

RELIGIOUS BOOKS ROUNDTABLE MEETING

Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, Illinois  
January 31, 1956--2:30p.m.

The meeting was presided over by Rev. D. Bernard Theall, OSB of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C.

The main problem for discussion was: "Where is the Religious Books Roundtable going?" It was felt that the roundtable fulfilled a function and satisfied a need within the field of Librarianship. Members of the Public Library field expressed opinion that the publication of the notable religious book list each year was most useful to Public Librarians. It was felt that more should be done to stimulate interest in religious books within the library. This could be best accomplished it was felt through stimulating the interest of librarians themselves in religious literature. The Roundtable found that in this regard that the Religious Books Publishing houses were interested and eager to give us support on this project. The Religious Books Roundtable is mainly concerned with the following points: the publication of lists and to contact publishers in connection with such a list, and to formulate solid and meaty programs at the various American Library Association meetings.

Opinion was expressed that the main purpose of the Religious Books Roundtable dealt with the spreading of ideas in this field. It was questioned whether or not religious festivals, such as Lent, Easter and Christmas should be emphasis so far as reading lists were concerned. It was suggested that perhaps a religious book list should be published more frequently than once a year. It was felt that people working on the selection committee should be librarians ~~who were not especially~~ <sup>of all types as well as</sup> seminary librarians and librarians who work constantly with religious books. The list or lists should have a total evaluation so as to give unity to the list or lists.

Otto W. Walter Secretary-Treasurer