

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

The seventh general meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held on August 22-23, 1944, under the patronage of the Most Rev. John F. Noll, D.D., Bishop of Fort Wayne, in an environment conducive to scholarly discussion, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana. In making St. Mary's College the headquarters of this meeting the Association was honoring that celebrated institution on the centenary of its foundation. The members of the Association, who had the privilege of attending this meeting, will always cherish a kindly affection for the Sisters of the Holy Cross because of their generous hospitality and exquisite courtesy.

The Program Committee prepared an interesting and provocative program of papers and discussions. This committee was made up of the following officers of the Association: Very Rev. Donat Poulet, O.M.I., President; Rev. Edward P. Arbez, S.S., Consultor; Right Rev. William L. Newton, Consultor; Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M., General Secretary; Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., Editor-in-Chief of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly.

Dr. William Foxwell Albright, the celebrated archaeologist of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., was the distinguished guest of the Association at this meeting.

The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Kansas City, showed his unflagging interest in the work of the Association by attending all the sessions. The Most Rev. James Kearney, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, N.Y., honored the Association by attending the sessions of the second day. The Association was also honored by the attendance of the Very Rev. J. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C., the distinguished President of Notre Dame University.

The following Active Members were in attendance:

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| Ahern, Rev. Barnabas, C.P. | Gaul, Rev. Cyril, O.S.B. |
| Arbez, Rev. Edward P., S.S. | Gruenthaner, Rev. Michael J., S.J. |
| Bourke, Rev. Myles M. | Guyot, Rev. Gilmore H., C.M. |
| Brunet, Rev. Achille, S.J. | Halas, Rev. Roman, O.F.M. |
| Coleran, Rev. James E., S.J. | Hanley, Rev. John G. |
| Cotter, Rev. Anthony C., S.J. | Hartdegen, Rev. Stephen, O.F.M. |
| Considine, Rev. J. S., O.P. | Hartman, Rev. Louis, C.Ss.R. |
| Cummins, Rev. Patrick, O.S.B. | Heupler, Rev. Charles, O.F.M. Cap. |
| Crump, Rev. Francis J., O.M.I. | Hodous, Rev. Edward J., S.J. |
| DeGuglielmo, Rev. Antonine, O.F.M. | Kenneally, Rev. William J., C.M. |
| Dobell, Rev. Richard J. | Kleist, Rev. James A., S.J. |
| Donzé, Rev. Edward H., S.M. | Kronlage, Rev. Camillus, C.P. |
| Duffy, Rev. Walter, O.M.C. | Kugelman, Rev. Richard, C.P. |
| Gaspar, Rev. Joseph, M.S.C. | Lambert, Rev. Jacques H., S.M. |

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| Lilly, Rev. Joseph L., C.M. | Pickar, Rev. Charles H., O.S.A. |
| Louis, Rev. Conrad, O.S.B. | Plassmann, Rev. Thomas, O.F.M. |
| McEvoy, Rev. John A., S.J. | Poirier, Rev. Leandre, O.F.M. |
| McClellan, Rev. William H., S.J. | Poulet, Rev. Donat, O.M.I. |
| McGlinchey, Rev. James M., C.M. | Quigley, Rev. Owen, C.M. |
| McKenzie, Rev. John L., S.J. | Reilly, Rev. Wendell, S.S. |
| Martin, Rev. Daniel W., C.M. | Seraphin, Rev. Eugene, O.F.M. |
| Murphy, Rev. John H., C.S.C. | Siegman, Rev. Edward F., C.P.P.S. |
| Murphy, Rev. Richard, O.P. | Sloane, Rev. Charles, O'C. |
| Murray, Rev. John J. | Smyth, Rev. Kevin, O.F.M.Cap. |
| Newton, Rt. Rev. William L. | Stapleton, Rev. Matthew |
| O'Callaghan, Rev. Roger T., S.J. | Steinmueller, Rev. John E. |
| Ouellette, Rev. Lucien, C.S.V. | Taggart, Rev. Sylvester, C.M. |
| Olinger, Rev. Eberhard, O.S.B. | Temple, Rev. Patrick J. |

On Monday evening, August 21, at 7:30 P M., there was a meeting of the Executive Board of the Association. On Tuesday at 9:00 A.M., the seventh general meeting was officially opened with the celebration of Holy Mass in the College Chapel. The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., was celebrant. He was assisted by the Very Rev. Donat Poulet, O.M.I., President of the Association, and the Very Rev. Matthew Schumacher, C.S.C., Chaplain of St. Mary's College. At 10:00 A.M., the first session began. All the sessions were held in the spacious reading room of the college library. After a few words of welcome addressed to the attending members and our distinguished guests by the Very Rev. Donat Poulet, President, the session got under way. Fr. Cyril Gaul, O.S.B., read a very provocative paper titled, "Let Us Put Our Active Members to Work." He pointed out that the Association has an "unemployment problem." Only forty-one percent of our active membership has engaged in the various works of the Association: Revision of the Old and the New Testament, writing articles for the Quarterly. He called on the active members to interest themselves particularly in the dissemination of biblical knowledge among the parochial clergy and the laity. Among other things he suggested lectures on biblical subjects to study-clubs and the contribution of articles on Sacred Scripture to the diocesan papers. After an interesting discussion of Fr. Gaul's proposals the Chairman called on Fr. Plassmann, O.F.M., to deliver the second paper of the morning session. Fr. Plassmann had chosen a very timely and practical subject: "What the Association Can Do to Train Biblical Scholars." He proposed that the Association institute one or two scholarships of five hundred dollars a year for five years to enable qualified active members to pursue special studies at the biblical schools in Rome and Jerusalem. Those who received these scholarships would be expected to obtain the doctorate in Sacred Scripture. A committee should be appointed by the Association to determine the conditions for the

