

Franciscan Educators Confer



PARTICIPATING IN the 35th Franciscan Educational Conference at Padua High School, Watkins Glen area: (from left) Very Rev. Pius Barth O.F.M., former president of the Franciscan Educational Conference; Provincial of Sacred Heart, St. Louis, Mo.; Very Rev. Theobald Kalkowski, O.F.M., Provincial, Assumption Province, Pulaski and Very Rev. Charles Balle, O.F.M., president, International Academy of Mariology and appointed by Pope Pius XII to organize the International Marian Congress to be held in Rome in October and Rev. Claude Zabinski, O.F.M., superior and rector of Padua High School, host to the conference. Father Balle addressed the delegates before flying back to Rome.

Marian Discussion Brings 75 Franciscans To Padua

Watkins Glen—Father Ignatius Brady, O.F.M., of Duns Scotus College, Detroit, was elected president of the Franciscan Educational Conference at its 35th meeting. Father Ignatius, on leave from Duns Scotus for special assignment at the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure, N.Y., succeeds Father Pius Barth, O.F.M., who resigned because of his recent election, as Provincial of the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, Mo.

Father Aldan M. Carr, O.F.M., Conv. of St. Anthony-on-Hudson, Rensselaer, N.Y., was elected vice president of the conference, succeeding Father Basil Heiser, O.F.M., Conv., who had been elected Provincial of his Conventual province—Our Lady of Consolation, in Carey, O.

Other officers named by the Franciscan educators were Father Sebastian Miklas, O.F.M., Conv. of Washington, D.C., secretary, and Father Ignatius Hercher, O.F.M., of St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y., treasurer.

THE THREEDAY convention, held at Padua High School, brought more than 75 delegates from the various Franciscan families together—some of them from as far away as Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Ecuador—to discuss the theme "Mary in the Seraphic Order."

Among the papers read at the meeting was one in which Father Bernard Vogt, O.F.M., of Christ the King Seminary, St. Bonaventure, said that the Franciscan philosopher John Duns Scotus was the first theologian to undertake a thorough investigation of the theological foundations of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In another paper, Father Cyril Shirce, O.F.M., of St. Mary's Seminary, Lemont, Ill., asserted that the position of the Blessed Mother in the Franciscan theological synthesis is a "unique" one.

FATHER OYRIL'S thesis was warmly received, with the result that a special commission was appointed to study the possibility of producing a textbook in Sacred Theology based on such a Franciscan synthesis.

A Burlington, Wis., priest, Father Maurice Grajewski, O.F.M., predicted that Duns Scotus would be raised to the honors of the altar. A canonization process was inaugurated in 1710 and in 1904, and the preliminary steps successfully completed, he said. He explained that the resumption of the Cause is pending publication of a critical edition of the complete works of Duns Scotus—three volumes of which are already out.

Petition Honoring Mary's 7 Joys Asked Of Pope

Watkins Glen, N.Y.—Franciscan educators have petitioned the Holy Father to establish a Feast of the Seven Joys of Our Blessed Mother in place of one of two feasts now observed in honor of the Virgin of Sorrows.

The request was made in a cablegram sent to His Holiness Pope Pius XII at the close of the 35th Franciscan Educational Conference here.

The message of homage from the educators thanked the Holy Father for "having announced the intention of establishing the liturgical Feast of Mary Immaculate, Queen of the Universe, and begged His Holiness that instead of celebrating two feasts of the Virgin of Sorrows, one of them might be abolished to give place to a liturgical Feast of the Seven Joys of Our Blessed Mother."

The request was signed by Father Pius Barth, O.F.M., former president of the conference, who made it one of his last acts before turning the presidency over to Father Ignatius Brady, O.F.M. The cablegram referred to the Pontiff as "the great Marian Pope."

Under-Water Shrine To Virgin Blessed

Algiers—(RNS)—An under-water grotto dedicated to the Virgin Mary has been erected in the Mediterranean a hundred yards beyond Chiffale, near here. Deep sea divers accompanied by Abbe Schiana, parish priest of Chiffale, plunged into the grotto and anchored an 800-pound statue of Our Lady of the Seas near the entrance.

While the priest and his helpers were under water, Archbishop Leone Duval of Algiers read prayers over the grotto site from a boat.

The statue, which was cast in a special sea-resisting concrete, is expected to remain intact for at least 50 years. It was executed by Mrs. Anne-Courtois of the Algiers Art School.

This is the second such submarine shrine recently established in the Mediterranean area. The first was at Falconera on Spain's Catalan coast, which also was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.

Virgin's Jewish Background Told Catholic Teachers

Boston—(RNS)—A Catholic theologian urged here that anti-Semitism be combated, through the promotion of more knowledge about the family background of the Virgin Mary.

Msgr. Matthew P. Stapleton, Professor of Sacred Scripture at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Mass., addressed the 45th annual Teachers Institute of the Boston Archdiocese which had "Mariology" as its Marian Year theme.

More than 4,000 religious and lay teachers attended the four-day meeting.

THE THEOLOGIAN said parochial school teachers should cultivate among their pupils an appreciation of "the Jewishness of the Blessed Virgin Mary in order to remove all suggestion of anti-Semitism in their teaching."

He proposed teachers emphasize that the Blessed Virgin, "the loveliest Jewish maiden that ever lived, fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament, which is the Jewish Bible; by giving us the greatest Jew who ever lived, Her Son who is also God's Son, Christ Jesus of Nazareth."

The Jewish background of Mary and Her Son cannot be separated from devotion to them, Msgr. Stapleton said.

"Nor can we permit in the minds and hearts of our pupils," he added, "a scorn, a dislike, a hatred of their fellow-countrymen, ancient or modern, if we are to teach our pupils to know, love and serve Our Lady and Our Lord."

THE PRELATE cited many texts which he said could appropriately be applied to the Blessed Virgin, including the excerpt from the Book of Judith used by Pope Pius XII as the closing line of the Marian Year Prayer: "Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel, the honor of our people."

He also pointed to the Old Testament titles popularly applied to Mary such as "Tower of David," "Tower of Ivory," "House of Gold," "Ark of the Covenant," and "Queen of Prophets." All these are used in the Litany of Our Lady.

St. Augustine
Algiers—(RNS)—The 16th centenary of the birth of St. Augustine will be celebrated on Aug. 28 in the Basilica dedicated to him at Hippo, some 200 miles from here, where he reigned as Bishop.

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