

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

WALTER DUFFY

The eighth general meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held on August 22-23, 1945, at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, New York City, under the patronage of the Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York. The members of the Association were the guests of the Religious of the Sacred Heart who spared neither time nor effort to make the meeting a great success. All the facilities of their beautiful college were placed at the disposal of the members with the result that the meeting provided not only intellectual stimulation but relaxation as well. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Nelson, the Revs. John E. Steinmueller, Charles O'C. Sloane, and Myles Bourke, who comprised the Committee on Local Arrangements, merit the appreciation and gratitude of all those who were privileged to attend.

The Program Committee selected a series of timely papers and discussions which were expertly presented and well received. The following officers of the Association were members of the Program Committee: Rev. William H. McClellan, S.J., President; Most Rev. Henry Grimmelsman, Bishop of Evansville, Indiana, Consultor; Rev. Wendell S. Reilly, S.S., Consultor; Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M., Secretary; Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., Editor-in-Chief of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Kansas City, attended all the sessions of the meeting and took an active part in the public session on Wednesday afternoon.

The following Active Members were in attendance:

Ahern, Rev. Barnabas, C.P.	Duffy, Rev. Walter, O.F.M.Conv.
Arbez, Rev. Edward P., S.S.	Dwyer, Rev. John, S.J.
Barry, Rev. William T.	Fischer, Rev. James, C.M.
Bourke, Rev. Myles M.	Gaspar, Rev. Joseph, M.S.C.
Brunet, Rev. Achille, S.J.	Gaul, Rev. Cyril, O.S.B.
Callan, Rev. Charles J., O.P.	Gruenthaner, Rev. Michael, S.J.
Cerny, Rev. Edward A., S.S.	Guyot, Rev. Gilmore H., C.M.
Christopher, Rev. Joseph P.	Hanley, Rev. John G.
Coleran, Rev. James E., S.J.	Hartdegen, Rev. Stephen, O.F.M.
Collins, Rev. John J., S.J.	Hartman, Rev. Louis, C.S.S.R.
Cummins, Rev. Patrick, O.S.B.	Heidt, Rev. William, O.S.B.
Cotter, Rev. Anthony C., S.J.	Heupler, Rev. Charles, O.F.M.Cap.
De Guglielmo, Rev. Antoine, O.F.M.	Kenneally, Rev. William J., C.M.
Denzer, Rev. George A.	Kennedy, Rev. Mark, O.F.M.
Dobell, Rev. Richard J.	Kugelman, Rev. Richard, C.P.
Donovan, Rev. Victor, C.P.	Lambert, Rev. Jacques H., S.M.
Dougherty, Rev. John J.	LeHoullier, Rev. Alban, O.M.I.
Dozois, Rev. Lucien, O.M.I.	Lilly, Rev. Joseph L., C.M.

McConnell, Rev. John F., M.M.	Plassmann, Rev. Thomas, O.F.M.
McEvoy, Rev. John A., S.J.	Poirier, Rev. Leandre, O.F.M.
McGinley, Rev. Laurence J., S.J.	Poulet, Rev. Donat, O.M.I.
McGlinchey, Rev. James M., C.M.	Rehwinkel, Rev. Christopher, O.F.M.
McHugh, Rev. John A., O.P.	Rooney, Rev. Gerard P., C.P.
McKenzie, Rev. John L., S.J.	Rowan, Rev. John F.
Magee, Rev. Joseph N., S.M.	Seraphin, Rev. Eugene, O.F.M.
Mangan, Rev. Edward A., C.S.S.R.	Skehan, Rev. Patrick W.
Martin, Rev. Daniel W., C.M.	Sloane, Rev. Charles O'Conor
Melanson, Rev. Raymond	Stapleton, Rev. Matthew P.
Moore, Rev. John J., S.M.	Steinmueller, Rev. John E.
Murphy, Rev. Richard T., O.P.	Sullivan, Rev. F.
O'Beirne, Rev. William M., O.P.	Sullivan, Rev. Thomas, C.P.
Olinger, Rev. Eberhard, O.S.B.	Taggart, Rev. Sylvester, C.M.I.
Ouellette, Rev. Lucien, C.S.V.	Temple, Rev. Patrick J.
Pickar, Rev. Charles, O.S.A.	Yungfleisch, Rev. Simon, C.P.