granting of the scholarships. A lively discussion followed Fr. Plassmann's paper. It was decided to take action on his proposal at the Business meeting to be held in the afternoon.

The first afternoon session, 2:00-3:30 P.M., was given over to a lecture by our distinguished guest, the eminent archaeologist, Dr. William Foxwell Albright. All present were enthralled by his very interesting and scholarly discussion on the relation between the Canaanite language and biblical Hebrew. Dr. Albright's paper will be published in the Quarterly. Fr. Poulet expressed to Dr. Albright the sincere appreciation of the Association for his scholarly lecture.

The business meeting followed Prof. Albright's lecture. Fr. Poulet requested that the General Secretary, Fr. Lilly, act as chairman of this meeting. The request was approved and Fr. Lilly graciously acquiesced.

Report of the General Secretary: Fr. Lilly stated that in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last general meeting held in Cleveland, the officers of the Association had contacted the National Catholic Educational Association with a view to affiliation with that body. The negotiations were still continuing.

To assure the proper observance of Biblical Sunday the General Secretary suggested that a sermon outline be prepared every year and sent in good time to all the parochial clergy. A motion was so formulated, seconded, and passed.

In reporting for the *Committee on Membership* Fr. Stapleton told of his campaign to enlist the interest of non-Catholic scholars in the Quarterly. He suggested that the Active Members endeavor to obtain subscriptions to the Quarterly from institutional and local libraries. At present there are seven hundred and thirty-three subscribers to the Quarterly.

Fr. Stapleton also reported for the *Committee on the Revision of the New Testament Commentary*. The first printing of the Commentary has been exhausted. A second printing will be ready in the very near future. So well had the original work been done that only a few minor changes were called for in this second printing.

Fr. Hartdegen reported for the *Committee on Visual Aids*. During the past year the Association's library of lantern slides was greatly augmented by the gift of Rev. F. Keenan's collection of 815 slides. These slides are now being reduced to the convenient size 2 x 3 and will soon be ready for the use of the Active Members. A printed catalogue, "Lantern Slides of Bible Lands," has been prepared and sent to all the Active Members.

In his report on *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* Fr. Gruenthaner stated that he had under consideration the inauguration of several series of articles, similar to the present series on the Gospels for Feast

Days. Thus he hopes to obtain contributions by direct request. He appealed for more contributions and urged that a greater use be made of the Correspondence department.

Fr. Steinmueller submitted the Financial Report for the past year.

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

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| Rev. Myles Bourke | Rev. Francis Pansini, C.M. |
| Rev. Philip J. Donnelly, S.J. | Rev. Walter H. Peters |
| Rev. Walter Galus, C.R. | Rev. Leandre Poirier, O.F.M. |
| Rev. Joseph Gaspar, M.S.C. | Rev. Owen Quigley, C.M. |
| Rev. Roman Halas, O.F.M. | Rev. Daniel Saunders, S.J. |
| Rev. James A. Kleist, S.J. | Rev. George M. Sauvage, C.S.C. |
| Rev. Conrad Louis, O.S.B. | Rev. Sylvester Taggart, C.M. |
| Rev. Roger O'Callaghan, S.J. | Rev. George Wolz |

Under *Old and New Business* the first matter proposed for discussion was the suggestions outlined by Fr. Gaul in his paper "*Scrutamini Scripturas*—Let us Put Our Active Members to Work." Fr. Hartdegen made a motion that the Executive Committee be instructed to appoint a *Committee on the Diffusion of Biblical Knowledge*. The motion was seconded and passed.

Fr. Plassman's recommendation concerning the institution of scholarships to train biblical specialists was then offered for discussion. Msgr. Newton made a motion that the Association institute a scholarship of \$500 annually for five years; also that the Executive Committee be empowered to appoint a Committee to determine the conditions of this scholarship and to administer it. The motion was seconded by Fr. Hartman and passed without dissent.

A proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution had been submitted in good time to all the Active Members to be voted on at this meeting. After discussion a vote was taken and by unanimous assent the following amendment was made to Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution: "The officers here named,—except the Consultors, who shall be appointed by the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for a term of two years,—shall be elected at the general meeting, which ordinarily shall be held annually, and their term of office shall extend from one general meeting to the next." Since this amendment necessitates a change in the wording of By-Laws 7b, a motion was adopted instructing the Executive Committee to change By-Law 7b to conform with the amendment.

