

MASTER OF THE SACRED PALACE

Most Reverend Michael Browne, O.P., S.T.M.

On January 13, 1951, His Holiness Pope Pius XII announced the appointment of the Most Reverend Michael Browne, O.P., as the successor of the Most Reverend Mario Cordovani, O.P., recently deceased Master of the Sacred Palace.

The post of Master of the Sacred Palace is one of the highest trust. The office was created by Pope Honorius III for St. Dominic and ever since has been in the keeping of the Order. Originally designated as the *Lector Curiae* the Friar who fills this office serves as personal theologian to the Pope. As successor of a long line of eminent Dominicans, St. Thomas Aquinas among them, Father Browne will be consultor to the Holy Office, an *ex officio* prelate of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and a consultor to the Pontifical Commission of Biblical Studies. Henceforth he will live at the Vatican.

Michael David Browne was born at Grangemockler, County Tipperary, Ireland, on May 6, 1887. Having received his secondary education at Rockwell College in the same county, he entered the Dominican Novitiate at Tallaght, County Dublin, in September, 1903. There he began his course of studies in philosophy and theology which was completed in Rome where he was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1910.

The following year Father Browne received the degree of Lector of Sacred Theology and was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, for graduate studies. He remained at Fribourg until 1914 when he was recalled to Ireland and appointed professor of philosophy and Master of Students at Tallaght.

Father Browne's Roman career was resumed when he was appointed professor at the Angelicum—then the Collegio Angelico—in 1919. In 1925 he was named Prior of San Clemente, the Priory and Church of the Irish Dominicans at Rome. At the end of his term of office he returned to the Angelicum as professor of philosophy and Master of Studies. At the General Chapter of the Order held in 1929 he received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology. In recognition of his eminent success as teacher and administrator, Father Browne was named

Rector Magnificus of the Angelicum in 1932, a position he held until 1946.

The appointment of Father Browne as Master of the Sacred Palace has brought joy to his many friends in Ireland. He is well known in his native land as a retreat master, having spent a large portion of his summer vacations giving retreats there. His brother Msgr. Patrick Browne is President of University College, Galway; another brother, Reverend Maurice Browne is stationed at Bray, County Wicklow.

The new Master of the Sacred Palace is also known and revered by many American priests who have studied under his guidance over the years. His quiet, humble manner and his generosity in giving of his time and learning have endeared him to all who know him.

Dominicana expresses the feelings of the Dominicans of the United States in offering warm congratulations to Father Browne and the traditional sincere prayer *Ad multos annos*.