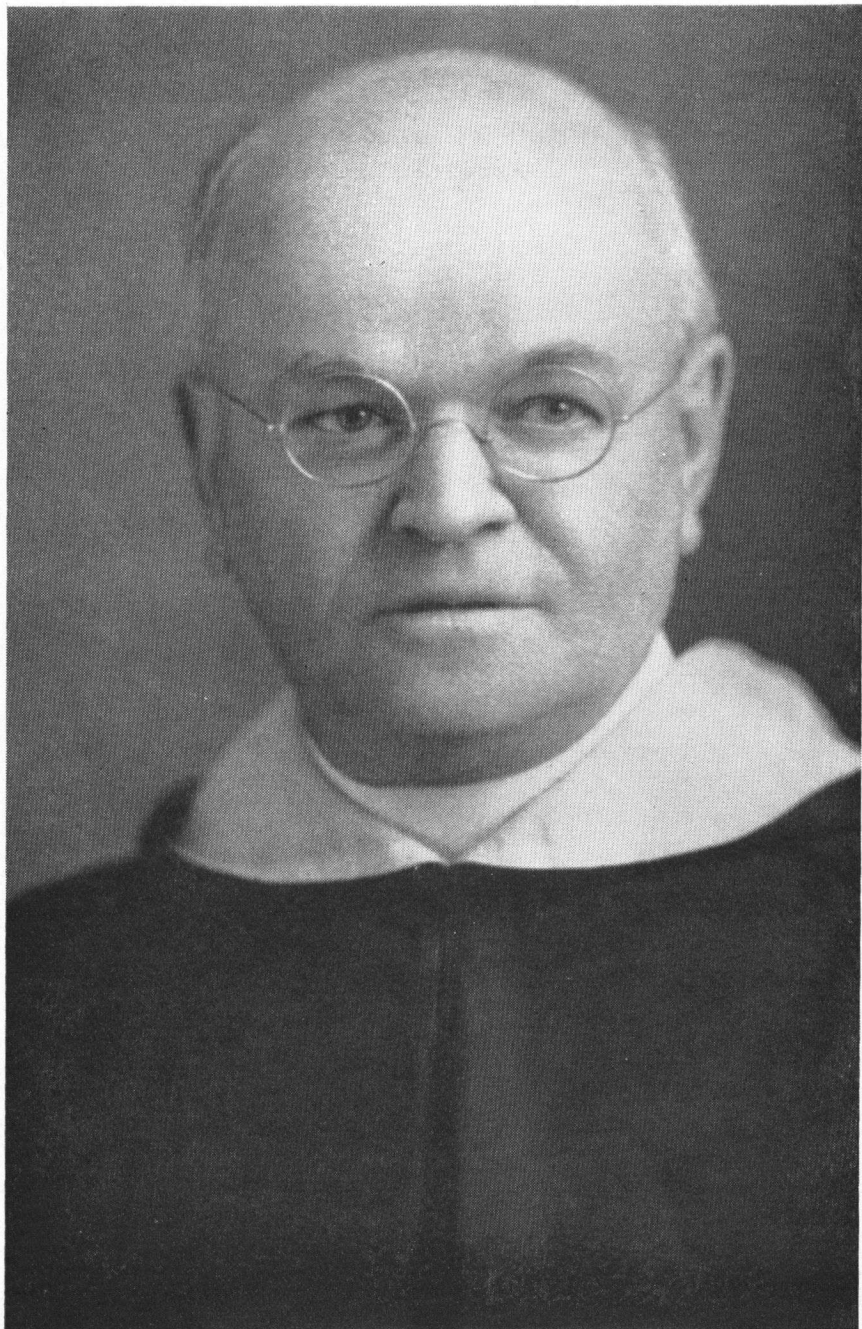


GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF
THE VERY REVEREND
WILLIAM RAYMOND LAWLER, O.P., P.G.

Father William Raymond Lawler observed the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood on August 21, 1952. The Golden Jubilee was celebrated at St. Peter Martyr Priory, Winona, Minnesota, where the Jubilarian offered a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the chapel of the Priory. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Edward A. Fitzgerald, D.D., Bishop of Winona, presided at the ceremony, and the Very Rev. L. F. Vander Heyden, O.P., P.G., delivered the sermon. The Priory was thronged with guests who assembled to congratulate Father Lawler on this joyous occasion and to pay tribute to his fifty years of dutiful sacerdotal service to the Church and to his Order.

Father Lawler was born on August 8, 1876, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, the fourth of six children of James and Sarah Cannon Lawler. His sister, Mary Elizabeth, later joined the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, and became Sister Mary James in religion. He was a graduate of St. Gabriel's Elementary and High School, Prairie du Chien, and before entering the Dominican Order he attended St. John's College, Collegeville, Minnesota. On September 10, 1896, he was clothed with the habit and began his novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where, a year later, he made his profession as a member of the Order of Preachers. His course of studies in philosophy and theology was taken first at St. Rose, and afterwards at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, where, on August 21, 1902, he was ordained to the sacred priesthood by the Most Reverend Henry Moeller, Bishop of Columbus, later Archbishop of Cincinnati.

His theological studies completed, Father Lawler began his priestly career in the parochial ministry, first at St. Louis Bertrand's Church, Louisville, Kentucky, and then at Holy Trinity Church, Somerset, Ohio, after which he taught for two years at St. Patrick's College, Columbus, Ohio. In 1908, he embarked upon another type of Dominican activity in which he was to labor throughout most of his long life with distinction and great success, when he was assigned



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as a preacher to the parochial mission band. He was first associated with the Western Mission Band while stationed at Holy Rosary Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. After three years of fruitful preaching in the Midwest, he volunteered his services for the Dominican missions on the Pacific Coast, where he resided at St. Dominic's Church, San Francisco. Returning to the East in 1915, he joined the Eastern Mission Band and was assigned to St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1919, Father Lawler was appointed superior of the Western Mission Band with headquarters first at Holy Rosary Church, Minneapolis, and later at St. Pius' Church, Chicago. It was his duty to supervise the far-flung missionary endeavors of a score of Dominican preachers throughout the vast reaches of America's great Middle West. While still head of the mission band, in 1926, the Provincial Chapter petitioned the Master General of the Order to grant him the esteemed Dominican degree of Preacher General, in recognition of his splendid talents as a pulpit orator and of his many years of meritorious achievement in preaching and directing missions, novenas, and retreats.

After eight years as head of the Western Mission Band, Father Lawler began a period of service as a pastor and parochial administrator. In 1928, he was named pastor of St. Peter's Church, Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1933, he was elected prior of St. Louis Bertrand's, Louisville, Kentucky. With the completion of his term of office at Louisville, he resumed his preaching activity with the Western Mission Band. He became a member of the Province of St. Albert the Great when it was established in 1940, and at the same time he was appointed Provincial Promotor of the Third Order of St. Dominic, an office he held until the present year.

Advancing years forced him to relinquish his missionary toils during the past decade, but he has remained very active in the performance of all his priestly functions. At present he is an honored member of the community at St. Peter Martyr Priory, Winona, Minnesota, where he occupies the posts of librarian and archivist of the Convent.

Dominicana, in the name of the Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph's and St. Albert's Provinces, warmly congratulates Father Lawler on this significant occasion of his Golden Jubilee in the priesthood. His long life of exemplary Dominican work in the pastoral and preaching apostolates stands as his finest tribute.