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The Evangelization Station

P.O. Box 267

Angels Camp, California, 95222, USA

Telephone: 209-728-5598

E-mail: evangelization@earthlink.net

www.evangelizationstation.com

Pamphlet 501

The Pontifical Biblical Commission

The **Pontifical Biblical Commission** (PCB for *Pontificia Commissio Biblica* in Latin) is an organization of the Roman Curie founded on October 30th, 1902 with an advisory role in the field of the Bible, like an under-organization of the Congrégation for the doctrines of the faith (old the Holy Office), whose cardinal prefect is automatically president of the Commission. It is held close to the Vatican City, in the palace of the Holy Office.

History

The *Commissio Pontificia of Re Biblica* (literally *pontifical Commission on the biblical businesses*) was founded on October 30th, 1902 by Leon XIII for objective triple:

- to promote the *biblical studies* among the catholics;
- to be opposed by average scientists to the *erroneous opinions* in connection with the Scriptures;
- to look further into the *discussed questions* and the problems emerging in this field of studies, as *council* near the Magistère of the Church.

The first secretary was the cardinal Mariano Rampolla del Tindaro until 1908.

Pie X gives him the right to confer the academic ranks of license and doctorate in biblical Sciences (*in Re biblica*), this academic function then having been managed with the assistance of the teachers of the pontifical biblical Institut (*GDP*) of Rome.

Leon XIII and Pius X had pressed the commission to clash in particular with the questions emerging within the framework of the Modernism: between on February 13rd, 1905 and on November 17th, 1921, 14 decrees (or decisions) and 2 declarations in the form of answers to questions or doubts were thus published. Under Pie XI (until April 30th, 1934) was published two other decrees.

June 27th, 1971, within the framework of the post-conciliar reform, Paul VI gave new rules for the organization of the Commission, which was also renamed according to the current title *pontifical biblical Commission (Pontificia Commissio Biblica)*. The principal change was that the members would not be any more of the assisted cardinals advisers, but of the biblical professors of sciences coming from the various schools and areas from the world, chosen according to their science, of their prudence and their respect towards Magistère (Article 3).

Because of its composition, the commission is thus from now on a consultative body, with the service of the magistère and attached to the Congrégation for the doctrines of the faith (cf Article 1), whose cardinal prefect is also president of the aforesaid the commission.

Activity and documents

The new PCB held its first plenary assembly in 1974, to revise the programmes of examination for obtaining the academic titles in biblical Sciences. Since then, the Commission meets each year, the second week after Easter, on a topic previously chosen by the cardinal chair.

- In 1975 - 1976 it acted of the *condition of the woman in the Bible* and, by extension, of the role of the woman in the company according to the Scriptures.

- In 1977 - 1978 it is the *Théologie* of the release, then in question, which is the object of their study, at least in its way of using the Writing.
- In 1979, the *Inculturation in the Scriptures*. At the conclusion of this plenary assembly, the interventions were published in volume *Fede E will cultura went luce della Bibbia* (literally *Foi and culture in the light of the Bible* LDC, Turin 1981).
- In 1980 the commission considers the relationship between *Herméneutique* and *christology*, topic whose study was prolonged until in 1983 and gave place to the promulgation of *Of crowned Scriptura and christologia*,
- Of 1985 with 1988, the commission studied the relationship between the local Churches and the universality of God's people: April 11th, 1988 was published a document of 20 pages entitled: *Unit and diversity in the Church*.
- In 1989 it acts of the interpretation of the Bible; work occupies the commission on several years, and on April 15th, 1993 is produced the document *the interpretation of the Bible in the Church*, with a foreword of the cardinal chair, Joseph Ratzinger.
- Of 1994 with 1996 the work of the commission concern the *universality of the hello* by the Christ and the diversity of the religions.
- From 1997 it acted of the relationship between Old Testament and New Testament, between Christians and Jews: the conclusion was made in 2000 and gave by it to place to the publication in November 2001 of the document *the Jewish people and his Scriptures in the Christian Bible*

Other documents

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- *Of auctoribus and in time compositionis Psalmorum*, Authors and time of composition of the Psalms (May 1st, 1910) 2 (1910) 354
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