about the Marian apparition at La Salette. While all admit the truth of the event contrasting interpretations continue to exist." (Cf. *Editoriale*, p. 10). The articles of Michel Corteville – René Laurentin and Gian Matteo Roggio clearly demonstrate how the subject can be studied and evaluated from differing perspectives.

The editorial provides an effective paradigm for explaining and understanding the complex problematic of Marian apparitions. The editor includes the views of theologians, what the magisterium says and the impact of ecumenical dialogue on the subject. He further emphasizes the "prudence" necessary in evaluating these events.

In the *Studia* section there are two other important contributions. M.L.Rigato discusses the ancestors of Jesus' "parents." His essay comprises two parts: the first is devoted to Joseph, a descendant of David, Mary's spouse and "the father of Jesus in all respects except the biological." The second part is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose background is Levite and priestly. His study considers a side issue of special interest in the present day: the so-called "brethren" of Jesus.

The second important contribution in the *Studia* section is an article on the Li-

tany of the Blessed Virgin begun by Father Ignacio M. Calabuig and completed by Father Salvatore M. Perrella. The essay considers several subjects: theological and historical perspectives on the litany; its liturgical origins; the nature of the believer's prayer; historical evolution of the Litany of Loreto; Servite litanies; origin and evolution of the titles attributed to Mary over the centuries; intervention of the Magisterium to block the "excessive or unregulated production of litanies."

The Miscellanea section includes important news for specialists. L.M. Di Girolamo's article, *Maria "Causa nostrae laetitiae" in alcuni testi di Paolo VI* [Mary "Cause of our Joy" in Selected Texts from Paul VI] examines the subject of joy in relation to Our Lady. In J.-P.-Sieme Laoul's significant study of Mary's presence in Africa *La presenza materna di Maria nella Chiesa famiglia di Dio in Africa* [The Maternal Presence of Mary in the Church, Family of God, in Africa]; she is seen from an original point of view: Mary is likened to the mother of a family in African society. We would also note Professor Mariano Apa's study: *L'Immacolata. Tracce per un itinerario iconografico, 1854-1954* [Mary Immaculate. Elements of an Iconographic Process, 1854-1954]. He begins with the centenary of the works of Maccari and Seitz in the Loreto Basilica and traces an interesting panorama of themes and subjects related to the Immaculate Conception.

An appendix includes documentation of the René Laurentin – Pro Ancilla Domini award presented this year to Professor Father Stanisław Celestyn Napiórkowski in recognition of his enormous learned and popular Marian-Mariological writings.

As usual the Marianum includes the section entitled *Documenta* covering the principal Papal documents published in 2006; the section *Chronica – Recensiones* covers news of important Marian-Mariological study meetings and the large number of books we have received.

For the editorial and table of contents please see: www.marianum.it/riv_mar.htm

Antonio Mazzella

INSTITUTE OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCES
«SAINTE MARIE OF MONTE BERICO» - Vicenza
affiliated with the Faculty

The 2007-2008 school year marked theological Studium was established as the the second four-year period since the Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose

[Higher Institute of Religious Studies] by the Congregation for Catholic Education on February 2, 2000. Much has occurred in these last four years: there was a period of building, improving academic life and new projects. This work was influenced by several recent developments: the goals set by the Nota Normativa of the CEI [Italian Conference of Bishops] in the February 15, 2005 document: *Progetto di riordino della formazione teologica in Italia* [Plan for Reorganizing Theological Education in Italy]; the Holy See's adherence to the so-called *Processo di Bologna* [Bologna Process] for the recognition of academic titles awarded in Europe; adaptation to the Italian university reform: all doctorate courses involve the 3 + 2 formula or the so-called Y model, that require a three-year course for the doctorate and subsequent specialization for two years.

On August 26, 2008 (prot. 915/99) Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education approved the Monte Berico Religious Studies' two-year specialization program in Marian devotion and popular piety. Our Institute is affiliated with the Marianum Pontifical Theological Faculty.

