

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

The Twenty-Second General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held under the patronage of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, on August 25-27, 1959, at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, Purchase, New York. Following the opening Mass, the morning session began at 10:00 a.m., with words of welcome from the Most Reverend Philip J. Furlong, auxiliary Bishop of New York, in the name of the Cardinal.

**Tuesday Sessions — August 25**

Rev. Robert T. Siebeneck, C.P.P.S., delivered the first paper, "The Literary Genre of Wisdom 10ff.," stressing the midrashic elements in this portion of the book. The discussion centered on midrash, which the speaker called a sermonizing, a drawing of lessons from the sacred texts. Monsignor Patrick W. Skehan proposed a new reconstruction of the puzzling third cycle of Job. Fr. Myles M.

Bourke analyzed the literary genre of Matthew 1-2, which precipitated more discussion on midrashic elements; the speaker distinguished between an historical nucleus and midrashic development in certain events of the infancy narrative. In the final session of the morning, Fr. Raymond E. Brown, S.S., gave a report on his past year in Jerusalem at the American Schools of Oriental Research, where he worked on the index for Cave IV, and gave a brief picture of archeological activity in Palestine during the past year.

The afternoon was given over to the Presidential Address and the Business Session. Fr. Brendan McGrath, O.S.B., highlighted the fact that in the pursuit of truth, Catholics have been alert to recognize the truth where *prima facie* it might not seem to be. Quoting H. L. Mencken's famous all-purpose reply to his critics, "There may be something in what you say," the President stated:

It is because sincere and dedicated Catholic scholars have been ready to concede that "there may be something in what you say," even when confronted with theories or arguments that at first glance seemed "bizarre" and "fantastic" that we have been able to observe, particularly since the days of the great Père Lagrange, not a few steps being taken toward that fuller understanding of the Word of God which is the object of all genuine Scripture studies.

With regard to the many papers on literary forms which were read to the members he remarked:

The very presence of these topics on our program is itself ample testimony to our growing realization of the fact that there can be no really satisfactory appreciation of the "message" of any considerable portion of Holy Writ without a serious prior consideration of the question of literary genre as it applies to the book or passage in question. And we know, and are coming to know better, that this is especially the case where the literary genre is something quite foreign to the literary forms of our more immediate cultural experience.

The President's concluding remarks concerned the goal of Scripture studies, what God says to us in the Bible:

And if we can make any progress toward that goal with the assistance of a suggestion of Gregory of Nyssa or Theodore of Mopsuestia, of Maimonides or Luther, of Lagrange or Bultmann, or anyone else, so much the better, for it is truth that we are after and God is in no way limited with regard to the manner in which he condescends to make his truth known to us.

The Business Meeting presented the report of the chairmen of various committees. Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., reported on the work of the visual aid committee. Rev. James A. Fischer, C.M., chairman of the committee on pamphlets, presented the "first fruits," in the form of a pamphlet by the *CBQ* Book Review Editor, Fr. Bruce Vawter, C.M., *The Bible is Different*. The second number, on Jonas, is ready for printing, and there will be a third, on Amos, in the near future. Fr. Fischer called attention to the series being inaugurated by the Paulist Fathers, and Fr. Neil J. McEleney, C.S.P., supplemented his remarks by saying that the Paulist pamphlets should appear in 1960; they will cover the historical and prophetic books, presenting the text and a running commentary.

Fr. Joseph E. Fallon, O.P., chairman of Catholic Bible Week, proposed a possible change in the date of this week, and there was an extended discussion on this from the floor. Some were in favor of bringing it into line with National Bible Week, others suggested the first week of Advent; all were sympathetic to a date in the scholastic year when greater emphasis could be given to the project. The committee for this observance has been empowered to consider the various possible dates and to come to a decision on the question.

Fr. Louis R. Hartman, C.Ss.R., made his report as Executive Secretary. He stated that the CBA has been declared tax exempt, and that the Association was indebted to Mr. Caesar Aiello for his generous legal work in its behalf. The Executive Board authorized Msgr. Matthew P. Stapleton to send a cablegram to our new Pontiff, begging his blessings on our work, and pledging continued devotion. A contribution of \$500 dollars is to be made, when it is needed, to Fr. John L. McKenzie, S.J., towards the excavation of Pella. Fr. Hartman read a letter from Charles F. Kraft of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis in which the SBLE proposed to send an official representative to the annual meetings of the CBA; the CBA will reciprocate and the President is empowered to send an official representative to the December meetings of SBLE. The Decennial Index of the *CBQ*, efficiently and generously prepared by Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., is now in page proof and will shortly be on sale. Finally, the Executive Board voted, in the absence of Fr. Hartman, that a grant of \$1000 be given to the Executive Secretary as a token of gratitude from the CBA for his long years of generous service in that position. Fr. Hartman sailed on August 26 to take up his position as Annual Professor at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem; he is retained as Executive Secretary with a leave of absence.