On Tuesday evening, August 21st, there was a meeting of the Executive Board of the Association. The eighth general meeting was opened officially on Wednesday morning with a Mass in the college chapel. The celebrant was the Most Rev. J. Francis McIntyre, D.D., V.G., Auxiliary Bishop of New York, who later expressed his regrets that pressing business prevented his attending the deliberations. At 10:30 the first session was held in the Blue Room of Founders' Hall and the Rev. John G. Hanley, vice-president of the Association, welcomed the members in the name of the Rev. William H. McClellan, S.J., the Association's President, who was unable to attend the meeting. Following the address of welcome, the Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M., read the first paper on "The Original Order of the Fourth Gospel." Fr. Lilly discussed the recent work on this subject by F. R. Hoare, in which that author proposes the hypothesis that the pages of St. John's original autograph were accidentally disarranged and later incorrectly reassembled, thereby resulting in the supposed dislocation which exists at present. Fr. Lilly characterized Hoare's hypothesis as an "attractive theory" but one which rested on premises neither demonstrated nor demonstrable. From the discussion which followed, it was clear that the members subscribed to the conclusion reached by Fr. Lilly. Rev. John E. Steinmueller followed with a paper entitled, "Genesis and the Antiquity of Man." He reviewed the findings of science and traced the evidences of human life and culture from the historical period back into the proto-historical and prehistorical times. He concluded that there was no evidence in the Bible which would enable one to fix definitely the age of man, and that the conservative results of scientific research can be accepted without compromise to the text.

The second session of the general meeting, which was open to the public because of the general interest in the questions discussed, was held in Pius X Hall, on the campus of Manhattanville College. Bishop Joseph Donahue, D.D., V.G., Auxiliary Bishop of New York, presided at this session and in the name of Archbishop Spellman, extended to the members and guests a

cordial welcome to New York. Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City then spoke on "Confraternity and Biblical Work in South America," based on information he gathered during his recent visit south of the border. Following Bishop O'Hara's talk, the Rev. H. Kramer, C.P.P.S., read a paper on "The Knox Version of the New Testament" which was prepared by the Rev. Edward Siegman, C.P.P.S., who was unable to attend. Fr. Siegman recommended the Knox Version for its mastery of style and language and supported his position by copious citations and comparisons with other English Versions. In the third talk, entitled "The New Latin Version of the Psalms," the Rev. Patrick W. Skehan sketched briefly the history of the new Psalter which is the work of the faculty of the Biblical Institute in Rome. Fr. Skehan emphasized the official character of the new translation, its superiority over the present Latin version and declared that it would be introduced into the Breviary in the near future.

Following the public session, the members of the Biblical Association were the dinner guests of the Rector and Faculty of Dunwoodie Seminary at Yonkers, N. Y. In the evening, there was a meeting of the Editors and Translators of the Old Testament with the Rev. Edward P. Arbez, S.S., presiding. The Rev. Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M., Secretary of the Editorial Board, reviewed the work which has thus far been completed. The first draft of twenty-six books of the Old Testament has been submitted. These are now in the hands of the editors, and when completed, they will be sent to the General Editorial Board for final revision and approval. No date has been set for the completion and publication of the Old Testament but Fr. Arbez expressed the hope that the Book of Genesis would be available in the new translation within a year.

The third plenary session of the Association meeting was highlighted by a panel discussion on "How to teach the Gospels." The discussion was under the supervision of Fr. Lilly and was led by the Revs. John E. Steinmueller, John J. Dougherty, Richard Dobell, and William Kenneally, C.M. The discussion leaders treated the following aspects of Gospel teaching: Special Introduction to the Gospels, Classroom Procedure, Texts to be Used, Method of Presentation.

