

A DUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER witnessed the celebration of a memorable event in the diocese of Louisville; the commemoration at the Church of St. Louis Bertrand by priests and people of the golden jubilee of the foundation of their parish and the seventh hundred anniversary of the approval of the Order of Friars Preachers.

The readers of *Dominicana* have in a recent number been given a very interesting resume of the history of the Dominican Order, its Saints, its many and glorious deeds, but it would take volumes even to sketch the individual history of the hundreds of Dominican communities thriving today throughout the world, shepherding the flocks of the Lord. That our readers may more intimately enter into the spirit which animated our brethren of St. Louis Bertrand's Parish during the days of their recent jubilee celebration, we shall outline a brief history of the labors of that favored flock.

Bishop Lavialle in the year 1866, invited the Dominicans stationed at St. Rose, Kentucky, to establish a foundation in Louisville. In answer to this request, the venerable Father M. A. O'Brien, O. P., was immediately sent to the Falls City. Land was purchased extending along Sixth and Seventh Streets from St. Catherine Street almost to Oak Street. Mass was offered up during the spring of '66 in a frame cottage on Seventh Street; during the summer in a similar structure near Eighth and Oldham Streets; during the early fall, a temporary wooden church on the parish property was completed and occupied. On October the 10, 1866, the cornerstone was laid for the building now used as a parochial school and hall; at the time of its erection, however, it was used as a priory and House of Studies. Father

O'Brien on first going to Louisville made his home with the Ordinary at the Cathedral, later in the year '66, he and Father D. J. Meagher, O. P. moved into a dwelling on Sixth Street near Broadway, where they resided until the new priory was made habitable.

The cornerstone of the present magnificent English Gothic Church was laid in 1869. This beautiful edifice in 1873 had been erected at the cost of \$100,000; since then many costly improvements have enhanced its value, and interior grandeur until it stands today, the ecclesiastical gem of the South. Bishop McClosky dedicated the new house of God, January 6, 1873. In the sanctuary for the dedication ceremonies were, the students of Preston Park Seminary who sang at the Mass, and among whom was Rev. P. M. J. Rock whose name will appear again in this article, twelve members of the secular clergy and fourteen Dominicans. Notable among the members of the Order present were Fathers Tom Burke, whose sermon helped to make the event memorable, and Nicholas Dominic Young who was one of the first two novices to enter a Dominican Novitiate established under the Stars and Stripes.

Since the days of Father O'Brien, Fathers D. J. Meagher, J. R. Meagher, Charles H. McKenna, M. A. McFeeley, J. A. Rockford, J. P. Vallely, M. A. Horrigan, B. F. Logan, J. D. Fowler, J. R. Volz, J. R. Clark, T. S. McGovern and T. L. Crowley have acted in the double capacity of prior and pastor to the convent and parish.

Under the supervision of Very Rev. T. L. Crowley, O. P., the present efficient prior, an extensive program commemorating the dual jubilee was auspiciously inaugurated October 10 and successfully closed October 14 of 1916.

These were indeed days made holy to the Lord as every fiftieth year should be, each day began with the solemn offering of the holy Mass and was closed with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Mass on the opening day was celebrated by Father T. S. McGovern, O. P., assisted by Rev. J. D. Fowler, O. P., as deacon and Rev. J. A. Heenan, O. P., as subdeacon. Father P. M. J. Rock, rector of the Cathedral delivered a masterful sermon paying many happy tributes to Saint Dominic and his sons. Very Rev. J. P. Cronin, V. G., represented Bishop O'Donaghue who was not able to be present. In the sanctuary were the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., S. T. Lr., Provincial, fifty diocesan, six Franciscan and ten Dominican priests. After the Mass a banquet was served to the reverend clergy of the diocese, State and city officials and the laity in the school hall, some three hundred being present. In the evening the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., S. T. Lr., delivered a panegyric on the glories of the Dominican Order. The discourse was followed by recitation of the Rosary, singing of Compline and benediction.

Wednesday Fr. J. P. Vallely, O. P., was celebrant of the Mass, while Dean O'Connell of Bardstown preached. In the evening Very Rev. L. F. Kearney, O. P., S. T. M., delivered the sermon. Thursday Fr. J. D. Fowler, O. P., celebrated High Mass in the morning, and spoke at Holy Hour in the evening. Friday Very Rev. C. F. Christmas, O. P., sang a High Mass of Requiem for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the parish; while in the evening Fr. Crowley acted as toastmaster at a luncheon given under the

auspices of the Holy Name Society. The Mass on Saturday was for the children and after the Mass a treat was given the little ones in the school hall.

A souvenir in pamphlet form, gotten out in connection with the celebration, profusely illustrated, teeming with valuable information about the Order, and unique historic reminiscences of the parish, is worthy of the highest commendation. St. Louis Bertrand's congregation has indeed been blest with zealous holy men to guide its destinies, but the zealousness and piety of the pastor has seldom surpassed the generosity and whole-hearted cooperation given at all times by his faithful flock. The reminiscences of the old parishioners lead us to believe that the most beloved and generous of the old school was the greatest benefactor the province ever had, Mr. Bryan Scally; his benefactions made the present celebration possible at St. Louis Bertrand's.

The remarkable growth and progress of this congregation has not by any means been confined to things material. Fr. O'Brien during the year at the little cottage church could hardly have broken the Bread of Life with more than one hundred faithful souls; while almost one hundred thousand souls were given Communion during the past year. Such spiritual growth is a more glorious monument to the labors of both priests and people and gives greater honor to God than the building of a Solomon's temple could give.

This celebration was indeed a notable one; its events are now history, but the memory of it will never be forgotten, especially by the parishioners, diocesan priests and Dominicans.

—Raphael Burke, O. P.

