

12-1988

## Preface - «Dedicated to the Holy Spirit Under the Protection of the Holy Heart of Mary»

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### Recommended Citation

Gilbert, A. (1988). Preface - «Dedicated to the Holy Spirit Under the Protection of the Holy Heart of Mary». *Spiritan Papers*, 22 (22). Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-papers/vol22/iss22/3>

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# **DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

## **PREFACE**

Many Spiritans from many places and all age groups have requested that in the course of this Marian Year Pentecost 1987 – Assumption 1988, we devote an issue, of our SPIRITAN PAPERS to the holy Heart of Mary.

The new Rule of Life has put words to our theme: "We are dedicated to the Holy Spirit, . . . We place ourselves under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, . . ." (RL 6). "Mary is our model. We offer her veneration and prayer so that we may, as she did, welcome within us the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her Immaculate Heart, and that he may be for us also the abundant source of our apostolic spirit." (RL 89).

The Marian year will already have run its course by the time this, our twenty second number, arrives in the Communities. Each of the articles appearing here has however been written during the year of special graces; some will have been used during the northern summer as Retreat material for serious thinking and for prayer.

Father Lucien Deiss, CSSp, renowned for his work in Sacred Scripture and the musical compositions derived from it, sets out in fresh and craftsmanlike style the exegetical aspect of the theme: "Does a link exist between apostolate, Holy Spirit and Mary in what sacred scripture alone supports? Do we find a reflection of our Spiritan calling in the mirror of God's Word?"

Father Michael O'Carroll, CSSp, published a fine work, THEOTOKOS, in 1982, a theological encyclopedia on Our Lady. We note in passing that in 1987 there appeared his TRINITAS, a similar work on the blessed Trinity. Fr. O'Carroll is known however as a specialist in studies concerning Our Lady. In his article for us he develops an overview of the his-

tory linking the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Spirit of God.

A third article deals with the same linking in the traditions of our two Founders.

To try to find out how our younger missionaries look upon our Spiritan dedication, two questions were put to a small number of them, touching upon how they valued this dedication and in what ways they practised it in the daily round. Their answers are entitled "Personal Testimonies". This issue is, then, our small offering in honour of the Marian Year "whose fruit will surpass even the promise of its flowers".

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