



THE MOST REVEREND TERENCE STEPHEN McDERMOTT, O.P., S.T.M.
Vicar General of the Order
in the Chapel of the Master General, Santa Sabina, Rome

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Vicar General of the Order of Preachers

With the death of the Most Reverend Emmanuel Suarez, the Dominican Master General, the Very Reverend Terence S. McDermott, O.P., S.T.M., the Prior Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, becomes Vicar General of the Order in accord with the Dominican Constitutions. It is his duty to guide the entire Order during the interim preceding the election of a new Master General. That Father McDermott is well prepared to meet the demands of such a responsible position is verified by the fact that most of his life as a Dominican priest has been spent in fulfilling the office of a superior.

The present Vicar General of the Order of Preachers was born in Thrall, Wright County, Iowa, the second child and eldest son of William Joseph and Helen Brick McDermott. After his graduation from Sacred Heart High School in Eagle Grove, Iowa, Terence McDermott went to Minneapolis where he attended night school while working for the Great Northern Railway in the same city. But God had other plans for him; He was calling him to enter the Order of Preachers.

Terence McDermott took the name of Brother Stephen in religion, and made his novitiate at St. Joseph's Priory, near Somerset, Ohio. He was professed January 13, 1907, and went to the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., where he studied philosophy and theology. Bishop Owen B. Corrigan, Auxiliary of Baltimore, ordained him to the priesthood on June 25, 1913. Father McDermott received the Lectorate in Sacred Theology in May, 1915, and the following September was appointed to the faculty of the House of Studies, Washington, as professor of Philosophy, History of Philosophy, and Church History. He was also assigned to be the assistant Master of Students.

Father McDermott served both in America and in France as a chaplain in the United States Army during World War I. Upon his return from France, he was sent in 1919 to Kansas City, Missouri, where he remained for seven years as Superior and Pastor of the Dominican Church of the Holy Name. He was then elected Prior of St. Catherine of Siena in New York City. After his election as Prior of the House of Studies, Washington, in 1929, Father McDermott

was appointed Prior Provincial of St. Joseph's Province on December 1, 1930, by the Most Reverend Martin S. Gillet, who was then Master General of the Dominican Order.

He guided the Province through the difficult days of depression and was in 1934 elected to a second term as Provincial. In 1938 he was postulated for a third term. Each Provincial Chapter since that time has postulated Father McDermott for the office of Prior Provincial, and two Masters General with the consent of the Holy See, have seen fit to grant these postulations.

Under Father McDermott's direction a great expansion has come about in the Dominican apostolate. Preaching, parish work, the giving of retreats have all increased. New churches, parochial schools and priories have been built. The negro and foreign mission fields have been extended and developed.

The field of education, as a part of that apostolate, has also made immense progress. Providence College, whose curriculum is enriched with a course in theology, has grown to the extent that today it has a faculty of more than seventy Dominican priests and a student body of around seventeen hundred. A Pontifical Faculty in Theology has been instituted for the House of Studies at Washington whereby it has the power of conferring papal degrees including the Doctorate in Sacred Theology. Men of the Province are being sent on in greater numbers for special studies in theology and philosophy. This program of more intense scholastic training shows its fruitfulness in the number of chairs of philosophy and theology being held by Dominican professors in many of our American Catholic colleges.

Other activities resulting from the Dominican intellectual life are the Thomistic lectures for adults, courses in theology given each summer for many sisters throughout the land, and the writing apostolate. *The Thomist*, a speculative quarterly, was founded under Father McDermott. He has encouraged writing among the Dominican students by the publication of *Dominicana*. The Blackfriars movement to improve the theatre was started during his time of office.

Our prayer for the Vicar General is that God will continue to bless the work accomplished by the Dominican Order for the Church under his paternal leadership.