

**The 51st Annual General Meeting
of the American Region of the
Society of Mary**

Saturday, May 12, 2012

Blessed Sacrament Church, Placentia, California

2012 National Mass and Annual General Meeting

The 51st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the American Region of the *Society of Mary* (S.o.M.) was held on Saturday, May 12, 2012, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Placentia, CA, hosted by the *Rosa Mystica Ward*. Beginning at 11:00 am, Mass for the *Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary* was celebrated by the rector of Blessed Sacrament; The Rev'd Canon David M. Baumann, SSC; who was also the preacher. Music for the Mass was by Paul Inwood and was sung by the congregation under the leadership of the organist and celebrant. Marian hymns, including *Sing of Mary pure and lowly*, were also sung. Mass was followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall, at which Fr. Baumann welcomed the guests and offered the grace. The meeting itself (the AGM) took place immediately afterward, the attendees still in place at the lunch tables; and it is described for the record in the minutes below.

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Opening of the Meeting.

The 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the *American Region of the Society of Mary* (S.o.M.) was held in the Parish Hall of Blessed Sacrament Church, Placentia, California, on Saturday, May 12, 2012, immediately after the luncheon that followed an 11 o'clock Mass in the church. About 20 persons were in attendance. At 1:22 pm, The Rev'd Dr. Richard Cornish Martin, SSC; S.o.M. Superior, called the meeting to order. First, he thanked The Rev'd Canon David M. Baumann, SSC, Rector of Blessed Sacrament Church, and the people of the parish for arranging and hosting the meeting. Noting that these annual meetings are not always held on the East Coast, Fr. Martin said S.o.M. officers were delighted to have this AGM in Southern California. He then led the opening formula of prayer for the meeting; the S.o.M. Chaplain, The Rev'd John D. Alexander, being unable to attend.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM.

Dr. Paul Cooper, Recording Secretary of S.o.M., presented the highlights of the minutes of the 2011 AGM, which had been held at the Church of the Resurrection in New York City on May 1, 2011. The minutes were approved by the assembly.

Election of the S.o.M Council Class of 2016.

Fr. Martin placed in nomination the following candidates for the Class of 2016 of the Council of S.o.M.:

- The Rev'd Jason Catania – Baltimore, MD
- The Rev'd Eric J. Craig – Peoria, IL
- Dr. Bruce A. Lawrence – Linthicum, MD
- Mrs. Coral Webb – Garland, TX

Following a motion to close the nominations, these persons – the incumbents of the Class of 2012 – were unanimously elected by the assembly as Council's Class of 2016.

Treasurer's Report.

Dr. David Chase, Treasurer of S.o.M., was unable to be present at the meeting; however, he prepared his report, which was presented by Dr. Wallace H. Spaulding, Corresponding Secretary of S.o.M., and is summarized as follows:

1. Dr. Chase apologized for having to be absent from an AGM for the first time since he became national treasurer of S.o.M. in 1979.
2. Also thanking our hosts, he said Fr. Martin's extension throughout the country of S.o.M. witness has been furthered by the Fr. Baumann's stellar work on behalf of *The Guild of the Living Rosary of Our Lady and St. Dominic*.
3. A full financial disclosure was published on p. 50 of the most recent issue of AVE dated Presentation of Our Lady, 2011. This annual accounting will appear in a future issue of AVE, detailing the accounts from 4/1/11 to 3/31/12.
4. He asked those who received a statement in the mail to renew their dues by the end of May. Those attending this AGM as potential new members should go to our website www.somamerica.org and follow the procedures for joining.
5. Noting that we are a society of prayer, devotion, formation and evangelization, he asked for constant intercessions and for comments on fresh ways to witness to the Faith and Order of the Catholic Tradition, in part defined by the obedience and purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Membership, Wards, and Cells.

Corresponding Secretary Dr. Spaulding then made the following report:

1. Paid membership in calendar 2011 was 569 units or 603 persons and institutions, which compares to 590 and 620 respectively for the prior period.
2. The two AVE issues in 2011 reported activities of only 11 of S.o.M's some 118 wards and cells (no new ones in the past year).
3. While S.o.M. draws primarily from The Episcopal Church (TEC), it is taking on a more ecumenical character. For example, its two most active wards, *Our Lady of Guadalupe* (Dallas-Fort Worth) and *Immaculate Heart of Mary* (NE Illinois), have members of the *Anglican Church in North America* (ACNA) and the *Roman Catholic Church* (RCC) respectively.
4. In fact, S.o.M. leadership reflects this trend, as one officer and four of the 16 Council members have gone over to the RCC. Another Council member is Eastern Orthodox, etc. Two of the three S.o.M. wards going to the RCC have retained their S.o.M. connection; the third became inactive prior to the switch.
5. Further, our one Eastern Orthodox pastor-member hosted two of our TEC wards (and others) at the veneration of a myrrh-streaming icon of Our Lady, a high point of S.o.M. activities during 2011.
6. We mourn the loss during the past year of our most noteworthy Protestant member, the Methodist pastor (and Mariologist) Donald Lacy.
7. Cells at TEC (non-liberal) seminaries: The cell, *Our Lady of Glastonbury*, at Nashotah House has been revived; and one at Trinity School for Ministry is being formed.

Fr. Superior's Report.

Fr. Martin then made his report as follows:

- *AVE*. Fr. Martin promoted the idea of having learned articles in AVE.
- *Hosts of this AGM*. At Fr. Martin's invitation, Fr. Baumann spoke to the assembly:
 - o *Sandy Fryling, Caterer and Organist*. He accorded thanks to Sandy, and she and her helpers were duly applauded.
 - o *Guild of the Living Rosary*. He said there are 39 life members, 29 annual members; and \$2,789.68 is in the treasury of the *Guild*.
 - o *Josh Kenfield, Artist*. He acknowledged Josh, who adapted, created, and contributed the wonderful color illustrations of the mysteries in the *Guild's* new manual.
- *2013 Annual General Meeting*. Fr. Martin said that the tentative venue for the 2013 AGM is St. Stephen's, Providence, RI; but this is at present only a possibility. In this connection, he said that the Rector, Fr. Alexander, sends his regrets at being absent today because of the Diocese of R.I. having elections. Fr. Martin added that Council's recent discussions indicate this will

be a "Teaching Event," which would make it a weekend activity; and he mentioned some possible speakers.

- *Pilgrimages.* Fr. Alexander's pilgrimage this fall to the UK and the Holy Land was mentioned, and Fr. Martin said there are also pilgrimages to Walsingham and one to Lourdes in the fall. He will try to get these announced in *AVE*.
- *Website.* Fr. Martin thanked the experts who maintain the S.o.M. website, www.somamerica.org, adding that this helping us to proclaim the Gospel.
- *Questions.* One of the attendees, David J. Lynch, of Palm Springs, offered to write articles for S.o.M. from a "progressive" viewpoint and asked if this would be acceptable. The answer was "yes."

Adjournment.

There being no further business, Fr. Martin led the closing formula, and the meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Cooper
Recording Secretary
18 June 2012