

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Twelfth General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., from Tuesday, August 23 to Thursday, August 25, 1949. The meeting was conducted under the patronage of His Excellency, Most Reverend Francis P. Keough, Archbishop of Baltimore. The Committee on Local Arrangements was composed of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John L. Sheridan, President of Mt. St. Mary's College, the Very Rev. Joseph P. O'Donnell, Rector of Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, and the Rev. Thomas J. Kilcullen, Treasurer of St. Mary's. The genuine hospitality and friendliness of the committee as well as the marvelous natural beauty of Mt. St. Mary's produced a most pleasant environment which the members of the Association will long remember.

The General Meeting was formally opened on Tuesday at 9:00 A.M., with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by the Most Rev. Lawrence J. Shehan, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, in the Seminary Chapel.

The first session began with the address of the President, Edward A. Cerny, S.S., who welcomed the members of the Association and spoke concerning the modern state of Israel. William J. Kenneally, C.M., presented a paper on "Sheol." John J. Dougherty was unable to be present due to illness, as a telegram from him explained. His subject was to have been "The Patriarchs." John L. McKenzie, S.J., then delivered a very provocative lecture on "Polygenism and exegesis." The speaker surveyed recent literature, notably by Amann and Lennerz, and maintained that the exegetical principles of *Divino Afflante Spiritu* and the Reply of the Biblical Commission to the late Cardinal Suhard do not close the door upon polygenism. In the afternoon session, Gilmore H. Guyot, C.M., delivered a paper on "Messianism in Genesis," ranging from the Proto-evangelium to Jacob's Blessing upon Juda. Ernest Lussier, S.S.S., addressed the members concerning "The universal conflagration at the Parousia." He claimed that the pertinent biblical texts, especially 2 Pet. 3:5-13, do not warrant the conclusion that the world is to be consumed with fire.

In the evening the members of the Association were entertained at a dinner tendered by Mt. St. Mary's Seminary. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John L. Sheridan expressed a hearty welcome on behalf of the faculty. Fr.

Joseph O'Donnell announced the plans for the evening: a trip to Mother Seton's first foundation, the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity. By bus and car all journeyed the brief mile to St. Joseph's College, as it is called. There the Sisters graciously conducted the Fathers through various points of interest, from the "white house" to Mother Seton's grave. While the rank and file enjoyed the thoughtful repast provided by Mount St. Mary's, the day's activities were being concluded by a meeting of the Executive Board.

The morning session of Wednesday, August 24, convened at 9:30 A.M. John E. Steinmueller gave the first paper on "Words for 'Love' in Pre-Biblical and Biblical Greek," a philological discussion which gave rise to several questions concerning the meaning of Jn. 21:15-17. Joseph L. Lilly, C.M., discussed "The authenticity of John 6," by giving an exegesis of the passage. Brendan G. McGrath, O.S.B., read a paper entitled "'Syn' Words in St. Paul," treating of some 24 examples.

In the afternoon, a group picture of the members was taken when dinner was finished. A sight-seeing tour to Gettysburg had been arranged and no sessions scheduled. Most of the members went on the tour to the historic battlefield and received an almost scientific account of the military tactics involved; henceforth Gettysburg as well as biblical subjects became topics of discussion. Several members, either because they had already seen Gettysburg or simply because it was hot, enjoyed an afternoon swim in the spacious outdoor swimming pool on the grounds. In the evening Roger T. O'Callaghan, S.J., delivered an illustrated lecture concerning the recent excavations under the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome.

On the final day, Thursday, August 25, the morning session began at 9:30 A.M. Lucien Ouellette, C.S.V., gave a very stimulating discourse on "Eve's Punishment"—the exegesis (an aetiological and moral interpretation), literary form and theological implications of Gen. 3:16. Alphonsus Benson, M.S.Ss.T., in a paper entitled "The Creation of Wisdom," discussed the pertinent wisdom passages of the O.T., and the connection between the wisdom of Solomon and the logos of Philo. Roger T. O'Callaghan, S.J., in an informal address, enlightened the members about recent activities at the Biblical Institute in Rome and advanced four points or solutions to certain problems indicated by recent archaeological research.

