

# At Your Ease With the Hierarchy

By SIR JUSTO N. LOPEZ, K.S.O.M., K.S.S.

*Honorary Papal Chamberlain with Cape and Sword*

**N**EXT in rank to the Protonotaries Apostolic are the Prelates *di mantelletta*, who are known as Domestic Prelates. This dignity is a title of honor, conferred on deserving clerics. Some are given this title in virtue of the office they hold, viz: the Archbishops and Bishops Assistants at the Throne, the Protonotaries Apostolic Participating and the Protonotaries Apostolic Supernumerary. Some Archbishops, Bishops, and Protonotaries *ad instar* before their promotion were Domestic Prelates, like: Their Excellencies Archbishops Jose Ma. Cuenco and Pedro Santos and Bishops Cesar Ma. Guerrero and the Rt. Rev. Mons. Jose N. Joellanos.

There are also some clerics who are Domestic Prelates *ad instar durante munere*, like: the Canons of the Primatial Church of Pisa, the dignitaries of the Metropolitan Chapter of Catania, and the senior of the Canons of the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Damaso in Rome. By sovereign concession of the late Pope Pius XII, the Arch-priest of the Chapter of Sts. Celsus and Julian in Rome and the Auditors of the Tribunal of the Rota at the Apostolic Nunciature in Madrid, Spain have the same title of honor. Finally there are other clerics who have the title by direct grant thru a Brief of appointment. Their title is personal, and their appointment is for life.

All Domestic Prelates wear for public ceremonies of the Church a purple cassock, sash and *matelletta* over the rochet, but their biretta unlike that of the Bishop's is black with a reddish purple pompon. However, during the vacancy of the Holy See, they wear a penitential dress, which con-

sists of a black choir cassock made from woolen material, a rabbi, a sash with black tassels, a simple rochet without lace, a *mantelletta* of black. For other ceremonies they use the *simar*, which is exactly similar to the *simar* used by Archbishops, Bishops and Protonotaries Apostolic.

According to "Costume of Prelates of the Catholic Church" by John A. Nainfa, S.S., Domestic Prelates or Chamberlains should not act as assistants to a Bishop, as they have been appointed for the exclusive service of the Sovereign Pontiff, and therefore no Cardinal or Bishop has the right to their personal service.

Domestic Prelates are addressed as: Monsignor. On the envelopes the address is as follows: The Right Reverend Monsignor (Rt. Rev. Msgr.) N.N. The salutation is: Right Reverend Monsignor, or Dear Monsignor, and the concluding phrase is: Sincerely and respectfully yours.

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