

✠ REV. JOHN AMBROSE DEMPSEY, O.P. ✠

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HE Province of St. Joseph grieves the loss of another of its beloved sons, a tireless worker for souls who did all things well. The passing of this well beloved Dominican, the Rev. John Ambrose Dempsey, for the past three years rector of the Holy Name Church, Kansas City, occurred on November 20, after a brief illness.

Father Dempsey was born in Zanesville, Ohio, March 30, 1878, and there he received his elementary education, matriculating later at Notre Dame University. In January, 1906, he received the habit of St. Dominic. The following year he made his profession and was sent to the House of Studies in Washington, to pursue his philosophical and theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood June 20, 1912. Shortly after his ordination he took over the duties of Assistant Master of Students and in the autumn of 1914 received his appointment as Master of Students. On September 22, 1917, the historic priory of St. Rose, Springfield, Ky., was reopened as a house of studies. There Father Dempsey taught philosophy during the following three years. Because of his recognized priestly zeal and administrative ability he was elected in September, 1920, as prior of the convent of St. Catherine of Siena, New York City. His two terms as prior were a marked success in many ways, especially in the removal of an enormous church debt. Six years of unceasing effort in the care of souls in the parish of St. Catherine, was followed by his appointment, November 30, 1926, as rector of Holy Name Church, Kansas City. It fell to the lot of Father Dempsey to complete the building of Holy Name Church. The finished edifice, a beautiful Gothic church, and distinctly Dominican, was dedicated on June 3, 1928.

During his three years as rector of Holy Name Church, Father Dempsey entered wholeheartedly into every diocesan activity. His sudden death was a severe loss to the community, as was evidenced by the crowds that filed by the body as it lay in state in the church. Members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, assisted by members of the Holy Name Society, formed the guard of honor. The Rev. A. M. Brady, O. P., celebrated a Mass of Requiem at 8:00 o'clock on November 21, at which the parochial school children received Holy Communion

in a body. A Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated at 10:00 o'clock by the Rev. J. B. Hagarty, O.P., assisted by the Rev. A. M. Brady, O.P., as deacon, and the Rev. D. I. Damiani, O.P., as subdeacon. The eulogy was delivered by the Right Rev. Msgr. James J. McCaffrey, rector of the cathedral in Kansas City, and close friend of Father Dempsey. The sanctuary was filled with priests, secular and religious, representing the diocese and various religious orders.

The body was then taken to Zanesville, Ohio. There too members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and members of the Holy Name Society formed a guard of honor. A Solemn Mass of Requiem was celebrated by the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., vicar provincial, assisted by the Very Rev. J. W. Owens, O.P., as deacon, and Bro. Albert Musselman, O.P., nephew of Father Dempsey, as subdeacon. Students from St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, formed the choir and assisted at the services. The eulogy was preached by the Rev. V. R. Burnell, O.P. The crowded church and the presence of more than sixty priests, secular and religious, attested the love and respect in which Father Dempsey was held. His earthly remains were laid to rest in the community cemetery at St. Joseph's, where with many Dominicans who have gone before, he "awaits the call of the Resurrection."

To Father Dempsey's relatives and many friends, DOMINICANA extends sincere and heartfelt sympathy. R. I. P.

Bro. Eugene Holohan, O.P.

