

✠ REVEREND ADOLPH AUGUSTINE DURKIN, O.P. ✠

On Sunday, May 15, 1938, Father A. A. Durkin died in Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky. Father Durkin, who had celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination on May 2, 1936, was seventy-nine years of age, the oldest priest in Saint Joseph's Province in point of years and the second oldest in point of priestly service.

He was born in London, Ontario, on December 28, 1858, the fifth of the ten children of Martin and Johanna Sexton Durkin, and completed his preliminary studies in St. Peter's elementary school and in a private high school of his native city. On December 24, 1876, he received the Dominican habit from the Very Rev. Peter Clement Coll at Saint Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, taking the name, Brother Augustine. He made profession into the hands of the Very Rev. Francis Lilly on August 4, 1878, and, after studying philosophy and theology in Saint Joseph's, was ordained priest in St. Patrick's Church, Columbus, Ohio, by the Most Rev. John A. Watterson, Bishop of Columbus, on Low Sunday, May 2, 1886.

During his long life Father Durkin labored zealously for souls in the parishes of Saint Antoninus, Newark, N. J., St. Dominic's, Washington, D. C., St. Rose, Springfield, Ky., St. Patrick, Columbus, Ohio, St. Louis Bertrand, Louisville, Ky., St. Peter, Memphis, Tenn., and St. Joseph, Somerset, Ohio. From 1921 to 1923 he served as Chaplain at Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, Louisville, Ky., and from 1923 to 1930 served in the same capacity at St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Ky. In 1930, failing eyesight caused Father Durkin to retire from active duty and he was assigned to St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., where he acted as confessor for the novices until his last illness.

Worthy of special note is the number of Dominican priests and sisters in the Durkin family. Besides Father Adolph, one of his brothers and two of his sisters wore the white and black habit: the late Rev. J. A. Durkin, the late Sister M. Augusta and Sister M. Helena of the St. Mary of the Springs Community. In addition, four of Father Durkin's first cousins were Dominicans: the late Rev. S. A. Pendergast, who was ordained with him in 1886; the Rev. J. D. Pendergast, present Chaplain at Saint Mary

of the Springs; the Rev. J. J. Durkin of Saint Dominic's parish, Washington, D. C.; and Sister M. Ambrosia of St. Mary of the Springs Community.

A Solemn Requiem Mass was sung at St. Rose Priory on Tuesday, May 17, 1938, with the Rev. J. J. Durkin as celebrant, the Rev. J. D. Pendergast as deacon, and the Very Rev. W. J. Owens, prior of St. Rose, as subdeacon. The Very Rev. P. R. Carroll, prior of St. Louis Bertrand's, Louisville, Ky., delivered the eulogy. A large number of the deceased priest's brethren, representatives of the diocesan clergy and sisters from St. Mary of the Springs and St. Catharine's communities were present at the Mass.

To Father Durkin's brother, Ignatius, and to Sister M. Helena DOMINICANA, in the name of all the members of St. Joseph's Province, extends sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace!
E.C.