

## **REPORT OF THE SIXTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION**

The sixth general meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 1-2, 1942, under the kind patronage of the Most Reverend Joseph Schrembs, S.T.D. The headquarters of the meeting was St. Mary's Seminary. The hospitality of the seminary was extended to the attending members for the interesting academic sojourn, and its scholarly environment and classical beauty contributed to the scholars' delight. The committee in charge of arrangements consisted of the Right Rev. James M. McDonough, the Right Rev. William L. Newton, and the Very Rev. Joseph F. Walsh.

An interesting and provocative program of papers and discussions was arranged by the Program Committee. This committee was comprised of the following members of the Association: Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann, O.F.M., President; Rev. Edward P. Arbez, Consultor; Right Rev. William L. Newton, Consultor; Rev. Edward H. Donzé, S.M., General Secretary; Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, Editor-in-Chief of the Quarterly.

The following members were in attendance:

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ahern, Rev. Barnabas, C.P.        | Louis, Rev. Conrad, O.S.B.       |
| Brunet, Rev. A., S.J.             | McEvoy, Rev. John A., S.J.       |
| Brunet, Rev. Adrien, O.P.         | McHugh, Very Rev. John A., O.P.  |
| Callan, Very Rev. Charles, O.P.   | McKenzie, Rev. John L., S.J.     |
| Collins, Rev. John J., S.J.       | Maguire, Rev. Joseph, C.S.C.     |
| Considine, Rev. J. S., O.P.       | Mallon, Rev. Vincent P., M.M.    |
| Cummins, Rev. Patrick, O.S.B.     | Mangan, Rev. Edward A., C.S.S.R. |
| DeVine, Rev. C. F., C.S.S.R.      | Martin, Rev. D. W., C.M.         |
| Dobell, Rev. Richard J.           | Meyer, Rt. Rev. Albert G.        |
| Donzé, Rev. Edward H., S.M.       | Murphy, Rev. John H., C.S.C.     |
| Dougherty, Rev. John J.           | Murray, Rev. John                |
| Galvin, Rev. John                 | Newton, Rt. Rev. William L.      |
| Gaul, Rev. Cyril, O.S.B.          | Olinger, Rev. Eberhard, O.S.B.   |
| Gruenthaner, Rev. M. J., S.J.     | Plassmann, Very Rev. T., O.F.M.  |
| Hanley, Rev. J. G.                | Poulet, Very Rev. Donat, O.M.I.  |
| Hartdegen, Rev. Stephen, O.F.M.   | Przedziecki, Rev. Joseph J.      |
| Hartman, Rev. Louis, C.S.S.R.     | Quigley, Rev. Owen J., C.M.      |
| Heupler, Rev. Charles, O.F.M.Cap. | Rowan, Rev. John F.              |
| Hodous, Rev. Edward J., S.J.      | Sawkins, Rev. A. J.              |
| Hofer, Rev. Maurice A.            | Scheper, Very Rev. John B.       |
| Krellner, Rev. Justin, O.S.B.     | Schumacher, Rev. Matthew, C.S.C. |
| Kugelman, Rev. Richard, C.P.      | Seraphin, Rev. Eugene, O.F.M.    |
| Kutchera, Rev. Alvin              | Shine, Rev. William A.           |
| Lilly, Rev. Joseph L., C.M.       | Siegman, Rev. E. F., C.P.P.S.    |

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Skehan, Rev. Patrick J.       | Stenz, Rev. John B.            |
| Sloane, Rev. Charles O'C.     | Yungfleisch, Rev. Simon, C.P.  |
| Smyth, Rev. Kevin, O.F.M.Cap. | Zens, Rev. Claude P.           |
| Stapleton, Rev. M. P.         | Zimmerman, Rev. Damien, O.M.C. |
| Steinmueller, Rev. John E.    |                                |

On Tuesday at 9:30 the sixth general meeting was officially opened with the celebration of Mass in the Seminary Chapel. The celebrant of the Mass was the Most Reverend James A. McFadden, S.T.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. After Mass His Excellency addressed the members of the Association. He welcomed them in the name of Archbishop Schrembs and expressed his deep interest and admiration for the work of the Association. He emphasized the enthusiasm which the Archbishop had felt in speaking of the Cleveland meeting, and his sincere desire to extend to all the members the hospitality of the Diocese. After the Bishop's remarks the Rector of the Seminary, Monsignor McDonough, also expressed a word of welcome.

The academic session on Tuesday at 10:30 was devoted to the paper of Father Gruenthaner on *The Date of Abraham*, and of Father Siegman on the treatment of *Genesis I-XI in the Seminary Course*. Father Gruenthaner's paper may be read in this number of the Quarterly and the preceding issue. The paper of Father Siegman was provocative. The discussion evoked was interesting and serviceable, since it aired the varied viewpoints regarding the exegesis of Genesis I-XI. It is to be hoped that the discussions will produce some written expression in the Quarterly on the subject. It is only by a thorough analysis of liberal interpretations that their compatibility with basic doctrines may be determined.

