

DEDICATION OF CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER

The new Dominican Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, New York City, was solemnly dedicated on Sunday, May 5th, by His Eminence Cardinal Farley. Stately in its dimensions and with its imposing Gothic arches, the beautiful structure made a fitting setting for the magnificent and elaborate ceremonies that accompanied the rite of dedication. The regal grandeur of the procession of ecclesiastics clothed in the rich vestments of their offices, the sublime simplicity of the Pontifical Mass, celebrated by His Excellency, the Most Reverend John Bonzano, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the sumptuous floral decorations, the huge congregation and finally the exquisite musical program—all combined to make the occasion of unusual interest and worthy of such an event.

The dedication ceremonies began at 11 o'clock, when a long procession of the clergy preceding the Cardinal and his attendants, emerged from the cloister. As it slowly wended its way along the aisles the Litany of the Saints and other Gregorian numbers were rendered by over fifty Dominican Fathers, representing all the Houses of the Eastern States, including the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., Provincial of the Eastern Province and the Very Rev. A. L. McMahon, O. P., Provincial of the Western Province.

After the dedication the procession reformed and returned to the priory. A few minutes later the sweet chanting of the boy choristers was heard. These thirty-six choir boys led the long procession into the newly dedicated church. Each one of them was dressed like a cardinal, a compliment to the Cardinal-Archbishop who presided. They wore red skull caps and red cassocks with hoods and long trains, and presented an appearance that will long remain in the memory of all who saw them. Following these "little cardinals" came thirty-eight altar boys in white cassocks and surplices. Then came one hundred priests, about one-half of whom were Dominicans, representing all the Dominican houses in the Eastern States. Among the other priests were representatives of the various religious Orders and pastors of city churches. Next came the Right Rev. and Very Rev. Monsignors, followed by the Right Rev. Patrick J. Hayes, D. D., Auxiliary Bishop of New York, who delivered the sermon, and the Rt. Rev. Michael J. Curley, D. D., Bishop of St. Augustine, Fla. His Excellency the Most Rev. John Bonzano, the celebrant of the Pontifical High Mass, preceded by acolytes, the deacon, and deacons of honor were next in line. Finally came His Eminence Cardinal Farley, preceded by his deacons of honor, Monsignor Mooney, Monsignor Lavelle and Monsignor Edwards, and followed by two Knights of St. Gregory, Morgan J. O'Brien and John G. Agar. Two little pages in court costumes were also in this group.

The Cardinal occupied a throne on the Gospel side of the sanctuary, while Archbishop Bonzano, the celebrant, had a throne on the epistle side. The clergy were seated in the space that will be later occupied by the chancel choir. The deacons of honor to the Apostolic Delegate were the Very Rev. James Meright, O. F. M., Provincial of the Franciscans, and the Very Rev. Anthony J. Maas, S. J., Provincial of the Jesuits. The Right Rev. Monsignor Francis H. Wall, D. D., was assistant priest; the Rev. Joseph H. McMahon, D. D., was deacon of the Mass, and the Rev. Arthur J. Kenny was subdeacon of the Mass. The Rev. Joseph

P. Dineen, secretary to Bishop Hayes, was master of ceremonies of the Mass, and the Very Rev. Monsignor Thomas G. Carroll, D. D., was master of ceremonies at the Cardinal's throne.

Bishop Hayes delivered an eloquent sermon on the ideals of the Dominican Order as expressed in the new edifice, and spoke particularly of the work of St. Dominic and his two sons St. Thomas and St. Vincent Ferrer. He pointed out how the history of the Archdiocese of New York is closely identified with the Dominican Order as the two first bishops of the see, Concannon and Connolly, were Dominicans.

The style of the church is Gothic—the Dominicans likewise built the only Gothic church in Rome—Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. Much of the wealth and tradition of the last seven hundred years has been incorporated in this church, and every provision has been made for carrying out the ceremonial which distinguishes the Dominican rite from that of the Roman.

The great chancel for the chanting of the Divine Office, is, no doubt, the largest choir to be found in any of our parish churches, and is of stately and monumental proportions. The presbytery is spacious and divided from the choir by a parapet. The high altar, although but temporary, has every correct appurtenance. There are no gradines, the ornaments standing directly on the mensa, as was invariably the custom until comparatively modern times. There is likewise a proper and veiled tabernacle—the permanent one of gold and enamel unfortunately not being completed in time—all surmounted by a tester, the Gothic form of the ciborium, and required by ancient and modern decrees.