At the Luncheon Meeting in the College Dining Room, Bishop O'Hara, Fr. Hanley and Mother Benziger, R.S.C.J., spoke briefly to the members of the Association. In the afternoon, the fourth and final session of the general meeting was held. The Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., read a paper on "The Annunciation" written by the Rev. James A. Kleist, S.J. Following Fr. Kleist's rather original interpretation of Luke I, the Business Meeting was opened and the reports of the Committees were submitted and approved. *Report of the General Secretary:*

Fr. Lilly opened his report by reading a letter from Fr. McClellan, President of the Catholic Biblical Association. Because his health did not warrant it, Fr. McClellan asked to be excused from taking active part in this year's general meeting. Fr. Lilly read his reply to Fr. McClellan in which

he expressed his sympathetic understanding and voiced his own and the Association's best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

The General Secretary officially announced the result of the Biblical Scholarship examination which was held at Catholic University last June 6-8. Eight priests took the examination, five from the United States and three from Canada. The winning candidate, by the unanimous agreement of the judges, was the Rev. Robert G. North, S.J., of St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Kansas. Because of prevailing conditions, Fr. North will not go this year to the Biblical Institute but plans on starting in the fall of 1946.

Fr. Lilly reported the Association's efforts to continue and to improve the observance of Biblical Sunday. To this end, a letter urging observance was sent to all parochial priests, rectors of colleges, schools and seminaries. Included with the letter was an outline for a sermon commemorating Biblical Sunday, excerpts from the Papal Encyclicals on Sacred Scripture, and suggested daily Lenten readings from the New Testament.

The interesting details connected with the appearance of the new Psalter in this country were also supplied by Fr. Lilly. When he heard it had been published in Rome, Fr. Lilly wrote to the Apostolic Delegate, requesting a copy. The Delegate forwarded the request to Rome, and three copies of the Psalter arrived in America in the diplomatic pouch addressed to the Apostolic Delegation in Washington. These were the first copies of the Psalter to appear in the United States. The text is being reproduced in America by Benziger Brothers and is now available to the general public in quantity.

Upon the recommendation of the *Committee on Credentials*, the following were elected to Active Membership in the Biblical Association:

Rev. James Fisher, C.M.	Rev. Raymond Melanson, C.S.J.
Rev. Emile J. Goosens	Rev. Francis Rossiter
Rev. John P. Maher, O.S.A.	Rev. Hilary Sweeney, C.P.

Fr. Steinmueller submitted the *Treasurer's Report* and the financial statement for the year ending August 1945.

Committee on Membership:

Fr. Mangan reported that membership in the Association is on the increase. There are at present 865 subscribers to the *Biblical Quarterly*. To obtain additional subscriptions, Fr. Mangan recommended personal contact as the means which brings best results. He suggested further that the Association make contact with Catholic colleges, non-Catholic seminaries and other institutions of learning to insure wider distribution of the *Biblical Quarterly*.

Committee on Diffusion of Biblical Knowledge:

Fr. Cyril Gaul divided his report into "facta" and "facienda." Under "facta" he listed the following work undertaken:

1. The Committee sent a letter to the Catholic papers and periodicals of the United States asking for editorial comment on the Association's program for Biblical Sunday and urging that space be allotted to "Suggestions for Lenten Readings."

2. A rather extensive questionnaire was sent to 185 Active Members of the Association. In return the Committee received many timely and helpful suggestions for the furtherance of its work.

3. Fifty seminaries were invited to participate in an inter-seminary project in the form of a contest on a series of topics in the field of General Introduction. Sixteen seminaries participated with a total of 150 papers selected. The ten best are to be published in the September number of *St. Meinrad Historical Essays*, which sponsored the project.

4. Following the splendid example of the Canadian Register, there is in preparation a series of articles for the *Denver Register*, another for *Our Sunday Visitor*. *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review* will soon commence the publication of a series of sermons by Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B., on Holy Scripture.

5. Study Groups for Priests. Father Kenneally, a member of the Committee on Diffusion of Biblical Knowledge, has inaugurated this work with a promise of great success in the Archdiocese of Denver. Monsignor Newton has been engaged in like manner for some time in the diocese of Cleveland. Under the direction of Rev. John C. Roger, S.T.D., of Evansville, Indiana, an enthusiastic group of twelve priests holds regular monthly meetings for Scripture discussion. Monsignor Mungovan, Vicar-general of the diocese of Fort Wayne, promises to introduce a Scripture topic for the theme of one of the two conferences at the monthly day of recollection for the priests of that diocese. A group of seminarians at St. Meinrad have had interesting discussions on scriptural subjects, and they have submitted a program for a Seminary Discussion Club to the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade.

Under the heading of "facienda," Fr. Gaul outlined the plans of his committee and made the following suggestions:

1. That a separate committee be appointed to study the possibility of inaugurating a Bible School or Institute for Scripture Professors, of one, two or three weeks' duration, to commence, if possible, next summer.

