

THE MOST REVEREND PAUL A. SKEHAN, O.P., S.T.Lr., J.C.D.
PROCURATOR GENERAL

The Most Reverend Emmanuel Suarez, O.P., new Master General of the Order, announced his appointment of Father Skehan to the office of Procurator General. Father Skehan will now represent the Dominican Order as Canonist before the Holy See. It is the first time in the history of the Order that an American has been privileged to fill such an office as this.

Father Skehan is the 112th Procurator General. The position was first exercised by our Holy Father St. Dominic himself. The first official Procurator General, however, was Troianus de Regno, who was appointed by Humbert of Romans in 1256. Since that time the office has been held by some of the most illustrious members of the Order, including Bernard Gui, Cardinal Cajetan, and Father Cormier. The last incumbent was the Most Reverend Philip M. Caterini, O.P.

A native of Anderson, Indiana, Father Skehan was born on November 17, 1899. He received his early schooling in the schools of that city, and, desiring to enter the Dominican Order, was sent to Providence College, Providence, R. I. On the completion of his second year at that institution, he received the habit of the Order and made his novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky. Following his simple profession, he began his philosophical studies in the same priory, and continued them at the House of Studies, Washington, D. C., where he also completed his theological studies. He was ordained in St. Dominic's Church, Washington, June 21, 1928, by Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, D.D.

After being awarded the degree of lector, Father Skehan taught for a year at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. From here, in 1930, he was sent to the Collegio Angelico, in Rome, to continue his studies in Canon Law. After receiving his Doctorate in Canon Law, he taught that subject at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, from 1932 to 1936. In 1936, he was called to the Angelicum, Rome, as Professor of Canon Law.

In 1937, he returned to the United States, and was appointed to the faculty of the House of Studies, Washington, where he taught until the notification of his appointment to the office of Procurator



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General. During this time, too, Father Skehan was an assistant secretary to the Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

Father Skehan was accompanied to Rome by the Very Reverend Timothy Sparks, O.P., S.T.M., formerly a professor and Master of Studies at the Pontifical Faculty of Philosophy in the Dominican House of Studies, River Forest, Illinois. He has been named Assistant General for the Dominican Provinces of North America and Titular Provincial of the Province of St. Michael the Archangel in Puebla of the Angels (Mexico). This was one of the four provinces that once existed in Mexico.

To both Father Sparks and Father Skehan, *Dominicana*, in the name of the Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph's Province, extends congratulations and best wishes.