

✠ VERY REVEREND JAMES PAUL ALDRIDGE, O.P. ✠

The Province of St. Joseph suffered a severe loss on October 17 when Father James Paul Aldridge passed to his eternal reward following a stroke suffered the day before his death. Although Father Aldridge's health had been impaired for some time, he was active until the day before he died. He was preparing to answer a sick call when he was stricken.

Father Aldridge was born in Steubenville, Ohio, June 10, 1876, the son of William and Sarah Aldridge. He received his elementary and high school education in the public schools of Steubenville.

He entered the Dominican Novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, and received the habit there on September 10, 1897 from the Very Reverend William Quinn, O.P., Prior of St. Rose. The following year on October 4, he made his profession. He pursued his philosophy course at St. Rose and his theology at both St. Rose and St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. On June 29, 1905, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by the Most Reverend James J. Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus.

After his ordination, Father Aldridge was sent to the Minerva in Rome, then a Dominican International College where he made advanced studies in Canon Law and Theology. He was in Rome from 1905 until 1908 and in that time received the degrees of Lector in Sacred Theology, and Doctor of Canon Law.

Upon his return to the United States, Father Aldridge was assigned to the Dominican House of Studies in Washington as Professor of Canon Law. On December 30, 1908 he was appointed Master of Students. He left the House of Studies September 3, 1911 to become Vicar of St. Patrick's Vicariate, Columbus, Ohio and there he remained until October 10, 1914, when he was named Vicar of St. Mary's Vicariate in New Haven, Connecticut. When St. Mary's was made a priory, June 15, 1916, Father Aldridge was appointed Prior. He remained in New Haven until November 24, 1918, when he was assigned to the Angelico in Rome. There on April 11, 1919, he became the English-speaking *Socius* of the Master General with the title of Provincial of Lithuania. He was made a Master of Sacred Theology on August 31, 1919.

He returned to this country and on December 6, 1920, became Prior of Holy Rosary Priory in Minneapolis, remaining there as Prior until January 26, 1927. In March of that year he was chosen

Prior of St. Rose Priory in Springfield, Kentucky, and was reelected on May 23, 1930. On August 22, 1933, Father Aldridge was appointed Religious Superior of the Dominican Fathers at Providence College, Providence, R. I. He filled that office until he was appointed pastor of St. Thomas Church, Zanesville, Ohio in August, 1936.

Father Aldridge's funeral was held at St. Thomas Church on Tuesday, October 21. A solemn requiem mass was sung by the Very Reverend John J. Dillon, O.P., President of Providence College, assisted by Reverend H. A. Burke, O.P., of St. Thomas' Church, as deacon and Rev. Richard Murphy, O.P., of the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., as subdeacon. The Very Reverend William D. Sullivan, O.P., Prior of St. Joseph's Priory in Somerset, Ohio, preached the sermon. His Excellency, the Most Reverend James J. Hartley, D.D., Bishop of Columbus, who ordained Father Aldridge to the priesthood and was his life-long friend, presided at the mass and spoke a brief tribute. The music for the mass was sung by the Dominican Students from St. Joseph's Priory. Burial took place in the community cemetery at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, where the committal services were conducted by the Very Reverend H. J. McManus, O.P., Prior of St. Rose Priory.

Father Aldridge will be remembered as a sterling priest and an exemplary Dominican. As professor, superior and pastor, he won the love, respect and admiration of all who came in contact with him.

To his mother and his brothers, Dominicana extends heartfelt sympathy. May he rest in peace.

J.M.D.