



FATHER JAMES L. DEVINE, O.P.

✠ THE REVEREND JAMES L. DEVINE, O.P. ✠

The Reverend James Luke Devine, O.P., a missionary in China since 1939, kidnapped by Chinese Communist guerrillas last May, met death at their hands, according to word received on October 28th. A cablegram to the Provincial stated that Father Devine had been officially declared dead. He had been stationed at the village of San Kan, which is in a mountainous section of the Province of Fukien and exposed to constant danger from marauding bandits.

Two days before the feast of the Ascension, May 13, Father Devine was advised to leave the village, since the approach of a band of Communist guerrillas had been reported. However, the missionary preferred to remain at his post in order to celebrate Mass for his parishioners on the feast of the Ascension. He planned to consume the Blessed Sacrament the following morning and leave at dawn for a town 20 miles away. At 7 o'clock on the evening of the feast of the Ascension a band of about twenty Communist guerrillas suddenly broke into the priest's house. They took his bag, already packed for his escape, his money and radio, and noticing his supply of medicines for the sick poor required an explanation of the use of each kind of medicine, threatening violence if he should give the wrong directions resulting in any injury to them. They then led Father Devine away, molesting no one else in the village nor harming the beautiful stone church.

The Chinese government did everything possible to bring about the release of the missionary, and even posted a reward for information that would lead to his safe return. When word was received at the central mission station that Father Devine was tending the sick and wounded among his captors, he was thought to be in little danger of death. But his release could not be effected, and at the end of October news of his death was received.

Father Devine remained in China throughout the recent war and served as auxiliary chaplain for the United States armed forces. After the war he returned to America for a rest and then went back to his post in China last year.

Father Devine was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., November 15th, 1905, the son of James and Mary Ann (Hughes) Devine. Having completed his primary education in St. Lawrence School, Pittsburgh, Pa., whence he graduated in 1921, he attended Aquinas College High School, Columbus, Ohio. Providence College, Providence, R. I., and then entered the Dominican Order at St. Rose Priory, Springfield,

Ky. After the usual philosophical and theological studies in the Dominican Houses of Study in River Forest, Ill., Somerset, Ohio, and Washington, D. C., Father Devine was raised to the priesthood on June 14th, 1934. Subsequently he was attached to St. Vincent Ferrer's, New York City; Holy Name Church, Kansas City, Mo.; St. Mary's Church, Johnson City, Tenn.; St. Pius Church, Chicago, Ill.

Solemn Requiem Masses have been offered for Father Devine in the houses throughout the Province. A Solemn Requiem Mass was also offered in his home parish at St. Lawrence Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., on November 11. The celebrant was Rev. Gabriel Schneider, O.P.; the deacon was Rev. Frederick A. Gordon, O.P., and the subdeacon, Rev. George Q. Friel, O.P. Rev. Bernard C. Werner, O.P., preached the eulogy. The Mass was attended by the family, relatives, and friends of Father Devine, as well as thirty priests and a hundred and fifty Sisters.

Father Devine is survived by his mother, his brother, John, and two sisters, Mrs. Margaret O'Connor and Sister M. Dorothy, O.P. To his mother and family, relatives and friends *Dominicana* extends sincere sympathy on the real loss they have suffered. In the Divine Office for the great feast of the Ascension, on the evening of which Father Devine was seized and made captive, the thought is often repeated "Christ ascending on high led captivity captive." Little did the valiant missionary realize how soon he himself was to be a captive for Christ. That captivity to the forces of this world being now ended, let us pray that Father Devine has been led a captive of love and devotion to duty to the Commander he served so faithfully and loyally.

✠ THE REVEREND JOHN AQUINAS COWAN, O.P. ✠

The Reverend John Aquinas Cowan, O.P., died of heart failure on October 7, 1947, in St. Clare's Hospital, New York, N. Y., about a month after having undergone an operation.

Father Cowan was born in New York on July 5, 1879, of Irish parents. His father was Patrick Cowan, a native of King's County, Ireland; and his mother, Bridget (Hussey) Cowan, of Westmeath, Ireland. The devout couple were blessed with a family of five children of whom Father Cowan was the last. In his early years he attended a public grammar school in New York. He received his secondary education at St. Francis Xavier High School, New York, and went for higher studies to St. Francis Xavier College, New York.