

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF  
THE VERY REVEREND ROBERT GREGORY LYONS, O.P.

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ON JULY 22, 1954, Father Robert Gregory Lyons, O.P., celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Solemn Mass was offered by the Very Rev. Robert L. Rumaggi, O.P., P.G., in the Church of St. Louis Bertrand's Priory, where Father Lyons is subprior. Archbishop John A. Floersch of Louisville presided at this Mass of thanksgiving. The preacher was Rev. William R. Dillon, O.P., of St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, Connecticut. The celebration of the Golden Jubilee was continued with a testimonial luncheon held at the Pendennis Club. The people of Louisville, who are close to the heart of Father Lyons, had the opportunity to express their personal congratulations in the evening at a reception in the parish hall.

Our Jubilarian was born February 18, 1874, at Washington, D. C. He was one of six children of Denis J. and Mary O'Mara Lyons, both from County Mayo, Ireland. His grammar school training was received at St. Aloysius in the nation's capital. He attended St. Laurent College, Montreal, Canada, for secondary schooling, and St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., for his college education. Father Lyons began his Dominican life on Sept. 10, 1896, when he was clothed with the habit at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky. One year later he made profession of vows in the same convent. After his study of philosophy and theology at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, he was ordained there by Bishop James J. Hartley of Columbus, July 22, 1904. Father Lyons finished his preparations for the apostolate at the newly opened Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Father Lyons began his life-long service to the Church in the Order of St. Dominic, as a parish priest in Holy Name Church, Kansas City, Mo., in Sept., 1906. His next assignment came in March of 1908, when he was sent to Holy Rosary Priory, Minneapolis, Minn. After serving there, he went to Holy Trinity, Somerset, Ohio, where he helped with parish work and the Rosary magazine. Then came the year, 1914, which brought Father Lyons to the place which has benefitted most from his priestly labors, St. Louis Bertrand's Priory, Louisville, Ky. Having worked there four years, he was made



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subprior in 1918, an office which he has faithfully fulfilled without interruption until the present day.

During his years at St. Louis Bertrand's, Father Lyons baptized 632 persons, and officially witnessed 519 marriages. He was director of the Holy Name Society for many years. He has served as chaplain of the Sisters of Good Shepherd, Sisters of Mercy, Visitation Home, Holy Rosary Academy, and the Carmelite Monastery. Forty years ago he was chaplain at the House of Correction, then located on the site of the present University of Louisville. Father Lyons still celebrates the community Mass every morning and goes to office.

Father Lyons has seen the growth of the Catholic Church in Louisville, and has been instrumental in bringing Christ to many souls living there. His gifts of prudence and kindness have enabled him to play an important part in the development of this great city. During the jubilee celebration, he received a congratulatory letter from Vice President Nixon and was made a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Lawrence Wetherby, an honor well deserved for his decades of ministering to the common good.

*Dominicana* joins with his many other friends in paying tribute to Father Lyons at this happy time of his Golden Jubilee, which marks fifty years of priestly service for God and country.