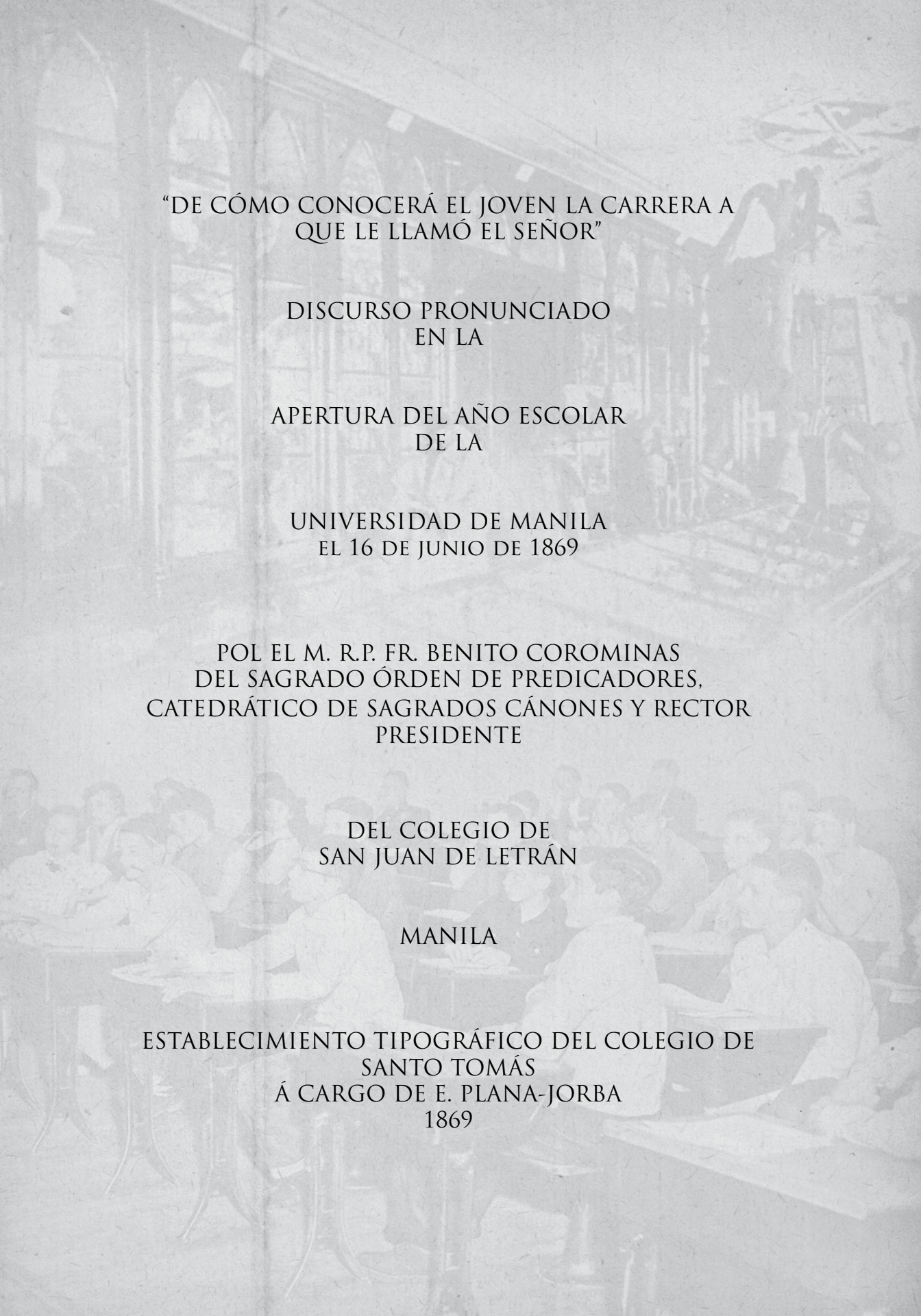




“DE CÓMO CONOCERÁ EL JOVEN LA CARRERA A
QUE LE LLAMÓ EL SEÑOR”

