

VERY REV. WALTER FARRELL, O.P.,

MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY

---



ON NOVEMBER 13th, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas as Patron of Schools, Dominicans from all parts of the country and other guests gathered at the House of Studies in Washington to congratulate and pay honor to the Very Rev. Walter Farrell, O.P., S.T.M., Regent of Studies of the Province of St. Joseph. The occasion was the official celebration of the recent conferring on Father Farrell of the degree of Master of Sacred Theology, the honor reserved by the Dominican Order for her most worthy theologians. A Solemn Mass was celebrated by Father Farrell himself, assisted by two classmates, the Very Rev. Adrian T. English, O.P., S.T.Lr., Prior of the House of Studies, and Rev. C. I. Litzinger, O.P., S.T.Lr., Professor at the House of Studies. The Very Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, O.P., S.T.M., acting dean of the School of Theology at Catholic University, preached an inspiring sermon on the glory which Dominican Masters and teaching have shed upon the Order and the Church. Superiors and friends from most of the religious communities at the University were present at the ceremonies, while a large group of Priors and distinguished members of the Province of St. Joseph were headed by the Provincial, the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., S.T.Lr. The Very Rev. J. A. Driscoll, O.P., S.T.Lr., represented the Very Rev. Peter O'Brien, O.P., S.T.Lr., Provincial of the Province of St. Albert, who was unable to attend. Other prelates included the Very Rev. Benedict Blank, O.P., S.T.Lr., Provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name.

It was in the city of Chicago that Father Farrell received his early education. There he attended its Catholic grammar schools and was a student at Quigley Preparatory Seminary before entering the Dominican Novitiate at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, in 1920. He pursued the usual course of Philosophy at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and the House of Studies in Washington. While a student of theology in Washington, Father Farrell was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Curley on June 9, 1927. Upon receiving the degree of Lector of Sacred Theology the following year, he was sent to study in Europe where in 1930 he was

awarded the Doctorate in Sacred Theology by the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Father Farrell taught St. Thomas Dogma both in St. Joseph's and, since 1934, in the House of Studies in Washington. Within the past year, the Master General appointed him Regent of Studies for the province. In June 1940, while in Rome following his examination, by a special dispensation of the Holy See, Father Farrell was inducted into his new dignity.

The high reputation which Father Farrell enjoys also outside the Order is due largely to his learned and successful lectures, especially those on the *Summa*, delivered under the auspices of the Catholic Thought Association. The latter have been embodied in the highly popular volumes *A Companion to the Summa*, put out by Sheed & Ward, in which he has introduced and vitalized in the minds of thinking people the principles of St. Thomas. DOMINICANA wishes to extend sincere congratulations to Father Farrell, who is an old friend, and may continued success be his! N.H.