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MOST REVEREND MICHAEL BROWNE, O.P.  
EIGHTY-FIRST MASTER GENERAL

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ON APRIL 11, 107 electors from 35 Dominican Provinces met in Rome at a conclave of the General Chapter to choose the Order's new Master General. The Most Rev. Michael D. Browne, O.P., Master of the Sacred Palace and papal theologian, was elected the 80th successor to St. Dominic. After his election, he presided over the remaining sessions of the General Chapter held at the Angelicum, where the Provinces of 12 countries throughout the world were represented.

Father Browne succeeds the Most Rev. Emmanuel Suarez who was killed in an automobile accident on June 30, 1954. During the interim the Order has been directed by its Vicar General, the Very Rev. Terence Stephen McDermott, Provincial of St. Joseph's Province.

The new Master General was born at Grangemockler, County Tipperary, Ireland, on May 6, 1887. Following his secondary education at Rockwell College in the same county, he entered the Dominican Novitiate at Tallaght, County Dublin, in September, 1903. His studies in philosophy and theology started after simple profession on September 14, 1904. Six years later, May 21, 1910, he was ordained in Rome where he had been sent in 1908 to complete his course of studies.

In 1911 Father Browne received the degree of Lector of Sacred Theology and went to the University of Fribourg for further studies. He remained there until 1914 when his superiors called him to Ireland to become professor of philosophy and Master of Students at Tallaght.

Five years later Father Browne returned to Rome where he has devoted his talents in uninterrupted service to the Church up to the present day. On the faculty at the Angelicum, he taught logic, metaphysics, and history of philosophy during the years 1919 to 1932, and both regular and special courses in Sacred Theology from 1932 to 1951. The 1929 General Chapter of the Order bestowed upon him the degree of Master of Sacred Theology. In 1925 he was named Prior of San Clemente, the Priory and Church of the Irish Dominicans in Rome. He returned to the

Angelicum in 1930 as professor and Master of Studies. Two years later, Father Browne was made *Rector Magnificus* of the Angelicum, an office he held until 1941. During the years 1938 to 1942, he also served as Prior of the Angelicum. On January 13, 1951, His Holiness Pope Pius XII announced the appointment of the Most Rev. Michael Browne, O.P., as successor to the Most Rev. Mario Cordovani, O.P., Master of the Sacred Palace.

Father Browne is the first Master General from an English-speaking country. He is well known and revered by many American priests, whose studies he guided during their years at the Angelicum. He is also well known as a retreat master in his native Ireland, since he has spent several of his summer vacations there in that work. Father Browne has two brothers in Ireland who are priests. One is Monsignor Patrick Browne, president of University College, Galway, and the other, Father Maurice Browne of Bray County, Wicklow.

To their prayers of thanksgiving, Dominicans the world over unite prayers of petition that the Holy Spirit will pour forth abundant graces upon their new Master General. In the name of the Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph's Province, *Dominicana* extends to His Paternity, the Most Rev. Michael Browne, O.P., sincerest congratulations and assurance of continued prayers.