

## OBITUARY

### V. REV. ANTONINUS M. DUMMERMUTH, O.P., S.T.M.

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With sentiments of deep sorrow, we chronicle the demise of Very Rev. Antoninus M. Dummermuth, O. P., S. T. M., of the Province of St. Rose, Belgium, who for two-score years past was one of the foremost educators and theologians of our Order. The violation of his beloved country broke the grand old Dominican's heart and death claimed him at Louvain, February 17, 1918, in the fifty-eighth year of his religious life.

The war-stricken city, for many decades the pulsating centre of Dominican intellectual activity, was also his birthplace. There he was born May 12, 1841; there he joined the Friars Preachers, pronouncing his solemn vows February 20, 1860. And there, too, it was that the learned friar labored incessantly as a professor of the Dominican Studium Generale for nearly fifty years, thirty of which, saw him as Regent of Studies of that famous institution.

The degree of Lector in Sacred Theology was conferred on him in 1867; the Mastership in 1880. A few years after crossing the threshold of his teaching career, he prepared a new edition of the theology of Fr. Antoninus Goudin, O. P. He was an ardent admirer of Fr. Goudin and a deep student of his works, knowing most of them by heart. Upon the appointment of Very Rev. Fr. Lepidi, O. P., S. T. M., as professor of Dogma and Regent of the Minerva, Rome, Fr. Dummermuth succeeded him as Regent of Studies at Louvain and held that position until a few years ago.

In 1886 he published his far-famed reply to Fr. Schneemann, S. J., on the question of physical premotion, entitled: "S. Thomas et Doctrina Praemotionis seu Responsio ad R. P. Schneemann, S. J." Twelve years later his masterful apology of the doctrine of the Angelic Doctor, "Defensio S. Thomae Aq. de praemotione physica seu Responsio ad R. P. V. Frins, S. J." (pp. 433) appeared. Years ago he completed a moral theology. It was never published

and it is not known why he could not be induced to have it printed.

When Belgium was invaded in 1914 and Louvain sacked, Fr. Dummermuth and his confreres were deported into Germany. He was there but a short time when he went to Holland, where he enjoyed for some months the hospitality of the Dutch Dominicans. At the call of his provincial, he returned sorrowing to Louvain, and there in that dear old city, whose glory he had often celebrated and whose humiliation he had witnessed, the scene of his birth, his remarkable career and intellectual triumphs, he fell asleep in the Lord, February 17, 1918.

Few Dominicans of the nineteenth century have exerted such a wide and beneficent influence as Fr. Dummermuth. The sons of many provinces have been his pupils. His memory is especially dear to the North and South American provinces and to the English, German, Polish and Bohemian provinces. Frequently do we hear his praises sung by our own professors. They have told of his affability, the profundity of his learning, the lucidity and eloquence of his lectures, of his inspiring humility and simplicity of character.

Faithful son of St. Dominic, he burned with love for the Order, its Rules and Constitution. Imbued with an intense admiration for St. Thomas, he possessed a thorough and extraordinary knowledge of his works, being able to quote from memory a surprisingly great part of them. He was ever a fearless champion and staunch defender of Thomistic doctrines. He was also a prominent figure in the Institute of Thomistic Philosophy, established by His Eminence Cardinal Mercier. For years he was president of the Commission of Studies, which formulated the "Ratio Studiorum" of the Order.

He was highly esteemed for his exemplary religious life. Fr. Lepidi says of him: "Fr. Dummermuth was the example of an excellent religious loving his Order and working his whole life for it in word and deed." R. I. P.

—E. H.