

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE
OF THE

VERY REVEREND ARTHUR LAURENCE McMAHON, O.P., S.T.M.



ON September 10, 1942, one of the most distinguished sons of St. Joseph's Province celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He is the Very Reverend Arthur Laurence McMahon, O.P. The second oldest of seven children, he was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, September 14, 1863, to Patrick Peter and Ellen Carroll McMahon. His early education was received in the grammar schools of his native town. For his high school training he went to St. Rose's Priory, Springfield, Kentucky, where on August 4, 1887, he entered the Order of Preachers. One year later he made his profession into the hands of the Very Reverend M. A. McFeeley, O.P.

He began his philosophical studies at St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio, but left in 1890 to continue them at the Dominican House of Studies, Louvain, Belgium. Louvain was at a high point of intellectual activity, and Fr. McMahon found as his fellow students such luminaries as the English author, Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., the German theologian, Fr. Dominic Prümmer, O.P., and the Belgian social economist, Fr. Ceslaus Rütten, O.P., later to be a senator in his native land. On September 11, 1892, Fr. McMahon was ordained to the holy priesthood in the Jesuit Church, Louvain, by the Right Reverend John B. DeCroliere, Bishop of Malines, Belgium.

Until 1894 he was in Louvain engaged in theological studies. In that year he went to the Dominican House of Studies, Vienna, Austria, where he completed his course of theology, receiving the Lectorate on April 20, 1895. Shortly afterwards, he was sent to the Biblical School of St. Stephen's, Jerusalem, where he remained for two years. The first American Dominican to be trained at this famous institute, he studied under the world-famed Fr. M. J. Lagrange, O.P., and went on scientific expeditions to Mt. Sinai, Petra "in deserto," and other landmarks in biblical history.

After completing his studies in the Holy Land, he returned to St. Joseph's Priory where, for the next eight years, he taught theological and scriptural subjects as well as languages. During a part of this time he was also Master of Students at the priory. On August 10,



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1905, he was assigned to the then newly-erected Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D. C., of which he became Subprior on October 4, that year. Here, his professorial duties continued in the same fields. In 1907, he journeyed to Viterbo, Italy, as Definitor to the General Chapter and acted as General Secretary of this Chapter. He then went to Rome where, on June 10, he successfully passed the examination "ad gradus" for the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology.

Soon after his return to the United States, Fr. McMahon received his assignment to the scene of his major labors, for on November the first, the documents appointing him Vicar General of the Congregation of California were read and signed in St. Vincent Ferrer's Priory, New York. Five years later, on November the tenth, the Council of the Master General raised the Vicariate to the status of a province on the condition that Fr. McMahon accept the Provincialate. For seventeen years, he was to guide the new Province of the Holy Name. During this period with able assistance from his brethren, he turned his remarkable energies towards the building of necessary residences, schools and churches, notable among the latter being the magnificent Church of Saint Dominic, San Francisco, California. Always the scholar himself, he set high standards for the Province's studia and sent many students to Europe for specialized training.

Many other honors entailing heavy responsibilities were to be gracefully borne by him. On September 5, 1913, he became Master of Sacred Theology, and on February 28, 1915, he received the cap and ring proper to that dignity from the Very Reverend Louis Theisling, O.P., Visitor General, in St. Dominic's Church, San Francisco. Recognition was not wanting on the part of the Archdiocesan authorities, for, on August 14, 1915, he was appointed to the Commission for the Examination of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. From August 3 to August 10, 1916, he was once again secretary to a General Chapter, this time in Fribourg, Switzerland. He attended the General Chapter, at Rome in 1924 and at Ocagna in 1926, concerned with the revision of the Dominican Constitutions. On December 26, 1926, he was the only American Dominican appointed to the Commission organized for the guidance of that revision, and from May to June, 1928, he worked on this Commission at the Generalizia in Rome.

Returning to St. Joseph's Province in 1929, he went to the Immaculate Conception Convent, Washington, D. C. Here he assumed the duties of Procurator and Master of Lay Brothers which offices he

relinquished in 1939 when he left for his present post at St. Mary's Priory, New Haven, Connecticut.

Deeply spiritual, he has always been concerned with spreading devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He has left tangible evidence of that love. His first foundation in Seattle was dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, and he was responsible for the founding of Corpus Christi Monastery, Menlo Park, California, where the Second Order Dominican Nuns perpetually adore the Eucharistic King.

The high distinctions he has enjoyed have not disturbed the very real Dominican spirit of Fr. McMahan. He has stepped back into the ranks joyfully, satisfied that he has done his best and hopeful that his best has been equal to the burdens imposed on his small frame. He is still very active. At St. Mary's, he takes house calls, says his Mass and Office daily, hears confessions and preaches in a gentle voice notable for its careful pronunciation. Jovial by nature, he has a quick, infectious smile which promptly relieves any feelings of uneasiness one might have on meeting this priest of so varied accomplishments.

DOMINICANA is proud to join the many friends of Father McMahan in wishing him many more happy years in the service of God as a true son of St. Dominic.