



THE MOST REV. BONAVENTURE GARCIA DE PAREDES,
O.P., S.T.M. (1866-1936)

VALIANT ONE FALLEN IN BATTLE



S DOMINICANA was about to go to press, official word was received from Rome of the death of the Most Rev. Bonaventure Garcia de Paredes, O.P., S.T.M., ex-Master General of the Order of Preachers, at the hands of Spanish anti-clericals on August 14, 1936. While it was long rumored that Father Paredes had been murdered, the report was definitely confirmed only recently.

Born in Castenedo de Valdes, Spain, on April 19, 1866, Bonaventure Garcia de Paredes joined the Dominican Province of the Most Holy Rosary of the Phillipines at the age of seventeen in Ocana, Spain. He was ordained priest in 1891, and subsequently pursued studies at the University of Madrid which led to the degrees of Ph.D., Litt.D., and LL.D. After editing the paper *Libertas* in Manila, P. I., for a short time, Father Paredes returned to Spain as Rector of the College of St. Thomas, Avila, in 1902. While there he founded a college at Sancta Maria de Nieva in Segovia. The Provincial Chapter held at Manila in 1910 elected him Prior Provincial, an office which he tried to resign at the expiration of his term of four years, but in which he was commanded to remain by the express order of the Supreme Pontiff, Pius X.

In 1917, Father Paredes returned to Spain as Superior of the Convent of the Most Holy Rosary in Madrid, and it was while in this office that he received word of his election as Master General of the Dominican Order by the General Chapter held at Ocana, Spain, May 22, 1926. The humble scholar, then in his sixtieth year, vainly tried to be released from the great charge, but the Capitular Fathers insisted that he assume the leadership of the Order. After two years of valiant work, the General resigned because of ill health in 1928, and retired to the Dominican convent at Ocana where he had entered the Order as a youth.

When the Spanish revolution broke out, the aged friar went to Madrid, and there was murdered by anti-clericals—he whose whole life, in the words of the present Master General of the Order, the Most Rev. M. S. Gillet, O.P., “remarkably prepared him for martyrdom. . . The valiant one has fallen in battle for defending and publicly professing the laws of God against those who call themselves enemies of the divinity.”