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— APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO THE UNITED STATES —

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MOST REVEREND  
AMLETO GIOVANNI CICOGNANI, D.D.

## APOSTOLIC JUBILEE

### A Dedication

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST is Apostolic; this is one of her four distinctive marks. Recent months have focused attention on one who in a special manner symbolizes and concretizes this note of apostolicity for the Church in America. We mean the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. This year Archbishop Cicognani celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment to this important post and of his consecration as titular Archbishop of Laodicea in Phrygia.

In honor of this two-fold silver jubilee, *Dominicana* dedicates its summer issue to the Holy Father's special representative in America. Such a dedication of the issue traditionally devoted to the theme of the priesthood is particularly opportune this year. For the twenty three young Dominicans ordained on June 5 in Washington were privileged to receive their sacred priesthood from the hands of Archbishop Cicognani himself.

As we reflect on the coincidence of this ordination ceremony with two significant milestones in the life of the ordaining prelate, we are struck by the note of apostolicity. While it is true that every Catholic bishop throughout the world enjoys the apostolic character, the Delegate seems to sum up in a special way all the implications of this mark of Christ's true Church. By virtue of his episcopal consecration, Archbishop Cicognani possesses the note of apostolicity in its most primary sense. He is literally our *Apostolic Delegate*.

Constituted in the fullness of the Catholic priesthood, he is charged with the very mission and authority confided by Christ to his chosen Twelve. He enjoys plenary power over the sacraments; most of all, it is his to perpetuate the holy priesthood and the episcopal order itself. A sizable proportion of our nation's hierarchy derive their apostolic lineage from the titular Archbishop of Laodicea.

As Delegate, His Excellency exhibits yet another facet of the

Church's apostolicity. Her genuine apostolicity is testified by the Church's loyalty to the see of the Apostles and her loving subjection to the successor of Peter. The Apostolic Delegate represents Peter in our midst. Through him we show the Holy Father our loyalty and subjection, for he who is sent merits the respect and obedience due to him who sent him. And as the American church rallies around the special representative of the Roman see, we show forth to the world a unity and peace that are truly apostolic.

There is a third sense of apostolicity, perhaps more commonly used. The Catholic Church is apostolic in her tremendous missionary labor to spread the Gospel, "teaching all nations, even to the consummation of the world." In his own priestly years, twenty-five of them in our midst, Archbishop Cicognani has constantly manifested an apostolic zeal for souls. In his writings and addresses, in his very being, he has shown a profound sense of the dignity and responsibility of the priesthood. His great learning has been dedicated with an apostolic purpose to the service of the Church. And few have failed to remark that generosity and affability which have won him the esteem and friendship of all our people, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Lastly, in a land where Catholics are in the minority, the Apostolic Delegate has encouraged, fostered, and rejoiced to see a remarkable growth in the Catholic Church of America. He has counselled the erection of numerous dioceses and ecclesiastical provinces, and the Catholic population has been practically doubled during his tenure. Few would deny that Archbishop Cicognani's appreciation of American religious conditions have been instrumental in this great progress.

*Dominicana*, then, dedicates this issue to a thoroughly apostolic man. Thanking Archbishop Cicognani for his many kindnesses toward our country and toward the Dominican Order, we pray that he may remain among us, healthy and active, for many years to come. And we do not hesitate to pray that his example and inspiration will guide us, and our brethren newly ordained at his hands, through fruitful years of service in the holy and apostolic priesthood of Christ's Church.

