

† REVEREND VINCENT EDWARD SIMPSON, O.P. †

On August 21, the province was saddened by the news of the death of Father Vincent Edward Simpson, O.P. He was the son of Michael J. Simpson and Mary Ellen O'Shea Simpson. Born in Brooklyn on May 11, 1904, he was the second of five children, his brother, John Thomas, being older than he, while there were two younger brothers, Harry Payne and William, and a sister Catherine. For a few years he went to a public grammar school in Brooklyn but later finished his elementary education at St. Patrick's in Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn. It was during these years that God gave him the vocation to wear the white habit of a Friar Preacher. To pursue this vocation he began in 1917 the course of studies which would prepare him to be a Dominican priest. He completed his academic classical studies and one year of collegiate work at Aquinas College in Columbus, Ohio. He was then sent to Providence College for his second year of collegiate work before beginning philosophy. Those who knew him then remember him as being full of life and spirit, qualities likable in any boy.

Upon the completion of his classical studies, his real Dominican religious life began. On the fifteenth of August, 1923, the Feast of the Assumption he received the habit at old St. Joseph's Priory in Perry County, Ohio, from Father Cyprian Brady who was then prior. There Brother Edward Simpson progressed in the religious life and the spirited boy became a serious religious and zealous student. After the year's novitiate at St. Joseph's, he made his simple profession and was sent to St. Rose's Priory in Kentucky, where he studied philosophy for a year. In 1925 the House of Studies in River Forest, Ill. was opened and he was among the first to be sent there to finish his philosophical studies. During these strenuous years Brother Edward applied himself with enthusiasm to his studies. The year 1927 found him in the House of Studies at Washington, D. C. where he was engaged in his theological studies. Three years later, on the sixteenth of June, 1930, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in a class of thirty-three by Archbishop Curley in St. Dominic's Church at Washington.

Because of his physical condition his first and last assignment was to St. Dominic's in Denver where it was hoped that the climate

would improve his health. There his cheerful disposition in spite of illness and the courage with which he bore his sickness proved him to be a true religious. Father Simpson died at St. Anthony's Hospital, Denver, amid the sweet sounds of the Salve Regina. His body lay in state in the parish rectory until it was taken to the Church by a guard of honor of the Holy Name Society. The Office of the Dead was then chanted for the repose of his soul. The next morning after a Solemn Requiem Mass he was reverently buried among his departed brethren in the Dominican plot in Mount Olivet Cemetery, at Denver. His relatives and many of his friends assisted at a Solemn Requiem Mass which was offered for his soul at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church in New York City. May he rest in peace!