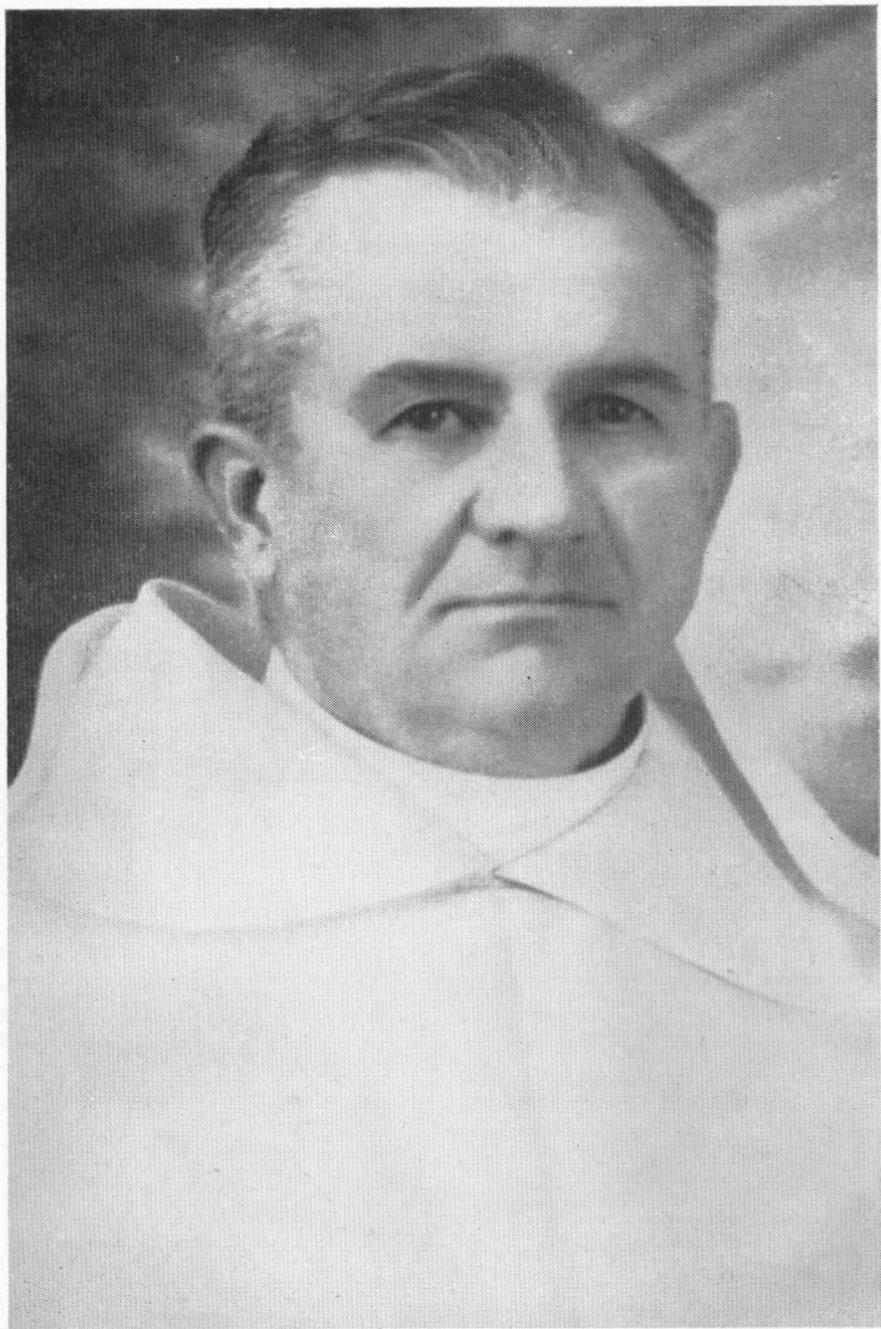


GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF
THE REVEREND THOMAS A'KEMPIS REILLY, O.P.

On August 21, 1952, Father Thomas àKempis Reilly, O.P., celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The Golden Jubilee was observed with a series of events which began on August 2 with a Solemn Mass offered by the Jubilarian at Blessed Sacrament Church, Madison, Wisconsin, where the Very Rev. R. P. O'Brien, O.P., S.T.M., Pastor of the Church, preached the sermon. On August 21, the anniversary day itself, Father Reilly celebrated a High Mass at Our Lady of Grace Monastery, North Guilford, Connecticut, and on August 24, the anniversary of His First Solemn Mass, he sang a Solemn Mass in his boyhood parish of the Sacred Heart, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, during which the Very Rev. J. R. Slavin, O.P., S.T.M., President of Providence College, delivered the sermon. During the month of August, in observance of the Golden Jubilee, Father Reilly offered Mass at the convents of several communities of Dominican nuns with whom he has been closely associated during his fifty years in the priesthood, including a Mass on August 15 at the Dominican Sisters' Convent, Eagle Park, Ossining, New York, where his sister, Sister Mary àKempis, is a member of the community.

