

**VERY REV. JAMES P. ALDRIDGE, O. P.**  
**THE NEW AMERICAN SOCIUS**

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It is indeed with joy and Christian pride that we announce the new socius to the Master General of the Dominican Order. And yet, as we rejoice, a certain sorrow fills our hearts as we contemplate the departure of one who has done so much good for the Province. The new appointment calls to Rome the Very Reverend James P. Aldridge, O. P., S. T. L., J. C. D., pastor of St. Mary's Church, New Haven, Conn., to take the place of the recently consecrated Rt. Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., S. T. M., Bishop of Duluth, Minnesota.

Father Aldridge, a native of Ohio, was born at Steubenville on June 10th, 1876. His earlier education was received from the Dominican Sisters, stationed in that city, who instilled into his young soul the true Dominican spirit and fostered the vocation which manifested itself at an early age.

Having finished his high school training, Father Aldridge made application at St. Rose, Springfield, Kentucky, for entrance into the Dominican Order. He was admitted as a postulant and received the habit of St. Dominic, October 4th, 1897. After a year spent in the Novitiate he pronounced his first vows October 4th, 1898. A few days later he left St. Rose for the Dominican House of Studies, then at St. Joseph's, Somerset, Ohio, where he began his studies in philosophy and theology. In these branches of learning he proved himself a scholar and showed wonderful intellectual ability. He was ordained on June 29th, 1905, in St. Joseph's Church, Somerset, Ohio, by the Rt. Rev. James J. Hartley, Bishop of Columbus. Subsequently he was sent to Rome to pursue his studies at the Minerva, where he specialized in theology and canon law, receiving three years later the degrees of Lector of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Canon Law.

In the fall of 1908 Father Aldridge was recalled from Rome to take the place of the Rev. John T. McNicholas as Novice Master at the Dominican House of Studies at Washington, D. C. In this capacity he proved a real friend as well as a conscientious director and zealous moulder of the souls of the novices confided to his care. Filled with the spirit of St. Dominic, he labored

zealously to make them true followers of their founder and untiring workers in the Lord's vineyard.

During his term as Novice Master Father Aldridge taught general theology and canon law at the Catholic University. In the year 1911 he was called to Columbus, Ohio, to become pastor at St. Patrick's Church, where he remained until the year 1914, when he was appointed rector of St. Mary's Church, New Haven.

The Dominican novices unite in extending to Father Aldridge their sincerest wishes for the greatest success possible in his new field of activity. They hope and pray that God's grace will flow in abundance upon his work, and that he may be of great assistance to the Master General in directing the labors of the Dominican Order throughout the world.

—Bro. Gerard O'Donnell, O. P.

