

OUR TWO JUBILARIANS

On the 11th of this month occurred an event noteworthy in the annals of two provinces of the Order of Preachers—the twenty-fifth anniversary of the priestly ordination of the Very Reverend Father Arthur Laurence McMahon, O. P., S. T. M., Prior Provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and of the Very Reverend Father Martin Augustine Waldron, O. P., S. T. M., Master of Students and Professor at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C.

By reason of their long connection with the intellectual and material growth of the Dominican Order in the United States, these two Fathers merit something more than a passing notice, and it is with great pleasure that *Dominicana* chronicles the event, and at the same time gives to its readers a few of the more salient points in their busy and eventful lives.

Very Rev. A. L. McMahon, O. P., S. T. M.

Father McMahon was born at Waterbury, Conn., where he received the education so eminently fitting him for the business career which he had essayed to follow. But the voice of God, "sweetly disposing all things," sounded in his ears with an insistence which he could not well disregard, giving the assurance of a true vocation to the religious life. Faithfully responding to the call of grace, Arthur McMahon turned his back upon the world and its enticing promises, and in January, 1886, he began his term of postulancy at the Convent of Saint Rose, Springfield, Ky., the cradle of Dominican life in the United States.

His term of probation being completed, Brother Laurence was admitted to his first profession on the feast of our Holy Patriarch Saint Dominic, August 4th, 1888, and immediately began the study of philosophy.

The superiors were not slow to recognize the unusual talents of their new subject and they determined to give him the best advantages which the Order could offer. Accordingly, while still a student of philosophy, he was sent from Somerset to Louvain, Belgium, at that time the proud center of Dominican intellectuality. During a period of four years Brother Laurence applied himself with the utmost diligence to the Sacred Sciences for which the University of Louvain was justly celebrated, and



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at its fountain-head he caught the spirit which had animated the Dominican Order since the days of Thomas and Albert.

At length, judged by his superiors worthy of the high office to which he had so long aspired, he was raised to the priesthood, in the chapel of the Jesuit House of Studies, Louvain, by His Lordship Bishop Croliere of Namur, September 11, 1892.

Two years later he went from Louvain to Vienna, Austria, where he received the lectorate, April 20, 1895. Among his professors at Vienna who have attained international prominence, we may mention Father Reginald Walsh, O. P., Regent of Studies, and Father Toggenberg, O. P.

An ardent student of Holy Writ, Father McMahan began at Louvain under Dr. Van Noonacker a course in Semitic languages, as a preparation for an intensive study of the Scriptures which he later pursued at Jerusalem (1895-1897) as a member of the renowned *Ecole Biblique*.

Returning to the United States in the fall of 1897, he was appointed Professor of Dogmatic Theology, Introduction to Sacred Scripture and Scriptural Exegesis, together with the Novice Mastership at Saint Joseph's House of Studies, which position he filled with admirable success until ill health obliged him to resign in 1904. From 1897 to 1898 he was also engaged in editing the Rosary Magazine.

Identified from the very start with the movement which effected the transfer of the Dominican House of Studies from Somerset, Ohio, to the gates of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., Father McMahan ranks as one of the chief promoters of that Institution, at once the pride of the Dominican Order and of the Catholic University. Here he again resumed his classes, manifesting the same zeal which has ever characterized his labors for the welfare of the Order whether in the East or in the West.

In the Order of Preachers, the office of Vicar General of a Congregation is not an elective position, but subject to appointment by the Master General, the incumbent is replaced from time to time. So it happened that on November 3, 1907, Father Cormier appointed Father McMahan Vicar General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, to succeed Very Reverend John Pius Murphy, O. P., P. G., who had ably governed the Congregation for sixteen years. His kindness of heart and

general personal charm soon won for him generous cooperators in the new field.

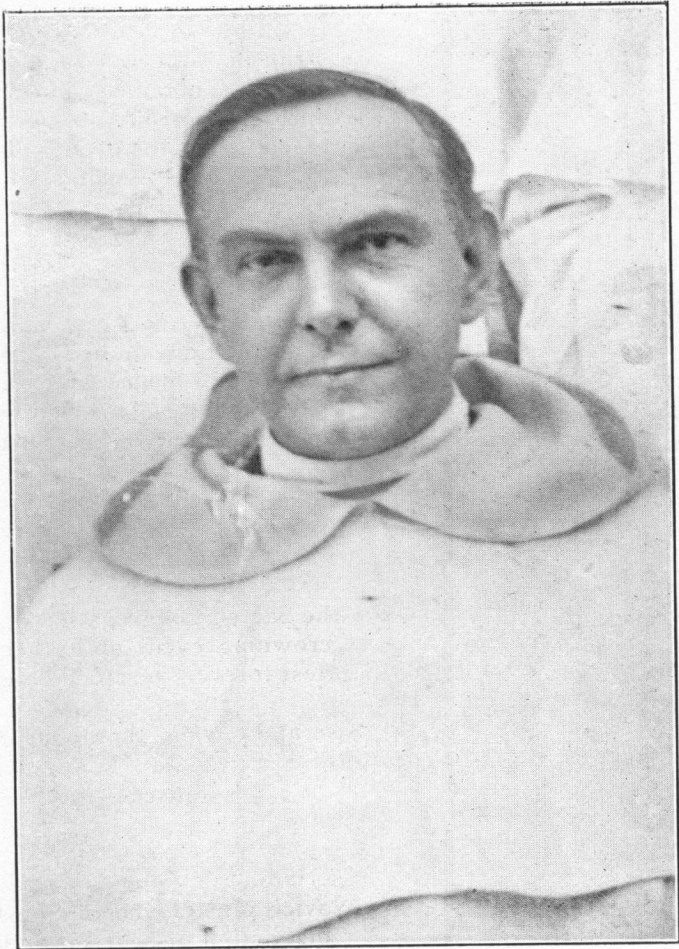
Father McMahon and his brethren had the happiness of seeing their efforts crowned with success, when on the feast of All Saints of the Dominican Order, November 9, 1912, the Master General, as a distinguished mark of his approval of all that had been accomplished, raised the Congregation to the dignity of a Province, with Father McMahon as first Prior Provincial.

