

OBITUARY

THE REVEREND DAMIAN KENNEDY, O. P.

Late Tuesday evening, March 4th, at Georgetown Hospital, Washington, D. C., the Rev. Father Louis Damian Kennedy, O. P., son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kennedy of Derby, Kansas, passed to his eternal reward, a victim of pneumonia. It is but nine months since Father Damian was raised to the dignity of the priesthood at the Dominican House of Studies, and returned home to be welcomed by his loving father and mother, sisters and brothers; and then at the Cathedral of Wichita, in the midst of those he loved and who loved him best, to extend his hands in priestly benediction and call down on the altar his God and heavenly Father. He had been ill but a few days and his death came as a great shock to his family and to his brothers in religion.

Father Kennedy was born in Derby, Kansas, November 21, 1890. His early education was obtained at Mount St. Joseph, Wichita, under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was while yet a pupil of Mount St. Joseph that his desire to become a Dominican priest was made manifest. In 1905 two Dominican missionaries, Fathers Moran and Fannan, were conducting a mission at Wichita. At the close of the mission Father Moran after giving an explanation of the work of the Friar Preachers, said that he would be pleased to see any young men who thought they had a vocation. Louis Kennedy and his brother Charles were the only two boys who responded. Charles was unable to continue his studies on account of sickness, but his brother persevered.

Upon completion of his studies at Mount St. Joseph Father Kennedy was sent to St. Benedict's College, Atchinson, Kansas, and after his graduation he entered the Creighton University at Omaha and remained there a year. During these years of schooling the young student applied himself with diligence and earnestness and thus was equipped with a solid education, a masterly and accurate mind that foretold a great future.

In September, 1912, Louis Kennedy entered the Novitiate at St. Joseph's Convent, Somerset, Ohio, and after a ten

days' retreat he was clothed in the white habit of St. Dominic and was known in religion as Bro. Damian. After a year's novitiate he made simple profession, September 18, 1913, and was then sent to the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., to take up his philosophical and theological studies and at the same time to pursue special studies at the Catholic University. Here his diligence for and devotedness to study were rewarded by the high rank he took among his religious brethren and by the brilliant success he achieved in his work at the University.

On May 10, 1918, he was elevated to the holy priesthood and immediately after his ordination he hurried back to his home to say his first Mass.

On February 26th, Father Kennedy was taken sick and was removed to Georgetown Hospital where he died a few days later. The Very Rev. Raymond Meagher, O. P., Provincial of St. Joseph's province, Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O. P., Rev. A. C. O'Neil, O. P., Very Rev. H. I. Smith, O. P., of New York, Rev. D. M. Galliher, O. P., and his classmates, Fathers A. Howley, W. McClory, J. McManus, were with him when, after pronouncing his final benediction, he slipped away peacefully into the waiting arms of God.

A Solemn High Mass of requiem was sung in the conventual chapel by the prior, Very Rev. E. G. Fitzgerald, O. P., S. T. Lr., assisted by Rev. A. C. O'Neil, O. P., S. T. Lr., as deacon, and Rev. B. Allen, O. P., as subdeacon. The parents of the deceased, who had come from Kansas in the hope of assisting at their son's bedside during his fatal sickness, arrived only a few hours before the Requiem Mass, and were present at the last sad rites. Besides many visiting Dominicans, there was present a large gathering of both secular and regular clergy representing the various religious communities at the University, the various Sisterhoods of the Sisters' College, and a corporal's guard from the Potomac Park Barracks, where Father Kennedy had been acting as army chaplain. Interment took place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, D. C. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

—Bro. Vincent Dailey, O. P.