

✠ REVEREND JOSEPH ALPHONSUS GINET, O.P. ✠



FATHER ALPHONSUS GINET was called to his eternal reward March 4, 1934, at the age of fifty-four and after thirty years of fruitful labour as a priest of God.

In the Cathedral city of Nîmes in southern France, Father Ginet was born on September 14, 1880, the son of Alphonse Ginet and Mariè Juliè Bérard d'Ubst. As a mere boy he felt the call of God to the religious life and responded to it wholeheartedly. On his eighteenth birthday, having finished his novitiate, he pronounced his vows in the Dominican Order at Poitiers. He returned then to Rijckoly, Holland, where he had made his preparatory studies, to take his Philosophy and Theology. There he was ordained to the sacred priesthood on October 8, 1904. The Lyons Province, to which he belonged, then conducted the College of Bartolomé de Las Casas, Cienfuegos, Cuba. Father Ginet was sent there in 1905 to take up the duties of professor. Twelve years he remained there working assiduously in the education of youth. He was a tireless worker always and it was not long before his reputation in entomology, conchology and meteorology was well established in Cuba. Indeed his collection of tropical butterflies was said to be the best throughout all Cuba. He was also an excellent musician.

When this college was turned over to the Province of Betica, Spain, Father Ginet had himself affiliated with our Province. The transfer was made in 1917. Father Ginet was by nature reticent and being in poor health too, it was judged best by the Provincial to give him the work of chaplaincy. He remained at this work until the call by his Divine Master on March 4th. From 1917 until 1922 he was chaplain for the Christian Brothers at Clason Point Academy, Bronx, New York City. The next four years were spent at the Convent of Our Lady of Providence, Chapagua, New York. In 1926 he was assigned to Mary Immaculate Convent, Ossining, New York, with the Sisters of his own Order. From 1927 to 1931, he was chaplain for the Dominican Sisters at Mount Saint-Mary-on-the-Hudson, Newburg, New York. He returned to Mary Immaculate Convent, Ossining in 1931 and there he remained until his death.

The immediate cause of Father Ginet's death was an operation for intestinal trouble from which he had suffered for many years. He died at St. Francis' Hospital, the Bronx, New York City, Sunday, March 4th. His body was brought to Saint Vincent Ferrer's Church and there it lay in state until Wednesday, March 7th. At ten o'clock Wednesday morning, Father Gaston Level, O.P., of Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, sang a solemn requiem Mass for the happy repose of his soul. Father Level was assisted by Father Alexius Casterot as deacon and the Very Reverend Justin McManus, Prior at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., as subdeacon. The sanctuary was filled by his confreres and many other priests who were his friends about New York, while in the nave of the Church a large concourse of the faithful gathered to pay their last respects to this energetic and saintly son of Saint Dominic. Burial followed in the Dominican plot at Calvary Cemetery, New York City.

May he rest in peace.

L. M. O.