The church is replete with symbolism primarily relating to the Dominican Order, and in passing it may be stated that this is probably the first Catholic church in the United States to have the Holy Rood carved in stone on the outside of the church. The church is cruciform in plan, the choir being somewhat narrower than the nave. The disposition of the chapels is unique—a result of the original intention of trying to erect the new church outside the walls of the old, but this plan was found to be impracticable and very costly. However, the result is most pleasing and attractive. The Lady Chapel is formed out of the north aisle and transept, and two chapels to the west being dedicated to St. Patrick, nearest the entrance, and St. Joseph. The Holy Name Chapel is at the west end on the south side. The church proper is entered through a large and spacious narthex or vestibule, to the south of which is the octagonal and vaulted baptistry, quite separate and apart from the church and at the entrance thereto—its symbolical position. To the east of the south aisle and south of the choir lies the Friars' Chapel. This chapel will have its own stalls, organ and choir screen and loft; in fact, it will have quite the effect of a medieval village parish church.

The height of the nave from floor to crown of vault is 77 feet and in crossing 79 feet. The great windows will some day be resplendent with wonderful glass, and the chancel has yet to be adorned with its choir stalls, screens, organ and case, the Rood Beam, and the permanent high altar and reredos. Likewise do the chapels need supplying with their various fittings, although some donations have already begun to come in, denoting the interest and appreciation of this beautiful church. Painted Stations of the Cross are needed, and also the permanent pulpit.

The crowning feature of the exterior of the church, which is now lacking, owing to the absence of the necessary funds, is the great fleche—which when erected will be 10 feet taller than that at Amiens.

As the date of the dedication coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the parish and the 701st year of the Dominican Order the ceremonies were continued throughout the week as a fitting observance of the triple event.

On Sunday evening at 8 o'clock there was a Rosary procession and Solemn Compline, with the Most Rev. Archbishop Bonzano as celebrant, assisted by the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., S. T. L., Provincial of the Dominicans; the Very Rev. John J. Hughes, C. S. P., Superior of the Paulists; the Very Rev. B. A. Kahler, O. C. C., Provincial of the Carmelites, and the very Rev. Justine Carey, C. P., Provincial of the Passionists. The sermon was given by the Right Rev. Monsignor John P. Chidwick, president of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

On Monday morning at 9 o'clock there was a Solemn High Mass for the deceased priests and people of the parish. The Very Rev. Raymond Meager, O. P., Provincial, was the celebrant, assisted by the Very Rev. J. A. Heenan, O. P., prior of St. Louis Bertrand's priory, Louisville, Ky., as deacon, and Very Rev. G. I. Conlan, O. P., prior of St. Dominic's priory, Washington, D. C., as sub-deacon. The preacher was the Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O. P., prior of the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C.

On Tuesday at 9 a. m. there was a Solemn High Mass, under the auspices of the Third Order of St. Dominic, for all the benefactors of St. Vincent Ferrer's Church and priory. The Very Rev. E. L. Spence, O. P., sub-prior of St. Vincent Ferrer's, was the celebrant; the Rev. Gregory Moran, O. P., vicar of St. Vincent Ferrer's, was the deacon, and the Rev. Alexis Casterot, O. P., was sub-deacon. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O. P., national director of the Third Order of St. Dominic.

On Wednesday at 9 a. m. there was a Solemn High Mass in celebration of the golden jubilee of the parish. The Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O. P., was the celebrant; the Rev. J. B. Kelly, O. P., deacon, and the Rev. F. F. Feeley, O. P., sub-deacon. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. J. S. Caton, O. P.

On Thursday, the feast of Ascension, at 11 o'clock the Solemn High Mass was under the auspices of the Confraternity of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and was offered in thanksgiving for all the blessings bestowed on the priests and people of the parish, especially in thanksgiving for the completion of the new church. The prior of St. Vincent Ferrer's, the Very Rev. J. R. Heffernan, O. P., was celebrant; the Rev. M. A. Sheehan, O. P., deacon and the Rev. W. G. Mahoney, O. P., sub-deacon. The sermon was given by the Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., Provincial.

A Solemn Mass for all the present and former parishioners was offered on Friday morning at 9 o'clock, the celebrant being the Rev. W. G. Moran, O. P.; deacon, the Rev. Alexis Casterot, O. P., and sub-deacon, the Rev. E. L. Phillips, O. P. The sermon was by the Rev. J. H. Healy, O. P., P. G.

Saturday, May 11, was children's day. At 9 o'clock there was a Solemn High Mass for the children, at which all received Holy Communion. The Rev. Father Heffernan, O. P., prior, was celebrant; the Rev. R. A. Lapante, O. P., deacon, and Rev. E. L. Phillips, O. P., sub-deacon. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Sylvester Caton, O. P.

The celebration closed on Sunday, May 12, with a Mass at 9 a. m., for the living and deceased members of the Holy Name Society. The Very Rev. J. R. Heffernan, O. P., prior, was the celebrant, and the Very Rev. J. A. Heenan, O. P., preached the sermon.

—Bonaventure Neitzey, O. P.