

The Very Rev. James B. McGovern, O. P.

Early Saturday morning, September 21, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Stockton, California, the Very Rev. Father James B. McGovern, O. P., passed to his eternal reward. For over sixty-five years he labored unceasingly in the vineyard of the Lord until the Master called him unto Himself. The deceased was the oldest member by profession and ordination of the Dominican Order in the United States.

Very Rev. Father McGovern was born in Fenoch, near Balinamore, County Leitrim, Ireland, December 3, 1836. Left an orphan when only five years old, some relatives took the little boy in their charge and soon after emigrated to America and settled in Ohio. At this time the Dominican Fathers were well known in Ohio, and the boy, having become acquainted with some of the zealous sons of Dominic, resolved to don the habit of a Friar Preacher. His ambition was realized when, at the age of sixteen, on the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, the Protectress of the Dominican Order, July 22, 1852, he was clothed in the holy habit of St. Dominic. Brother Benedict made his profession in the following year and was elevated to the priesthood at Somerset, Ohio, on August 2, 1863, by the late Archbishop Purcell. True to the calling of his Order, he began his career as a missionary and continued in this most noble work to the end of his days. As a missionary he spent many years in London, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, and in New York, and finally in 1872 went to California. His merits as a superior were not overlooked, and he was successively elected prior of St. Dominic's in Benicia, and St. Dominic's in San Francisco.

A Solemn High Mass of requiem was sung in St. Dominic's Church, Benicia, on Monday, September 23, at ten o'clock, by the Very Rev. W. D. Noon, O. P., a relative of the deceased, assisted by the Rev. E. D. Donnelly, O. P., as deacon, and the Rev. M. A. Joseph, O. P., as subdeacon. The final absolution in the church and at the grave was given by the Very Rev. A. L. McMahon, O. P., S. T. M., Provincial of the Holy Name Province. The remains were laid to rest in the Dominican cemetery at Benicia, where the last rites, according to the Dominican ritual, were carried out. May he rest in peace.

—Bro. Augustine Naselli, O. P.