The Committee on Credentials presented the following for membership in the CBA and the members voted to accept them: Rev. Walter M. Abbott, S.J., New York, N. Y.; Sister Alexa, S.P., Washington, D. C.; Rev. Fathers Amedeo F. Barbieri, Detroit, Mich.; Michael J. Cantley, Brooklyn, N. Y.; William Cummings, C.Ss.R., Washington, D. C.; J. Frank Devine, S.J., Boston, Mass.; Isidore H. Gorski, Regina, Canada; Sister M. Leontine Held, S.S.N.D., St. Louis, Mo.; Rev. Fathers Joseph Horn, S.S., Baltimore, Md.; Edward J. Kilmartin, S.J., Weston, Mass.; Sister John Mary Lane, S.N.J.M., Maryhurst, Ore.; Rev. Fathers M. Francis Martin, O.C.S.O., Rome, Italy; Eugene McAlee, C.Ss.R., Esopus, N. Y.; Mother Josephine Morgan, R.S.C.J., Purchase, N. Y.; Rev. Fathers John L. Murphy, Washington, D. C.; Frederick Swallow, S.S., Baltimore, Md.; Aldo Tos, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Wayne A. Turner, Madison, Wis.; Stefano Virgulin, Methuen, Mass.; Addison G. Wright, S.S., Plymouth, Mich.; Joseph Zalotay, Emmitsburg, Md.

#### Wednesday Sessions — August 26

A Mass for the deceased members of the CBA was offered in the morning and the day's sessions began with a paper on the anti-monarchical tradition

in Isaia by Fr. Eugene H. Maly, in which he emphasized that certain traits of the messianic descriptions are definitely not royal (e.g., Is 9,6). Fr. Frederick L. Moriarty, S.J., analyzed a literary form of historical writing in the OT, which he called "retrospective history" (e.g., the short succinct summaries such as are found in Jos 24: Dt. 6, etc.).

After these first two papers, the President introduced Dr. Robert C. Dentan, the official representative of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. Dr. Dentan said how happy he was to be present, and that he had been stimulated by the excellent papers he had heard. In view of the emphasis on ecumenism in these days, he was pleased to know that the CBA and the SBLE were exchanging official representatives. Other distinguished visitors were also introduced: Fr. John Patterson, O.M.I., from South Africa; Dr. Reginald Fuller, secretary of the CBA of England; Fr. Hubert Richards, professor of Scripture at St. Edmund's College, Ware, England; and Dom Bernard Orchard, O.S.B., the editor of the *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture*. Dom Orchard expressed the greetings of our sister Association in England, and described his plans for a second edition of his commentary.

The papers resumed with a treatment of apocalyptic and prophecy by Fr. Bruce Vawter, C.M. Fr. John J. Collins, S.J., concluded the morning session with a discussion of Oscar Cullmann's rejection of the immortality of the soul on the basis of NT doctrine.

The afternoon session was honored by the presence of His Eminence, Cardinal Spellman. The Cardinal was able to stay for all of the papers: Fr. Francis J. McCool, S.J., analyzed the concept of "living water" in Jn 4,10, etc.; Fr. Roger J. Mercurio, C.P., distinguished three levels or aspects of Gospel interpretation: the historic, christologic and theologic; Fr. Charles H. Henkey discussed the epistemology of the Incarnation. After these papers the Cardinal gave a very informal talk on his own experiences as a student in Rome, and imparted his blessing to all present; then he met and shook hands personally with all who were in the auditorium.

After the Cardinal's departure, there was a brief business session. The changes which were proposed in the CBA constitution to allow for regional chapters were approved unanimously. The Committee on Resolutions proposed that a vote of thanks should be extended to the following: Rev. Mother Mulqueen and Mother Sullivan, and the Manhattanville Community, for the superb hospitality shown to the CBA in its General Meeting; Monsignor O'Donnell, pastor of the Seamen's Church, for the convenient arrangements for Mass; Mr. Caesar L. Aiello, legal adviser for the Archdiocese of Washington, for his generous services rendered the Association during the past year; Fr. Louis Hartman, C.Ss.R., for many years of tireless and unselfish devotion to the CBA as its executive secretary; Fr. Francis J. Crump, O.M.I., for many years of service as treasurer of the CBA. A notice of the resolution is to be forwarded to the persons concerned. Public congratulations were offered to Fathers Ahern, Maly and Vawter on the successful defence of their doctoral theses for the SSD degree from the Biblical Institute. It was also resolved

that the Association forward an expression of its condolence to St. Bonaventure University on the death of Fr. Thomas B. Plassmann, and to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, on the death of Msgr. Edward Kissane.

