

✠ REV. WILLIAM VINCENT LANCTOT, O.P. ✠

The announcement of Fr. Lanctot's death on Sunday, January 26th, was a surprise and a shock to members of the Order and to his friends. He died suddenly from an attack of apoplexy. His body was sent from St. Mary's Rectory, Johnson City, Tenn., to St. Rose's Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where the novices kept vigil over it, chanting the Psalter from the time of its arrival until the solemn Requiem Mass at ten o'clock. Fr. Austin Vitie, O.P., was celebrant, Fr. Vincent Raetz, O.P., deacon, and Fr. Arthur Hall, O.P., subdeacon. A eulogy was delivered by Fr. George Carpentier, O.P. The very simple but impressive Dominican ceremonies were performed in the community cemetery of St. Rose. Military honors were paid by the local Veterans of the World War.

Fr. Lanctot was the son of Samuel I. and Adele Margaret (Baker) Lanctot. He was born at Harbor Springs, Michigan, May 19, 1886. His early education was received at Holy Childhood School, Harbor Springs, Michigan, and his college education at St. Joseph's College, Teutopolis, Illinois. In 1910 he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Letters by the University of Michigan. During the World War, Fr. Lanctot served as a commissioned Captain in the U. S. Army. After receiving the habit of St. Dominic at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, August 21, 1921, from the Very Rev. J. B. Connolly, O.P., he entered upon his novitiate, and a year later made his simple profession into the hands of Fr. Connolly. Two years of his philosophical studies were followed at St. Rose. These studies and his theological course were completed in the succeeding four years at the Dominican House of Studies, Washington. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University, ordained Fr. Lanctot to the priesthood at St. Dominic's Church, Washington, D. C., June 21, 1928.

Two brief assignments were filled at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, Maryland, and St. Vincent's Church, New York City. Seven years ago Fr. Lanctot was appointed assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church, Johnson City, Tennessee. During these seven years he sought out, fought for, and won back many souls to his Divine Master. Gentleness, holiness, patience, kindness, sympathy for the afflicted, and a whole-hearted giving of himself to all who asked, were his chief weapons for gathering a large harvest in so brief a period in the service of Christ.

Dominicana wishes to express its heartfelt sympathy to Fr. Lanctot's Mother and brother and to his relatives. B.M.S.