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**José Ma. Siguión, Distinguished Editor**

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*José Ma. Siguion, Distinguished Editor*

IT is customary with institutions of learning to honor public officials or outstanding individuals by conferring on them some honorary degree. The Ateneo de Manila does not confer honorary degrees. Instead it confers three types of award. One is the Ozanam Award already mentioned "for outstanding and continued Catholic social action." Another given to non-Ateneans is the title of "Honorary Alumnus." This has been rarely given—the last recipient being Ramón Magsaysay before he became President of the Philippines—and never at commencement. It is an entirely social non-academic award given at some alumni reunion. For its own graduates however the Ateneo reserves a special award: the Golden Jubilee Medal on the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation. The award is not granted to all jubilarians but only to those considered outstanding in their service of God and country and in their fidelity to principles of the Ateneo. Thus in the past three years the jubilee medal was granted to Dr. Manuel Roxas who in the past three years has received various other awards for outstanding scientific achievement, to Don Fabian Millar, former President of Catholic Action and the father of a Jesuit, to Don Vicente Marasigan, Dr. Luis Gomez, Don Claudio de Luzuriaga, Dr. Jose Delgado, Don Jose Gaston and Don Guillermo Katigbak, the father of two Jesuits and one Benedictine nun.

Of special interest this year was the special jubilee award given on the sixtieth anniversary of his graduation from the Ateneo to Father Jose Ma. Siguion S.J.

Father Siguion was born in 1881 and entered the Ateneo when he was nine years old. He was a student at the Ateneo one year short of graduation when another Atenean Dr. José Rizal died for his country on Bagumbayan field in 1896. Jose Siguion graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1897 but stayed on at the Ateneo for studies in commercial science receiving later the certificate of "Perito Mercantil." He did not however exercise his new-learned role as "expert businessman" but chose instead to become a priest going to Sto. Tomas for his seminary studies. In 1902 he left for Spain to study theology at the Pontifical University of Comillas. On 31 March 1906 he was ordained priest in the cathedral of Santander offering his first mass the following Easter

at the Castle of Javier, home of St. Francis Xavier. Continuing his studies at Comillas he was created doctor of sacred theology in 1908 and later also doctor of canon law. In August of that year he became a Jesuit entering the Society of Jesus in the novitiate at Gandia, the home of St. Francis Borgia and of the dukes of Gandia. Four years later in 1912 he returned to the Philippines, worked in Mindanao for one year, taught at the seminary in Vigan for eight years and then came to Manila where he has been ever since serving in various capacities including (during the war) that of superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, the first (and to date the only) Filipino to hold that position.

But his most important work has been twofold: in 1921 he was appointed Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in which capacity he has served the missions for almost thirty years, and also in 1921 he was appointed editor of the scholarly magazine *Cultura Social* which he continued to edit for twenty years until the Pacific war suspended its publication in 1942. The twenty-six year history of that magazine is a noteworthy chapter in the history of Philippine journalism and not a little of its success was due to the very unassuming but very efficient work of Father Siguion, one of the least known yet one of the most noteworthy of Philippine editors. Those who know Father Siguion know him for his humility, his simplicity, his kindness, his zeal, his priestly piety and his sense of humor. The ovation was tremendous when having been helped up the stage he walked leaning on a cane across the stage to receive his medal from the college where he had graduated sixty years before. The citation was significant: "The Ateneo de Manila has been very fortunate in counting many outstanding men among its alumni; but it considers itself specially fortunate in granting its special jubilee award to an outstanding alumnus, a man of letters and a man of God, an ornament to the Church and to the Filipino people, a doctor of theology, a doctor of canon law, a priest of God and a very humble Jesuit."

M.A.B.

### THE FUNCTION OF THE STATE

The function therefore of the civil authority residing in the State is twofold, to protect and to foster, but by no means to absorb the family and the individual or to substitute itself for them.

Accordingly in the matter of education it is the right, or to speak more correctly, it is the duty of the State to protect in its legislation the prior rights, already described, of the family as regards the Christian education of its offspring, and consequently also to respect the supernatural rights of the Church in this same realm of Christian education.

Pius XI *Divini illius Magistri*