

DOMINICAN MOTHERS GENERAL

MEET IN ADRIAN



THE FOURTH Conference of the Third Order Dominican Mothers General of the United States met in Adrian during Easter week, April 12 to 16, under the spiritual guidance of the Very Reverend Thomas E. Garde, O. P., Socius of the Master General, Rome. The meeting was arranged under the direction of the following officers: Mother M. Raymond, O. P., Dominican College of San Rafael, California, President; Mother M. Gerald, O. P., St. Joseph College, Adrian, Michigan, Vice-President, and Mother M. Ceslaus, O. P., Sacred Heart Convent, Springfield, Illinois, Secretary.

Father Garde was heartily welcomed from the throbbing heart of Rome and Christendom, from Santa Sabina, the home of the Order. He was welcomed in the name of the ten thousand or more Dominican Sisters of the United States who had been praying for the success of his mission. Present to greet Father Garde were the Mothers General and their companions or representatives from twenty-seven Congregations of the Order in the United States. They came from the largest City in the world; from the Storm King Highway regions; from the lordly Hudson; from the Sparkling Hills and Caldwell homes; from the Falls of Massachusetts and the Bend of Kansas; from the Elms and the Springs of Ohio; from the Parks of Pennsylvania; from the Rapids and dykes of Michigan; from the Mounds and Lakes of Wisconsin; from the plains of Illinois and Texas; from the "Lookout" of Tennessee and the Delta of Louisiana; from the whispering of Puget Sound in Washington; from California, where the Pacific laves her gorgeous banks of flowers and fragrance, and where the redwood and olives and the tropics lift hearts to the mountains and open the Golden Gate.

Twelve of the Congregations represented had descended from the great ancestral Holy Cross Convent of Ratisbon, Germany; four were from the first American cradle of the Dominican Sisters in Kentucky; some were of independent American birth; others of Irish, French and Portuguese descent. All had "but one heart and one soul in God"—the children of the same Father.

This was the fourth Retreat and Conference of the Third Order Dominican Mothers General. The first was held in San Rafael, California, in the New Year of 1935, under the guardianship of the Very Reverend Louis Nolan, O. P., Rome; the sec-

ond was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in July of 1935, under His Grace, The Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, O. P., Archbishop of Cincinnati; the third at Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois, in 1937, under the direction of the Very Reverend William Raphael Burke, O. P., and the fourth in Adrian, 1939, under Father Garde's direction.

Since the purpose of the Conference is to strengthen Dominican spirituality and culture in the American Congregations, in order that they may the better fulfill the mission of St. Dominic in the Church, there were three full days of retreat and conference, during which time the Mothers were given opportunities to talk over their needs with one another and with Father Garde. He came in the holy and fatherly manner of St. Dominic, "as a vessel of gold, adorned with every precious stone." He brought with him the sacred riches, the joy, the dignity and the spirit of seven centuries of Dominicanism and lavished his treasures and time on the Dominican Sisters in a manner they shall always affectionately remember.

There were three spiritual conferences each day and two discussion periods. The retreat proper closed with a Holy Hour on Saturday evening, and the Conference came to a glorious close with a solemn Dominican Mass on Sunday morning, April 16, with the Very Reverend Father Garde as celebrant, the Very Reverend V. R. Hughes, O.P., River Forest, Illinois, as deacon, and the Reverend Alphonsus Carosella, O. P., Chicago, Illinois, as sub-deacon.

The torch of St. Dominic has been a bright fire for the Church in this country, as shown by the 10,000 members in about thirty foundations of the Conventual Third Order Sisters. They teach, they nurse, they care for the aged and do social work of various other types. May their numbers continue to increase and may they each grow in the spirit of our Holy Father, St. Dominic.

The newly elected officers of the Conference are: Mother M. Stephanie, O. P., St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio, President; Mother M. De Lourdes, O. P., Mount St. Mary on the Hudson, Newburgh, New York, Vice-President; and Mother M. Joseph, O. P., Mount St. Dominic, Caldwell, New Jersey, Secretary.

The next meeting will be held at Mount St. Dominic, Caldwell, New Jersey, during Easter Week, 1941.

Adrian, Michigan