

REPORT OF THE TENTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Tenth General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held on August 27 and 28, 1947, at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado, under the patronage of the Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr, D.D., Archbishop of Denver. The Association has never experienced a more generous and cordial reception than that afforded it by the Most Reverend Archbishop and the faculty of St. Thomas Seminary. The Committee for Local Arrangements, the Rev. William Kenneally, C.M., the Rev. Hubert Newall, and the Rev. Elmer Kolka, performed their numerous and burdensome tasks with tireless efficiency and unflinching good spirits.

The Program Committee arranged a series of varied and interesting papers which stimulated several lively discussions. The members of the Association are grateful to the members of the Program Committee: the Rev. Patrick Skehan, President of the Association; the Most Rev. Henry J. Grimmelman, Bishop of Evansville, Consultor; the Rev. Wendell Reilly, S.S., Consultor; the Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M., General Secretary; and the Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., Editor-in-chief of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

The Tenth General Meeting was formally opened on August 27 with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D., Bishop of Kansas City, in the beautiful chapel of St. Thomas Seminary. After the mass Bishop O'Hara addressed the members of the Association, encouraging them in their most important work of making the Scriptures better known and better loved. The first session was held in the auditorium of the Seminary at 10:15 A.M. The Rev. Rudolph Bierberg, C.P.P.S., read the first paper, entitled "Sensus Plenior." This paper arose from the discussion of this subject at the Ninth General Meeting. Father Bierberg maintained that the *sensus plenior* is not to be distinguished from the *sensus litteralis* and the *sensus typicus*. The second paper, entitled "Some Problems of Zacharias II," was read by the Rev. Edward Cerny, S.S. Father Cerny reviewed the proposed explanations for some of the apocalyptic passages of this prophet.

At 1:00 P.M. there were meetings of the Executive Board and of the Editorial Board and Translators of the Old Testament. The second session at 2:30 P.M. began with a paper by the Rev. Richard Kugelman, C.P., entitled "The Translation of 1 Cor. 7:36-38." Father Kugelman discussed the rendition of these verses in the Revised Standard Version and compared it with that which will appear in the version from the Greek to be published

by the Association under the auspices of the Episcopal Committee. The second paper, entitled "The Appellative Use of El and Elohim," was read by the Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J., and dealt with the translation and interpretation of these words.

At 6:00 P.M. Archbishop Vehr was host to the members of the Association at a dinner given at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Speakers at the dinner were Archbishop Vehr, Bishop O'Hara, and Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, who entertained the gathering with some interesting experiences of his radio and convert work.

The general public meeting was held at 8:15 P.M. in the Denver Municipal Auditorium. The facilities of the Auditorium were furnished to the Association free of charge through the generosity of the officials of the city of Denver. Over seven thousand people were in attendance, one of the largest crowds ever assembled under Catholic auspices in Denver. After the singing of the national anthem, Father William Kenneally, C.M., Vice-President of the Association and Chairman of the Local Committee, read the following cablegrams:

Denver, Colorado

Pope Pius XI.
Vatican City.

Members of Catholic Biblical Association of America assembled at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, offer filial homage and pledge best efforts for promotion of biblical studies.

Joseph L. Lilly
General Secretary

Vatican City

Bishop Vehr

Holy Father deeply appreciates devoted message. Cordially imparts to members of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, St. Thomas Seminary, paternal Apostolic Blessing.

Montini, Substitute

Father Kenneally then introduced Archbishop Vehr, who welcomed the Association to Denver and spoke on the importance of biblical studies in modern times. Father Kenneally then introduced Monsignor Sheen, who delivered an address on "The Cross and the Crisis." Reviewing the course of ancient empires as interpreted in the prophetic books of the Old Testament, Monsignor Sheen pointed out the parallels between the crises of ancient times and the crisis of our own day. The address of Monsignor Sheen was broadcast over Station WFEL, which donated the time for this purpose. A vocal solo, *Ave Maria*, was rendered by Mrs. Anne O'Neil Sullivan, and the singing of "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" by the whole

assemblage put an impressive finish to what was certainly one of the most magnificent public meetings which the Association has ever held.

