

OBITUARY

THE REV. FR. WILLIAM F. LINAHAN, O. P.

As we go to press, sad tidings come to us announcing the death of Father William Francis Linahan of St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, Conn. While Father Linahan had been ailing for some time, the end came rather suddenly and was a profound shock to his brethren and many friends by whom he was held in highest regard. Fortified by the rites of Holy Mother Church, he was called to his eternal reward on November 25, in the "City of Elms" in the forty-seventh year of his religious profession.

The subject of our sketch, the second son of pious Irish-American parentage, was a native of Louisville, Ky., where he was born March 3, 1854. In early childhood, his parents moved from the "Falls City" of the South to Springfield, Ky., at that time a noted center of Dominican activity in the United States, and there he entered the Order at St. Rose's, receiving the habit in his fifteenth year. On Sept. 15, 1870, he made his profession in the hands of the Very Rev. J. H. Slinger, O. P.

He proceeded thence to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, and there took up the regular ecclesiastical courses, at the completion of which he was made an "anointed of God" by Bishop Rosecrans of Columbus, on Jan. 11, 1877.

His career as a harvester of souls began at once and during the forty years of his priestly life many of the important houses of the Province were the scenes of his labors. He was one of the pioneers of St. Mary's parish, where his earthly ministry was closed by death.

Of recognized executive ability, Father Linahan was often chosen to fill posts of trust, among them the priorships of St. Rose's, Springfield, Ky., St. Dominic's and the House of Studies, Washington, D. C. He was possessed of a beautiful voice, especially fitted for the choral chant peculiar to the Order and he endeared himself to all by his zealous efforts to perfect it in our community. He was also esteemed for his priestly deportment and exemplary religious conduct.

Gifted with a wonderful memory, his mind was well-stored with a deep knowledge of English literature, the classics and history. His excellent sermon-structure, the solidity of his matter, together with his remarkable voice and splendid delivery made his discourses gems of pulpit oratory.

His gentle, kindly disposition and fidelity to the sick, brought joy and gladness to many a sorrowing heart and home. His charity and unflagging zeal for souls has enshrined his memory in the hearts of thousands and it shall ever be fragrant with the sweet odor of good for Jesus Christ.

The funeral rites were performed at St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn. The ministers of the solemn requiem Mass were: Very Rev. James Aldridge, O. P., prior of St. Mary's, celebrant, assisted by Fr. Patrick A. Maher, O. P. (whose vocation the dead friar had fostered), as deacon, and Very Rev. H. J. McManus, O. P., of St. Mary's, sub-deacon. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Nilan of Hartford gave the final absolution. A large gathering of diocesan clergy, Dominican Fathers and parishioners attended the services. Interment was at Calvary cemetery, New York. R. I. P.

—E. H.