

## OBITUARY

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### **BROTHER ALEXANDER ROCKS, O. P.**

On Rosary Sunday, October 1st, 1922, while the High Mass was being celebrated in the Church of St. Joseph, near Somerset, Ohio, the soul of Brother Alexander Rocks was taken by God from the adjoining Dominican Novitiate to be united with Him in heaven for eternity.

It was less than two months before that the young man had entered the Novitiate intending to give his entire life for the sanctification of his own soul and the souls of others. But the all-provident God had ordained that this life should be short. Brother Alexander became ill shortly after receiving the habit of St. Dominic; and his health rapidly broke down so that it shortly became evident that the life of the young religious on earth would soon draw to a close. On September 30, 1922, the Prior of the convent received his solemn profession. Solemn profession is considered to have the effects of purification of the soul and a union with God, because it is a complete sacrifice for the love of God. On the next day, strengthened by grace from the last sacraments received while he was surrounded by his fellow-novices, his soul passed to heavenly courts of undying beatitude.

Brother Alexander Rocks was born at Providence, on April 24, 1898. After graduation from the Technical High School of that city he attended the Providence College. It was while there under the tutelage of the zealous Dominican Fathers, that God manifested to him his vocation. Without hesitating at the sacrifice demanded of him, Brother Alexander entered the Order of Preachers in August, 1922. When the news of his death reached Providence, the sorrow and affliction of his many friends were manifested by their attendance at the Requiems sung at the Providence College and at his former parish church.

On Tuesday, October 3, 1922, a Solemn High Mass of Requiem was sung by the Master of Novices, Very Rev. Dominic Sullivan, O. P., assisted by the Prior, Very Rev.

Bertrand Connolly, O. P., and Rev. Hyacinth Chandler, O. P. The choir at the Mass and burial service was composed of the Novices. Interment was made in the community plot of St. Joseph's Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

—Bro. William Roach, O. P.

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### REVEREND FRANCIS A. GAFFNEY, O. P.

On December 2, 1922, the soul of Father Francis Antoninus Gaffney, O. P., passed to its eternal reward. For almost a year Father Gaffney had been in ill-health but his death was not expected so suddenly. About the middle of November his condition became very serious and he was removed from St. Dominic's Convent in Washington to a hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where fortified by the last sacraments of the Church he died.

Father Gaffney was born in Newark, New Jersey, on June 13, 1863. After receiving his early education in the parochial schools of that city and his classical training at the old Dominican Vicariate in Newark he entered the Novitiate of the Order of Preachers at Springfield, Kentucky, in 1883. After profession in 1885, he was sent to the House of Studies at St. Joseph Priory, Somerset, Ohio, where he was ordained to the priesthood on April 12, 1889, by Bishop Watterson.

Father Gaffney had been assigned to many of the Dominican parishes in the Province of St. Joseph. He had served as curate in Louisville, New York City, Washington, Columbus, and Houston; he had been vicar and pastor at Memphis, Tennessee; he had been prior and pastor at Newark, New Jersey. He was well known throughout the country as a preacher and lecturer. Early in life he developed a love for the immortal work of Dante and reduced the *Divina Comedia* to the skeleton form of a chart. He has written many pieces of verse and several years ago one