The third session met at 10:00 A.M., Thursday, August 28. The Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., read a paper entitled "Monsignor Knox's Version of the Psalter." Father Gruenthaner commended this translation of the new Latin Psalter for a number of felicitous renderings, but criticized it in general as too arbitrary and paraphrastic. The second paper, "Jeremias the Orator," was read by the Rev. Patrick Cummins, O.S.B. Father Cummins pointed out that the oratorical power of Jeremias is too often underestimated, particularly because the dramatic element of his discourses is not appreciated. Father Cummins, assisted by several members of the Association, gave a very effective demonstration of this by a presentation of a chapter of Jeremias as divided among three different speakers.

The fourth session at 1:15 P.M. was devoted to the Business Meeting. The first report was that of the General Secretary, the Rev. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M. Father Lilly gave the final report on Father Vosté's tour, and delivered an extremely favorable report on the progress of the Rev. Robert North, S.J., who has completed his first year at the Biblical Institute on the competitive scholarship awarded by the Association. Father Lilly also reported that the policy of the American Council of Learned Societies has been to admit as constituent members only one society representing each branch of studies, and that this place for biblical studies is held by the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. The acting director of the Council, however, has advised that the matter may be pursued further.

Father Lilly presented the report of the Committee on Credentials, which recommended the following candidates for active membership:

The Rev. William Heidt, O.S.B.
 The Rev. J. Jensen, M.M.
 The Rev. Joseph Kemp
 The Rev. James McGonagle, C.S.S.R.
 The Rev. Brendan McGrath, O.S.B.
 Dr. Martin R. P. McGuire
 The Rev. Eric May, O.F.M.Cap.
 The Rev. Roger Mercurio, C.P.
 The Rev. Peter A. Schmitt
 The Rev. Thomas Schmucker, C.M.
 The Rev. F. J. Schroeder, S.S.J.
 Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.C.S.J.

It was moved, seconded and adopted that these recommendations of the Committee on Credentials be accepted. Mother Kathryn Sullivan thereby becomes the first woman to be admitted as an active member of the Association.

Father Lilly suggested that the procedure for promoting Biblical Sunday be altered. The Association, instead of sending letters to each rectory, shall prepare a booklet of directions for the celebration of Biblical Sunday and sermon outlines, and leave the promotion in each diocese to local or regional committees, who shall approach the Ordinaries and organize local celebrations. The Association, however, at the suggestion of Bishop O'Hara, shall continue to communicate directly with the Ordinaries. A motion for the adoption of this plan and the appointment of a committee to execute it was made, seconded and adopted.

Father Lilly also presented the report of the Committee on Membership. The Association now counts a total of 891 subscribers and active members, 764 in the United States and 127 in foreign countries. This continues the upward trend which has been exhibited in each report of this Committee. Father Lilly reported a number of requests for complimentary subscriptions from missionary countries; a motion was made, seconded and adopted that a limited number of such requests shall be granted.

Father Lilly read a letter from Dr. Reginald Fuller appealing for memberships in the Catholic Biblical Association of England; and a letter from Mr. Grabianka, who is highly recommended by the Dominican Fathers of Jerusalem, asking the Association to undertake the publication of the English translation of his work in Polish, to be called "A Synoptic Harmony." It was moved, seconded and adopted that a committee be appointed to investigate the feasibility of this project.

Father Lilly reported the progress of the translation of biblical works from foreign languages. The following books are entirely or almost entirely completed:

Pouget and Guitton, *Canticle of Canticles*
 Ricciotti, *History of Israel*, Vol. I
 Parella, *Sacred Places*

The following books are in progress of translation:

Lagrange, *Judaisme avant J.-C.*
 Chaîne, *Introduction à la lecture des Prophètes*
 Heinisch, *Genesis*
 Renié, *Manuel de l'Écriture sainte*
Initiation Biblique
 Bonsirven, *Les enseignements de J.-C.*
 Kalt, *Archeologia*
 Buzy, *Les symboles de l'A.T.*

In recognition of the generous services of Dr. John A. Wilson, of the Oriental Institute, Chicago, as lecturer in the Denver Summer School, the motion was made, seconded and adopted that the Association confer upon Dr. Wilson an honorary life membership.

The Editor-in-chief of the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, the Rev. Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., reported favorably on the state of the journal, but emphasized the necessity for continued contributions from all the active members.

The Rev. Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M., secretary of the Editorial Board of Old Testament Translators, reported on the progress of the translation. The translation of 37 books is completed, 22 books have received preliminary editing, three books and part of a fourth have received final editing, and the Book of Genesis is ready for publication. This leaves only nine books which have not yet been entirely translated. Father Hartdegen reported that the Episcopal Committee has approved the formation of four boards with final editorial authority, to replace the single board which has handled all the work up to this time.

