

VERY REVEREND JOHN A. McHUGH, O.P.,
VERY REVEREND CHARLES J. CALLAN, O.P.,
MASTERS OF SACRED THEOLOGY



DURING an impressive ceremony held at the House of Studies, Washington, D. C., March 19th, 1931, the exalted degree of Master of Sacred Theology was conferred upon the Very Revs. John A. McHugh and Charles J. Callan, illustrious members of St. Joseph's Province, both Lectors of Theology and prolific writers. The two candidates were invested with the cap and ring, the symbolic insignia of the ancient degree, and formally promoted to their new dignity by the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., Prior Provincial of St. Joseph's Province. A Solemn Pontifical Mass, at which some two hundred of the clergy assisted, was celebrated by Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D.D., Rector Emeritus of Catholic University. The sermon was delivered by the Very Rev. A. L. McMahon, O.P., S.T.M., former Provincial of Holy Name Province on the Western Coast, himself one of the few friars possessing the distinguished title by which Fathers Callan and McHugh were honored. By a coincidence these same fathers twenty-five years before, March 7, 1906, gave the first public disputation to be held within the walls of the new House of Studies in the presence of the Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Diomedea Falconio, the Rector of Catholic University, Right Rev. Denis J. O'Connell, D.D., and many distinguished clergymen of the neighboring religious houses.

The Magistery in Sacred Theology dates back to the early middle ages and the first beginnings of university life in Europe. The Order of Preachers, in the century following its foundation by St. Dominic in 1216, was given the faculty of conferring the degree by the Roman Pontiff. It is the only degree conferred by the Dominicans. The candidate to be eligible must have received the office of Lector immediately after ordination to the priesthood and must spend two years in supplementary studies. He must then be engaged in teaching the Sacred Sciences for a period of at least seven years, at which time he may submit

himself to an examination by five Masters in the entire field of Sacred Studies, a test which can be held only at the General Studium of the Order at Rome. After this examination he must continue teaching for at least six years in a Studium, University or Seminary approved by the Master General. Then, if nominated by the Council of the Province of which he is a member, he may receive the degree from the Master General of the Order. The degree is considered the first and greatest theological dignity in the Church and is held by only eight other men in the United States.

The newly appointed Masters have been closely associated for many years. Father McHugh was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1880, Father Callan in Royalton, N. Y., in 1877. Both were ordained priests in 1905 and were promoted to the office of Lector of Theology in the following year. After extensive studies at Catholic University, Collegio Angelico, Rome, and at the University of Fribourg, they returned in 1909 to teach at the House of Studies, Washington, D. C. In 1916 both men were appointed to teach at the Maryknoll Foreign Mission Seminary, Ossining, N. Y., where Father Callan now teaches Sacred Scripture and Father McHugh presides over the course in Dogmatic Theology and History of Philosophy. They have been co-editors of "The Homiletic and Pastoral Review," largest of all magazines for priests, for the past fifteen years. The many works which have been the fruits of their collaboration are well known, among the latest and foremost being "Moral Theology" in English.

Bishop Shahan was assisted by Right Rev. Msgr. Bernard McKenna, Archpriest; Very Rev. M. L. Heagen, O.P., and Very Rev. F. G. Horn, O.P., S.T.M., Deacons of Honor; Rev. L. J. Eskay, O.S.B., Deacon, Rev. E. Murphy, C.P.P.S., Sub-Deacon; Rev. Dr. E. B. Jordan, Ph.D., Master of Ceremonies. Father McDermott was assisted in conferring the degrees by Very Rev. Justin McManus, O.P., Prior of the House of Studies, Washington, D. C.

Among those present for the ceremony and luncheon, which followed, were Most Rev. Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, more than 100 Dominicans from various parts of the United States and the representatives of the many religious Orders and Congregations.

Norbert Reynolds, O.P.