The final session of the meeting was taken up with the business and committee activities of the Association. At 1:15 P.M., John E. Steinmueller opened the session by reading the financial statement.

Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J., the editor-in-chief of the CATHOLIC BIBLICAL QUARTERLY, reported on the progress of this periodical which now

totals 965 subscribers. Of each issue there are printed 1050 copies. Fr. Gruenthaner urged the cooperation of the members in submitting articles and thanked all concerned for their cooperation.

Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R., the General Secretary of the Association, was the next to give his report. He informed the members of the type of work which goes through his office and then reported on various specific activities of the Association:

Catholic Scripture Library: No new book has appeared in the series, but William Heidt, O.S.B., has finished his translation of Heinisch's *Die Theologie des Alten Testaments*.

New Testament Translation: The New Testament Editorial Committee is constituted, thus far, of Frs. Lilly, C.M., McConnell, M.M., and Ahern, C.P.

Catholic Biblical Sunday: As in previous years, the Association sponsored Biblical Sunday on Septuagesima. Several news releases were given to the Catholic Press and a circular was addressed to all the Ordinaries of the United States, as well as to active members of the Associations. There were many indications that the hierarchy took an active interest in this matter, and specifically, letters of approval were received from the Apostolic Delegation and from the Ordinaries of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Mobile, Rapid City, Wichita and Calgary, Canada. Except for Cleveland, this list is entirely different from the list of eight bishops who sent favorable responses in 1948. In the Archdiocese of Boston a series of public lectures on four Sundays in connection with Biblical Sunday was held on scriptural topics by Frs. Matthew Stapleton and John J. Murray, of Brighton Seminary. The report of the Secretary was accepted as read.

Fr. Hartman, as chairman of the Committee on Credentials, continued with the report from that body. The following applicants were recommended for membership:

- Nicholas Brennan, St. Columban's Seminary, Nebraska.
- Leonard A. Bushinski, C.S.Sp., Norwalk, Conn.
- John Castelot, S.S., St. John's Seminary, Detroit.
- Francis X. Glimm, Brooklyn Diocesan Seminary.
- William Hill, S.S., St. Mary's, Baltimore.
- Raymond Leonard, St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn.
- John Mattingly, S.S., Washington, D. C.
- Sr. Emmanuel Collins, O.S.F., St. Teresa's College, Winona, Minn.

It was moved, seconded and adopted that these recommendations be accepted. Sr. Emmanuel has long acted as English editor of the Association's translation project; she and Mother Kathryn are the only women who have been admitted as active members of the Association.

Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M., reported on the Old Testament translation. Exactly a year from its publication, the text of Genesis is in its second (slightly improved) printing at the Press. Of the translations, 42 out of 46 have been submitted and 14 of them have been edited. The plan is to complete and publish the Pentateuch before the next General Meeting.

At this point Fr. Kelly of the NCWC bureau of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine took the floor and conveyed the gratitude and best wishes of Bishop O'Hara to the Association. He spoke also of ways in which the Association and the Confraternity could collaborate and help each other.

