



VERY REV. D. J. KENNEDY, O.P.

DANIEL JOSEPH KENNEDY, O.P.

TIMOTHY M. SPARKS, O.P.



ON Friday evening, April 11th, the Very Reverend Daniel Joseph Kennedy died suddenly of heart trouble at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C. He had apparently been in good health for the past few years and on the day of his death had prepared a class lecture and had heard confessions in the House of Studies Chapel. Father Kennedy was sixty-eight years old. He had passed the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance into the Order and in 1934 would have celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest.

Daniel Kennedy was born January 12, 1862, at Lucas' Spring, Knox County, East Tennessee. He was the fifth of nine children. Four years later his parents moved to Knoxville that they might be nearer a Catholic church and school. There the future priest and friar began, at the age of five, his lifelong pursuit of study and received Confirmation and First Holy Communion. From his early teachers, the pastor and learned laymen, he received a solid foundation in Christian doctrine and in the ordinary branches of rudimentary education.

The youth, who had imbibed a strong desire for God's service from his years as an altar boy, decided to become a priest, a Dominican priest, and accordingly on November 1, 1876, went to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, then the novitiate and house of studies of St. Joseph's Province. His decision to enter a religious order followed that of an elder sister, who a year before had joined the Dominican Sisters at Nashville, Tennessee, and who survives him. On November 9, 1877, he received the habit of the Order and took "Joseph" as his religious name. He made his profession November 10, 1878.

On his arrival at St. Joseph's, the postulant continued the study of the classics, together with subjects now taught in secondary schools. He shared with the other students, in the summer of 1877,

the privilege of having classes in oral English from Father C. H. McKenna, O.P. Among his professors, too, at that time was Father, then Brother, Francis Colbert. Immediately after his profession he began the study of philosophy and, in 1880, theology; and at the same time continued to attend classes in Greek. From Father J. A. Durkin, O.P., who was then teaching philosophy and theology at St. Joseph's, he acquired the habit of accuracy and thoroughness in the study of the sacred sciences, which always remained with him.

In 1881 the young theologian sailed with two other of his brethren for Louvain to continue his studies under such renowned professors as Fathers Lepidi and Dummermuth, O.P. On September 8, 1884, at the age of twenty-two, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Jesuit Church in Louvain. Another year of intense study followed and in July of 1885 he received the degree of Lector in Sacred Theology. In September of the same year he successfully defended a philosophical thesis before the General Chapter of the Order convoked at Louvain. His reward was a dispensation, *in antecessum*, from the *Examen ad gradus*. Shortly afterwards he departed for the United States.

Father Kennedy's first assignment after his return was to the House of Studies at Somerset, Ohio, where he began his career of training young men for the priesthood. Besides teaching he also occupied the position of novice master. Four years passed and then came a summons from the Master General of the Order for Father Kennedy to take over the chair of philosophy at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. The university was established in 1889. To the Dominicans had been entrusted the school of theology to which was attached that of scholastic philosophy. Father Kennedy taught there from March 1890 to October 1891 when Father, now Cardinal, Frühwirth, the newly elected Master General, acceded after several days deliberation to the request of the Provincial of St. Joseph's province, the Very Rev. Aloysius Spencer, to permit Father Kennedy to return to his own province because of the dearth of lectors there.

On his return Father Kennedy was once more assigned to the double task of professor and novice master. He was elected prior of St. Joseph's in 1894 which position he retained until 1905. In 1895 he received the Order's baccalaureate degree in theology and in 1896, when the *studium* at Somerset was reestablished as a *collegium formale*, he was made its regent of studies. In 1898 he received the degree of Master in Sacred Theology, the highest which the Order confers.

In 1905 the convent of the Immaculate Conception was opened at Washington and the house of studies was transferred there from St. Joseph's in Somerset. Father Kennedy retained his position as regent and served as the prior of the new convent until 1908. He taught sacramental and dogmatic theology at the Catholic University of America from 1906 until 1923 when he resigned because of ill-health. A part of this time he was dean of the University's faculty of theology. He continued his regency of studies in the province until 1919. In 1922 he was elected prior of the House of Studies; ill-health however made his resignation necessary after several months. His health improved, he took up active work once more and spent the two years 1926-28 in giving missions and retreats. From 1928 until his death he was again on the teaching staff of the Washington House of Studies.

Father Kennedy's whole life was taken up with the training of young men destined for the priesthood. His heart was in his work and nothing gave him more pleasure than to have a part in sending out zealous and learned priests, priests well prepared to preach the word of God and to lead the faithful along the way of peace and salvation. His love of teaching also led him to occupy whatever spare moments he had in writing treatises on theology, many of which have been published. He had a great love of the Scriptures and was intensely interested in the liturgy. In him, too, were combined true evangelical wisdom and simplicity. The learned as well as the less wise were at home in his presence. His life was an exemplification of St. Paul's ideal priest: he was "all things to all men."

The funeral of Father Kennedy took place Tuesday, April 15th, at St. Dominic's Church, Washington. A Solemn High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by Rev. J. J. Kennedy, O.P., nephew of the deceased, assisted by Rev. W. J. O'Leary, O.P., as deacon, and Rev. F. D. McShane, O.P., as subdeacon. The eulogy was preached by Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O.P. Students from the House of Studies chanted the Mass and, together with the one hundred other Dominicans who were in attendance, participated in the ceremonies after the Mass in the Church and at the grave. Besides the faithful and the religious brethren of Father Kennedy, sixty members of the secular and religious clergy were present at the obsequies in the Church. The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D.D., rector emeritus of the Catholic University, the Rt. Rev. John M. McNamara, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, and six Monsignori, among whom

were the Rt. Rev. James H. Ryan and the Rt. Rev. Edward A. Pace, rector and vice-rector, respectively, of the Catholic University, occupied places in the sanctuary. The final absolution was imparted by the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O.P., Provincial. The interment was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington.

DOMINICANA extends its sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of Father Kennedy. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.