

✠ REV. JOSEPH REGINALD HIGGINS, O.P. ✠

St. Joseph's Province was saddened on Tuesday, Nov. 28, when Father Joseph Reginald Higgins died of a cerebral hemorrhage in New York Hospital, New York City, at the age of seventy-seven, approximately eight months after the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood. A Requiem Mass was offered at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, New York City, on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 10 A. M. Father Eugene A. Wilson, O.P., had died on Nov. 27 and by an unusual coincidence the same obsequies were held for the two deceased brethren. Rev. William L. Whalen, O.P., was the celebrant, while Very Rev. Francis G. Horn, O.P., S.T.M., and Very Rev. John L. Finnerty, O.P., P.G., acted as deacon and subdeacon respectively. Very Rev. Walter G. Moran, O.P., delivered the funeral oration. Many Dominicans, numerous diocesan clergy, members of St. Vincent's parish as well as throngs of other friends crowded the spacious church in their desire to pay well-earned tribute to the two noble souls who together contributed ninety years of uninterrupted labor in the service of God.

Joseph Higgins was born in Toppercurry, County Sligo, Ireland, on Feb. 21, 1862, the sixth child of John and Mary Gillmore Higgins. Orphaned before the age of three, young Joseph was taken to Liverpool, England, where after a year he embarked for New York City. He lived within the confines of old St. Michael's Parish in the West 32nd Street area where he attended the parish school. After graduation from St. Francis Xavier's College he applied for admission to the Dominican Order. On March 7, 1882, he received the habit of St. Dominic at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., and assumed the religious name of Brother Reginald. He was professed at the same convent and then transferred to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. On the completion of his theological studies, he was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. John A. Watterson, Bishop of Columbus, on April 12, 1889.

Immediately after ordination Father Higgins began a long missionary career which carried him to every state in the Union as well as to Canada and Cuba. Blessed with remarkable oratorical gifts, a kindly disposition and a burning zeal for instruct-

ing souls, Father Higgins acquired early renown as a pulpit orator. Although in constant demand as a preacher, he found time to contribute articles on religious subjects in some of our leading Catholic journals. Due to infirmities and advanced age Father Higgins had been unable to perform his priestly duties in recent years, but his mind remained unimpaired. Ready of wit, sharp of eye, his bearded face wreathed in a contagious smile, the venerable soldier of Christ furnished knowledge and pleasure to his younger brothers in Saint Dominic while evidencing to them the tranquillity of soul which is the inheritance of those who labor long and well in the vineyard of the Lord.

To the relatives and friends of Father Higgins DOMINICANA extends sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace! C.B.

✠ **REV. EUGENE ALOYSIUS WILSON, O.P.** ✠

After a lingering illness Father Eugene Aloysius Wilson was called to his heavenly reward on November 27, 1939, at the New York Hospital. He was the only son of Joseph and Mary Jane Wilson, born March 11, 1869, in Philadelphia, Pa. Until he was twenty-one he was a member of the Episcopalian Church. But a natural leaning toward the Catholic Church coupled with the grace of God led him within the Catholic fold. He was received into the Catholic Church on November 9, 1890, by the Reverend J. L. O'Neil, O.P.

In answer to a higher call he entered the Dominican novitiate in the following year and commenced his preparation for the priesthood. After his first profession of vows at Springfield, Ky., on December 10, 1892, Brother Aloysius Wilson went to Somerset, Ohio, where he continued his philosophical and theological studies for six years. He was elevated to the holy priesthood by the Most Reverend John A. Watterson, D.D., in the Cathedral at Columbus, Ohio, on March 7, 1899.

Father Wilson began his priestly career as an assistant pastor at St. Thomas Church, Zanesville, Ohio, and after a short time was transferred to St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, New York, where he remained until 1915. In that year he was appointed pastor of Holy Innocents' Church, Pleasantville, N. Y. For