

# DOMINICANA

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MOST REV. EMMANUEL SUAREZ, O.P.

EIGHTIETH MASTER GENERAL



NCE more a son of the Province of Spain has been chosen to lead the Friars Preachers. Ninety-two electors representing the 8,000 members of the Order throughout the world met at the Angelicum Pontifical University on September 21, and chose the Most Rev. Emmanuel Suarez, O.P., rector of the Angelicum, as the Master General.

Father Suarez is the eightieth Master General elected since Pope Honorius III approved the foundation of the Order in 1216. He succeeds Father Martin Stanislaus Gillet, who has been named Titular Archbishop of Nicea, by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Father Gillet was elected seventeen years ago and held the office five years beyond the statutory twelve years because the war prevented a convocation of the General Chapter at the appointed time.

The new Master General was born in Campomanes, Asturias, on November 5, 1895. Upon the completion of his early classical studies at Coriax in the province of Oviedo, he received the Dominican habit on August 28, 1913, and made his profession on August 30, 1914. He continued his studies in philosophy and theology at the University of Salamanca, where he earned degrees with high honors. Following his Ordination at Salamanca, he was sent to the University of Madrid, to study Civil Law and was awarded his doctorate with highest honors.

Shortly thereafter, Fr. Suarez went to Rome for further studies at the Collegio Angelico. He took the course at the Roman Rota, for which he wrote his brilliant and widely known examination thesis, *De Remotione Parochorum*. Subsequently, he was called to teach Canon Law at the Angelicum. Father Suarez was several times dean of that faculty, and on June 29, 1941 was chosen Rector Magnificus of the University. On Jan. 8, 1942 he became prior of that institution.

Father Suarez has passed most of his time in Rome since 1922, and his work as an official in many Roman Congregations has been highly esteemed. He is promotor of justice in the Dominican Curia,

consultor to the Sacred Congregations of the Council, the Sacraments, and the Oriental Church, member of the Vigilance Commission for Ecclesiastical Tribunals on Matrimonial Cases, consultor to the Commission on Interpretation of Canon Law, advocate of the Sacred Roman Rota, as well as "pro-defensor vinculi" of that body, and a pro-synodal judge of the tribunal of the Roman Vicariate. He is also a member of the Superior Spanish Council for Scientific Investigation.

The new Master General is an able linguist, and speaks, besides his mother tongue, French, German and Italian.

The task which Father Suarez takes up is no light one, especially in view of the troubled international situation. Yet he has seen the dreadful effects of war and Communist agitation in his own country, where so many of his friends and fellow Dominicans were martyred, and where he escaped detection only by remaining in hiding for two years. After suffering many hardships, he eventually escaped to Rome. As soon as he had regained his health, Fr. Suarez returned to Spain, where he remained until the end of the war, engaged in helping priests escape the Red-controlled areas, and almost certain death at the hands of the Communists. In Rome during the liberation of Italy, he has seen the fall of nazism, which has dragged half a continent down to ruin with itself. These occurrences, outlining in clear colors the primacy of spiritual values over the most sweeping material achievements, have shown to Fr. Suarez the goal to which he will direct the efforts of the Order.

Already he has begun by gathering about him as his colleagues, some of the soundest and most acute minds of the Order, men who, like himself, are fully aware of the crying needs of our time, and of the mission which the Order has in bringing the world back to Christ.

Fr. Suarez is known to consider the United States as one of the most important fields of the Church, as a bulwark against Communism, and as the leader in the return which must be made to sanity and faith in God. It is to be expected, therefore, that he will look to the Order in the United States to show the way to that goal.

On September 15th, the new Master General together with the members of the Chapter, were received in special audience by the Holy Father, who expressed his joy and gratification at the selection of the Capitular Fathers.

It is with a heart full of gratitude to God that DOMINICANA, in the name of the Fathers, Students, and Novices of St. Joseph's Province, extends to Father Suarez its sincerest congratulations. Reviewing his past achievements, we can not have aught but the fullest confidence that he will continue to spread the ideals of his illustrious predecessors, especially those of the greatest exemplar—St. Dominic.

DISCOURSE OF THE HOLY FATHER TO THE MASTER GENERAL  
AND THE CAPITULAR FATHERS, SEPTEMBER 15, 1946

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IT IS fitting that we receive with a joyful and loving heart, you, my Dominican Brethren, who celebrate at Rome the General Chapter of your religious family. We have followed its progress and work attentively, and We do not doubt that it will bring forth good and desired accomplishments and events, so that your Order, with strengthened discipline and increased vigor, may contribute more and more to the salutary triumphs of the Gospel.

But to come to the point, the new Master General chosen by your votes excites hope in Us. We are pleased to welcome him now here present. We are pleased also to acknowledge publicly the copious merits which Our beloved son Martin Gillet gathered to himself during the long period he fulfilled the office of your supreme moderator.

While We were thinking and pondering a subject to which We could opportunely and usefully turn Our discourse, there came to Our notice some words in your Constitutions, which indeed seem to be worthy of meditation: "united in peace, assiduous in study, fervent in preaching" (n. 452). A brief expression, a profound thought; a small group of words, yet a heavy burden of precepts; for there shines forth the form of the outstanding virtues, which will be to the chosen and beloved offspring of St. Dominic an augur, a goal, a star, of a glorious journey.

"United in peace." We do not speak of peace under a counterfeit name, difficult to obtain, easy to lose, full of snares. We understand a true, solid, sincere peace, which is the daughter of charity and the parent of holy joy, according to the Divine Words: "Much peace have they that love Thy law" (Ps. 118, 165), and: "Joy followeth them that take counsels of peace" (Prov. 12, 20).

Peace of this kind is the most beautiful gift of Christ, which the world can neither give nor snatch from us, but can only vainly envy us. Indeed that peace is Christ: "For He is our peace" (Eph. 2, 14): Christ, namely, Who dwells in and animates our breasts, to Whom we belong if we live rightly. However, since peace is the harmony of painstaking virtues, always press on with greater alacrity, subjecting the body to the soul and the soul to God, flowering with evangelical grace, so that you may please the angels by your desire and thought, and men by your work. Let there be far from you anything to disturb the fraternal concord which especially becomes religious men, and