A further testimonial of the personal esteem in which the new Provincial was regarded in Rome, was manifested at the General Chapter of Venlo, 1913, when the degree of Master in Sacred Theology was bestowed upon him. The insignia accompanying this dignity—the cap and ring—were conferred on the new Master by the Most Reverend Louis Theissling, O. P., S. T. M., at that time Visitor to the American Provinces, in Saint Dominic's Church, San Francisco, Cal., February 28, 1915.

From this brief resumé it will be quite evident that the Very Reverend Jubilarian's quarter century in the priesthood has been productive of immeasurable good; and while in Saint Joseph's Province he is remembered and esteemed preeminently as an educator, in the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus his name will go down the ages emblazoned on the brightest page of its history, adding another name to that band of noble and self-sacrificing men, who for the past sixty years have guided the destinies of the Order of Preachers in the far West,—Vilarasa, Vinyes, Murphy and McMahon.

Very Rev. M. A. Waldron, O. P., S. T. M.

If, as an eminent scholar has said, the Dominican spirit "is the intellectual ideal reached by the double path of knowledge and asceticism," then, we have no hesitancy in saying that Father Waldron has grasped that spirit and is in truth its living exemplar. To those who have the happiness of his acquaintance, this will not seem mere hyperbole, since during the thirty years of his life as a Dominican his one endeavor has been to acquire knowledge and sanctity—the heritage bequeathed us by our most illustrious saints. Who that has known him, or has been initiated by him into the secrets of Science and Asceticism, but can vouch for the truth of these statements? The twenty-two years which he has spent in the lecture hall are, indeed, sufficient to proclaim the success of Father Waldron's mission.



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A native of Boontown, N. J., Father Waldron made his preparatory studies in Wheeling, W. Va., where his family resided for some years, and while still in his youth he entered the Dominican Novitiate at Saint Rose Convent, Ky.

On the feast of All Saints, November 1, 1887, he received the habit from the hands of the Prior of Saint Rose, and one year later pronounced his first vows. He thus obtained the fulfillment of his heart's desire, and in the springtime of life, he consecrated himself forever to the service of God, under the banner of Truth, among the white-robed ranks of the Friar Preachers.

No philosophical problem, however abstruse, offered much difficulty to the young student, for his was a metaphysical mind, and he was soon considered ready to enter the University of Louvain.

Though a profound Thomist, Brother Augustine manifested a special aptitude for Canon Law, and at Louvain he began under De Becker a course in ecclesiastical jurisprudence which he later completed at Rome, having as Professors Doctor Sebastianelli and Father Wernz, the late Master General of the Society of Jesus.

It is an interesting fact, and one in which the Jubilarians take just pride, that in April, 1892, minor orders were conferred upon them by Bishop Hammer, later a martyr to his apostolic zeal on the African Missions, and whose Cause for Beatification, is at present under consideration by the Sacred Congregation of Rites. A few months later came the crowning event of Father Waldron's years of study, when a "priest forever" he stood before the altar of the Lord.

Having completed his course at Louvain, the young American was sent to Rome, where after a brilliant examination before the Masters at the Minerva, he was admitted to the lectorate in Sacred Theology.

He then returned to Saint Joseph's, and for a period of ten years he was engaged in professorial duties; during part of this time he held the positions of Novice Master and of Sub-Prior. To Father Waldron belongs the distinction of having taught the "Moral" of Saint Thomas uninterruptedly for fourteen years.

In recognition of his untiring labors in the cause of Dominican education, the degree of Master in Sacred Theology was granted to him in 1910. While in Rome defending his theses for the Baccalaureate—the degree preparatory to this honor—he

acted as one of the American representatives at the Golden Jubilee of the Most Reverend Hyacinth M. Cormier, Master General.

In April, 1913, Father Waldron was elected to fill the office of Prior at the College of the Immaculate Conception. During the next three years the manner in which he caused the Constitutions and the Ceremonial to be observed, and his spiritual solicitude for the rising generation of Dominicans, recalls forcibly to our minds the motto of the late Sovereign Pontiff, "*Restaurare omnia in Christo.*"

Hardly had his term of office closed, than Father Waldron's health gave considerable cause for anxiety. The pressure of the class-room in addition to the cares of his Priorship had greatly told upon him, and much against his will, he was obliged to take a well earned rest. It is with mingled feelings of pleasure and respect that we see him among us once more, ready to take up the burden of his classes.

Fathers McMahan and Waldron, the novices of the Province of Saint Joseph, and of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, extend their heartfelt congratulations and earnestly pray God that when another twenty-five years shall have rolled by, we may witness again a day of jubilee, and renew once more the tokens of reverence and esteem which we offer you today.

—Sebastian Bohan, O. P.