

FORMAL INAUGURATION

OF THE

PONTIFICAL FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AT WASHINGTON, D.C.



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1942, the Pontifical Faculty of Theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., was formally inaugurated. Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by His Excellency, The Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D., Apostolic Delegate to the United States. The Very Reverend Adrian T. English, O.P., Prior of the Washington House of Studies, was assistant priest. The deacons of honor were the Very Reverend Peter O'Brien, O.P., Provincial of the Province of St. Albert the Great, and the Very Reverend Benedict Blank, O.P., Provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name. The Very Reverend Ferdinand Mayer, O.M.C., was deacon of the mass, and the Reverend David Nugent, S.J., Rector of the College of the Sacred Heart, Woodstock, Md., subdeacon.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, O.P., S.T.M., Archbishop of Cincinnati, in his sermon on the formal inauguration of the Pontifical Theological Faculty showed how faithfully the sons of St. Dominic have maintained the high standards of scholarship insisted upon by their founder. "The intellectual and spiritual patrimony of the sons of St. Dominic," said the Archbishop, "has a value beyond price . . . [and] any renaissance of studies that puts the Order of Preachers on its high intellectual plane in this country deserves encouragement . . . I am sure I speak in the name of the authorities of the Province of Saint Joseph and of the Fathers, whose lives are dedicated to scholastic careers in this *Studium*, when I say that the best efforts will be made here to prepare men to meet the conditions of our day and to send forth, according to the traditions of the Order, saintly scholars."

In the evening the Vice Chancellor of the newly erected faculty, the Very Reverend T. S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, presided over a panel discussion. The Very Reverend Benedict Blank, O.P., as Chairman, introduced the Very Reverend Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., of the Catholic University of America. Fr. Connell presented the matter for discussion in his study: *The Role of Theology in the Intellectual Life of Modern*

America. He indicated the dangers of over-simplifying theology thus exposing it to ridicule, as well as the almost opposite danger of using needlessly complex terminology and overemphasizing minutiae thus keeping theology aloof from the laity. The point he stressed was the difficulty of theological communication between clergy and laity. The Very Reverend J. Courtney Murray, S.J., the Very Reverend John J. Lardner, S.S., the Very Reverend Bartholomew Timlin, O.F.M., and Mr. Herbert Schwartz, Ph.D., then indicated some particular aspects of the problem under consideration. Mr. Schwartz crystallized the two formalities of the question by pointing out that not only was there a problem of communication of theological knowledge but also one of personal possession of that science. In the audience participation which followed, however, channels and obstacles to more perfect theological communication between clergy and laity were mainly considered.

The Dominicans' day of rejoicing, shared by their friends from many religious institutions, fittingly intertwined the spiritual with the intellectual. From the offering of the Solemn Pontifical Mass by the Apostolic Delegate, through the singing of Solemn Compline over which His Excellency, The Most Reverend Joseph Lemieux, O.P., D.D., Titular Bishop of Calydon, presided, and down to the intellectual efforts of the evening one spirit pervaded the day's observance—love of God and the extension of that love to all men.

(Translation)

SACRED CONGREGATION OF SEMINARIES AND UNIVERSITIES

DECREE

The Most Reverend Master General of the Order of Preachers has recently requested of the Apostolic See that the general theological Studium of the same Order, in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception at Washington, be raised to the rank of a Theological Faculty with the right to confer academic degrees. The Sovereign Pontiff PIUS XII now happily reigning, at the instance of the undersigned Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities, has graciously deigned to grant the petition of the aforesaid Most Reverend Father.

Therefore the same Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities has canonically erected, and declares to be erected, the Theo-

logical Faculty in the general Studium of the Order of Preachers at Washington, granting the power to confer academic degrees on students of the same Order, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution *Deus Scientiarum Dominus* and its accompanying regulations, and according to the duly approved statutes of ecclesiastical faculties of the Order of Preachers.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, from the Office of St. Callixtus, November 15th, on the Feast of St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, in the year 1941.

PREFECT

(sig) T. CARD. PIZZARDO

SECRETARY

(sig.) ERNEST RUFFINI