

Scripture

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EDITORIAL

The "Catholic Commentary". It will be recalled that the special copy of the *Commentary* did not reach Rome in time to enable Dom Bernard Orchard to present it to the Holy Father and that an ordinary copy was then substituted. After some unexplained delay in the postal service, the special copy finally arrived, and shortly afterwards Father Bernard received the following letter from the Vatican :

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITÀ

Dal Vaticano, li
October 23, 1953

N. 308185

Dear Dom Orchard,

While acknowledging in the Holy Father's name the copy of *A Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture*, accompanied by a special letter from the Editorial Committee, which you offered to Him in the Audience of August 26th last, it is only now that I can also inform you of the arrival of the specially bound copy of the same volume for His Holiness.

The Sovereign Pontiff would have me convey to you, and to all those associated with you in the preparation and publication of this volume, His sentiments of paternal gratification. You set yourselves a difficult task, and succeeded in producing a most useful work for all English-speaking countries, namely, a complete scientific commentary on the entire Bible in their own language.

The book's secure theological and scriptural criteria and its serious scholarly method, the extraordinary richness of information presented in small compass, the clarity and exactitude of language, correctness of doctrine, and sound argumentation, are all qualities worthy of high praise.

No doubt, the zeal for accuracy of the Editorial Committee will not fail to make any necessary or opportune improvements in such a valuable publication, already in its second edition.

English-speaking Catholics may well rejoice at having so excellent an aid towards an increased knowledge and love of the Sacred Scriptures.

As a further token of His gratitude and appreciation, and with the prayer that this great Commentary may be widely diffused and carefully read, the Sovereign Pontiff imparts from His heart to you, to the members of the Editorial Committee, and to all your associates, His special Apostolic Blessing.

With sentiments of esteem, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

J. B. MONTINI
Prosecc.

South Africa's First Catholic Bible Week. We have recently received a quantity of information about the Bible Week held throughout South Africa during the week 16-23 November 1952. The Catholics took as their occasion the fifth centenary of the first printed edition of the Bible by John Gutenberg, who was of course himself a Catholic. An Instruction was sent out by the Bishops to all the Faithful and a very detailed programme was worked out at the Pius XII Catholic Centre, Mazenod Institute, Basutoland. The programme included sermons on the Bible, talks on the Bible to Catholic Societies and Biblical discussions, exhibitions, lectures, distribution of leaflets, sale of Bibles and Biblical literature. A great deal of literature was prepared at the Catholic Centre and sent out on request to the various parishes and institutes. An interesting feature of the Week was the questionnaire sent at the end giving detailed questions to be answered concerning the results of the Week. It is clearly impossible to summarise results with any accuracy, but it may be said that in many places there was a very good attendance at the lectures, conferences and exhibitions. The interest of non-Catholics naturally varied from place to place, but there is no doubt that Catholics benefited considerably. In some places success was limited by insufficient advertising or materials. In others, where the ground was better prepared, the success was solid without being sensational. At least Protestants now realise that Catholics *are* allowed and even encouraged to read the Bible and that they first printed it. A feature of the Week was the campaign for its success—a success, let us note, which in the nature of things cannot be measured in figures. Besides the prayer, those responsible for the organising of the Week went to enormous trouble to prepare literature, e.g. plans for sermons, order-forms for books, plans for conferences, detailed lists of questions for discussion, posters, illustrated and otherwise, suggestions for exhibitions. The profusion of printed matter was astonishing. Furthermore, the Catholic papers issued special Bible Week numbers exclusively devoted to Biblical subjects. We feel sure that a work so well organised cannot fail to leave lasting results.

Annual General Meeting. As announced in our October number, this will take place at the Newman Centre, 31 Portman Square, London W1, on Thursday 7 January 1954 at 6 p.m. After the business meeting, Rev. Dr Fuller will read a paper entitled "The Trial of Jesus Christ"