On December 1, 1945, the Province of St. Joseph’s suffered the loss of an excellent missionary and parish priest, a fervent religious and a zealous priest of God. Father William A. O’Connell, O.P., died in Providence Hospital, Washington, D. C., after an illness of nine weeks.

Father O’Connell was born on July 24, 1893 in Marinette, Wisconsin. He was the seventh of eight children of James John and Mary Theresa (Cox) O’Connell. Having completed his elementary and high school training at Our Lady of Lourdes, he found that God had seen fit to grant him the grace of a religious vocation. The young student applied for admission to the Dominican Order and was accepted. He was admitted to the Novitiate at Saint Joseph’s Priory near Somerset, Ohio and on December 3, 1914, he received there the holy Habit of St. Dominic. After his philosophical and theological studies at the House of Studies in Washington, D. C., he was ordained by the Most Reverend John T. McNicholas, O.P., then Bishop of Duluth, Minnesota.

The young Dominican was first assigned to parish work at St. Patrick’s Church, Columbus, Ohio. He then continued to do parish work in St. Thomas’ Church, Zanesville, Ohio; St. Mary’s, New Haven, Connecticut; St. Dominic’s Washington, D. C. and St. Dominic’s, Denver, Colorado. In 1931, because of his preaching abilities, he was assigned to serve on the Southern Missionary Band. For two years he was stationed at St. Louis Bertrand’s, Louisville, Kentucky, as a missionary. In 1934, he was transferred to the Dominican Convent of St. Catherine’s near Springfield, Kentucky. After two years as Chaplain to the Dominican Sisters, he again took up the work of a missionary and was assigned to St. Dominic’s Washington, D. C. From 1936 until his death, Father served the Order as a preacher on the Eastern Mission Band.

On December 1, William Anthony O’Connell, O.P., passed to his final reward. The Very Rev. B. P. Shaffer, O.P., Prior of St. Dominic’s Washington, D. C., administered the last sacraments. The body of the zealous missionary was brought to his beloved St. Dominic’s to be viewed by the faithful he so loved. His priestly career ended after serving his Lord and the Order for twenty-four years.

The Rev. Dominic Dolan, O.P., head of the Rosary Confraternity Society and classmate of Father O’Connell celebrated the Solemn High Mass, on December 4. The Deacon of the Mass was the Rev.
J. U. Cahill, O.P., Chaplain of the Convent of Mt. St. Mary-on-the-Hudson, Newburgh, New York. The Sub-Deacon was the Very Reverend H. H. Welsh, O.P., of St. Catherine's in New York. The Very Reverend Justin McManus, O.P., a very dear friend of Father O'Connell preached the eulogy. The Dominican Novices of the House of Studies, Washington, D. C., were privileged to serve the Mass and sing the Mass of Requiem. The Mass was presided over by the Very Reverend Father Provincial and attended by a number of secular priests, Franciscan and Dominican Fathers. A large number of the faithful from the parish and the Sisters and children of St. Dominic's school also attended. Burial was in the Dominican plot in Mt. Olivet cemetery, Washington, D. C. The final absolution was imparted by Father O'Connell's classmate, Father Dolan, O.P.

Dominicana extends its sincerest sympathy to his sisters, Mary and Margaret and to his brothers, James, David, and George and to his many friends.

May Almighty God receive him into heaven and may Our Holy Father St. Dominic claim him as one of his true sons! May he rest in peace!

† VERY REV. FREDRICK CYRIL WAHLE, O.P., P.G. †

The Very Rev. Fredrick Cyril Wahle, O.P., S.T.Lr., P.G., died at St. Catherine’s Convent, Racine, Wisconsin, on February 2, 1946.

Born in Allendorf, Westphalia, Germany, on May 16, 1877, to Fredrick and Elizabeth (Messler) Wahle, he received his primary and secondary education in the schools of Westphalia, and in the University of Munster. He was clothed in the Habit of the Order of Preachers in Sacred Heart Priory, Venlo, Holland, and made profession of vows there on May 24, 1900. He completed his philosophical studies in the same priory, and returned to Germany to St. Joseph's Priory, Dusseldorf, where he undertook his theological studies. These studies completed, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of Cologne by Cardinal Fischer, on August 10, 1906. Shortly after his ordination, Father Wahle was awarded the degree, Lector in Sacred Theology. Then followed years of fruitful labor in the active ministry, especially in the pulpit, for Father Wahle’s oratorical gifts were recognized and made use of by his superiors.

When the first World War broke out, Fr. Wahle offered his