



General View, Loyola Heights

The Manila Observatory

THE MANILA OBSERVATORY is a Jesuit scientific research organization privately owned and operated. Since September 1962, its main offices and laboratories have been occupying new quarters at Loyola Heights, in the Manila area. Previous to this, from 1952, the Observatory was in Baguio City where it had its post-war rebirth ten years after its work had been stopped and its property completely destroyed in Manila.

Its beginning reaches back to 1865 when its founder, Padre Federico Faura, initiated published weather reports and typhoon warnings in the Philippines. The people recognized the important contribution he was making and gave substantial financial help for its development. The King of Spain, in addition, praised its efforts and raised the organization to the dignity of the Royal Meteorological Observatory.

The Jesuit staff was independently carrying on its own investigations in astronomy, seismology and geomagnetism. This scientific work was well established by the time Padre Faura died, January 1897, about a month after his friend, Dr. Jose Rizal, was executed on the Luneta. The turmoil of political revolution greeted the new Director, Padre José Algué — the national spirit seeking complete freedom from Spain and from the United States. Amid all the dangers and difficulties of such a beginning, Fr. Algué managed to maintain his services to the people uninterrupted. The American Regime recognized the value of the organization already set up and functioning and quickly helped