2. That a special committee be appointed to further interest and participation in the field of Priests' Study Groups in Sacred Scripture.

3. That each member take an active part in speaking, writing, or similar projects to spread wider knowledge of and love for Sacred Scripture.

Fr. Gaul concluded by announcing that his committee has already taken up the following points and is ready to act upon them:

(a) A questionnaire will be sent to colleges and high schools on the extent of Bible study in these institutions.

(b) A series of articles on Holy Scripture for publication in the secular press is already in preparation.

(c) It will be proposed to give greater prominence to Holy Scripture at

the annual, national, and regional meetings of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Catholic Educational Association.

(d) Early action will be taken to publish the separate books of the New Testament in pamphlet form.

(e) The inter-seminary project will be continued in some form.

Committee on Visual Aids:

Fr. Hartdegen reported the progress made by this committee to date. A complete catalogue of the slides on hand is now available. Within the past year, 500 additional slides have been reduced to 35 mm. and reproduced in color. Fr. Hartdegen suggested that another complete set of slides be made at a cost of approximately \$100.00. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and passed. Fr. Kenneally announced that there was an excellent possibility of having motion pictures made in the Holy Land and placed at the disposal of the Association. This would in no way affect the slide library, because each method of presentation has its own advantages. After his report, Fr. Hartdegen tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Visual Aids Committee, explaining that his position as Secretary of the Board for Old Testament Revision was making ever-increasing demands on his time. His resignation was accepted, and the Rev. Charles Pickar, O.S.A., was elected to the office.

Under the heading of *New Business*, Fr. Lilly suggested that a new Chairman be appointed to the Committee on Scientific Commentaries, to succeed Fr. Donzé, whose parochial duties prevent him from serving longer in this capacity. The selection of the new chairman was left to the Executive Board. Fr. Lilly also announced the need of clarification in the Constitution's ruling on Associate Membership. This action, together with the selection of a time and place for the next general meeting, was left to the Executive Board. Fr. Gruenthaner appealed for additional articles for the *BIBLICAL QUARTERLY* and after a suggestion by Fr. Lilly, promised to send to the members a list of suggested titles to aid them in the selection and preparation of articles. In accordance with the suggestions made by Fr. Gaul in his report, two new committees were appointed: *Committee to Study Possibility of Inaugurating a Summer Bible Institute*—Rev. Matthew P. Stapleton, Rev. Walter Duffy, O.F.M.Conv., Rev. Conrad Louis, O.S.B. *Committee for Furtherance of Priests' Study Groups*—Rev. William J. Kenneally, C.M., Rev. George A. Denzer, Rev. Daniel Martin, C.M.

Father Richard Murphy made the report of the *Committee on Nominations*, following which these officers were elected:

President: Rev. Matthew Stapleton

Vice-President: Rev. Cyril Gaul, O.S.B.

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

Assistant General Secretary: Rev. Dominic Unger, O.F.M.Cap.

Recording Secretary: Rev. George A. Denzer

Treasurer: Rev. John E. Steinmueller.

Elected to the Committee on Nominations: Rev. Barnabas Ahern, C.P., and the Rev. Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R.

After the Committee Reports, Fr. John G. Hanley delivered the Presidential Address. He reviewed the work of the Association during its ten year existence and emphasized the growing popularity of the Confraternity publications. As an incentive to greater progress and success, Fr. Hanley reminded the members that they must not be satisfied with the results already obtained but must ever seek new ways and means to make the Word of God better known and loved in the hearts of men.

The eighth general meeting closed with Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the College Chapel.

NOTICE

The Catholic Biblical Association is able to supply complete files of the back numbers of the *QUARTERLY* from the beginning. There is no advance in price for the earlier volumes. The price is \$4.00 per volume unbound.

The Association also has on hand a complete set bound in black buckram, recently acquired from the estate of a deceased member. This is offered complete for \$33.50. It includes Vols. I-VI, 1939-1944, also the proceedings of the St. Louis meeting and the various prospectuses issued to date.

Apply to: Catholic Biblical Association, Washington-17, D. C.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Owing to an unfortunate mishap, Fr. Wuenschel could not present the second and final installment of his article on the Shroud of Turin and the Burial Customs of the Jews. It will appear in the April number.