

✠ BROTHER GABRIEL ROBERT, O.P. ✠



IN the sudden death of Brother Gabriel Robert, O.P., which occurred on January 11, St. Joseph's province sustained the loss of a living example of suffering patiently endured and of devotedness to duty. Brother Gabriel had been ill but a short time, and, although he had undergone a serious operation, he was thought to be recovering when called to his reward.

Brother Gabriel was born at Fall River, Mass., October 3, 1897. He was the son of Peter and Lucy Normandin Robert, and at baptism was given the name of Clarence Peter. His education was received at Rumford grammar school, Rumford, R.I. and at East Providence High School, East Providence, R.I. Although a victim of infantile paralysis from early youth, Brother Gabriel never allowed his physical infirmity to overcome his naturally cheerful disposition.

Conscious of His Divine Master's call to embrace the religious state, Clarence Robert applied to the Very Rev. William D. Noon, O.P., president of Providence College, for admission into the Dominican Order as a lay brother, and at Father Noon's request he remained at Providence College for a time before beginning his postulancy. During this period he gave unmistakable signs of a religious vocation and was accepted by the Dominican Provincial, the Very Reverend Raymond Meagher, O.P., as a lay brother postulant.

Brother Gabriel's period of postulancy and novitiate were spent at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., and on August 4, 1923, he pronounced his religious profession. At the House of Studies, he displayed considerable talent in the discharge of his various duties, and by his straightforward manliness, the simplicity and charm of his character and his truly religious spirit, he won the love and admiration of all his religious brethren.

In February 1931, Brother Gabriel was assigned by the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., to the National Holy Name headquarters, New York City. It was while faithfully discharging his duties at this responsible post that God's summons was revealed to him.

The funeral obsequies were held January 14, at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer's, New York City. The Rev. Edward Hughes, O.P., celebrated the Solemn Requiem Mass, assisted by the Rev. W. G. Moran, O.P., as deacon and the Rev. Dominic Dolan, O.P., as subdeacon. The funeral oration was preached by the Rev. Thomas F. Conlon, O.P., National Director of the Holy Name Society. The large gathering of religious and laity which practically filled the great Gothic edifice was a visible manifestation of the regard in which Brother Gabriel was held by all who knew him. Interment was made at the Dominican plot in Calvary Cemetery, New York City.

Dominicana extends its most sincere condolence to Brother Gabriel's father and sisters.

May he rest in peace!

—J.J.McD.