



VERY REVEREND VICTOR FRANCIS O'DANIEL, O.P., S.T.M., Litt.D.

## GOLDEN JUBILARIAN

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ON JUNE 16 the Very Reverend Victor Francis O'Daniel, O.P., S.T.M., Litt.D., celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. The Province of St. Joseph was justly proud to honor one of its outstanding scholars, historians and writers.

Father O'Daniel was born February 15, 1868, in a part of Washington County, Kentucky, which, when the lines between the two counties were straightened, became a part of Marion County in 1869. He was baptized at the Dominican parish of Saint Rose, Springfield, Kentucky, on March 17, 1868. His father, Richard Jefferson O'Daniel, and his mother, Sarah Ann Hamilton, were descended from the Catholic pioneers of Kentucky who went west from the Lord Baltimore Colony of Maryland. He was educated in private schools and public schools, including Saint Rose's parochial school in Cecilville and Saint Rose's itself.

He received the Dominican habit at Saint Rose on March 21, 1886. On March 27, 1887, he made his profession to Father Michael Antoninus McFeely, Prior of St. Rose. His philosophical and theological studies were pursued at St. Joseph's, Perry County, Ohio. Father O'Daniel was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in Saint Joseph's Cathedral, Columbus, Ohio, on June 16, 1891, by Bishop J. A. Watterson. His first solemn high Mass was celebrated at Saint Rose's, June 21, 1891.

After his ordination he attended the Dominican House of Studies in Louvain, Belgium where he received his Lectorate in Sacred Theology in 1895. Returning to the United States, Father O'Daniel became professor of Thomistic philosophy and Master of Students at St. Joseph's Priory, a position which he held from 1895 until 1897. He was then transferred to St. Rose's Priory in Kentucky where he remained as professor of Philosophy and Latin and part of the time Novice Master from 1897 to 1900. At this time he returned to St. Joseph's where for one year he was professor of philosophy and the introduction to Theology. In 1901 he became professor of Thomistic philosophy and dogmatic theology at Benicia, California. During most of his stay there, Father O'Daniel was also Novice Master. He remained at Benicia from 1901 to 1906. In

1906 at Rome, he passed the required examinations and received his Master of Sacred Theology in 1909. While at Rome in 1906, he had the honor of representing his own Province and that of the Holy Name at the Golden Jubilee of the priestly ordination of the Master General, the Most Reverend Hyacinth Cormier. Returning to Saint Joseph's Province, Father O'Daniel was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies at Washington, D. C., as professor of dogmatic theology, a position which he held from 1906 to 1913. He was Bachelor of Studies at the same house from 1907 until 1927. Father O'Daniel was made official archivist and historian of the Province of Saint Joseph in 1906, which he has since remained.

Father O'Daniel was a cofounder of the Catholic Historical Review in 1915 and for some years was an associate editor of that Review. He was also cofounder (1918) and a charter member of the American Catholic Historical Association. Mount Saint Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland, honored him in 1924 with the degree of Doctor of Letters. In 1938 Father O'Daniel was made an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Société Historique et Héraldique de France.

Father O'Daniel is the author of many books including: *The Order of Friars Preachers* (1916); *The Very Reverend Charles Hyacinth McKenna, O.P.* (1917); *Bishop Edward Dominic Fenwick of Cincinnati* (1920); *The Dominican Lay Brother* (1921); *An American Apostle* (Matthew Anthony O'Brien) (1923); *The Father of the Church in Tennessee* (1926); *The First Disciples of Saint Dominic* (1928); *Dominicans in Early Florida* (1930); *A Light of the Church in Kentucky* (S. T. Wilson) (1932). In addition to these books, he has written a large number of articles in various periodicals.

Father O'Daniel is now engaged in writing a history of the Province of St. Joseph. When this is completed and printed, it will round out a life-time given over to preserving the history of his Order in the United States and throwing not a little light on the history of our American Catholic Church in general.

Father O'Daniel has one sister living, Mrs. Anna Lucy Mullican of Davis County, near Owensboro, Kentucky. Two of his sisters were Dominican Nuns, Sister Rosalia, O.P., of Saint Catherine's Community, Kentucky, who died in 1921, and Sister Francesca, O.P., of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio, who died in 1901. He has two cousins Dominican priests, Rev. James C. Osbourn, O.P., of Washington, D. C., and Rev. Leo M. Osbourn, O.P., of Oakland, California.