Dominicana

REV. JAMES BARTHOLOMEW McGWIN, O.P.

Father McGwin was born on Nov. 28, 1901, in Providence, R. I., the son of James Edward McGwin and Annie Kelley McGwin. He was educated in Providence, graduating from La Salle Academy and attending Providence College for two years, after which he entered the novitiate at St. Rose Priory. He received the habit on Aug. 23, 1921, from the Very Rev. J. B. Connolly, O.P., Prior. His philosophical and theological studies were completed at St. Rose Priory and the House of Studies, Washington, D. C., and on June 21, 1928, he was ordained to the priesthood by the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, D.D., Archbishop of Baltimore.

In 1929, Father McGwin was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Social Ethics by Catholic University and was assigned to Providence College. There he taught Sociology and Economics for eleven years. A charming character and an industrious professor, he was beloved by students and faculty. Father McGwin added to his duties considerable preaching and lecturing, for which his eloquence and presentation created a demand. Though not in the best health, he continued at his work until three days before his death. Taken to St. Joseph's Hospital on the morning of Dec. 10, 1940, Father McGwin died in the afternoon of pneumonia and heart trouble, at the age of thirty-nine.

His Dominican brethren kept watch beside the body of Father McGwin as it lay in state in the student chapel of Aquinas Hall during the night of Dec. 12. On Dec. 13, the Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Pius Church, Providence, by the Most Rev. Francis P. Keough, D.D., Bishop of Providence, with two class-mates of Father McGwin, the Rev. D. B. McCarthy, O.P., Deacon, and the Rev. V. C. Dore, O.P., Subdeacon. The eulogy was preached by the Rev. J. J. Dillon, O.P., President of Providence College. Present were the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., Provincial of the Province of St. Joseph, and the Very Rev. Pius M. Gaudrault, O.P., Provincial of the Province of St. Dominic (Canada), and many members of the diocesan clergy and the Dominican Order. Hon. J. Howard McGrath, then Governor-elect of Rhode Island, headed a large group of Alumni. The students of Providence College and members of the Knights of Columbus were also present.

To the mother of Father McGwin, to his aunt, Miss Julia Kelley, and to his brothers Mark and Raymond McGwin of Providence, the Province of St. Joseph extends sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace. V.L.