

Very Rev. V. R. Burnell, O.P., Prior of St. Mary's; the Very Rev. W. D. Marrin, O.P., Prior of St. Vincent Ferrer's in New York, was deacon; the Very Rev. J. J. McLarney, O.P., Prior of St. Joseph's in Somerset, Ohio, was subdeacon. The acolytes were the Reverends J. M. Sweeney, O.P., and R. D. Reilly, O.P. The eulogy was delivered by the Very Rev. J. R. Slavin, O.P., President of Providence College. Present in the sanctuary was the Right Rev. Monsignor Joseph M. Griffin, of Meriden, representing the Bishop of Hartford. Burial took place in the Dominican plot in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven, where Father Burnell conducted the ceremonies at the grave.

*Dominicana* offers sympathy to Father McMahon's sister, and to his relatives and friends. *May his noble soul rest in peace!*



✠ THE REVEREND JOSEPH LOUIS PASTORELLI, O.P. ✠

Father Pastorelli died on May 20, 1952, at St. Joseph's Home, Clayton, Delaware. Although he had been in all health for more than a decade, death came suddenly. He was sixty-eight years of age.

Father Pastorelli was born in Boston, on January 23, 1884. He attended Skinner and Brimmer Schools in Boston, and Boston English High School. He then continued his education at Boston College. On Christmas Day, 1903, he began his novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and a year later he made his Profession in the Order of Preachers. He took his courses in philosophy and theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., and was ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 1910, in the Chapel of Caldwell Hall at the Catholic University of America, by the Most Reverend Owen B. Corrigan, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore.

After his ordination, Father Pastorelli was first assigned to Aquinas High School, Columbus, Ohio. Between the years 1912 and 1917 he acquired a splendid reputation as a teacher. During the first World War, he served as a chaplain in the Marine Corps, and was

stationed at the Marine Barracks in Quantico, Virginia. As a military chaplain, he acquitted himself admirably, and drew high praise for his devotion to duty, especially during the frightful influenza epidemic which swept Quantico.

In 1919, he began the first of three terms as Pastor of St. Peter's Church, Memphis, Tennessee. During his years in Memphis widespread attention was drawn to his pastoral work when he converted General Luke E. Wright, Secretary of War in the Cabinets of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, Governor General of the Philippines, and first Ambassador of the United States to Japan. After nine years in Memphis, he went to St. Raymond's Church, Providence, Rhode Island, where he began three more terms as Pastor in 1928. He celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Ordination at St. Raymond's on June 23, 1935, offering a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the presence of the Bishop of Providence and a great congregation of his fellow Dominicans and parishioners who gathered to felicitate him on this joyous occasion. Upon the completion of his third term as Pastor, Father Pastorelli remained at St. Raymond's to assist in the parochial ministry. His health soon began to decline, and for several years illness forced him to live outside the foundations of the Province. During the last few years of his life he worked at St. Pius' Priory in Providence. At the time of his death, he was assigned to St. Stephen's Priory, Dover, Massachusetts.

Father Pastorelli won national fame by his heroic activity in the horrible Cocoanut Grove fire in Boston on the night of November 28, 1942, in which about five hundred persons lost their lives. He was the famous "unknown priest" referred to in the newspaper accounts. When the fire broke out he was at his sister's home near the scene of the conflagration, and he was among the first to arrive, administering conditional absolution within minutes of the first alarm. He tried repeatedly to enter the building, but the flames drove him back; he then climbed partly through a window and administered general absolution. He later helped to carry out the bodies, and when the fire was out, he entered the structure to give what aid he could. After the ordeal he was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, where he recovered from exhaustion, exposure, and smoke inhalation.

On May 24, Father Pastorelli's funeral was held at St. Pius' Church in Providence, where a Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered by his brother, the Very Rev. Louis Pastorelli, S.S.J. The deacon was the Very Rev. J. F. Monroe, O.P., Prior of St. Stephen's, Dover, Massachusetts; the subdeacon was the Rev. J. R. Dooley, O.P., of St. Pius' Priory. The Rev. D. B. McCarthy, O.P., Vice President of

Providence College, preached the sermon. Fathers J. J. Duffy, O.P., and M. J. James, O.P., were acolytes. Father Monroe imparted the final absolution after the Mass, which was sung by a choir of Dominican Fathers from Providence College. Interment was in the Dominican Plot in St. Francis Cemetery, Providence, where the Very Rev. P. J. Conaty, O.P., Prior of St. Pius', conducted the ceremonies at the grave.

To Father Pastorelli's brother and sisters, and to all his relatives and friends, *Dominicana* offers heartfelt condolences. *May he rest in peace.*