

✠ REV. JOSEPH BERNARD KIRCHER, O.P. ✠

A zealous and fruitful service to the Dominican Province of St. Joseph was ended on July 12, 1939, when Father Joseph Bernard Kircher, O.P., died at Holy Trinity Rectory, Somerset, Ohio. Overcome by a paralytic stroke ten months before his death, he had been relieved of the pastorate of Holy Trinity and the management of The Rosary Press, which had been confided to his care since February, 1926. A native of Somerset he spent most of the years of his ministry in Somerset and his loss is mourned there by Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Father Kircher was born on December 15, 1873, the son of Joseph and Amanda (Fink) Kircher. His early education was gained at Holy Trinity School and at the Somerset High School. Entering the Dominican Order on June 24, 1896, at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., he made his religious profession on June 24, 1897. After his preliminary studies at St. Rose he went to St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, in 1900, to study theology, and was ordained there on August 2, 1903. His first priestly assignment was to St. Peter's in Memphis in 1904, and thence he served the Order in various places, at St. Dominic's, Denver, St. Catherine's, New York, St. Patrick's, Columbus, at St. Rose, where he was elected Prior in 1913. He was stationed as Procurator at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, from 1915 to 1920, and after a brief assignment to Sacred Heart, Jersey City, returned to St. Joseph's in 1921, where he remained until his final assignment to Holy Trinity parish in Somerset.

On July 15, 1939, solemn requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul in Holy Trinity Church by the Very Rev. J. B. Walker, O.P., prior of the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C. The ministers of the Mass were the Very Rev. C. C. McGonagle, O.P., deacon, and the Very Rev. R. L. Rumaggi, O.P., P.G., subdeacon. The Very Rev. J. B. Walsh, O.P., prior of the Convent of St. Louis Bertrand, Louisville, delivered the funeral sermon.

Father Kircher is survived by one brother, Charles Kircher, of Athens, Ohio, and by one sister, Reta Kircher, of New York City. To them the Province of St. Joseph extends its most sincere sympathy. His active yet unobtrusive life will surely merit a great reward.

As head of The Rosary Press for many years, Father Kircher rendered invaluable assistance to the editors of DOMINICANA, and for them his memory is doubly dear. May he rest in peace! M.McD.