Obituary

O.P., S.T.M. Present in the sanctuary were thirty fellow priests who came to pay their final respects to a departed brother. Burial was in the Dominican plot at Calvary, N. Y., in a grave next to that of Father Lockingen, the priest under whose guidance Father Cummings entered the Dominican Order.

To his relatives and friends DOMINICANA in the name of his fellow priests and brothers extends sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace. —Louis Mitchell, O.P.

* REVEREND JAMES FRANCIS COLBERT, O.P. *

HILE on a visit to his sister in Washington, D. C., Rev. James Francis Colbert, O.P., was stricken ill with pneumonia and died at Providence Hospital in the same city on Thursday morning, August 27, 1931. Father Colbert was seventy-three years old. He had passed the fifty-fifth anniversary of his religious profession, and this coming May would have celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood.

James Colbert was born in Washington, D. C., November 8, 1858. He received his elementary education from the Sisters of St. Dominic’s parish school and from the Jesuit Fathers at Gonzaga High School. In answer to the divine call he entered the novitiate of the Order of Preachers at St. Rose Priory, in Springfield, Kentucky, where he made his religious profession February 7, 1876. His philosophical and theological studies were made at St. Joseph’s Priory, Somerset, Ohio, and he was there ordained priest by Bishop Watterson, May 14, 1882.

Because of his marked ability in the classics he was first assigned to teach Latin and Greek at St. Rose, where he remained for ten years. He was elected Prior of that convent in 1889. His next appointment was as Vicar and Pastor of St. Antoninus Parish in Newark, N. J., which office he filled from 1893 to 1899.
Success here was followed by a similar appointment at St. Patrick’s, Columbus, Ohio. Besides these duties he was for many years Procurator of the Province of St. Joseph. In 1895 he was sent to represent the Province at a General Chapter held at Avila in Spain. Throughout his life, Father Colbert was a profound theologian.

After capably filling so many high positions of trust and responsibility, Father Colbert, with true religious humility, was now glad to step down again into the rank and file and accept his next appointment as assistant at St. Mary’s, New Haven, Conn., in 1905. Here for twenty-six years, he served well and faithfully, not only the people of St. Mary’s parish but of the whole city. He was in constant demand as confessor and spiritual adviser, and was venerated and loved by all who were so fortunate as to receive his comforting and consoling ministries while in sickness and in sorrow. These facts alone would be enough to mark him a successful and worthy priest. When his many other abilities and talents are considered one begins to comprehend the severe loss the Province of St. Joseph has suffered through his death.

The last rites were attended by some fifty of his Dominican brethren from all parts of the United States and by members of the secular clergy. The Solemn Mass of Requiem was sung by Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O.P., assisted by Very Rev. W. J. O’Leary, O.P., as Deacon, and Rev. F. D. McShane, O.P., as Sub-Deacon. The last absolution was given by Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P. Very Rev. H. J. McManus, O.P., preached the eulogy. The body of Father Colbert was laid to rest in the Dominican plot at Mount Olivet Cemetery, where the blessing at the grave was given by Very Rev. R. M. Burke, O.P.

To the relatives and numerous friends of Father Colbert, DOMINICANA in the name of the Province extends sincere and heartfelt sympathy. May he rest in peace.

—J. Raphael O’Connor, O.P.