

THE REVEREND**MICHAEL ANSELM MURRAY, O.P.**

Death came to Father Michael A. Murray, O.P., a Jubilarian, on December 28th, 1957, at Saint Joseph's Priory, the Novitiate House of Saint Joseph's Province, in Somerset, Ohio.

One of five children of James and Honoria Murray, Michael Anselm Murray was born in Dublin, Ireland, on August 19th, 1873. He received his education at the National Schools and at Blackrock College, in County Dublin. Desirous of spending his life on the foreign missions of the Dominican Province of Lyons, France, Father Murray made his profession for that Province at the Priory of Saints Dominic, Christopher and Cyprian, Poitiers, La Vienne, France, on May 20th, 1895. That Province then maintained a house of studies in Hawthorne, New York, U. S. A., and it was here that the young cleric was sent to study philosophy and theology. Shortly afterwards, chiefly because of the international political situation, the Fathers of the Province of Lyons were forced to abandon their missions in Trinidad. With the hope of still being able to work in that territory, Father Murray transfiliated to Saint Joseph's Province in the United States. This was in 1897, and he was then sent to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, to complete his studies. On March 7th, 1899, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral at Columbus, Ohio, by the Most Rev. John Ambrose Watterson, Bishop of that diocese.

The newly-ordained priest was immediately assigned to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, where he acted as assistant pastor and served as Chaplain to His Grace, Patrick Vincent Flood, O.P., Dominican Archbishop of Port-of-Spain. Later, he worked as a missionary in Toco, in Scarborough, and on the island of Tobago. The unhealthy climate and rigorous work, however, soon took their toll on the Irish missionary, and he was forced to give up his arduous work in the West Indies.

After returning to the United States in 1906, Father Murray resided at St. Vincent Ferrer Priory, New York City, and then served as chaplain, first, for the Sisters of Divine Compassion, White Plains, N. Y., and later, for the Sisters of Misericorde, Hartsdale, N. Y. In 1910, Father Murray went to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, where he remained for the next five years, after which he was sent to Holy Rosary Parish, Hawthorne, N. Y., to do parochial work. In 1919, he went to St. Antoninus' Priory, Newark, New Jersey, where he assisted in the divine ministry for the next fourteen years, and became renowned all over the city as a confessor of extraordinary ability. He was dearly loved by all the people for his zeal and kindness.

In 1933, however, ill health once again forced him to give up the busy parish routine he loved so well. He was assigned to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, the house where he had first entered St. Joseph's Province. He did whatever work his failing health would permit and was a source of edification not only to the parishioners of the parish attached to the Priory, but to all the Fathers, student brothers and novices who formed the community.

On the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, March 7th, 1949, Father Murray celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the Sacred Priesthood in St. Joseph's Church by celebrating a Solemn High Mass. Father Murray spent the remaining years of his life at St. Joseph's Priory, a source of inspiration to all by his tireless, unselfish zeal, simplicity of character, and unfailing readiness to do all he could for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Very Rev. Matthew Hanley, O.P., S.T.Lr., Prior of Saint Joseph's, was the celebrant of a Solemn Requiem Mass in the Priory Church on December 31st, 1957, for the repose of Father Murray's soul. He was assisted by the Rev. William F. Cassidy, O.P., Master of Clerical Novices, as Deacon, and the Rev. George L. Sukovaty, O.P., Procurator of the Priory, who served as Subdeacon. The Very Rev. Bernard C. Werner, O.P., P.G., gave the eulogy. Burial was in the community cemetery at Saint Joseph's.

Father Murray is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mary E. Bolger, of Dublin, Ireland. We offer her our sympathy and prayers that her brother may enjoy the heavenly reward his priestly life has so well merited!