A native of Rhode Island, Father Reilly was born in Pawtucket on January 5, 1879, the son of William and Mary Lennon Reilly. He was educated in the Pawtucket public schools and at Sacred Heart Grammar and High Schools in Pawtucket. He was received into the Order on November 15, 1896, at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and after a year's novitiate, he made his profession in the Order of Preachers. Subsequent to his profession, he spent two years at St. Rose in the study of the classics, and then began his course in philosophy, completing it at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, where he spent three additional years in the study of theology. He was ordained to the priesthood at Somerset on August 21, 1902, by the Most Reverend Henry Moeller, Bishop of Columbus, later Archbishop of Cincinnati.

After finishing his theological studies at St. Joseph's in 1904,



THE REVEREND THOMAS à KEMPIS REILLY, O.P., S.T.Lr., S.S. Prolyta

his superiors, realizing his outstanding abilities as a student, sent him to St. Stephen's Biblical School in Jerusalem where he passed three years in the study of Sacred Scripture, oriental languages, and archaeology. In 1905, Father Reilly was promoted to the Lectorate in Sacred Theology at St. Stephen's, and after preparatory scriptural studies at Berlin, Fribourg, and Rome, he was awarded the degree of Prolytus in Sacred Scripture in the Eternal City in November, 1909.

Returning to the United States, Father Reilly was assigned to the faculty of theology at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., where he taught scriptural subjects for seven years. He spent the year 1915 as a parish priest at St. Raymond's Church, Providence, and the year 1916 stationed at St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, New York City, while working with the Eastern Mission Band. He was in Europe once again in 1917, as professor of Sacred Scripture and Hebrew at the Angelico, Rome. After teaching for two years in Italy, he resumed his activity in the United States in 1919 when he was assigned to parochial duty at Sacred Heart Church, Jersey City. During the next two years he acted as chaplain for the Dominican Sisters at Eagle Park, Ossining, New York, while functioning also as professor of philosophy and French at the Foreign Mission Seminary, Maryknoll, New York. From 1922 to 1928, he filled the posts of chaplain and professor at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois, and in the latter year was named chaplain and instructor at St. Catharine's Convent, St. Catharine, Kentucky.

In 1931, he was appointed professor of pastoral theology and sacred eloquence for the young priests taking their final year of theology at St. Vincent Ferrer's Priory, New York City, and in 1933, he passed a year at St. Dominic's Church, Denver, supervising the theological studies of several Dominican students who were forced to live in Denver because of their weak state of health. Following an assignment at Holy Name Church, Philadelphia, he became chaplain for the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, Camden, New Jersey, for two years, and from 1938 to 1941, he was chaplain at the Monastery of the Dominican Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Detroit. In 1941, Father Reilly became affiliated with the new Province of St. Albert the Great, with subsequent assignments at St. Albert's Church, Minneapolis, and at Blessed Sacrament Church, Madison, Wisconsin, where he has lived for the past decade. He is still very active in the performance of his priestly duties, and fills many engagements for preaching retreats and occasional sermons.

During his long priestly life, Father Reilly has been occupied with marked success in virtually every phase of Dominican apostolic

endeavor, yet among all his activities, his splendid achievement as a pulpit orator and retreat master shines out more radiantly than all the rest. His special vocation has seemed to be retreat work; for forty years he has been engaged in preaching retreats for priests and seminarians, for religious men and women of many congregations, and for various groups of laymen, in every part of America as well as in Europe. He has succeeded marvelously well as a spiritual director, especially of our cloistered Dominican nuns, among whom several monasteries count him as one of their founders. Besides his talent as a preacher, Father Reilly has accomplished much in the literary field, contributing to many religious periodicals, both scholarly and popular, and writing several devotional books. Everywhere he has won respect and admiration for his extraordinary qualities as a preacher and teacher; his industrious and dedicated Dominican life has been of inestimable value to the Church and to his Order.

Dominicana rejoices with Father Reilly at this blessed time of his Golden Jubilee, and prays that God may grant him the strength and spirit to continue for many years the fruitful fulfillment of his glorious vocation to the priesthood.