Beginning in October 2008 we were able to initiate our two-year program for a licentiate in Religious Studies with a specialization in the Marian apostolate and popular devotion. It is open

to students who have already had academic training in the Christian Mystery and the principal theological disciplines. The two-year course is particularly aimed at students who will teach Catholic doctrine. It will prepare them for special roles in the apostolate, more self-conscious Christian witness and responsible pastoral work. They will use their professional religious training to promote Christianity in society.

At the same time the second year of Religious Culture has begun. This is a non-academic course in theology from a Marian perspective. It will help all those eager to become more aware of their Christian identity so they can better witness to the Gospel.

In conjunction with the Triveneto academic network of theological institutions we are planning to collaborate with the "Mons. Arnaldo Onisto" Higher Institute of Religious Studies of Vicenza and the Triveneto Theological Faculty in exchanging specializations further improving academic and cultural service to our ecclesial community.

Our third traveling retreat in the Holy Land was held in October (22-28) 2008. The theme of our retreat was "With Mary, Pilgrims in the Faith." The Venetian Prior Provincial, Father Ferdinando Perri, conducted the retreat. We visited the places in upper Galilee where Jesus spent his youth and began his ministry. We focused on Mary's

persevering belief beginning in those long periods when she believed – against hope – and when she stood under the cross and outside the tomb. We ended our journey in Jerusalem where Jesus met his final hour and Mary’s generous faith on Holy Saturday excelled.

On December 4, 2008, we began the 2008-2009 school year with a roundtable discussion on “Born of woman” (Gal 4,4) in celebration of the Pauline year – the 2000th anniversary of Paul’s birth. Speakers at this event were: Professor Aristide Serra from the Marianum Pontifical Theological Fa-

culty (exegesis of the Pauline passage “born of woman” Gal 4,4); Professor Valentino Cottini from the Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (how Mary’s motherhood is understood in Judaism and Islam); Professor Carla Rossi Espagnet from the Holy Cross Pontifical University (provocative questions on the Divine Maternity in a Western Cultural Context).

At the end of the event we handed out diplomas to the newly graduated students: 4 in Religious Studies and 3 in Magisterium.

Giovanni M. Travaglia osm

**«SAN PIER TOMMASO INSTITUTE» COURSE OF HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY
recognized by the Faculty**

The first year of the Course of Carmelite History and Spirituality came to a close at our winter session on December 29-31 last year. The first two weeks of the course were held in the Roman priory of San Martino ai Monti (September 15 to 26). Eleven people took part: ten Italian and Colombian Carmelite students and a young Carmelite tertiary from the Czech Republic. We began a new three-year cycle this year – it is the fifth of the series.

Classes this year focused on the early days of the Order with particular attention to the charismatic development and primitive organization of the Carmelite family. We considered the figures of Mary and Elijah whom our friars saw as the inspiration of their own spiritual experience; we spoke too about the Order’s liturgy and saints.

Two events – led by Professor Emanuele Boaga – were especially interesting: the introductory classes on Carmelite studies (a special study aid was published)

and the guided tour of the Carmelite library of the priory and the fresco cycle of episodes in the life of Elijah painted by Gaspar Dughet in the Basilica of San Martino.

Giovanni Grosso O. Carm.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

On June 26, 2007, the 2006-2007 school year was officially concluded.

* In accord with article 9f of our Statutes the General Council and the teachers and officials of the Faculty held their annual meeting of review at the Marianum on June 30.

Study Centers associated with the Marianum

International Marian Research Institute of Dayton

On July 26, 2008, the Congregation for Catholic Education published a decree “*ad quinquennium*” affiliating the IMRI to the «Marianum».

Santa Maria di Monte Berico Higher Institute of Religious Studies

A decree dated August 26, 2008 from the Congregation for Catholic Education approved the *Study Program for the Two-year Course of Specialization in Marian Apostolate and Popular Devotion*.

Academic Councils: Activities

* The Presidential Council met on Thursday, October 23, and appointed two committees: a) one to revise our *internal norms* – members: Professors Salvatore Perrella and Bernardo Antonini OSM; Giovanni Grosso O. Carm; Fra Enrico Casini OSM, Secretary; Father Gian Matteo Roggio, Second Cycle Student; b) the other committee will revise the *academic year book*, its members are the President, Professor Silvano Maggiani, the librarian Father Silvano Danieli and Sister Ornella Di Angelo, the Secretary.

