

far as his health would permit. While stationed at St. Vincent's, he filled the role of assistant director of the Mission Band, an assignment which he still held at the time of his death. During the last few years of his life, he had been the confessor and spiritual director for the theological students at their summer villa. All regarded him as a splendid priest and religious, and nearly a half century of varied experience in the priesthood made him an admirable guide and a source of true inspiration for the young Dominicans on the threshold of their ordination.

In recognition of his long and fruitful years as a preacher throughout the vast reaches of St. Joseph's Province, Father Maher was awarded the distinctively Dominican degree of Preacher General by the Master General of the Order. This great honor which crowned his priestly life was conferred upon him in a special ceremony at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church on September 12, 1944.

On January 9, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered for Father Maher at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church in New York. The celebrant of the Funeral Mass was the Very Rev. W. D. Marrin, O.P., Prior of St. Vincent Ferrer's. The Very Rev. V. R. Burnell, O.P., P.G., Prior of St. Mary's in New Haven, Connecticut, was deacon, and the Very Rev. H. C. Boyd, O.P., P.G., Director of the Eastern Mission Band, was subdeacon. The eulogy was preached by the Very Rev. J. H. Healy, O.P., P.G. The Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial, was seated in the sanctuary. Over two hundred Dominicans from all parts of the country were gathered at the Mass to pay tribute to Father Maher's beloved memory.

*Dominicana* extends sympathy to the relatives and friends of Father Maher. *May he rest in peace.*



✠ THE VERY REVEREND JOSEPH ALBERT VINCI, O.P., P.G. ✠

Father Vinci passed away on February 6, 1952, at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, New Jersey, at the age of fifty-two. He had been ill but a short time. Hospitalized a week before his death, he underwent a strenuous operation, but he survived the surgery only a few days. Rev. J. S. Kennedy, O.P., of St. Antoninus' Priory, where Father Vinci was assigned at the time of his death, administered the last sacraments.

A native of Rome, Italy, Father Vinci was born on May 4, 1899. He was raised in the parish attached to the venerable Church of St.

Paul-outside-the-Walls, one of the four major Roman basilicas. As a young man, he received the habit of the Friars Preachers on December 24, 1917, and on Christmas Day of the following year he made profession for the Province of Rome. He studied at the Dominican Houses of the Minerva and the Angelico, in Rome. On April 11, 1925, Father Vinci was ordained to the priesthood. After his ordination, he studied at Fiesole and Rome, becoming a Lector of Sacred Theology. Then Father Vinci began a career of preaching and teaching in various parts of central Italy. He was professor of Church History for about five years at the Studium of St. Thomas in Pistoia. He was also Subprior and Major Sacristan of the historic Convent of Santa Maria Novella in Florence. Father Vinci, even as a young priest, became a noted preacher in and about the Eternal City.

Father Vinci arrived in the United States on May 28, 1936, thus beginning sixteen years of service with the Eastern Mission Band of St. Joseph's Province. During his early years in the United States, he resided in many Dominican houses in the East—at St. Mary's in New Haven, Sacred Heart in Jersey City, St. Catherine of Siena's in New York, the Dominican House of Studies in Washington—but he spent most of the time at St. Antoninus' Priory in Newark, New Jersey. Father Vinci specialized in Italian missions, novenas, and retreats. He was a celebrated preacher in the Italian language, and he drew great crowds wherever he spoke. The priests in whose parishes he preached would mention spontaneously how much they admired his rhetorical gifts, and how successful his sermons were. Father Vinci was assiduously devoted to study; the Dominicans who lived with him tell how faithfully he read a portion of St. Thomas' *Summa Theologiae* every day of his life. In addition to his crowded schedule of sermons, Father Vinci found time to write a few books in his native tongue, including his *Divine Armory of the Rosary* published in 1949. He was a talented painter, and he spent much of the time when he was not actually engaged in missionary activity in pursuit of this favorite pastime. During the recent war, Father Vinci was much concerned for the welfare of his countrymen who were suffering so cruelly from the terrible ravages of war which devastated the Italian peninsula. He was responsible for the alleviation of much misery in his homeland as a result of the many packages of food and clothing which he gathered and sent for the relief of the stricken victims. He visited Italy for the last time in 1950, when he organized and led a band of Italians on a Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year.

On May 23, 1946, the degree of Preacher General was conferred upon Father Vinci at a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving sung in St.

Antoninus' Church in Newark. This title was bestowed at the request of his own Province of Rome. During his many years of preaching activity in the United States, Father Vinci remained affiliated with the Roman Province. He leaves a brother also a Dominican of the Province of Rome, Father Innocent Vinci, O.P., presently assigned to the Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome.

On February 9, 1952, a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered in St. Antoninus' Church in Newark. The following Fathers from St. Antoninus' Priory were the officers of the Mass: Rev. W. B. Sullivan, O.P., celebrant; Very Rev. T. D. Gilligan, O.P., P.G., deacon; Very Rev. M. Q. Goldrick, O.P., subdeacon. The Reverend Fathers H. H. McGinley, O.P., and J. A. Fleming, O.P.P., served as acolytes. The eulogist was the Rev. P. C. Perrotta, O.P., of Caldwell College. Present at the Mass were about thirty-five priests of the Archdiocese of Newark—mostly priests engaged in pastoral work among Italian Catholics in whose churches Father Vinci had preached. Interment was in the Dominican Fathers' plot in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Newark, where the Very Rev. M. Q. Goldrick, O.P., Subprior of St. Antoninus', conducted the ceremonies at the grave.

*Dominicana* extends sympathy to Father Vinci's brother, and to his other relatives and friends in Italy and the United States. *May he rest in peace.*