The discussion on Genesis was carried over to the afternoon session. Upon its conclusion Monsignor Newton presented *A Class Review of the Old Testament*. He offered for consideration and criticism an analytic outline of the Old Testament designed for students as a preparation for the reading and study of the Old Testament.

The Business Meeting followed. Father Steinmueller, Treasurer, submitted the following report:

| RECEIPTS  |             |
|---|-------------|
| Balance on hand November 1, 1941                  | \$ 9,470.17 |
| Gift of Most Rev. Bishop O'Hara                   | 10,000.00   |
| Return of checks by one editor and on reviser     | 225.00      |
| Dues and subscriptions                            | 3,165.83    |
| Royalty (Wm. H. Sadlier on Gospel & Epistle Book) | 1,269.96    |
| Bank interest                                     | 239.69      |
| Bank credit                                       | .54         |
|   | \$24,371.19 |

## EXPENDITURES

|  |          |             |
|--|----------|-------------|
| Reimbursement to N.T. revisers and editors | 2,280.66 |             |
| Abbey Press                                | 1,245.80 |             |
| Secretary                                  | 409.68   |             |
| One Volume Commentary                      | 225.49   |             |
| Visual Aid Committee                       | 201.81   |             |
| Articles contributed to C.B.Q.             | 195.50   |             |
| Committee on Expansion of Membership       | 54.20    |             |
| Treasurer                                  | 38.14    |             |
| Travelling expenses for Editors of C.B.Q.  | 25.75    |             |
| Books for Review                           | 14.31    |             |
| Returned check                             | 5.00     |             |
| Recording Secretary                        | 2.50     |             |
| Loss on Foreign Exchange                   | 2.29     |             |
|  |          | 4,701.13    |
| <i>Balance</i>                             |          | \$19,670.06 |

## DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

|   |          |             |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Dimes Savings Bank                            | 5,026.45 |             |
| Bushwick Savings Bank                         | 5,460.46 |             |
| Bushwick Savings Bank (Publications Division) | 5,025.00 |             |
| Defense Bonds                                 | 2,220.00 |             |
| First National Bank & Trust Co. (Huntington)  | 1,926.39 |             |
| Cash on hand                                  | 11.76    |             |
|   |          | \$19,670.06 |

In his report on *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* Father Gruenthaner stated that he wrote to the active members of the Association last February requesting that they submit articles. He expressed the urgent need that exists for more contributions. It is necessary to receive a greater number of articles annually if a high standard is to be maintained, and he called upon all the active members to give serious thought to this need. Eleven volunteered to contribute papers on Biblical Theology.

In reporting for the *Committee on Enlargement of Resources* Father Steinmueller observed that there are three possible ways to increase the resources of the Association, namely, increase in membership, expansion in the field of publication, and contributions. In connection with the second way he suggested the publication of pamphlets on biblical questions, since this field is not adequately covered by the published pamphlets treating of Catholic Doctrine. It was decided after discussion that the Committee on Enlargement of Resources should consider the ways and means of effectuating such a project.

Father Stapleton reported for the *Committee on Membership*. He told of the success he has had in the diocese of Boston in procuring

membership among the parochial clergy, and encouraged others to advertise membership in their localities. It was suggested that the Quarterly be sold at two dollars to seminarians who are not members of the Association. This plan received the approval of the general body.

The Report of the *Committee on the One-Volume Commentary* was submitted by Monsignor Newton. He declared that it was the constant urging of Bishop O'Hara that stimulated the editorial board to the completion of the work. It was only by the greatest cooperation of all concerned that the commentary was completed at this early date. Monsignor Newton was particularly grateful for the spirit of cooperation manifested by the authors of the commentaries, especially in view of the fact that their work at times suffered great reducing in order to fit the restrictions imposed by a one-volume commentary. The finest cooperation was also given by the publishers, W. H. Sadlier Inc.; it was necessary for them to work through the clock on two occasions in order to meet the deadline. The great task now is that of distribution. In this regard the cooperation of the Holy Name Federation is assured. The Federation hopes to distribute 100,000 copies within the next year. Father Steinmueller was appointed chairman of the Committee on Distribution.

In the report on the progress of the *Scientific Commentaries* it was announced that fourteen members have already accepted books. It is hoped that the first will be ready in three or four years, and that the commentaries will appear thereafter at the rate of one or two volumes a year.

The *Visual Aids Committee* reported the expenditure of some \$200 during the past year. For this two projectors and two sets of slides on Jerusalem were bought. This is the first part of a projected lending library of slides on the Bible Lands. Father Hartdegen reported that several members have borrowed the equipment and that it is working out to the satisfaction of all. He also announced that members may buy a copy of the Jerusalem lecture at a reasonable rate if a sufficient number order it.

