On May 18, 1941, the Rev. William Joseph O'Leary, the oldest Dominican by religious profession in the Province of St. Joseph, died in the Riverlawn Sanitarium, Paterson, N. J., after an illness of three years.

Father O'Leary was born in Washington, D. C., June 2, 1862, the son of Jeremiah and Catherine Cahill O'Leary. His early schooling was obtained at St. Dominic's Parochial School and Gonzaga College in the District of Columbia. He received the habit at St. Rose's Priory on Aug. 15, 1877. On the same date in the following year, he made his profession into the hands of the Very Rev. Constantine Egan, O.P., Prior of St. Rose. His courses in philosophy and theology were taken at St. Joseph's Priory, Somersett, Ohio. On July 19, 1885, he was ordained in St. Joseph's Church by the Right Rev. John Watterson, Bishop of Columbus. That same year he was given his first assignment to St. Antoninus' Vicariate in Newark, N. J. This was to be the scene of both the morning and evening years of his priestly life. After five years at St. Antoninus', the young priest was sent to St. Peter's Vicariate in Memphis, Tenn. The next year saw him at St. Vincent Ferrer's Priory, New York City and St. Patrick's Vicariate, Columbus, Ohio, where he remained until he was assigned to Holy Rosary Priory, Minneapolis, Minn., in 1895. In 1899 he was sent to St. Joseph's Priory in Somersett, Ohio, but while there spent a great deal of his time helping out at the Rosary Press and at Holy Trinity Church. He was transferred to St. Patrick's in Columbus, Ohio in 1905 and remained there until 1910. He was chosen Subprior of St. Antoninus' Priory in 1910 and remained in that post until 1931. He might have continued as Subprior, but because of declining health, he asked to be relieved of the office. During 1919 he also held the office of Procurator for the community. Father O'Leary's Golden Jubilee was held at St. Antoninus' Priory on June 13, 1935.

Father O'Leary was a zealous priest, the soul of kindness, sympathy and charity. He was an eloquent preacher and was tireless and patient in the confessional. His special activity was directing the Holy Name men, but he did not neglect the young people of the parish. For twelve years he acted as chaplain of the House of the Good Shepherd in Newark.

The Requiem Mass for Father O'Leary, at which the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., S.T.Lr., Provincial and a large number of
his Dominican brethren were present, was celebrated by the Very Rev. J. H. Healy, O.P., P.G., assisted by the Rev. J. J. Durkin, O.P., Deacon, and the Rev. E. A. Brady, O.P., Subdeacon. The sermon at the Mass was delivered by the Very Rev. John E. O'Hearn, O.P., P.G. Father O'Leary was buried in the Dominican plot of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange, N. J. The prayers at the grave were read by the Very Rev. Walter G. Moran, O.P., Prior of St. Antoninus' Priory.

To his relatives and friends, DOMINICANA extends sincere sympathy. May he rest in peace.

J.P.S.

The Province of St. Joseph suffered a severe loss on Tuesday, May 20, when Father John Philip Archdeacon died suddenly at Providence College, Providence, R. I., where he had been professor of education. He had been suffering from a heart ailment for some time and although he had not been feeling well since Saturday, his death came most unexpectedly. Father Archdeacon taught his classes on Monday, the day before he died.

Father Archdeacon was born on April 22, 1892 in Kanturk, County Cork, Ireland, the son of John and Catherine Archdeacon. His elementary and high school education were received in Ireland at the National School in Kanturk, County Cork, and at the La Salle School situated in Castletown, Queens County. In 1912 he came to the United States and after a few years sought admission to the Dominican Order. He was accepted as a candidate for the Order and was sent to Aquinas College in Columbus, Ohio, for two years to complete his preliminary training. On August 1, 1919, he was admitted to the Novitiate at St. Joseph’s Priory, Somerset, Ohio, and received the habit on August 15, 1919, from the Very Rev. J. B. Connolly, O.P. The following year on Sept. 8, he made his profession to Rev. W. D. Sullivan, O.P., sub-Prior of St. Joseph’s. In 1920 he was sent to St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., where he completed one year of his philosophical course. The following year he was transferred to the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D. C., where he completed his course in philosophy and theology and was ordained to the holy Priesthood on June 4, 1926, by Archbishop Curley in St. Dominic’s Church, Washington, D. C. He sang his first Solemn Mass in St. Antoninus Church, Newark, N. J., on June 6, 1926.