* On October 30, 2008, the Faculty Council completed the “*Organico*” for the three years 2008-2011 by electing administration councilors: Fra Aurelio M. Chini, Fra Silvano M. Danieli, Fra Ricardo M. Pérez Marquez.

It also appointed: Professor Silvano M. Maggiani, delegate for the Dayton IMRI; Professor Salvatore M. Perrella, delegate for the ISSR "Santa Maria di Monte Berico"; Professor Cettina Militello, Director of the "Women and Christianity department"; Professor Luca M. Di Girolamo, representative of the Faculty in the Association of Former Students and Friends of the «Marianum»; Fra Enrico M. Casini in charge of the *Marianum-Notizie* newsletter.

Appointments and Promotions

* In a letter dated October 3, 2008, His Excellency Msgr. Giovanni Tonucci, Archbishop Pontifical Delegate, President of the CSL (*Comitato Scientifico del Centro Studi Lauretani* – Scientific Committee of the Center for Loreto Studies) has appointed Professor Silvano M. Maggiani as a member of the CSL.

* With a decree dated January 14, 2009 (Prot. 12/09/GC) the Grand Chancellor, Fra Ángel M. Ruiz Garnica has appointed Fra Ricardo M. Pérez Marquez, OSM, "Associate Professor" of the *Department of Sacred Scripture: New Testament Exegesis*.

* The teachers appointed for one year have elected representatives to the academic councils for 2008-2009: Professors *Cettina Militello* and *Luigi Gambero*.

* Students of Cycles I-II-II have elected their representatives to the councils for 2008-2009: Father Gian Matteo Roggio and Fra Raji Rajkumar.

Miscellaneous

* On December 12, 2008, Professor Ricardo M. Pérez Marquez, OSM presented a brilliant defense of his doctoral thesis at the Pontifical Gregorian University. The thesis was entitled: *L'Antico Testamento nell'Apocalisse di Giovanni* [The Old Testament in the John's Apocalypse]. The teachers, officials and students of the «Marianum» extend their heartfelt congratulations to the new Doctor on this occasion.

* On Sunday, December 14, 2008, at St. Juliana Falconieri Church in Rome (Piazza Cucchi) we held a *Christmas Concert* sponsored by the *Banco Desio Lazio* and organized by the *Accademia Musicale Romana* in conjunction with the «Marianum» Pontifical Theological Faculty.

XVII INTERNATIONAL MARIOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM
THE DOGMA OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY
CURRENT PROBLEMS AND AN ATTEMPT AT A NEW UNDERSTANDING

Rome, October 6 – 9, 2009

Papers to be read:

- 1 *The Dogma of the Assumption of Mary in Contemporary Theological Research: What has been achieved and what remains problematic.*
- 2 *Philosophy and Theology of Her Death in Present-day Debate. What impact does it have on our understanding of the mystery of the Assumption?*
- 3 *Resurrection and Spiritual Bodies in the New Testament.*
- 4 *The Woman Clothed in the Sun (Apoc. 12, 1-17).*
- 5 *From Transitus to Assumption: the Apocrypha model.*
- 6.1 *The Ethiopian Liturgy of the Dormition.*
- 6.2 *The Byzantine Liturgy of the Dormition.*
- 7.1 *The Assumption of Mary: anthropological aspects of the mystery.*
- 7.2 *The Glorious Assumption: ecclesiological aspects.*
- 7.3 *The Mystery of the Assumption of Mary: cosmological aspects.*
- 8 *What is the relationship between the Assumption and Marian Apparitions?*
- 9 *The Symbolic Dimension of the Assumption.*
- 10 *Mary's Assumption in the documents of Western Ecumenical Dialogue.*
- 11 *The Assumption: a Sign of Hope and Consolation.*

Professor L. Gambero SM will be awarded the ninth *Prix "Laurentin – Pro Ancilla Domini"*.

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