

## OBITUARY

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### **REV. THOMAS SYLVESTER McGOVERN, O. P.**

On Tuesday, April 5, 1921, at St. Francis Hospital, Bronx, N. Y., Rev. Thomas Sylvester McGovern, O. P., passed to his eternal reward. His sudden death came as a shock not only to his Dominican brethren, but also to his relatives and friends.

Father McGovern was born in St. Vincent Ferrer's parish, New York City, March 25, 1863. Having completed his preparatory course of studies, Father McGovern entered St. Rose's simple Novitiate at Springfield, Kentucky, in 1882. In 1883, having been professed, he was transferred to St. Joseph's Priory near Somerset, Ohio, at that time the House of Studies of the Province, to complete his course. Here he was raised to the dignity of the priesthood on April 12, 1889.

His long career as a Dominican priest had now begun. He was first assigned to St. Thomas Church, Zanesville, Ohio, and after nine years, was sent to his old parish church, St. Vincent Ferrer's, where by his kind disposition and gentle manner, he won for himself the love and admiration of all whom he knew, and with whom he came in contact. While here, he busied himself much with the Holy Name Society, taking an active part in all its activities. Likewise, he proved to be an efficient and capable director of St. Vincent's school.

In 1907, he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio; and in 1911 became Prior of St. Louis Bertrand's Convent, Louisville, Ky. After completing his term at this Priory, in 1914, he was reappointed pastor of St. Patrick's. While in Columbus, he was elected Prior of Holy Rosary Convent, Minneapolis, and was installed in this office on August 9, 1917. Acting under the advice of his physician, and because of his weakened condition, Father McGovern decided to come East for a rest. While enroute, his condition became so critical, that it was deemed advisable to send him to Mount Carmel

Hospital, Columbus. There he remained for six months, and then, much improved, he went to New York.

On Monday, April 4th, after having visited the Dominican Fathers at St. Vincent Ferrer's, he went with his brother for a motor trip to the Orphan Asylum at Kingsbridge. Arriving at the Asylum, he felt himself growing weak; and suddenly he collapsed, and became unconscious, in which state he remained until death, on the following day, summoned him to his eternal reward.

His remains were taken to St. Vincent Ferrer's, where they were laid in state. On Friday, April 8th, a Solemn Requiem Mass was sung for the repose of his soul. Father Joachim Kennedy, O. P., a relative of the deceased priest, was celebrant of the Mass, assisted by Father Enis, O. P., as deacon, and Father DiMichele, O. P., as subdeacon. The Very Rev. D. J. Kennedy, O. P., S. T. M., Novice-master at St. Joseph's while Father McGovern was there as a professed novice, preached the eulogy. Present in the sanctuary were priests from Columbus, Newark, Jersey City, New Haven, Philadelphia, Washington and New York. Notable, among others, was Father Splinter, O. P., Novice-master during the simple novitiate of Father McGovern. Interment was made at Calvary Cemetery, Long Island.

May he rest in peace, and be a shining example, by his self-sacrifice and holy zeal, to future generations of Dominicans.

—Bro. Matthew O'Connor, O. P.

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### **REVEREND JOHN DOMINIC MARIA VAN DEN WILDENBERG, O. P., S. T. Lr.**

On April 24th, the Province of St. Joseph sustained a very severe loss when the Angel of Death summoned to eternal rest the soul of the Rev. John Dominic Maria Van den Wildenberg, O. P. Few Dominicans have followed in the footsteps of St. Dominic more faithfully than has Father John Dominic.

While the father of the deceased was Consul General at Chicago for the Belgian Government, John Dominic was born in Illinois on January 13th, 1863. A short time after-