

## ✠ THE VERY REV. JOSEPH A. HEENAN, O. P. ✠

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It is the sad duty of the *Dominicana* to record the death of the Very Rev. Joseph A. Heenan, O. P., who, fortified by the sacraments of our holy religion, answered the call of God to another world on the morning of March 21.

Father Heenan was born in Philadelphia on June 17, 1878, and it was in this city at St. Ann's parish school, and St. Joseph's College that he received his early education. From his youngest years, he gave marked indication of a vocation to the religious life, so there was little surprise when he entered the Dominican Novitiate at Springfield, Ky., in September, 1896. After his year of probation, he was admitted to simple profession September 10, 1897, and then sent to the House of Studies at St. Joseph's, Somerset, Ohio, to begin his course in philosophy and theology. In 1900 he pronounced his solemn vows, and on August 21, 1902, was ordained to the holy priesthood.

As a young priest, Father Heenan received his first assignment to St. Louis Bertrand's Church, in Louisville, Ky. Here his abilities as a preacher manifested themselves, and in 1907 he was assigned to the Eastern Mission Band. Then with his appointment in 1910 as pastor of St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn., came parochial responsibility and his first incumbency as superior. From this assignment he was sent in 1914 as pastor to the Holy Name parish in his native city of Philadelphia. Father Heenan entered upon this charge when the parish was just in the making, when heavy financial obligations had to be met almost at once. During these days he showed his administrative ability. He looked after the temporalities of the congregation with such good judgment that in a very short time the heavy debt was completely paid off. He was next stationed in the place that he loved best—St. Louis Bertrand's. His long tenure of office as prior of this convent from 1917 to 1926, marks what was probably the most fruitful period of his career. His energetic efforts for the spiritual welfare of his people marked him as a pastor in the true sense of the word.

These years in Louisville were in God's providence to be the concluding ones of his active priestly ministry. After three terms as prior, Father Heenan's failing health forbade further parochial work, and he was transferred to the quieter and most cloistered atmosphere of the House of Studies at River Forest,

III. Here he served as subprior until his death. His last illness was prolonged over a period of several months, and during this time his malady and the trials that accompanied it were only exceeded by the patience with which they were borne. Death found him calm and well prepared. The first obsequies, conducted at the River Forest House of Studies, were marked by all the solemnity and impressiveness of the Dominican ritual. During the long night-vigil various groups of Brothers recited the Psalter around the bier. In the morning the entire community chanted the Office of the Dead, which was followed by a solemn Mass of Requiem with the Very Rev. R. V. Walker, O. P., S. T. Lr., prior of the House of Studies, as celebrant, and Very Rev. W. R. Lawler, O. P., P. G., and Rev. T. a'Kempis Reilly, O. P., S. T. Lr., deacon and subdeacon respectively.

In Louisville, the funeral took place from St. Louis Bertrand's Church, the solemn burial Mass being sung by the Right Rev. J. A. Floersh, D. D., Bishop of Louisville, with the Very Rev. J. P. Aldridge, O. P., S. T. M., and Rev. F. B. Gorman, O. P., deacon and subdeacon respectively; Very Rev. J. H. Healy, O. P., P. G., and Rev. D. A. Casey, O. P., S. T. Lr., were deacons of honor. The secular clergy were represented by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Schuhmann, Vicar General of the Louisville Diocese, acting as assistant priest, and the Revs. Daniel Driscoll and Francis R. Colton as masters of ceremonies. The sermon delivered by the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., S. T. M., Archbishop of Cincinnati, dwelt upon the true priestly stamp of Father Heenan's character. "To him right was right, and wrong was wrong. He knew no middle course; he knew no devious ways in following through life the path of rectitude. He was more gifted than he himself in his simplicity and humility would admit. . . . He preferred silence and retirement. . . . His innermost thoughts and deepest affections were never openly manifested, though they were the moving principle of his judgments and actions. Only God and himself, and a few who were admitted to his intimate confidence knew how human and sympathetic he was, and appreciated his high ideals and his unswerving fidelity to duty as he saw it." Interment was made in the community cemetery adjoining St. Rose Priory at Springfield, Ky.

With the passing of Father Heenan the Province of St. Joseph loses one of its most zealous priests and respected leaders. Requiescat in pace. . . .—Bro. Damian Grady, O. P.