The following were elected Active Members of the Association upon the recommendation of the *Committee on Credentials*:

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Barnabas Ahern, C.P.    | Rev. Lucien Ouellette             |
| Rev. F. J. Crump, O.M.I.     | Rev. Sebastiano Pagano, O.M.I.    |
| Rev. George Denzer           | Rev. Theodore Peterson, C.S.P.    |
| Rev. Lucien Dozois, O.M.I.   | Rev. John A. Rodutsky             |
| Rev. William Kenneally, C.M. | Rev. Dominic Unger, O.F.M.Cap.    |
| Rev. Joseph Magee, S.M.      | Rev. Bernard Vogler, S.M.         |
| Rev. Thomas F. Markham       | Rev. Claude Zens                  |
| Rev. John Murphy, C.S.C.     | Rev. Damien Zimmerman, O.F.M.Cap. |

Under *Old and New Business* the first discussion was concerning the place of the next annual meeting. Father Poulet expressed on behalf of the Archbishop of Ottawa the kind invitation to hold the seventh general meeting of the Association in Ottawa. He said that the Rector of the University desired to put at our disposal the new Seminary of the University. Since next year is the fiftieth anniversary of *Providentissimus Deus*, Father Poulet thought it would be fitting to hold the meeting at a Pontifical University. This suggestion was heartily accepted by the general body, and, conditions permitting, we shall meet in Ottawa in 1943.

It was further suggested that the Catholic Biblical Association mark in a special manner the anniversary of the encyclical of Leo XIII, and a committee was named to prepare this commemoration.

Father Donzé reported that the executive committee had discussed the setting up of a research center in Washington. This place seemed most favorable since large libraries are so accessible. Father Plassmann then told that after consulting Bishop O'Hara he was ready to interview the Rector of the University, but the untimely death of Bishop Corrigan precluded it. Father Donzé suggested that the Executive Board be authorized to draw up a plan to be submitted to the Catholic University. This plan is to be presented at the next general meeting.

Father Steinmueller suggested that the Association take under advisement an affiliation with the National Catholic Educational Association. This was discussed and the motion was made and seconded that the new officers of the Association undertake to work out terms for such an affiliation, the terms to be submitted to the next general meeting for approval.

The officers of the Catholic Biblical Association for the year 1942-43:

President: Rev. Donat Poulet, O.M.I.  
 Vice-President: Very Rev. John B. Scheper  
 General Secretary: Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M.  
 Asst. Gen. Sec.: Rev. Richard T. Murphy, O.P.  
 Recording Secretary: Rev. Richard Kugelman, C.P.  
 Treasurer: Rev. John E. Steinmueller

#### *Committees*

Elected to the Editorial Board of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Rev. Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R.  
 Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M.  
 Rev. John J. Dougherty  
 Rev. Cyril Gaul, O.S.B.

## On Nominations

Rev. Richard J. Dobell, Chairman  
 Rev. Kevin Smyth, O.F.M.Cap.  
 Rev. Edward J. Byrne  
 Rev. Charles O'Connor Sloane

## On Scientific Commentaries

Rev. Edward H. Donzé, S.M., Chairman  
 Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M.  
 Rev. Richard J. Dobell  
 Rev. Matthew P. Stapleton  
 Rev. J. S. Considine, O.P.

## On Distribution of One-Volume Commentary

Rev. John E. Steinmueller  
 Rev. Richard J. Dobell  
 Rev. Cyril Gaul, O.S.B.

On the Commemoration of *Providentissimus Deus*

Rev. John J. Collins, S.J.  
 Rev. Elmer McNamara  
 Rev. John G. Hanley  
 Rev. Charles G. Heupler, O.F.M.Cap.

Both sessions on Wednesday, September 2 were devoted to discussions on problems presented by the work of revising the Old Testament, and the specific problems of the editorial board. Monsignor Newton reviewed the history of the undertaking. His report will appear in the April issue. The principles of revision are clear and definite; it is the application of general principles to particular cases that calls for judgment. The discussion of specific cases resulted in certain definite decisions. It was also pointed out that some of the revisers have not been employing the principles to full advantage. Father Skehan presented definite problems from the editorial viewpoint, and these were discussed at length.

In his presidential address at the conclusion of the sessions Father Plassmann made an eloquent and stirring appeal for the establishment of the Scriptures in the place of honor they deserve. When men strive to make theology practical and vital they must go to the Sacred Scriptures for in them is the *theologia salutaris*. He emphasized that the Bible is the textbook for a true theological synthesis. His address appears in this number of *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given in the Seminary Chapel, and the closing event of the meeting was dinner at the Seminary, at which Bishop McFadden presided.

JOHN J. DOUGHERTY  
*Recording Secretary*