The Editor of the *CBQ* expressed gratitude for the diligent and excellent work of the editorial board. He pointed out the new feature, "Miscellanea Biblica," in the Quarterly and asked for contributions. Whereas the editor has solicited most of the papers for this meeting, it seemed better to leave this to another, and Fr. George S. Glanzman, S.J. kindly acceded to the request to prepare the program for the next annual meeting, which is to be held at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado, by the kind invitation of Fr. Bruce Vawter, C.M.

Fr. Maly presented the report of the committee on nominations and unanimous approval was given to the following board: *Pres.*, John J. Collins, S.J.; *Vice-Pres.*, Rt. Rev. John F. Whealon; *Exec. Sec.*, Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R., *Treas.*, Joseph E. Fallon, O.P. The editorial board of the *CBQ* remained unchanged, except that Fr. Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., was added to the Associate Editors. The *Consultors* to the Executive Board had the following changes: Msgr. Skehan succeeded James M. McGlinchey, C.M., Msgr. Stapleton was named to complete the term of Edward A. Cerny, S.S. Elected to the *Board of Trustees* were George A. Denzer and Ignatius Hunt, O.S.B. The *Committee on Credentials* is to be headed by Peter F. Ellis, C.Ss.R., the *Committee on Resolutions* by Rt. Rev. Robert H. Krumholtz, and the *Committee on Nominations* by Neal M. Flanagan, O.S.M. The directors of the other Committees remained the same: Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., for *Visual Aids*; James A. Fischer, O.P., for *Pamphlets*; Joseph E. Fallon, O.P., for *Bible Week*. The President read a cablegram imparting the Holy Father's Blessing on all who attended the meeting.

#### Thursday, August 27 — Final Session

Fr. Carroll Stuhmueller, C.P., delivered a paper on the characteristics of the Priestly tradition, as a background to the concept of God in that tradition. Fr. R. A. F. MacKenzie, S.J., urged a more intelligent and sympathetic approach to the "history" of 2 Machabees, and pointed out the valuable study of Fr. Bellet on this book. Fr. Gerard S. Sloyan spoke on the tradition of the Lord's Supper in the epistle to the Corinthians. The last two papers dealt with the Coptic Gospel according to St. Thomas: George W. MacRae, S.J., dealt with it in a summary way, giving samples of the sayings and discussing the possibility of their authenticity. Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., pointed out the specific relationship between the Oxyrhynchus *logia* and the new Coptic text, presenting a sample of reconstruction of the Greek text of the *logia* on the basis of the Coptic text.

Those in attendance were as follows:

Abbott, Walter M., S.J.  
Alexa, Sister, S.P.

