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**From the Editors of *Maria*, Sarah Jane Boss and Sr Cathy Jones**

In 2023, the Centre for Marian Studies co-organised an online conference with the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC) in Singapore. Entitled 'More universal than Catholicism? Mary among Asian religions', the event explored the importance of Mary for Asian Catholics, and provided fascinating evidence of the ways in which the mother of Jesus crosses religious boundaries and is integrated into the continent's various spiritual traditions.

270 people registered and we heard speakers from the US, Mexico, Portugal, Germany, Japan, China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan and Australia. Following the conference, it was always our intention to publish a selection of the papers, and we are delighted that this special issue of *Maria* includes five articles that give a sense of the breadth and depth of the subject area and open our eyes to some of the complex religious and ritual practices involving the veneration of Mary across Asia.

The first article begins with inculturation, which is the focus of the research carried out by Brian Reynolds and Marco Lazzarotti in Taiwan. The theme is continued in the paper by Mary Josefti C. Nito, which examines three miracles about the Virgin Mary recorded in a seventh-century Tagalog text in the Spanish Philippines. Nito considers ways in which these miracle traditions may have drawn on pre-Hispanic practices, and thus gives another example of inculturation. We then move to consider Marian devotion as it has been further integrated into Asian cultures: Argene Águila Clasara re-reads Msgr. Manuel Teixeira's *O Culto de Maria em Macau*, and Mideum Hong offers a beautiful theological reflection on the artworks of the Korean sculptor Choi Jong-tae. Finally, Janet Alison Hoskins describes Marian devotion within the Vietnamese diaspora in North America. Perhaps this brings us full circle, showing how a form of devotion that was originally brought from Europe to Asia has been indigenized and, as it were, 'returned' to North America.

The November 2024 edition of *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* will contain further papers from this conference, and we welcome any letters responding to the current edition, to be considered for publication in the November issue.