

## A GOLDEN JUBILEE

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*BRO. MALACHY SMITH, O. P.*



AN extraordinary event took place in St. Joseph's Province on March 20. It was on that day that the patriarch of the Province, Rev. Hugh Joseph McManus, O. P., celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. For the first time in a quarter of a century has one been so singularly blessed in St. Joseph's Province as to spend fifty years harvesting souls for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Fr. McManus was born in New York City on April 11, 1855. There his boyhood days were spent in what is now known as the Holy Name parish. Some sixty years ago he served the first Mass said in that parish. Completing his preparatory studies at the City College of New York, the Jubilarian entered the Dominican novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and at the expiration of his period of probation pronounced his solemn vows May 5, 1875. Four years later, March 20, 1879, he was raised to the priesthood by Archbishop Purcell in Cincinnati. He celebrated his first Mass in St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio.

Since that day Fr. McManus has met every demand of Dominican activity, serving as teacher, missionary, prior, pastor and chaplain. In his early days he travelled from village to village on horseback, enduring every hardship and difficulty and seeking stray souls whom he might bring back to the fold of Christ. During the past fifty years he has seen the province grow from a few scattered houses to its present flourishing condition. He has helped and continues to help cultivate that growth.

Upon ordination in 1879 he was assigned to St. Thomas Parish, Zanesville, Ohio. A few months later we find him at St. Louis Bertrand's Priory, Louisville, Kentucky, teaching moral and dogmatic theology to the professed novices who were stationed there. In 1884 he returned to Zanesville. St. Patrick's Church, Columbus was given to the charge of the Dominican Fathers in 1890 and Fr. McManus was appointed its first Dominican pastor. While serving in this capacity he was elected prior of St. Vincent Ferrer's Convent, New York City, in 1893. This office he resigned in 1894 to take up work

at St. Antoninus', Newark, New Jersey. Here he remained until 1905 when he returned to St. Vincent Ferrer's.

Four years later our Jubilarian took up the present phase of his work—that of spiritual and temporal father to homeless little ones. His first assignment in this field was to the orphanage conducted by the Sisters of Charity at St. Peter's, Memphis, Tennessee. This post he held until eight years ago, when he received his present appointment as chaplain to the Sisters and orphans of St. Agnes Convent, Sparkill, New York.

After fifty years of service most men are content to enjoy the achievements of the past. But Fr. McManus carries on! The love of God and zeal for souls that fired the breast of the young levite some fifty years ago has but burned higher and higher during the years that have whitened his hair. Turn where you will and at any chapter of his life, you will find it filled with a self-sacrificing work based on love of God and a zeal for souls. Now in the winter of life, although his voice may not ring from the great pulpits of the country, he preaches a sermon more powerful than that of the most gifted orator, in the good example of his daily life. He is ever the priest. He is ever the religious. He is always the Dominican.

The fiftieth anniversary of Father McManus's ordination was commemorated with a Solemn High Mass. Our Jubilarian was celebrant, assisted by his two nephews, the Rev. H. J. McManus, O. P., President of Aquinas College, as deacon, and the Rev. Bro. Vincent Ferrer McManus, O. P., of the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., as subdeacon. The Very Rev. D. J. Kennedy, O. P., preached. He paid a touching tribute to his lifelong friend, Fr. McManus, on the completion of his fifty years of priestly labors. The Jubilarian was also the recipient of special blessings and congratulations from the Holy Father, Pius XI, Most Rev. Bonaventure Paradis, Master General of the Order, Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop McNicholas, O. P., of Cincinnati, Bishop Dunn of New York and the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province. Services were concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then the young priest, who ascended the altar some fifty years ago with a firm and steady step, descended this day a priest young in spirit, on whom the years seem to have taken little toll.

The Fathers and Brothers of the province unite in congratulating the Jubilarian on the consummation of his half century as a harvester of souls. We pray God that his remaining years in the vineyard of the Lord may be filled with continued health and happiness.