The financial report was read by the Rev. John Steinmueller, Treasurer of the Association. The President, the Rev. Patrick Skehan, reported that the Association has disbursed \$690.00 for European relief, of which \$500.00 was appropriated by the executive Board, the rest obtained by voluntary contributions. In the unavoidable absence of the members of the committees on the Diffusion of Biblical Knowledge and on Summer Schools, the reports of these Committees were presented by Father Skehan. The Committees reported that the Summer School for teachers of religion held in New York was very successful; 1200 Sisters from 49 communities were in attendance. The school was under the direction of the Rev. Charles Sloane, and the lectures were given by the Rev. Matthew Stapleton, the Rev. George Denzer, the Rev. Walter Duffy, O.F.M.Conv., and the Rev. Conrad Louis, O.S.B. The Committees recommended that this project be continued; a motion to this effect was made, seconded and adopted. The Committees also recommended that, due to particular difficulties, the Summer School for professors be discontinued for at least one year, and that the inter-seminary contest be temporarily discontinued. Motions to this effect, including the reconsideration of the Summer School for professors at the next meeting, were made, seconded and adopted.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was presented by the Recording Secretary, the Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J. The Committee prepared a resolution expressing the thanks of the Association to the Most Reverend Archbishop of Denver, the faculty of St. Thomas Seminary, the press of the city, and the Mayor and other officials of the City of Denver for their generous hospitality. It was moved, seconded and adopted that copies of this resolution be sent to the parties concerned.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was presented by the Rev. Louis Hartmann, C.S.S.R. The Committee recommended the following officers for 1947-1948:

President: The Rev. Patrick Cummins, O.S.B.

Vice-President: The Rev. Achille Brunet, S.J.

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

Assistant General Secretary: The Rev. Francis Crump, O.M.I.

Treasurer: The Rev. John Steinmueller

Recording Secretary: The Rev. Joseph O'Donnell

Committee on Nominations for two year term, 1947-1949: The Rev. Patrick Skehan

The Rev. Antonine de Guglielmo, O.F.M

It was moved, seconded and adopted that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for these candidates.

A motion was made, seconded and adopted that the Association express its thanks to the permanent officers of the Association and the members of the Committees. The President, in the name of the Association, thanked Bishop O'Hara for his kindly offices. Bishop O'Hara voiced the commendation of the Episcopal Committee for the work of the Association.

The Presidential Address was delivered by the Rev. Patrick Skehan. He illustrated from his studies in the Book of Proverbs what is most necessary for the professor of Sacred Scripture: to put his students in touch with the text, to make it accessible and intelligible.

The Tenth General Meeting closed with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the seminary chapel.

The following active members were present at the Tenth General Meeting:

Benson, Alphonse M., M.S.S.T.
 Bierberg, Rudolph P., C.P.P.S.
 Botz, Paschal R., O.S.B.
 Boucher, Robert, C.S.S.R.
 Brunet, Achille, S.J.
 Cerny, Edward A., S.S.
 Cormier, Henri, C.J.M.
 Costa, Aloysius M., O.F.M.
 Cummins, Patrick, O.S.B.
 De Guglielmo, Antonine, O.F.M.
 Downing, Joseph K.
 Fortin, Henri, S.S.S.
 Gruenthaner, Michael J., S.J.
 Hartdegen, Stephen J., O.F.M.
 Hartmann, Louis, C.S.S.R.
 Heupler, Charles G., O.F.M.Cap.
 Hodous, Edward J., S.J.
 Kenneally, William J., C.M.

Krellner, Justin, O.S.B.
 Kugelman, Richard, C.P.
 Lambert, James H., S.M.
 Lilly, Joseph L., C.M.
 Lussier, Ernest, S.S.S.
 McKenzie, John L., S.J.
 Magee, Joseph N., S.M.
 Melanson, Raymond, C.J.M.
 Murphy, Richard T., O.P.
 O'Donnell, Joseph P.
 Olinger, Eberhard, O.S.B.
 Pansini, Francis D., C.M.
 Poulet, Donat, O.M.I.
 Skehan, Patrick W.
 Steinmueller, John E.
 Taggart, Sylvester A., C.M.
 Zens, Claude P.