



Very Rev. Matthew L. Heagen, O.P., S.T.Lr.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE VERY REVEREND  
MATTHEW LEO HEAGEN, O.P., S.T.Lr.**

---



HE Very Reverend Matthew Leo Heagen, O.P., S.T.Lr., observed the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood on Saturday, September 8. The Reverend Camillus Boyd, O.P., was preacher on the occasion.

Father Heagen was born in New York City on October 15, 1871, the son of the late Matthew Joseph and Jane Heagen. Having received his grammar and high school education at the public schools in New York City, he began his Novitiate on April 2, 1888, when he received the Dominican habit from the Very Reverend A. McFeely, O.P., at St. Rose's Priory, Springfield, Kentucky. There he made his profession to the Very Reverend D. Meagher, O.P., Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, on April 6, 1889. After completing his philosophical studies and the first year of theology at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, Father Heagen was sent to the General House of Studies at Louvain, Belgium, where he received the degree of Lector in Sacred Theology in 1897. He had been ordained in St. Ignatius's Church, Louvain, by the Most Reverend Joseph Van Reeth, S. J., Bishop of Galle, Ceylon, on September 8, 1895. Since Father Heagen did not have the requisite age for ordination, he applied for and received papal dispensation for the same.

When Father Heagen returned to this country, he was assigned to St. Vincent Ferrer's Church in New York City. In 1898, he went to St. Dominic's Studium at Benicia, California, to teach philosophy and theology, and was transferred in 1901 to St. Rose's Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where he taught philosophy. Two years later he went to St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Having served as a parish priest at St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio, he became Prior of the Washington, D. C. House of Studies in 1908. During the following year Father Heagen was made Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, with headquarters at St. Antoninus's Priory, Newark, New Jersey. During Father Heagen's term of office, St. Joseph's Province received St. Raymond's Parish in Providence, Rhode Island, Holy Name Parish in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Holy Rosary Parish in Houston, Texas.

Upon the completion of his tenure of office, Father Heagen joined the Eastern Mission Band. In 1922, he was appointed chaplain

of the Dominican Sisters at Mary Immaculate Convent, Ossining-on-the-Hudson, New York. He assumed the leadership of the "Retreat Band" devoted to giving spiritual exercises, in 1932. Father Heagen has retained this position, with his headquarters at Holy Name Convent, Valhalla, New York, to the present day.

*Dominicana* joins the members of St. Joseph's Providence in extending heartfelt felicitations to Father Heagen.

