

VERY REV. CHARLES JEROME CALLAN, O.P., S.T.M.,  
NEW CONSULTOR OF THE BIBLICAL COMMISSION

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On July 22, 1940, His Holiness Pope Pius XII appointed the Very Reverend Charles Jerome Callan, O.P., S.T.M., Litt. D., a consultant of the Pontifical Biblical Commission in Rome. Hundreds of his friends gathered within the walls of one of New York's most beautiful churches, St. Vincent Ferrer's, on Columbus Day, October 12, 1940, to offer their congratulations to Fr. Callan, the first native American to receive this honor.

The Pontifical Biblical Commission was formally established on October 30, 1902, by the Apostolic Letter of Pope Leo XIII, *Vigilantiae Deus*. The office of this commission is to secure the observance of the prescriptions contained in the Encyclical *Providentissimus Deus* for the proper interpretation of Sacred Scripture and to solve any biblical difficulties which may be submitted to it.

At present the Commission is composed of seven Cardinals and twenty-two Consultors. Most of the Cardinal members and seven of the Consultors live in Rome where they convene for their meetings. Those Consultors not living in Rome serve the Commission by replying to questions submitted to them and by making known to the Commission things that are useful for its information.

The Biblical Commission has been described as a Supreme Court in matters pertaining to Sacred Scripture. However it is not infallible nor irreformable and its decisions may be revised by the Holy Father—something which has never happened in the thirty-eight years of its history. The Commission has academic powers and confers the degrees of "Licentiate" and the Doctorate in Sacred Scripture upon priests already Doctors of Theology who pass its examinations.

The newly appointed Consultor was born at Royalton, N. Y. on December 5, 1877. He attended the district grade school at Royalton and High School at Lockport, N. Y. In 1897, he matriculated at Canisius College, Buffalo.

Father Callan entered the novitiate of the Order of Preachers at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., August 22, 1899. After his profession, October 23, 1900, he continued his studies at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. He completed his preparatory studies at the



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Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, June 29, 1905.

From Washington Father Callan went to the University of Fribourg in Switzerland where, after extensive study, he received the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Theology. In 1909 he returned to Washington to teach Philosophy in the Dominican House of Studies, and in 1916 he was appointed to the faculty of the Catholic Foreign Mission Seminary at Maryknoll, N. Y., where for the past twenty-five years, as professor of Sacred Scripture and the Sacred Sciences, he has instructed and inspired American youth who have gone to foreign missions in the Orient.

Closely associated with Father Callan has been the Very Reverend John A. McHugh, O.P., S.T.M. Both of these Friars, besides carrying on their professional work at Maryknoll, are members of the Provincial's Council of the Province of St. Joseph, care for the Parish of Holy Rosary, Hawthorne, N. Y., and edit the *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*. Fathers Callan and McHugh are co-authors of many well-known books dealing with Scripture, Theology and other religious subjects. To many of the laity they are perhaps best known as co-authors of the prayer-book *Blessed Be God*.

DOMINICANA joins with the Maryknollers, in this country and in the Orient, and with the Dominican Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph's Province, in offering its congratulations to Fr. Callan. V.L.