Dominicana

Ky. After the usual philosophical and theological studies in the Dominican Houses of Study in River Forest, Ill., Somerset, Ohio, and Washington, D. C., Father Devine was raised to the priesthood on June 14th, 1934. Subsequently he was attached to St. Vincent Ferrer's, New York City; Holy Name Church, Kansas City, Mo.; St. Mary's Church, Johnson City, Tenn.; St. Pius Church, Chicago, Ill.

Solemn Requiem Masses have been offered for Father Devine in the houses throughout the Province. A Solemn Requiem Mass was also offered in his home parish at St. Lawrence Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., on November 11. The celebrant was Rev. Gabriel Schneider, O.P.; the deacon was Rev. Frederick A. Gordon, O.P., and the subdeacon, Rev. George Q. Friel, O.P. Rev. Bernard C. Werner, O.P., preached the eulogy. The Mass was attended by the family, relatives, and friends of Father Devine, as well as thirty priests and a hundred and fifty Sisters.

Father Devine is survived by his mother, his brother, John, and two sisters, Mrs. Margaret O'Connor and Sister M. Dorothy, O.P. To his mother and family, relatives and friends Dominicana extends sincere sympathy on the real loss they have suffered. In the Divine Office for the great feast of the Ascension, on the evening of which Father Devine was seized and made captive, the thought is often repeated “Christ ascending on high led captivity captive.” Little did the valiant missionary realize how soon he himself was to be a captive for Christ. That captivity to the forces of this world being now ended, let us pray that Father Devine has been led a captive of love and devotion to duty to the Commander he served so faithfully and loyally.

† THE REVEREND JOHN AQUINAS COWAN, O.P. †

The Reverend John Aquinas Cowan, O.P., died of heart failure on October 7, 1947, in St. Clare's Hospital, New York, N. Y., about a month after having undergone an operation.

Father Cowan was born in New York on July 5, 1879, of Irish parents. His father was Patrick Cowan, a native of King's County, Ireland; and his mother, Bridget (Hussey) Cowan, of Westmeath, Ireland. The devout couple were blessed with a family of five children of whom Father Cowan was the last. In his early years he attended a public grammar school in New York. He received his secondary education at St. Francis Xavier High School, New York, and went for higher studies to St. Francis Xavier College, New York.
Believing himself to be called by God to work for the salvation of souls in the Dominican Order, he entered the novitiate at St. Rose Priory, Springfield, Ky., where he received the habit from the late Very Rev. R. J. Meaney, O.P., on October 23, 1900. After making profession into the hands of this same prelate on November 1 of the following year, he began his course of studies for the priesthood in St. Joseph’s Priory, Somerset, Ohio. In 1905 he was sent to the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C., to continue the course. He was ordained priest by Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore Cathedral, on June 21, 1907, and remained in Washington for a year to finish his studies.

In September, 1908, Father Cowan began his ministry at St. Antoninus’, Newark, N. J. In the following February he was assigned to St. Dominic’s, Washington, D. C., where he did his selfless stint for the salvation of souls until the day of his death. In 1913 he was appointed subprior and held that position for twenty-two years. For most of that period he was also procurator of the house. He served St. Dominic’s parish for over thirty-seven years, his entire priestly lifetime, save for a few months, a remarkably long station for a religious priest in parish work.

The obsequies were held in St. Dominic’s Church, Washington, D. C., on October 9, 1947, in the presence of the Most Reverend Lawrence J. Shehan, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore and Washington. The celebrant of the Mass was the Very Rev. P. A. Maher, O.P.; the deacon, the Rev. R. H. Dewdney, O.P.; and the subdeacon, the Very Rev. J. L. Finnerty, O.P. The eulogy was preached by the Very Rev. W. P. Doane, O.P., and the Mass was sung by the students from the Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D. C. Interment was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington, D. C., where the prior of St. Dominic’s, the Very Rev. B. P. Shaffer, O.P., imparted the final absolution.

Dominicana, in the name of the Fathers and Brothers of St. Joseph’s Province, offers deepest sympathy to the relatives and friends of Father Cowan.

† THE REVEREND JAMES ANDREW O’DONNELL, O.P. †

The Reverend James Andrew O’Donnell, O.P., died suddenly on October 2, 1947, at St. Pius Priory, Chicago, Ill. Father O’Donnell was stricken while preparing to leave for a nearby parish where he was conducting a novena. He was 46 years of age.