First published at Ingolstadt in 1577 with a dedication to Albert V, Duke of Bavaria, Saint Petrus Canisius’s *De Maria Virgine incomparabili et Dei genitrice sacrosancta libri quinque* (*Five Books on Mary, Incomparable Virgin and Most Holy Mother of God*), the first Jesuit treatise on the Virgin Mary, constitutes the second volume of Canisius’s *Commentarium de Verbi Dei corruptelis* (*Commentary on the Corruptors of the Divine Word*), the proposed three-part refutation of the *Magdeburg Centuries* upon which he labored for more than a decade [Fig. 1]. Erudite yet heartfelt, both compendious and readable, *De Maria Virgine* is a work of positive theology, written in imitation of the Church Fathers, not least Saint

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Fig. 1. Petrus Canisius, De Maria Virgine incomparabili et Dei genitrice sacrosancta libri quinque (Ingolstadt, David Sartorius: 1577), title-page. Maurits Sabbeebibliotheek, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.