Balducelli, R., O.S.F.S.  
Barbieri, Amedeo

Barrosse, Thomas, C.S.C.  
 Beaudet, Roland  
 Borgia, Sister Francis, S.S.N.D.  
 Boucher, Robert G., C.Ss.R.  
 Bourke, Myles  
 Brennan, Joseph P.  
 Brown, Raymond E., S.S.  
 Bukovsky, John, S.V.D.  
 Cantley, Michael J.  
 Caplice, Richard I., S.J.  
 Cassell, Leonard, O.S.B.  
 Ceroke, Christian P., O.Carm.  
 Clark, James D., O.S.A.  
 Collins, John J., S.J.  
 Collins, Thomas Aquinas, O.P.  
 Considine, V. Rev. J. S., O.P.  
 Crowley, Edward J., C.Ss.R.  
 Curran, John T., S.J.  
 Davis, James J., O.P.  
 Denzer, George A.  
 Devine, J. Frank, S.J.  
 Dicharry, Warren F., C.M.  
 DiLella, Alexander A., O.F.M.  
 Donahue, Joseph F., S.J.  
 Donovan, Victor J., C.P.  
 Dougherty, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J.  
 Draina, Cyril, M.S.SS.T.  
 Dugré, Maurice  
 Dumm, Demetrius R., O.S.B.  
 Eileen, Sister M. Rose, C.S.C.  
 Ellis, Peter F., C.SS.R.  
 Fallon, Joseph E., O.P.  
 Fischer, James, C.M.  
 Fitzmyer, Joseph A., S.J.  
 Flanagan, Neal M., O.S.M.  
 Ford, Daniel F., O.F.M.  
 Forestell, James T., C.S.B.  
 Fortin, Henri, S.S.S.  
 Frey, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph B.  
 Fuller, Reginald C.  
 Geis, Norbert F., C.M.  
 Glanzman, George S., S.J.  
 Glimm, Francis  
 Grispino, Joseph A., S.M.  
 Guyot, G. H., C.M.  
 Hartdegen, Stephen, O.F.M.  
 Hartman, Louis F., C.Ss.R.  
 Heidt, William, O.S.B.  
 Henkey, Charles H.  
 Honner, Paschal, O.S.B.  
 Hunt, Ignatius, O.S.B.  
 Hunt, Brother Mark, F.S.C.H.  
 Kelly, Thomas J.  
 Kennedy, Gerald T., O.M.I.  
 Kennedy, Mark, O.F.M.  
 Kilmartin, Edward J., S.J.  
 King, William  
 King, Philip J.  
 Krumholtz, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Robert H.  
 Lacomara, Aelred, C.P.  
 Legault, André, C.S.C.  
 LeHoullier, Alban, O.M.I.  
 Leonard, Raymond S.  
 Leontine, Sister M., S.S.N.D.  
 Louis, Conrad, O.S.B.  
 Loveley, Edward M., S.J.  
 Ludwig, James  
 Luke, Brother, F.S.C.  
 Lussier, Ernest, S.S.S.  
 MacKenzie, R. A. F., S.J.  
 MacRae, George W., S.J.  
 Mallon, Vincent P., M.M.  
 Maly, Eugene H.  
 Marian, Sister, S.P.  
 Mattingly, John  
 McAndrew, Miles M., S.S.  
 McCool, Francis J., S.J.  
 McCloskey, Kevin, C.P.  
 McDonnell, Kilian, O.S.B.  
 McEleney, Neil J., C.S.P.  
 McGough, Columban, O.C.D.  
 McGovern, John J., M.M.  
 McGrath, Brendan, O.S.B.  
 McGrath, Richard H.  
 Melançon, Lionel  
 Melanson, Raymond, C.J.M.  
 Mercurio, Roger, C.P.  
 Miceli, Matthew, C.S.C.  
 Montalbano, Frank J., O.M.I.  
 Morin, Joseph, C.Ss.R.  
 Moriarty, Frederick L., S.J.  
 Mueller, Herman, S.V.D.  
 Murphy, Richard T., O.P.  
 Murphy, Roland E., O.Carm.  
 Oesterreicher, John M.  
 O'Keefe, Vincent T., S.J.

Orchard, Dom J. B., O.S.B.	Siebeneck, Robert, C.P.P.S.
O'Rourke, John J.	Skehan, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick W.
Ouellette, Lucien, C.M.	Sloyan, Gerard S.
Pagano, Sebastiano, O.M.I.	Sorensen, Howard J., O.M.I.
Pansini, Francis D., C.M.	Stapleton, Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. P.
Patricia Maria, Sister, S.N.J.M.	Steinmueller, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John E.
Patterson, John, O.M.I.	Stock, Augustine, O.S.B.
Peifer, Claude, O.S.B.	Strange, Marcian, O.S.B.
Peters, Walter H.	Stuhlmueller, Carroll, C.P.
Petru, Francis, S.J.	Sullivan, Mother Kathryn, R.S.C.J.
Philbin, Richard G., S.J.	Temple, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick J.
Pierce, Justin A.	Tkacik, Arnold J., O.S.B.
Pitts, Samuel R., S.J.	Tos, Aldo
Poirier, Léandre, O.F.M.	Turner, Wayne A.
Quinn, John	Turro, James C.
Rausch, Jerome W., O.S.C.	Vancik, Vladimir G.
Reynolds, James P.	Vawter, Bruce, C.M.
Richards, Hubert	Virgulin, Stefano
Rossiter, V. Rev. Msgr. Francis S.	Whealon, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F.
Rowe, Stephen, O.F.M.Cap.	William, Brother Joseph, F.M.S.
Schneider, Bernardin, O.F.M.	Wood, Geoffrey, S.A.
Schroeder, Francis, S.S.J.	Wright, Addison G., S.S.
Schoenberg, Martin W., O.S.C.	Zalotay, Joseph
Seper, Francis, M.S.C.	

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 p.m. The members were enthusiastic about the fine papers that were given, the large number in attendance, and the great kindness and hospitality of the Religious of the Sacred Heart.

MOTHER HARGROVE, R.S.C.J.  
MOTHER WHEALAN, R.S.C.J.