In the absence of the chairman, Matthew Stapleton, Fr. Steinmueller read the report of the Committee for Summer Bible Institutes for Religious. On December 3, 1948, a questionnaire was sent out by the chairman to all Active Members of the Association in which it was asked whether or not they would be willing to serve as lecturers and as deans at the Summer Institutes in 1949 and 1950. Thirty-eight answers were received, twenty-one of which were in the affirmative and seventeen in the negative. The school superintendents of Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Denver, Hartford, Rochester and St. Louis were contacted and as a result Summer Institutes were held in Cincinnati, Buffalo and St. Louis, where the attendance was, respectively, 400, 400, 500. The personnel which staffed these Institutes has been published in previous issues of the *QUARTERLY*. The expenses of the Committee, which is composed of Frs. Matthew Stapleton, Conrad Louis, O.S.B., and Walter Duffy, O.F.M. Conv., were \$58.16. The Committee recommended that it should be decided to hold an Institute for Professors in 1950, preparations begin immediately. Likewise, this group suggests that members of the Association attempt to hold public lectures for the laity; the committee had experience in this matter during the past year in Philadelphia, Albany, Boston, and Evansville and declares that much good can be done by this medium. Two further items were brought to the attention of the members of the Association: the American Textual Criticism Committee, headed by Bruce Metzger of the University of Chicago, and Msgr. Straubinger's Catholic Bible movement in Stuttgart and Argentina. The committee thanked most sincerely all who cooperated so enthusiastically in the work of the past year and its members respectfully submitted their resignation because of health and personal reasons and asked that it be accepted this year. However, it strongly urged that the work be continued, as one of the most important activities of the Association. It was

moved, seconded and adopted that the resignation be accepted. A tentative committee was proposed from the floor by Fr. Lilly and the President referred the matter to the next President and his executive board.

The Visual Aids Committee has not functioned for several years. Fr. Steinmueller took the matter up and explained the excellent collection of slides and equipment possessed by the Association and urged members to make use of it. He recommended a new committee and Fr. President tabled the recommendation for his successor.

Patrick Cummins, O.S.B., presented the Report of the Committee on Nominations, proposing the following officers for 1949-50:

Joseph P. O'Donnell, President
 Gilmore H. Guyot, C.M., Vice-President.
 Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R., General Secretary.
 Daniel W. Martin, C.M., Recording Secretary.
 John E. Steinmueller, Treasurer.

It was regularly moved, seconded and adopted that these candidates be elected. The Nominating Committee is composed of Patrick Cummins, O.S.B., James Coleran, S.J., Donat Poulet, O.M.I., and Richard Kugelman, C.P. Frs. Poulet and Kugelman received their appointment at this meeting.

The session closed with the President's expression of gratitude to the members of the Association and the Executive Board for their cooperation. Thus the Twelfth General Meeting closed with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Seminary chapel; Fr. Cerny was the celebrant.

The following active members were present at the Meeting:

Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P.	Joseph W. Gaspar, M.S.C.
Alphonsus Benson, M.S.Ss.T.	Francis X. Glimm
Achille Brunet, S.J.	Michael J. Gruenthaner, S.J.
Leonard A. Bushinski, C.S.Sp.	Gilmore H. Guyot, C.M.
Leonard Cassell, O.S.B.	Roman Halas, O.F.M.
Edward A. Cerny, S.S.	Stephen Hartdegen, D.F.M.
James E. Coleran, S.J.	Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R.
John J. Collins, S.J.	Charles G. Heupler, O.F.M. Cap.
Michael J. Collins, O.S.B.	John A. Jensen, M.M.
Francis J. Crump, O.M.I.	Thomas Kelly
Patrick Cummins, O.S.B.	William J. Kenneally, C.M.
Charles F. Devine, C.S.S.R.	Richard Kugelman, C.P.
Richard J. Dobell	James Lambert, S.M.
Victor J. Donovan, C.P.	Alban Lehoullier, O.M.I.
Henri Fortin, S.S.S.	Joseph L. Lilly, C.M.
Geron Fournelle, O.F.M.	Conrad Louis, O.S.B.

Ernest Lussier, S.S.S.	Joseph P. O'Donnell
Vincent P. Mallon, M.M.	Lucien Ouellette, C.S.V.
Miles M. McAndrew, S.S.	Donat Poulet, O.M.I.
John F. McConnell, M.M.	Gerard Rooney, C.P.
James M. McGlinchey, C.M.	Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S.
Columban McGough, O.C.D.	Patrick W. Skehan
Brendan McGrath, O.S.B.	Matthew P. Stapleton
John McKenzie, S.J.	John E. Steinmueller
Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm.	Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J
John P. Murray, C.M.	Claude P. Zens
Roger T. O'Callaghan, S.J.	