It was decided to hold the next general meeting in New York City or vicinity. The Executive Committee will appoint a local Committee (of New York members) to determine upon a suitable place for this meeting.

Fr. Plassmann moved that Dr. William Foxwell Albright be named an honorary Associate Life-Member of the Catholic Biblical Associa-

tion of America. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Following the report of the *Committee on Nominations* presented by Fr. Dobell, the following members were elected to office:

President: Rev. William McClellan, S.J.

Vice President: Rev. John G. Hanley

General Secretary: Rev. Joseph Lilly, C.M.

Asst. Gen. Sec.: Rev. Dominic Unger, O.F.M.Cap.

Recording Secretary: Rev. Edward Siegman, C.P.P.S.

Treasurer: Rev. John E. Steinmueller.

Elected to the Committee on Nominations: Rev. Richard Murphy, O.P.; Rev. Achille Brunet, S.J.

Appointed Consultors for a two-year term: Rev. Wendell Reilly, S.S.; Rt. Rev. Henry Grimmelsmann.

Elected to the Editorial Board of *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*: Rev. Gilmore H. Guyot, C.M.; Rev. Edward Cerny, S.S.

Appointed to the Committee on the Diffusion of Biblical Knowledge: Rev. Cyril Gaul, O.S.B., Chairman; Rev. William Kenneally, C.M.; Rev. John G. Hanley.

The morning session of Wednesday, August 23, were devoted to two papers and discussion on the recent Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father, *Divino Aflante Spiritu*. Fr. Barnabas Ahern, C.P., read a paper on the first part of the Encyclical; Fr. William Kenneally, C.M., on the second part. Both papers were received with great interest and provoked spirited discussion.

The Address of the President, followed the discussion of Fr. Kenneally's paper. Fr. Poulet called attention to the growing Jewish attacks on the fundamentals of the Christian Religion as evidenced in the recent books of Klausner, Asch, and Zeitlin. Such attacks will unfortunately strengthen that movement so contrary to Christian charity, anti-Semitism.

At Luncheon Fr. Poulet asked for a few words from Bishop O'Hara, Bishop Kearney and Sister M. Madeleva, C.S.C., the distinguished President of St. Mary's College and the very gracious host of this seventh general meeting. Bishop O'Hara read a letter he had received for the Association from His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate. This letter has been published in the Quarterly. The Bishop also read a letter from Bishop Noll of Fort Wayne, expressing his regret at his inability to attend our meeting and warmly welcoming us to his diocese.

The final session of this seventh general meeting was devoted to two very scholarly papers; one on "Orphism and the New Testament" by Fr. Murphy, O.P., the other on "New Theories on Ezechiel" by Fr. Gruenthaner, S.J.

At 4:00 P.M. this very successful seventh general meeting was brought to a close with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament given in the college chapel by Bishop O'Hara assisted by Fr. Richard Murphy, O.P., and Fr. Charles Heupler, O.F.M.Cap.

RICHARD KUGELMAN, C.P.
RECORDING SECRETARY

QUERIES

THE ENUMERATION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

QUESTION: Recently I was reading a magazine article, apparently written by a non-Catholic, in which sexual immorality was repeatedly referred to as a violation of the "Seventh Commandment," whereas we Catholics always speak of such sins as violations of the "Sixth Commandment." I would like to know if there is any scriptural basis for this difference in the enumeration of the Ten Commandments.

ANSWER: The mere manner in which the Ten Commandments are counted has no direct bearing on their practical interpretation and application, and therefore does not concern Catholic faith and morals. However, the question proposed seems to be of sufficient historical interest to warrant some discussion.

It is certain that the basic code of morality which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai must be considered as made up of *ten* distinct commandments, for in three passages (Ex. 34:28; Deut. 4:13; 10:4) Moses calls it "the ten words," or, as we may perhaps translate this Hebrew phrase more freely, "the ten sentences."¹ In two of these passages the Greek translators of the Bible (the LXX) render this phrase as "the *deka logoi*"; from this Greek phrase is derived our English expression, "the Decalogue," which we use as a synonym for "the Ten Commandments."

The relative order of the various precepts of the original Mosaic Decalogue may be considered as certain beyond any serious doubt, for almost all the manuscripts, both of the original Hebrew text and

¹ The use of this term to describe the Ten Commandments adds weight to the probable opinion that the Decalogue, as inscribed on the two tablets of stone, was made of *pithy* precepts, on the style of "Thou shalt not kill," for all of the Ten Commandments. In their present form, as contained in the Pentateuch, several of the Commandments have probably been enlarged with explanatory and exhortatory phrases, added either by Moses himself or by some later writer who recorded the Mosaic traditions. The question as to how these ten pithy sayings were distributed on the *two* tablets of stone is purely theoretic, the Bible itself giving us no information on this matter. In any case, any pictorial attempt to represent the two tablets as they really appeared is bound to fail, because both tablets were inscribed on both sides, front and back (cfr. Ex. 32:15).