

40 YEARS AGO

MASTER-GENERAL OF DOMINICAN ORDER

A civic welcome was given to the Most Rev Emmanuel Suarez, OP, Master-General of the Dominican Order, when he paid his first visit to Limerick. In the Priory the Mayor, Mr S Coughlan, with Aldermen, Councillors and Civic Officials, greeted him on behalf of the citizens and presented the distinguished visitor with an illuminated address of welcome.

The Dominican Order's association with Limerick goes back over 700 years, the first priests having come here only six years after the death of the Patriarch, St Domonic. The Dominican Fathers helped in the long struggle for the faith here, and Bishop Terence Albert O'Brien, Fr James Woulfe and Fr John Collins gave their lives in the great cause 300 years ago. And there Dominican contemporaries of these great men died in Limerick while ministering to the plague-stricken people.

The order has always been foremost in preserving our heritage of the faith, and during the Penal days Dominicans still carried on here. Limerickmen of the Order have been prominent and have been Bishops in

places as far apart as Trinidad and Capetown. The statue of Our Lady of Limerick has, for the past 300 years, been a source of inspiration and solace to our people, especially in the far-off days when they were downtrodden and dispised.