

✠ BROTHER GERALD KEENAN, O. P. ✠



ON February 21, 1929, the community of the venerable convent of St. Rose at Springfield, Kentucky, was stricken with sorrow at the news of the death of Brother Gerald Keenan. Although the deceased had completed but little more than half of his period of probation in the novitiate he gave every promise of becoming a holy, zealous and learned worker in the Lord's vineyard.

Brother Gerald was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on June 30, 1906. Receiving his primary education in St. Thomas Aquinas School in his native city he later attended the Jesuit College in Seattle, Washington, and the seminary of St. Francis in the Wisconsin town of that name. The call of God to the holy priesthood in a religious community led him to the Dominican College in Providence, R. I. Having completed his studies there he entered the Dominican novitiate in the summer of 1928.

Short as was his life as a religious he endeared himself to all his fellow novices as well as to his superiors by his patience, kindness and charity toward all. These virtues were especially manifest in his duties as infirmarian. Following a slight illness the removal of his appendix was ordered by a physician. After a seemingly successful operation in a Louisville hospital complications set in and the young Dominican passed to his eternal reward. Shortly before his death however, he made solemn profession into the hands of his prior, Very Rev. J. P. Aldridge, O. P., thus fulfilling a long cherished and holy ambition.

The body, clothed in the white habit of St. Dominic, was taken to St. Louis Bertrand's Church, Louisville, Ky., where it lay in state that evening. The next day a Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Very Rev. J. P. Aldridge, O. P. The novices from St. Rose Convent carried out the accompanying Dominican liturgy with an impressive solemnity which plainly manifested the grief of their sorrow stricken hearts. The body was then transferred to Kenosha where on Monday, the twenty-fifth of February, Solemn Mass of Requiem was sung at St. Thomas Church by the Novice Master, Rev. L. P. Johannsen, O. P., assisted by the Revs. J. D. Walsh, O. P., and F. N. Georges, O. P., who acted as deacon and subdeacon respectively. The acolytes were two young priests of the diocese,

one a school chum of the departed brother and the other the curate of the parish. Six priests, all friends or acquaintances of Brother Gerald, acted as pall bearers.

The Church of St. Thomas Aquinas on the morning of the funeral was an impressive sight. Long before the funeral cortège arrived, the church was filled to overflowing. In the sanctuary members of the clergy, both secular and religious, read their breviaries for the repose of the soul of their departed friend. A masterful eulogy was preached by the pastor, Fr. McBride. Taking for his text the beautiful and consoling words of the Book of Wisdom, "Being made perfect in a short space, he fulfilled a long time" (Wisdom iv, 13), Fr. McBride spoke of the virtues and the truly Christian characteristics of the deceased and of the esteem and respect in which he was held by all who knew him. Briefly he told of Brother Gerald's solemn profession and explained its significance. The services in the cemetery were conducted by the Dominican Fathers according to the ritual of the Order.

To the parents, relatives and friends of Brother Gerald DOMINICANA in the name of the Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph's Province, extends sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

—Bro. Antoninus Walsh, O. P.

JUNE

BRO. NICHOLAS WALSH, O. P.

A red rose, a bleeding rose,
By sinful creatures trod,
But oh, for all, a pleading rose,
The Heart of Jesus-God!