

THE MOST REVEREND JULIAN RAYMOND RIVEIRO Y JACINTO, O. P., D. D.

BRO. REGINALD SMITH, O. P.



O assist at an ordination to the priesthood is an event always to be remembered. As the years roll by and the ordained priest of God labors constantly in His vineyard, the remembrance of the ordination day is fraught with happy recollections of work accomplished for the salvation of souls during the years that have passed since the ordaining bishop anointed his hands. To celebrate a silver jubilee of ordination is a time that well merits the attention of all. But how much greater is the degree of respect and appreciation for the priest who toils whole-heartedly for the cause of Holy Mother Church throughout five decades. The advent of his golden jubilee is an opportunity for considerable rejoicing and reflection on the almost infinite value of his apostolic efforts of fifty years.

On April 3, 1927, in the Church of St. Patrick in New Orleans, the Most Reverend Julian Raymond Riveiro y Jacinto, of the Order of Preachers, Archbishop of Guatemala, celebrated his sacerdotal golden jubilee. He was assisted by the Rev. Raymond Carra, Rector of St. Patrick's. Honoring the former Archbishop of Guatemala by their presence were the Most Rev. John W. Shaw, D. D., Archbishop of New Orleans, many Spanish Dominicans, several members of the clergy of the Archdiocese, and representatives of the governments of Central America. The jubilee sermon on "The Divinity of the Priesthood" was delivered by the Rev. Joseph L. Pastorelli, O. P., Pastor of St. Peter's Church in Memphis, Tenn. Upon the invitation of the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., S. T. Lr., Provincial, and of Father Pastorelli, His Grace went to Memphis where, on May 8, his Dominican brethren of St. Peter's parish had the distinction of assisting the jubilarian in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

Many interesting events have occurred during his ministry, and one marvels at the courage he has displayed in overcoming the many obstacles that at various times confronted him. The Most Rev. Julian Raymond Riveiro y Jacinto was born on February 17, 1854, and while he was still in his very early years his mother passed away. Determined to produce worth while results, the young man diligently applied himself to his studies, and in 1867 entered the Con-

vent of St. Dominic at Guatemala. He received the white habit of the Friars Preachers in 1868. After a period of probation in the novitiate he was admitted to simple profession on February 2, 1871. In May, 1872, decrees were issued by the Republic of Guatemala by which all religious communities were suppressed, and any kind of monastic institution was prohibited. Deprived of the advantages of community life, the young Dominican was obliged to act without the guidance and spiritual direction of religious superiors. Throughout his course of studies, numerous inducements to enter the legal profession were offered to him, but realizing the consequence of his vocation to the priesthood, he remained firm and demonstrated undeviating loyalty to his ideal of becoming a Dominican. Not having made solemn profession, a requisite for ordination to the priesthood in the Order of Preachers, he applied for and obtained special permission from Pope Pius IX that he might receive Holy Orders while he was yet in simple vows.

Archbishop Riveiro was ordained on April 3, 1877 in Honduras, at the age of twenty-three. In July of the same year he received the appointment as Chaplain of St. Dominic's Church in Guatemala, and for thirty-seven years he served in this capacity, during which time he alone maintained St. Dominic's Church and was the only member of the Dominican Order in Guatemala. Nearly the entire population of this Central American Republic adheres to the Roman Catholic faith and in ministering to the needs of these good people did the venerable Archbishop spend himself. Urged by a genuine Dominican zeal and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to her Rosary, he established the Society of the Living Rosary among his parishioners by forming bands, or circles, consisting of fifteen members, each of whom was obliged to say, not the whole Rosary during the week, but simply one decade each day, at the same time meditating on the mystery which would be assigned by lot. By this means the entire Rosary, or Psalter of Mary, would be said collectively by the members of each circle every day. He next introduced into Guatemala the devotion of the Perpetual Rosary, also called Our Lady's Guard of Honor, the aim of which is to unite the members in such a way that, different hours of the day and night being assigned to each, some devoted watchers will ever be found in prayer and praise at Our Lady's Shrine, telling their beads for the conversion of sinners, the relief of the dying, and the succor of the dead, and all in Mary's blessed name. These devotions have since been the most popular in Guatemala and practically all the Catholics are inscribed in one or more of the various societies and confraternities. That he might

bring his flock to a better understanding of the benefits obtained by enrollment in the noble Dominican family he organized a chapter of the Third Order of St. Dominic whose membership was soon numbered by the hundreds.

As an example to the people whose spiritual direction was entrusted to his care he virtuously endured many hardships, and on several occasions he was the object of unfavorable edicts of the government. Because of his outstanding achievements as pastor of St. Dominic's Church he soon gained recognition and, after his election to the archiepiscopal See of Guatemala, April 8, 1914, he was called to Rome where, on May 10, 1914, he was consecrated by Cardinal Merry del Val, in the Church of the Minerva. Upon returning to his See in Central America he observed a decided change in the attitude of the government toward religious matters. His first official acts as Archbishop were to inaugurate a residence of the Dominicans in Guatemala, consisting of two priests and a lay brother, and to undertake and complete the first detailed visitation of the territory under his jurisdiction. Severe earthquakes which then destroyed the Cathedral and many churches in Guatemala proved to be a challenge to the new Archbishop which he readily accepted. Encouraged by a spirit of confidence in the divine assistance and by the cooperation of the citizenry of Guatemala, he launched a program of reconstruction that produced the most astounding results for the betterment of the disturbed conditions.

By his harmonious contacts with the people of every class he merited a privileged position in the esteem of all, and during his time as Archbishop he was never molested by the government and enjoyed the greatest respect of the civil authorities. After his resignation from the See, in deference to his successor, he left Guatemala and took up his residence in New Orleans, Louisiana. While he has been living in this country he has repeatedly been requested to return to his former Archdiocese. Only very recently the government, through its representative, the Consul General of Guatemala at New Orleans, asked him to consider the matter of returning to Guatemala as its Archbishop. Though intensely interested in the cause of the Church in Central America he was forced to decline these proposals, for the strenuous activity of the last fifty years has somewhat impaired his health. At the age of seventy-three he is content to remain in the United States, imploring the divine protection for his Catholics in Guatemala that they may ever remain faithful to the traditions their ancestors have established with His Grace, the Most Reverend Julian Raymond Riveiro y Jacinto, O. P., D. D., as their leader.