DISCURSO PRONUNCIADO
EN LA

APERTURA DEL AÑO ESCOLAR
DE LA

UNIVERSIDAD DE MANILA
EL 16 DE JUNIO DE 1869

POL EL M. R.P. FR. BENITO COROMINAS
DEL SAGRADO ÓRDEN DE PREDICADORES,
CATEDRÁTICO DE SAGRADOS CÁNONES Y RECTOR
PRESIDENTE

DEL COLEGIO DE
SAN JUAN DE LETRÁN

MANILA

ESTABLECIMIENTO TIPOGRÁFICO DEL COLEGIO DE
SANTO TOMÁS
Á CARGO DE E. PLANA-JORBA
1869

FOREWORD

Belen Tangco, O.P. (Laity)

ON HOW WOULD A YOUNG MAN KNOW THE CAREER TO WHICH GOD CALLS HIM?

The lecture that follows was delivered by the Very Reverend Fr. Benito Corominas, OP (Order of Preachers), Dominican professor of Canon Law, and Rector-President of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Manila. It was published by the Colegio de Santo Tomas, and printed at its Publishing House under the care of E. Plana-Jorba in 1869.

Rector-President Corominas, OP noted that three years had passed since the introduction of Secondary Education in the Islands. With this introduction, as foreworded hereto, education was regulated, as historical records bared, and the Colegio de Santo Tomas was then empowered to exercise functions of a Ministry or Bureau of Education. The situation should not be a hindrance to a tranquil application of understanding to studies.

In his *discurso de apertura* or opening lecture for the academic year, the distinguished lecturer gave tribute to one who made primary education as a perfect and solid foundation of the secondary and higher education - Civilian Governor D. Jose de la Gandara, and to another who was gloriously tied to the implantation of general studies and the application of secondary teaching in the Philippine archipelago - H.E. D. Juan de Lara.

Man, as the crown of God's creation, is endowed with intelligence. The promotion of reason is his best occupation. Its cultivation and enrichment with the wealth of science is a supreme worship. Talents are diverse and varied in levels, as Providential distribution to the descendants of the first parents. Man is made sublime by his being created in the image and likeness of God, made a little less than the angels, and subject to his dominion is the universal creation by transcending with his power of understanding the visible universe, and by fixing his sight on the heights of God's mystery.

This domination does not apply in heaven, but in the realm of his researches, in the virtues appertaining to his contemplation the fruit of which is knowledge. Man has not totally lost his dominion over the world with the fall from the state of

innocence. What matters is his powerful efforts and obedience in transforming these to application multiplying it in thousand ways and prodigious inventions.

“Glory to God!” ought to be the continuous expression of the lips of a renowned man. It has to be imprinted in the heart of a wise man who dedicates himself to cultivating his reason with the riches of the sciences.

A man who does not use God-given talents will lose sadly the best years in one’s life, the strength of one’s youth, and will feed on the earth which is not his. “The seed of your understanding by way of education and by your proper study, will not produce the desired fruit and upon descent on your tomb, you will carry the weight of having not occupied in society the position that the Lord would have reserved for you.” Not using the talents given by God will make a man cry over his having not used these for his favor, for his family, for the society as would be fitting grounds of his mission on earth.

How would a young man know the career to which God calls him?

God, whose works carry the character of perfection, stamps in the heart and in the understanding of every man, the seal of his proper and peculiar destiny. A student has to study attentively the inclination and the instance of his heart. There is the weight of love for this or that class of study. The student will find this love with force, more or less. There are many open doors in the realm of study, and occupation in the bosom of society, so, he has to choose.

Man is born to work out his destiny. “Desire for truth, education and learning because this desire is the beginning of wisdom,” the lecturer enjoins. “Fear God, His laws and together with the instruction which may be profane, wisdom of the saints is found, for they will make you face up to life and receive good health from the Lord.”

With this lovely and edifying lecture, the academic community must have been laden with added gems of wisdom, inspiring the studentry, the faculty, alumni and... generations of readers, young men and women.

